

THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR

Confederate Forces Ambushed

By MERTON T. AKERS
United Press International

A note of frustration crept into the letter Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee wrote to his wife, Mary, on Oct. 19, 1863.

Describing the maneuvering of his Army of Northern Virginia against the Federal army of the Potomac, Lee told his wife:

"Our advance went as far as Bull Run... I could have thrown him (the enemy) further back, but I saw no chance of bringing him to battle and it would have only served to fatigue our troops by advancing further."

"If they had been properly provided with clothes I would certainly have endeavored to have thrown them north of the Potomac. But thousands were barefooted, thousands with fragments of shoes and all without overcoats, blankets or warm clothing."

"I could not bear to expose them to certain suffering, on an uncertain issue."

"We could only come up with their rear, punished them a little..."

Lee's letter franker

"I think my rheumatism is a little better. Yet I still suffer..."

Lee had been franker about what had happened on the advance in a letter to President Jefferson Davis two days before.

"...We have captured about sixteen hundred prisoners, and inflicted some additional losses upon the enemy..."

"Our own loss was slight, except in an action at this place, where it was quite severe, and I regret to add that five pieces of artillery belonging to (Lt. Gen. Ambrose P.) Hill's corps were captured."

The "action at this place" which Lee mentioned was an engagement at Bristoe Station, Va., just south of the Old Bull Run (Manassas) battlefield.

The fight at Bristoe was unimportant (except, of course, to the men who were killed or wounded) but it marked one of the few times in the Civil War when any part of Lee's army was ambushed.

At the time, Lee was maneuvering Maj. Gen. George G. Meade's Federal army north by striking at its right flank.

As Hill's corps arrived at Bristoe Station the banks of

Bull Run, just north of the hamlet, were blue with Federal troops. Hill's artillery threw some shells into the loushing Federals on the south bank of the creek and they scurried to escape. Hill thought he saw a chance of cutting off all the troops still south of the stream. He ordered a quick attack by his two leading brigades. Other units were coming up in support.

The Confederates attacked with a will. But as they came near the embankment of the Orange & Alexandria railroad they met a terrific artillery and musket fire on their right flank.

From Concealed Troops

This fire came from Union troops concealed behind the embankment, troops which Hill had not known were there. Too late came the realization that this part of the field had not been scouted.

The two Confederate brigades had no choice except to attempt to drive out the Federals. It was too late to turn back.

In attempting to drive the embankment they were slaughtered. One of the brigades, commanded by Gen. John R. Cooke, lost 700 men in the attack - killed, wounded and captured. The 27th North Carolina, which Cooke had led in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia campaigns, lost 290 of its 416 men and 33 officers.

The other brigade, commanded by Gen. William W. Kirkland, lost 602 men, about half of whom surrendered. Both Cooke and Kirkland were wounded. All told, the casualties were 1,361 in the two brigades. Another brigadier, Carnot Posey, was wounded in the leg trying to support Cooke and Kirkland and died a month later.

Cooke came from one of the famous divided families in the Civil War. His father was Maj. Gen. Philip St. George Cooke, who remained with the Union in 1861. Maj. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart was the brother-in-law of the younger Cooke.

The Federal troops in the fight at Bristoe belonged to the II Corps and were commanded by Maj. Gen. G. K. Warren.

Approaching From South

They were approaching Bristoe from the south after a long march and were screened from the Confederates by woods. Warren heard the preliminary

firing and saw an opportunity. From the saddle he shouted an order:

"Tell General (Alexander) Hays to move by the left flank, at the doublequick, to the railroad cut."

Hays' men and those of Brig. Gen. Alexander Webb wheeled into position behind the embankment, a breastworks made to order.

From there they poured in the fire which mowed down Cooke's and Kirkland's brigades.

In about 40 minutes it was all over, the Confederates moving away and the Federals continuing north. Warren lost about 350 men.

Meade moved two corps to the vicinity but by that time it was night. He then withdrew to Centerville, Va., near the Bull Run battlefield and dug in.

Hill came in for much criticism for the Bristoe fight.

Attack Too Hastily

"I am convinced that I made the attack too hastily," he wrote in his report, "and at the same time that a delay of half an hour, and there would have been no enemy to attack. In that event I believe I should equally have blamed myself for not attacking at once."

Lee noted on the report that "General Hill explains how, in his haste to attack the II Army Corps of the enemy, he overlooked the presence of the II, which was the cause of the disaster."

Secretary of War James Seddon wrote on the report that "the disaster at Bristoe Station seems due to a gallant but over hastily pressing of the enemy."

President Davis came to the point.

"There was a want of vigilance," he noted.

The day after the fight Hill and Lee rode over the battlefield. Hill explained to his chief what had happened.

Lee made little comment as they rode. At the end he said: "Well, well, General, bury these poor men and let us say no more about it."

REPORTS PLANE CRASH

CAIRO, U.A.R. (UPI) - Authorities said today 14 persons were killed in the crash of a Soviet military transport plane at Aswan Airport last week.



HANDY FOR BATH - Shirley DeMacke awoke to find five inches of water on the floor of her bedroom in Phoenix, Ariz., the result of rains measuring nearly two inches during the night. It was the second time this year that heavy rains have flooded homes in Phoenix. (UPI)

Exhibition Ship To Show American Products Overseas

NEW YORK (UPI) - There was a day when a food producer or a maker of housewares could sell his products by loading them into a horse drawn wagon driven by a salesman who peddled the goods door to door.

The method is long since a victim of progress, but the idea holds, and if plans come to fruition, a modern-day version of the old house-to-house merchandise display will hit the high seas late in November of next year.

S. S. Tradefair

It is an exhibition ship, a trade ship which will be christened the S. S. Tradefair, and it will be designed to carry examples of U. S. production to selected potential consumer areas.

A spokesman for the first United States World Fair Ship, Inc., a private corporation which is sponsoring the idea, said that as of this date, more than a year in advance of the scheduled first sailing Nov. 21, 1964, commitments have been received from a wide range of industries.

The corporation is headed by John H. Morrill, who retired

from active duty with the Navy in 1953 with the rank of rear admiral. The S. S. Tradefair project is sponsored by 10 New York firms, and beside the private industries which have expressed interest, the Departments of Agriculture and of Commerce are considering contracting for space.

Sponsors of the project noted that a Japanese floating trade fair ship, the Sakaura Maru, sold \$15 million in goods in four months. But where the Japanese at some ports opened their exhibition ship to the general public, the sponsors of the S. S. Tradefair plan to have attendance by invitation only, and "we're making the point that it is trade people only," the spokesman said.

The vessel which will be christened the Tradefair now is in use, but will be withdrawn from trade around the first of the year for conversion and refurbishing by the Bethlehem Steel Company.

At present, the schedule of her voyages would see her calling at 40 ports, the North American, the Mediterranean, the Far East and the South Atlantic. A 535-foot, 20,000-tonner, she will contain exhibit spaces, arranged in blocs, plus conference rooms and projection rooms where trade movies can be shown to prospective customers who desire more information than is given in a single exhibit.

"It's the first time this has been tried here," said a spokesman for the sponsoring company, "and we have to make a hard sales pitch."

"But it's a timely project. Right now, there is a lot of interest at high governmental levels on any measures which will serve to increase our export trade, and help out our balance of payments problem. So we feel we have a lot of Washington support behind this."

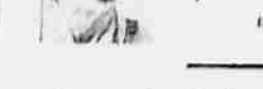
BREW IN GRAVEYARD

ACTON, England (UPI) - A brewing company said today it had turned down the Rev. Richard Parsons' offer to open a beer garden in his Anglican church graveyard here.

"We were flabbergasted," a brewery spokesman said. "But we turned it down because it might tarnish our image."

Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS



Achilles May Have Lived If Yarrow Had Been Found

Achilles, the greatest Greek warrior of the Trojan war, evidently couldn't find a fresh yarrow plant just when he needed it most. Too bad, for he had been treating his wounded soldiers with the leaves and juice of this plant, and knew that it stanchied the flow of blood but wounded, and in his most vulnerable spot - his heel - by an enemy by the name of Paris, neither he nor any of his men could locate a single plant.

Achilles, that mythical character, died from his wound, but in so doing he definitely established a pretty descriptive manner of expressing a weak spot in one's armor, or anatomy; an expression still pretty universally used to this day, many hundreds of years after the Trojan war.

Ever since, in many lands and by many peoples, the crushed leaves of the yarrow, or bloodwort plant has been used for the stanching of blood, either from a wound, or even in cases of severe nosebleed.

Today, after experiments, modern man admits that the fresh leaves, and the juice of the yarrow is highly astringent. So universally used were the leaves of this plant, for stanching blood, that its scientific name, "achillea" is derived from the name of that ancient Greek warrior, Achilles, and this is today the recognized botanical classification.

The common name, bloodwort, or soldier's woundwort, has the same implication. But of course we could not get well enough alone, so we have come up with other descriptive, common names such as, nosebleed plant, devil's nettle, badman's plaything, and old man's pepper; all common names for the yarrow.

The yarrow weed, and a weed it surely is, grows just about everywhere, in pastures, wastelands, in fence rows, and alongside dusty roads. It was introduced in America from Europe a very long time ago. Considered a nuisance, we could however, get a valuable lesson

from it in how to survive, for it contents itself with living in neglected corners where it will be bothered little, if at all.

The yarrow blooms from June to November; small white blossoms, each one slightly resembling small daisies, and with a nutty, autumnal fragrance. The stem is tall, stiff, and carries lacy leaves, borne on branches of the main stem.

Pioneer housewives made a strong bitter tea from the steeped leaves; it was supposed to act as a stimulant. Back in the middle ages, long before the first plant ever found a toehold in America, the leaves of the milwort, or yarrow were believed to be a very potent love-charm.

In spite of the plant's abundance in pastures and fields, there is no record of it ever having been eaten by livestock, its only claim to greatness today is the legend of Achilles, and the Trojan wars, and its name. Who knows? Maybe the course of history would have been different if that ancient Greek warrior could have found some fresh leaves of the "soldier's woundwort" when he was sorely wounded in his one and only vulnerable spot - his heel.

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They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



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