



The Stone Wall

Bull Run Civil War Round Table

MAY 1994 NEWSLETTER



EDWIN C. BEARSS PRESENTS THE SIEGE OF VICKSBURG

Edwin Cole Bearss grew up on a Billings Montana Ranch near the Custer Battlefield. His interest in the Civil War started young; as a boy, he named the cattle on the farm for generals and battles (his favorite milk cow was "Antietam").

Mr. Bearss attended St. Johns military Academy and served with the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion and 1st Marine Division in the invasion of Guadalcanal and New Britain during WW II. He was badly wounded by machine gun fire and spent 26 months in various hospitals. Mr. Bearss recovered, received a B.S. from Georgetown, and later earned an M.A. in history from Indiana University after writing a thesis on Pat Cleburne.

Ed's National Park Service career began in 1955 as a park historian at Vicksburg, Mississippi. He was chosen Man of the Year at Vicksburg in 1963. His three-volume, 2200-page chronicle, *The Vicksburg Campaign*, is the definitive work concerning the siege. He has since published several books and articles, done detailed studies for the National Park Service for many park sites, and was featured as a commentator in the 1990 PBS series, "The Civil War." His contributions have earned him several awards of achievement, including the Department of Interior's Distinguished Service Award, Fellow of the Company of Military Historians, and the Harry S. Truman Award for Meritorious Service in the Field of Civil War History.

Mr. Bearss has 44 years of Government service under his belt, and currently presides as the chief historian of the National Park Service. His Smithsonian Tours are always sold out, and his speeches and lectures are usually standing room only. His lecture at BRCWRT last May on Grant vs Lee in 1864 was the largest attended meeting in this organization's history. We expect similar numbers, if not more, this year. So come early to get a good seat, and bring a friend.

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!!!
Thursday, May 12, 1994 - 7:30 pm
Manassas National Battlefield Park Visitor Center

From the Vice-President's Desk

Dear Members:

At last month's meeting, the membership of BRCWRT unanimously voted to donate \$150.00 to the Handley Library in Winchester. These funds will be used to protect and preserve rare Civil War documents. As many of these items pertain to the Stonewall Brigade, I encourage you to stop in at Handley Library next time you are in Winchester.

By the time you read this the May 3, 1994 Meeting on Bristoe Station Battlefield will have been completed. I will inform you of the outcome at our May Meeting. While I'm on the subject, lets all extend our thanks and appreciation to Ralph and Swanson for all of the time and effort he has put into preservation. Ralph always makes time to attend local preservation meetings. Thanks Ralph!

Also in this newsletter, you will find a current membership listing. If you find any ommissions or mistakes please contact Gary Ecelbarger at 406-4933.

Our President, Kevin Leahy will be returning in May after successfully completing his first semester at Radford University. Kevin will work at Manassas National Battlefield this summer. Welcome Back!

This month's meeting will be your last chance to sign up for the Antietam self-guided tour. It promises to be an excellent opportunity to tramp one of the most pristine battlefields in the country. A sign up sheet will be located at the membership table.

For those of you who missed last month's meeting, It was a good one. I had my doubts as to how exciting the Lincoln assasination could be, but Mr. Michael Maione put on one of our better talks this year. He answered dozens of questions and dispelled many myths on Lincoln's assasination.

I look forward to seeing you this month. Ed Bearss usually draws a large crowd, so come early and get a good seat. If anyone can keep our attention on a western theater topic Ed Bearss surely will.

See you there!

Respectfully,

Scott C. Patchan

Scott C. Patchan

1994-1995 BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE SPEAKER SCHEDULE

All meetings begin at 7:30 pm at the Manassas National Battlefield Park Visitor Center. Speakers are subject to change.

1994

- May 12 Ed Bearss, Chief Historian, National Park Service:
"The Siege of Vicksburg"
- June 9 Gary Ecelbarger, BRCWRT:
"The Battle of Kernstown, March 23, 1862"
- July 14 Bron Wolf, BRCWRT:
"The Battle of Franklin, November 30, 1864"
- August 11 Mike Litterst, NPS Historian:
"Lincoln in Richmond, April 1865"
- September 8 Ray Brown, NPS Historian:
"The Battle of Salem's Church - May 4, 1863"
- October 13 John Devine, The Sage of Loudoun County:
"Wade Hampton's Beefsteak Raid - September, 1864"
- November 10 Greg Mertz, Author and Historian:
"Jeb Stuart as an Infantry Commander" (topic may change)
- December 8 Joe Whitehorne, Author of *The Battle of Cedar Creek: Self Guided Tour*
"Grant Takes Command - March 1864"

1995

- January 12 Roger DeLauter, Civil War Author:
"McNeil's Rangers"
- February 9 William J. Miller, Author of *Mapping for Stonewall*:
"The Logistics of Supply: White House Landing"
- March 9 Jim Burgess, NPS Historian:
"The Role of Artillery at the First Battle of Bull Run"
- April 13 Kim Holien, Author:
"The Battle of Ball's Bluff, October 21, 1861"

MARCHING ORDERS!
PREPARE RATIONS!
FORWARD TO SHARPSBURG!

There is still time to join the Bull Run Civil War Round Table's third self-guided tour on Saturday May 14, 1994 (the Saturday after the Ed Bearss meeting). Our destination this campaign will be a portion of the Western Maryland Campaign of 1862. We will start from the picnic area of Manassas Battlefield at Dogan's Ridge (approximately one-half mile north of the Stone House intersection on the left hand side of route 234) at 7:30 am. The group will, by caravan, head north to White's Ferry, then to Antietam Creek to review the action that occurred during Robert E. Lee's First Northern Invasion. As has been the case with the other tours of 2nd Manassas and Gettysburg, this tour will be member guided; i.e., Round Table volunteers will be "tour guides" at each of the eight selected stops on this campaign:

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Action to Describe</u> |
|--|---|
| White's Ferry (September 4-7, 1862) | |
| (1) White's Ford ** Debate #1 ** | Robert E. Lee's Northern Invasion Should Lee have fought at Antietam? |
| Antietam Creek (Sharpsburg) September 17, 1862 | |
| (2) Pry House (McClellan's HQ) ** Debate #2** | Union Operations Was McClellan the best man for the job? |
| (3) The Cornfield | Hooker vs. Jackson for the Dunker Church |
| (4) East Woods | Hoods Offensive, Death of Mansfield |
| (5) West Woods | Repulse of Sedgwick's division by Jackson |
| Middle Bridge | Lunch Break (Members to bring a bag lunch) |
| (6) Sunken Road | Action at "Bloody Lane" |
| (7) Burnside Bridge | 9th Corp Divisions vs. Toomb's Georgians |
| (8) Branch Avenue | A.P Hill Saves the Day |
| ** Debate #3 ** | Was Antietam a Drawn Battle or a Northern Victory? (We will debate tactical & strategic aspects) |

The Group will return to Manassas by 5:00 pm. To date we have over 20 members who have signed up to attend this tour. We are still seeking more. These tours have always been an entertaining and inexpensive way to learn about the Civil War. Sign up lists will be displayed at our May meeting. You can volunteer to be a driver (others in the car should chip in for gas) or a tour guide at one of the above stops. Most importantly, if you do not want to be a guide nor a driver, but you are interested in this campaign and would like to just "come along for the ride," this tour is made just for you. We guarantee a Saturday well spent - Rain or Shine! Call Gary Ecelbarger (406-4933) for details.

PRESERVATION UPDATE

Submitted by Ralph Swanson & Gary Ecelbarger

Manassas Battlefield

The National Park Service proposes to relocate high-voltage power lines that currently spans the Stuart Tract. The preferred new route is around the perimeter of the tract along Pageland Lane. On March 23, the Park hosted a public information meeting attended by BRCWRT member Joe Gray. Costs to relocate the powerline will be \$3-4 million. Underground burial of the power is apparently not possible because of the high voltage of the line. This action will remove the powerline as a direct intrusion on this important part of the battlefield, but will not hide it completely.

Chantilly Update

After voting in January to acquire Parcel 5 for addition to the existing Ox Hill (Chantilly) Battlefield Park near Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax County has approached the landowner who has agreed to sell. However, another party currently holds a prior option to buy the Parcel and negotiations continue with that party on appropriate compensation.

Bristoe Station

On Tuesday evening, May 3, the Prince William County Board of Supervisors will have considered a Comprehensive Plan amendment that will direct future land use at Bristow, VA, (formerly Bristoe Station) site of battle action in 1862 and 1864. The results of this meeting will be presented at the May 12 Round Table meeting. The recommendation of the County Planning Commission provides for low density residential uses over key portions of the battlefield. The BRCWRT has supported this alternative because it prevents high density residential uses, but we realize that even this alternative does not provide for direct set-asides of land for battlefield preservation. We will continue to work with the County in search of such an alternative.

Kernstown/Pritchard's Hill Update

In April the Frederick County Board of Supervisors and the City of Winchester's Common Council allocated \$500,000 to the F&M Bank in Winchester to prevent the sale of the Charles Hardy Grim estate via public auction. This joint action by the city and county holds the property for two more years until enough money is raised to completely purchase it. The 375-acre estate includes Pritchard's Hill and other lands that were an integral component of the 1st Battle of Kernstown fought in 1862 and the 2nd Battle of Kernstown fought in 1864. In January the Bull Run Civil War Round Table sent letters of support to city and county board members as well as to Congressman Wolf and Governor Allen urging their support for the purchase of this battlefield property. We will continue to work with these parties until the land is successfully purchased.

CURRENT EVENTS - MAY 1994

Submitted by Ralph Swanson

If you can't find something to do this month, you've never heard of the American Civil War!!!

May 6-8 - Battle of the Wilderness Re-enactment - The 130th anniversary of the event will be commemorated just outside of Orange, VA. Camps, sutlers, cavalry. Should be a major event!! 717/337-2191.

May 7, 8 - Civil War Show and Sale -Frederick County Fairgrounds, Sat. 9-5; Sun. 9-3. I-15 North and exit on Patrick St. 301/253-4961. \$4.

May 7,8 and 14, 15 - Wilderness/Spotsylvania 130th Anniversary Program - The National Park Service hosts special programs both weekends. Special walking tours, films, dedication of monument to Emory Upton at the Bloody Angle. Call for schedule of events. 703/371-0802. Free.

May 13-15 - Celebrate Belle's Birthday - The Berkeley County Historical Society invites you to join them for festivities marking the birthday of that "Sechesh Cleopatra", Belle Boyd. Encampments and activities all around Martinsburg. Start your visit at the Belle Boyd House, 126 E. Race St., Martinsburg, WV. 304/267-4713. Free.

May 14 - Bull Run Civil War Round Table's Antietam Tour - see details in this newsletter

May 14 - Relic Show - Quality Inn and Johnny Appleseed Restaurant, I-81 at New Market. 11 am - 7 pm. 703/740-3577. \$2.

May 19-22 - North-South Skirmish Association National Competition - Live firing of muskets, carbines, pistols, artillery, and mortars. The closest thing you'll ever see or hear to a real CW battle. See this at least once!! Ft. Shenandoah, north of Winchester. 810/258-9007. Free.

May 20-22 - Firearms Show and Sale - Travelodge Hotel, I-81 and Rts. 50 & 522, Winchester. Friday 3-8 pm, Sat. 9-1 pm. 410/465-6827. Admission.

May 21-22 - Living History - Re-enactors portray camp life in 1864 in the Shenandoah Valley. Tacticals and demonstrations. Fisher's Hill Battlefield Site. Rte. 11 and 601, near Strasburg. 12-5 pm both days. 703/371-1860.

May 25-29 - Civil War Institute - Fourth Annual CW Institute, hosted by Shenandoah University in Winchester, offers four days of speakers, battlefield tours and social events. Field trips during the day and evening lectures by renown CW experts. A premier event for the hard-core buff. For information and registration, call the University at 703/665-4588. \$195 for all four days, accommodations not included.

BRCWRT MEMBERSHIP LIST - 1994

| Name | Address | Phone Number |
|---------------------------|---|--------------|
| BERT ALBERT | 12007 CALIE ST./FAIRFAX/VA/22033 | 703/713-4121 |
| WILLIAM & MARLENE AYLOR | 14716 CRENSHAW DR./CENTREVILLE/VA/22020 | 703/631-0428 |
| CLAUDE BRADSHAW | 11913 BLUEBIRD LANE/CATHARPIN/VA/22018 | 703/754-9850 |
| ROBERT BRUEGGEMAN | 7222 SIGNAL HILL ROAD/MANASSAS/VA/22111 | 703/369-1261 |
| JIM BURGESS | 11507 LEE HIGHWAY/MANASSAS/VA/22110 | 703/754-7800 |
| ROBERT & KATHLEEN BURRUS | 13704 SPRINGSTONE DR./CLIFTON/VA/22024 | 703/830-3640 |
| ARTHUR & CINDY CANDEQUIST | RT 6, BOX 273 B/WARRENTON/VA/22186 | 703/349-1986 |
| RICHARD CARR | 10310 SHILOH ST./FAIRFAX/VA/22030 | 703/273-7073 |
| R. BERNARD CHAPMAN | 3284 KINROSS CIRCLE/HERNDON/VA/22071 | 703/437-9109 |
| ROBERT CHIRALO | 6738 JADE POST LANE/CENTREVILLE/VA/22020 | 703/830-6833 |
| JAMES E. COLE | 8662 LIBERIA AVENUE/MANASSAS,VA/22110 | 703/369-5356 |
| JAY CORBALIS | 2845 HUNTER MILL RD./OAKTON/VA/22124 | 703/938-1110 |
| BRYAN CORBIN, JR. | 157 MANASSAS DRIVE/MANASSAS/VA/22111 | 703/368-6866 |
| CALVIN & MELANIE CURTIS | 931 SOUTH 400 EAST/CENTERVILLE/UT/84014 | |
| AARON DANIS | 9556 WHITE PILLAR TERR/GTHSBG/MD/20882 | 301/253-9507 |
| PHILLIP DEVORE | 8503 BRAEBURN DRIVE/ANNANDALE/VA22003 | 703/425-1848 |
| DUTCHDREHLE | 14087 BETSY ROSS LN/CENTREVILLE/VA/22020 | 703/815-8726 |
| MICHAEL DUGGAN | 5531 WINFORD COURT/FAIRFAX/VA/22032 | |
| GARY ECELBARGER | 211 N. CAMERON ST./STERLING/VA/20164 | 703/406-4933 |
| JOHN FAWSETT | 8221 BAYBERRY RIDGE/FAIRFAX ST/VA 22039 | 703/690-7652 |
| DENNIS FELDT | 12261 PENDER CREEK/FAIRFAX/VA/22033 | 703/817-1445 |
| KAREN & ALAN FOJT | 9296 CALADIUM DR./MANASSAS/VA/22110 | 703/330-1965 |
| CHARLES FOLLUO | 6214 ERMAN ST./BURKE/VA/22015 | 703/455-7285 |
| JOE GRAY | 6118 FEATHERBED LANE/MANASSAS/VA/22110 | 703/754-4798 |
| MIKE GRINDSTAFF | 1904 OLD-POST TERRACE/WOODBRIDGE/VA/22191 | 703/590-3530 |
| JOE & SARAH GUERRINO | PO BOX 98/CATHARPIN/VA/22018 | 703/754-9581 |
| CHARLES GRYMES | 6836 GEN LONGSTREET LN/MANASSAS/VA/22110 | |
| MARK HANLEY | RR 1, BOX 789/HAMILTON/VA/22068 | 703/338-9239 |
| MARTHA HENDLEY | 5704 FEATHERBED LANE/MANASSAS/VA/22110 | 703/754-4181 |
| JIM HOLLAR | 9625 PARK STREET/MANASSAS/VA/22110 | 703/361-7403 |
| ALLAN W. HOWEY | 5816 ROYAL RIDGE DR./SPRINGFIELD/VA/22152 | 703/912-6614 |
| WILLIAM HUBE | 3307 BRADFORD ST./DALE CITY/VA/22193 | 703/670-3848 |
| GARON & JUSTIN ISAAC | 4306 HILLYER STREET/FAIRFAX/VA/22032 | 703/764-9354 |
| DANNY A. JENKINS | 12672 WINBLEY LANE/WOODBRIDGE/VA/22192 | 703/680-6332 |
| WILLIAM P. JOHNSTON | 4020 STONEWALL AVE./FAIRFAX/VA/22032 | 703/273-2450 |
| WILLIAM P. JOHNSTON II | 4141 ORCHARD DRIVE/FAIRFAX/VA/22032 | 703/273-6130 |
| OLIVER & MARIE JONES | 8676 CARLTON DRIVE/MANASSAS/VA/22110 | 703/335-1975 |
| BILL KRAYER | 6238 WILMETTE/BURKE/VA/22015 | 703/239-1319 |
| JOE KELLEY | 3800 POWELL LANE #510/FALLS CH/VA/22041 | 703/671-2494 |
| SUE KETCHUM | 9054 OLD HICKORY CT./MANASSAS/VA/22110 | 703/361-8062 |
| BOB KINDERGRAN | 8546 YODER ST./MANASSAS/VA/22110 | 703/361-9124 |
| RICK KINSEY | 10715 J. TURLEY PL/FAIRFAX/VA/22032 | 703/278-8794 |
| THOMAS KISSINGER | 6628 ANNE MARIE LANE/MANASSAS/VA/22111 | 703/791-6053 |
| KEITH LANCASTER | 6700 WOODEN SPOKE RD/BURKE/VA/22015 | 703/440-0042 |
| KEVIN LEAHY | 13780 MEADOWBROOK/DALE CITY/VA/22193 | 703/590-5187 |
| MANASAS MUSEUM | P.O. BOX 560/MANASAS/VA/22110 | 703/368-1873 |
| ARMANDO MANCINI | 15385 TWIN CREEKS CT/CENTREVILLE/VA/22020 | 703/266-3584 |
| WILFRED MASUMURA | 9605 MASTER WORKS DR/VIENNA/VA/22181 | 703/281-5706 |
| JOHN P. MCANAW | 5326 GAINSBOROUGH RD/FAIRFAX/VA/22032 | 703/978-3371 |
| GARY & NANCY MCCULLOUGH | 14411 BLACK HORSE CT/CENTREVILLE/VA/22020 | 703/968-9431 |
| MICHAEL MCHUGH | 2277 CHESTNUT BURR CT/RESTON/VA/22091 | 703/620-4767 |
| G F "MAC" MCMAHON | 10115 ERIN CT/MANASSAS/VA/22110 | 703/368-7910 |
| BOBBY & MIKE MCMANUS | 7614 LINTON HALL/GAINESVILLE/VA/22065 | 703/754-9311 |
| BILL MILLER | 7621 CHADDS LANDING/MANASSAS/VA/22111 | 703/369-0602 |
| MIKE MILLER | 5416 WILLOW VALLEY RD/CLIFTON/VA/22024 | 703-222-9132 |
| ANDY MOWRER | 3773-8 NEW HAMPSHIRE/ANDREWS AFB/DC/20335 | 301/568-8259 |
| EILEEN MURPHY | 9259 GARNET COURT/MANASSAS/VA/22110 | 703/369-7988 |
| C.K. NORVILLE | 714 CLIFFSIDE DRIVE/EDINBURG/VA/22824 | 703/984-8035 |
| CHARLES NORVILLE | 8035 WELINGTON RD/ALEXANDRIA/VA/22308 | 703/765-9195 |
| SCOTT C. PATCHAN | 5705 CEDAR WALK #202/CENTREVILLE/VA/22020 | 703/803-2927 |

| | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| FMFRSON PROCTOR | 6008 POWELLS LANDING/BURKE/VA/22015 | 703/239-9643 |
| JAMES B. ROBESON | PO BOX 349/MANASSAS/VA/22110 | 703/369-5353 |
| WILL SCHUMACHER | 9072 MCRAE COURT/MANASSAS/VA/22110 | 703/369-3720 |
| JOHN SCULLY | 9812 BACON COURT/FAIRFAX/VA/22032 | 703/978-9199 |
| GAERT & KATHY SIME | 14394 CLEARVIEW AVE./GAINESVILLE/VA/22065 | 703/754-0091 |
| ARIN SIME | 345 WEBB STREET/CHARLOTTESVILLE/VA /22904 | 804/971-8097 |
| CURT SMITH | 12101 BROTHERS CT/MANASSAS/VA/22111 | 703/640-2287 |
| DIANNE SMITH | 7702 WOLFORD WAY/LORTON/VA/22079 | 703/339-0027 |
| BURTON O. SOURS, JR | RT 2, BOX 271/CATLETT/VA/22011 | 703/754-8243 |
| JEB & SUSAN STEWART | 8239 SUNSET DR./MANASSAS/VA /22110 | 703/369-2458 |
| BOB & MICHAEL STONE | 871 N OHIO ST/ARLINGTON/VA/22205 | 703/241-9166 |
| SUPT. MAN-NAT BTL PARK | 6511 SUDLEY RD/MANASSAS/VA/22110 | 703/361-1865 |
| RALPH & RENATA SWANSON | 13000 NEW PARKLAND DR./HERNDON/VA/22071 | 703/709-7411 |
| ROBERT J. SZABO | 8870 GOLDEN OAK DR. #1/MANASSAS/VA/22110 | |
| GARY THOMAS | 8468 STONEWALL RD/MANASSAS/VA/22110 | 703/369-0414 |
| JEFF THORPE | 14938 ENTERPRISE LANE/WOODBRIDGE/VA/22191 | 703/490-3887 |
| BOB & DOTT TODD | 8550 YODER STREET/MANASSAS/VA/22110 | 703/369-3360 |
| ROBERT L. TRINGALI | 8962 MILES PLACE/MANASSAS/VA/22110 | 703/368-0992 |
| E. B. VANDIVER III | 9533 BARKWOOD CT/FAIRFAX/VA/22032 | 703/323-7241 |
| BOB WATSON | 314 HENRICO ROAD/FRONT ROYAL/VA/22630 | 703/635-4095 |
| SUZANNE WEATHERHOLT & DOUGLAS PARKER | 9115 GRANT AVENUE/MANASSAS/VA/22110 | |
| ED WENZEL | 643 HILLCREST DRIVE SW/VIENNA/VA/22180 | 703/938-5784 |
| RICHARD P. WHEELER | 12122 BRISTOW RD/BRISTOW/VA/22013 | 703/330-6619 |
| MICHAEL WOLF | 615 NEWPORT SHORE/ALPHARETTA/GA/30202 | 404/667-8843 |
| BRON WOLFF | 14724 CRANKE RD/CENTREVILLE/VA/22330 | 703/830-8014 |
| RICHARD K. YOUNG | 4670 LUXBERRY DRIVE/FAIRFAX/VA/22032 | 703/764-0865 |
| A. W. ZARR | 15056 BROWN POST LANE/CENTREVILLE/VA/22020 | 703/266-2327 |

FROM THE BOOK SUTLER

Ed Bearss will not be the only legend of Civil War history present at the May meeting. One of the more important pieces of Civil War literature in existence will be available at our book table. We are offering a full set of *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War* for one lucky winner! Four volumes and 3091 pages of first-hand accounts, apologies and analyses by the likes of Longstreet, McClellan, Hood, Joe Johnston, Grant, Sherman, and others. Every major campaign is covered in this fully illustrated set complete with maps and a detailed index. We will not break up this set (\$50 retail). It's all or nothing for some intrepid soul among us. Come on out and visit our book table. This might be the only chance you will ever get to put 9 1/2 inches of Civil War Classic on your bookshelf without putting yourself in the poor house in the process!

Permission Denied - Temporarily

Due to the limited space available in this month's newsletter, our regular op-ed feature, "Permission to Speak Freely," has been suspended for this month. We will return this segment next month with more Round Table members' opinions concerning the most overrated and underrated commanders of the Civil War. If you have a selection for this feature and would like it published in the newsletter, please contact the editor, Gary Ecelbarger, at 703/406-4933 weeknights between 6 - 9 pm.

FROM THE RANKS

The Battle of Fair Oaks/Seven Pines began on the last day of May and ended on June 1, 1862 at the gates of Richmond. The following two unpublished accounts depict different views of the battle, as seen by Biily Yank and Johnny Reb.

From James Miller - 105th PA, Co. K. - Kearney's Division

Just as we halted at the woods, before entering the slashing, one of our men, who was more dependent on the Government than the Government was upon him, stepped out of the ranks. Captain Thompson ordered him back, but he made some excuse and was forgotten for the moment, and the regiment was ordered forward; but Captain Thompson, seeing the man was gone, in his firm manner said: "Serg't Miller, hunt him up and bring him back." I searched for him but he was too old a coon for me and had made good his escape. I then started to rejoin my company, but the regiment was out of sight; and owing to the thick woods I passed it, and found myself on the left of the 63rd PA. I was about to pass toward the right to again look for my regiment, though the men were all in a kneeling position, and a man who would rise to his feet ran the risk of drawing a direct fire. At this moment an officer of the 63rd requested me to go some 15 rods to the left in the woods and act as an outpost. I told him I would have to report to my own regiment but he told me I could not cross that fire. I then took my position according to my orders, but we were soon flanked on the right and I soon found myself inside the enemy lines.

I got in with another soldier of another regiment, who had been served in the same manner, and we passed over the field where the fight had been.. Some of the wounded rebels glared defiantly at us, but we were armed and uninjured, and they could not molest us, even had they been able. We went into the edge of a woods and slept soundly until morning. About sunrise we rose and began to consider how we would get out of the dilemma we had so easily gotten into. Observing some works a short distance from us my comrade said he was going to see what they were, and though I tried to dissuade him, he started toward them but had not gone far until he received a volley from the rebels there which brought him back to me in a hurry. We then started and made our way around their right, reaching ourlines about 11 a.m. that morning.

From John W. Huddleston, of S.D. Lee's Artillery, to his brother - June 1, 1862

Letter in possession of the VA Historical Society

At 8 o'clock the "old bugle sounded the welcome and familiar sound "forward" and we formed in line of battle in an old field a half mile from our camp. At 9 o'clock A.M. the yankees advanced 12,000 infantry and 3000 cavalry on our little force of 1600 where a hot and fearful and bloody fight ensued, forcing our men back under shelter of our guns - the battle now opened in all its terrible grandeur - our fireing was at the rate of 4 rounds to the minute or 240 to the hour. Our General reports that every shot fell in their midst, killing great numbers. This continued for two hours when our ammunition gave out, and we run our guns back to camp for fresh supplies.

The enemy took advantage of this cessation in our artillery fireing and pressed our little band of 16,000 until they were entirely surrounded. Beside the Yankees had run up a battery to within 600 yards of our position supported by 1000 infantry and 700 cavalry (fresh troops). We again rushed up to our old position and found our men

bravely standing their ground against such tremendous odds of at least 8 times their numbers, and after a fierce and terrific struggle with the aid of our guns plowing roads through the ranks of the enemy, they bravely cut their way out. We had on the field of the 3rd Va. Cavalry 104 men who acted very unbecomeing to our cause. 700cavalry charged our Battery and the 104 men instead of supporting us as they should of done, fled from the battlefield in great confusion. But the 7th Tennessee came to our assistance, and I cannot describe how nobly they stoodtheir ground - on come the 700, and by the time they got to within 60 yards of us, every fire from our Battery, no less than 100 were swept from their horses....

Let us, my dear brother, thank God for his kindness in shielding and bringing me safely through this fearful conflict, for I feel that He alone has sustained and shielded me in our conflict. At Yorktown and Williamsburg I was bathed and baptised in human blood, was brushed and bruised many times by horrible missles of death and destruction, but than God I have not faltered nor shrunk from my post or... to my country my people or my God and I trust that I may not until the fanatic foe is driven from Va. soil and liberty echoes from every hill and Valley of our Southern Country.

Yours Devotedly,
John W. Huddleston

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
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MANASSAS, VA 22110



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