

War Has Its Lighter Side

By MERTON T. AKERS
UPI Correspondent

The Civil War was many things. It was blood, sweat and tears. It was mud, dust and bad food. But the war had its lighter moments, too, and one of the lightest was the story of Job Stuart's new hat and John Pope's uniform dress coat.

It happened in the early days of a campaign between the battle of Cedar Mountain and the series of fights which history calls the Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas).
Maj. Gen. John Pope was maneuvering his new Union Army of Virginia in the northern part of the state. Stonewall Jackson had trounced part of Pope's army at Cedar Mountain on Aug. 9, 1862. After that Pope's army lay between the Rapidan and the Rappahannock Rivers in an exposed position. The Confederates were looking for a way to strike before it could concentrate behind the Rappahannock.

Maj. Gen. James Ewell Brown (Jeb) Stuart, Confederate cavalry commander, mobilized his troopers to deliver the first blow.

On the night of Aug. 17 Stuart and his staff rode out to Verdierville, Va., a small town south of the Rapidan, to meet a brigade of his cavalry led by Fitzhugh Lee, a nephew of Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Bedded Down
Not finding Fitz Lee at Verdierville, Stuart and his staff bedded down for the night on the porch of a house. He sent Maj. Norman Fitzhugh out to find Fitz Lee and his troops and prepared to get a night's rest.

Carefully Stuart placed his new plumed hat in a safe place beside him with a haversack in which he carried his maps and papers, rolled up in his scarlet-lined cloak and drifted off to sleep. The hat was a special one and highly prized by Stuart because he had won it on a bet from Union Brig. Samuel W. L. Crawford in one of those highly unlikely incidents which could have occurred only in a war where many officers—now fighting each other—had served together in the Old Army before Fort Sumter.

Stuart had met Crawford and Brig. Gen. George D. Bayard, Union cavalry commander, during a truce after the battle of Cedar Mountain. During the conversation Stuart had remarked that the Federals would claim Cedar Mountain as a victory. Crawford bet a hat they would not.

A few days later through the lines under a flag of truce came a significant hat with a copy of the N.Y. Herald claiming victory. It was for Stuart, with the compliments of Crawford.

Early the next morning the clatter and jingling of a cavalry troop aroused the porch

sleepers. Mist hung low and the crossroads barely a quarter of a mile away was scarcely visible.

Bareheaded, Stuart peered through the mist trying to identify the troops. This must be Fitz Lee's cavalry, 12 hours late.

But challenges and pistol shots announced to the startled Stuart that it was Federal cavalry, not Fitz Lee's.

Vaulted Over Fence
Stuart ran for his horse, kept saddled for just such emergencies. He vaulted the horse over a garden fence and rode hell for leather away from there.

The prized hat and the haversack remained on the porch to be scooped up by the Federal troopers. With them went his cloak and sword scabbard.

Stuart and his staff escaped the Federal cavalry but as the hot August sun began to beam he had to knot a white handkerchief over his reddish locks in place of a hat.

All day he took the jibes: "Where's your hat?" "That was more than the 'Gay Cavalier' could take indefinitely. Something had to be done."

His chance came the night of Aug. 22-23.

With 1,500 men, Stuart started on a raid to Catlett's Station, a hamlet on the Orange & Alexandria railroad where it crossed Cedar Run. Here Pope had a supply base. If the bridge could be destroyed, Pope would be harried, perhaps crippled.

The troopers rode into the night and along the way captured a Negro who claimed he knew where Pope's tent stood in the Catlett camp. Lady Luck was smiling again on Stuart.

"It was the darkest night I ever knew," Stuart said. A quick August thunderstorm broke and drenched the troopers before they reached the camp.

The Negro was as good as his word. He pointed out Pope's tent in the camp where Union quartermaster and commissary officers were having a drink in their waterproofed, floored tents before sitting down to a hot meal.

The gray troopers hit the camp with a Rebel yell. Officers, teamsters, cooks and orderlies ducked into the darkness. Horses and mules reared and snorted and broke away from their picket lines.

Tables Kicked Over
Lt. Col. W. W. Blackford, one of Stuart's staff, described the pandemonium:

"Supper tables were kicked over and tents broken down in the rush to get out, the tents catching them sometimes in their fall like a fish in a net, within whose folds we could trace the struggling outlines of the frantic men within."

"In less time than it has

taken to tell the tale, all was over. The tents and wagons were fired and burned merrily, and each moment the light increased as busy hands spread the conflagration, making it easier to collect the thousands of mules and horses into droves, for there were too many to lead, and to gather in the multitudes of prisoners around us."

Stuart had detailed Blackford to see that the bridge was destroyed, the main objective of the raid. But Blackford and the colonel leading the bridge burners got lost in the dark. When they finally reached the bridge they found it guarded by Federal infantry



and gave up the job.

In his report later Stuart said the bridge was too wet to burn and too heavy to chop down.

But the raid was successful as far as Stuart was concerned for among the loot was Pope's dress coat, an elaborate garment of broadcloth with a velvet collar and a general's stars embroidered on it with golden thread. Along with it was Pope's hat and his military cloak as well as valuable papers.

Stuart was avenged. He sent the coat to Gov. "Honest John" Letcher of Virginia in Richmond who promptly put it on exhibition in the State Library. The coat gave Richmond its first laugh since the dark days of the Peninsular campaign.

The story ends with the clinking of champagne glasses. One of Stuart's prisoners was Maj. Charles M. Goulding. Earlier, when Federal troops had occupied Warren-

ton, he had boasted to a pretty girl—one Miss Lucas—that he would be in Richmond in 90 days. She bet him a bottle of champagne he wouldn't.

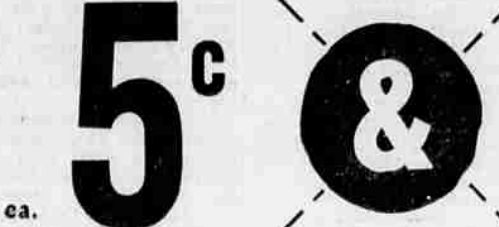
As the prisoners passed her home—on the way to Richmond—she paid the bet.

The gallant major lifted his glass and drank to the health "of so charming a person." Then he trudged off to prison camp in Richmond, well ahead of the 30-day deadline. It could only have happened in the Civil War.

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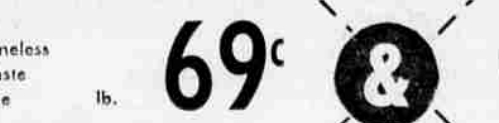
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LIGHTER MOMENTS—Despite its blood, death and horror, the Civil War had what could be described as its lighter moments, too. One of the lightest of these stories was about Job Stuart's plumed hat and Gen. John Pope's dress coat. It happened in the days between the battles of Cedar Mountain and Second Manassas. Jeb Stuart had led his cavalry to Verdierville, Va., to meet with troopers of Fitz Lee. The meeting didn't materialize and Stuart camped for the night. Early next morning, troopers arrived. They were not those of Fitz Lee's, but Federals. Stuart leaped to his horse and fled, leaving his new plumed hat to be captured by the North. All day he smarted under jibes by his fellow officers and the hot sun. He was to be avenged, however, several days later. With 1,500 men, Stuart raided a Federal camp at Catlett's Station. The raid was successful, in that supplies were destroyed and the Northern unit was scattered. Most important, the full-dress coat belonging to General Pope was captured. Stuart sent it to Governor Letcher of Virginia, who put it on display in Richmond. Here, Jeb Stuart is shown with a plumed hat in a rare photograph from the Library of Congress collection. (UPI)

Science Shrinks Piles New Way Without Surgery Stops Itch—Relieves Pain

New York, N. Y. (Special)—For the first time science has found a new healing substance with the astonishing ability to shrink hemorrhoids, stop itching, and relieve pain—without surgery. In case after case, while gently relieving pain, actual reduction (shrinkage) took place. Most amazing of all—results were so thorough that sufferers, made astonishing statements like "Piles have ceased to be a problem!" The secret is a new healing substance (Bio-Dymel)—discovery of a world-famous research institute. This substance is now available in suppository or ointment form under the name Preparation 223. At all drug counters.

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