NINETEEN HEROES.

THE OFFICERS KILLED IN BATTLE IN THE SIXTY-FIRST PENNSYLVANIA.

A Remarkable Percentage of EpaulETed Targets, with a Colonel as the First and the Last—And They All Fell in the Breastworks.

[Copyrighted, 1892, by American Press Association. Rock Island (Ill.) Argus.]

HE author of the little book "Recollections of a Private Soldier in the Army of the Potomac" draws a comparison between the services rendered by the privates and those of the commissioned officers, and makes this bold challenge. "Who knows the actual men who will how from Confederates looked and fought behind their earthworks or in the open? A very hasty glance at facts will show who also could survive bullet and who bite lines in getting the information.

There were 105,295 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded in the Union army, and 4,765 commissioned officers—that is, 1 officer to every 22 enlisted men. In the same proportion of officers to privates we ought to find, and on the equalized losses only the best showing on the roll of honor, in certain battles the showing is still better for officers. At Gettysburg 27 percent of the officers engaged were killed or mortally wounded, and of the privates 9 per cent. At Shiloh the officers suffered at the rate of 33.3 per cent, and the privates 11.6. Of course most veterans who were in the extreme front could instances officers on the battlefield skulking behind trees or logs and calling out loudly, "Go it, boys!"

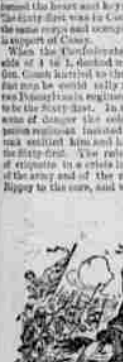
On the other hand, enlisted men had at time to be goaded up to their work, but it is not for purposes of comparison and I tell the story of the heroic deaths of 19 officers of the Sixty-first Pennsylvania volunteers.

The regiment probably did not carry into battle during its whole career a greater number of individual officers than there were casualties among its officers. Second last—that is, there was no record of an enlisted or death signal for such a thing. Some were hit more than once, and a very few came out uninjured. Their wounds were also dead while lodging the men in battle, and 4 captains were killed outright and 3 mortally wounded in desperate action, every one. And in order to tell the story of these deaths it is necessary to follow the course of the fighting sometimes up to the Confederate line of battle and sometimes to the breastworks and over them.

The regiment was organized at Pittsburg in August, 1861, and went to the front before the smoke were filled. Col. Oliver Hazard Ripper was the leader, and he was destined to cross first to the eternal camping grounds and marshal the noble ranks of martyrs to come after him.

The first fight was at bloody Fair Oaks in the Chickahominy swamps, May 31, 1862. Ripper was the battle intended for the Confederate to be the Union Waterloo on the peninsula. In the midst of a blinding rain, with the enemy lately changed to a rebel yell, McClellan's left wing, the enemy, came forward, unchallenged and fell upon the outposts of Casey's division of Keyes' Fourth corps, covering the roads and railroads and bridges that formed the heart and keys of the position. The Sixty-first was in Couch's division, of the same corps and occupied a second line in support of Casey.

When the Confederate regiments, with odds of 4 to 1, dashed upon the outposts, Gen. Couch hurried to the scene with the first men he could rally for the purpose—Pennsylvania regiments, one charging to be the Sixty-first. In starting off to the aces of danger the colonel of the composite regiment insisted that nobody of rank enlisted him and his men to precede the Sixty-first. The raising of this point of etiquette in a crisis involving the fate of the army and of the nation stung Col. Ripper to the core, and with an oath that



HE GO INTO THAT JUNGLE OF DEATH.

will certainly be explained in the last day he told his rival to go to the devil, waved his sword to his men, with the ringing cries, "Forward, Sixty-first! Close up! Double quick!" and charging his horse forward led on men that jungle of death. In thirty minutes he was a lifeless hero, but meanwhile his men had met and stood off the Confederates that were rushing on to defeat Casey's line.

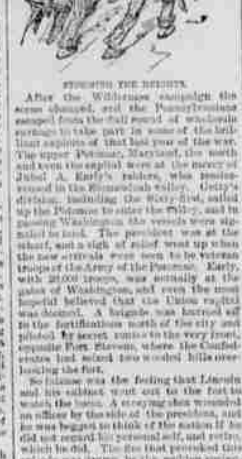
The combatants came together at double quick and the Confederates dropped to their knees under the steady fire of the Pennsylvanians. The latter cheered and advanced until the lines were but thirty paces apart. At that distance it was fought out from shoulder to shoulder, and the sixty-first didn't yield until fresh opposing forces came up on the flank and its ranks had been cut down by a loss of 40 out of 475 engaged. A captain and 4 lieutenants were among the killed and also 40 soldiers in the ranks. The lieutenants escaped and major were wounded and captured. The remaining subaltern officers were 6 killed and 6 wounded, or 12 in all. The regimental flag was torn into shreds by the enemy's bullets and it was wrapped around the body of Col. Ripper to be borne north and buried with him. And it was not a slight sacrifice to the master of losses. The Sixty-first lost horse on the spot with the Pennsylvania regiment at Bull Run. The Casey fight lost 19 members of the color guard in four fights and half the men killed or wounded.

The changes in corps organization that took place when McClellan's army was withdrawn from the peninsula, a few weeks after Fair Oaks, threw the Sixty-first into the Sixth corps, where it remained to the end. It was engaged in minor affairs during the campaign of 1862, but graduated to more populated horrors when it came up to the populated horrors until the morning of Marye's Heights, May 3, 1863. The colonel at that time was George C. Spear, one of the wounded and captured at Fair Oaks. His regiment was picked out to lead the charging column on the right of the line and he was to command the column. The hill was very steep and the troops started to go up in marching order in four ranks.

Before they could display in a shouting line the column and brigade emerging there on the crest opened fire. This was a setback, but the men wavered, but for a second only. Colonel Spear calmly waited for the line to form, then pointed to the road where the rebel lay, and to a man, save only the victims of the fiery bullets, entombed on the way, the charmers went up and stopped at nothing until the heights and the guns were taken from their fire. The Sixty-first captured two cannon of the Washington artillery. Colonel Spear was killed and a captain and lieutenant were wounded. The wounded captain was J. W. Crosby, a man to keep watch of in this record, for one hole of Confederate brass works his ditch some him into engaging.

The Sixty-first re-enlisted and entered the Wilderness in Getty's division of the Sixth corps. Getty's men were in Hancock's line on the Brock road and Plank road, the scene of more than one bloody charge and counterchange. There a captain and 2 lieutenants were killed and 2 other officers wounded. The regiment's loss was 115, of which 24 were by death.

At Spotsylvania the regiment again stood by Hancock's veterans, and was in the twenty-four hour struggle across the breastworks in the "Bloody Angle" on May 12. In one charge of the enemy, in the attempt to drive Hancock's line from the breastworks they had captured, the Sixty-first lost 40 killed and wounded. During the day 150 men turned the enemy's back, the adjutant was killed, shot in of the men and 7 other officers were wounded. The fight was waged with the combatants on opposite sides of a single parapet.



FIGHTING THE BRUTES.

After the Wilderness campaign the scene changed, and the Pennsylvanians escaped from the dull round of wholesale carnage to take part in some of the brilliant exploits of that last year of the war. The upper Potomac, Maryland, the north and even the capital were at the mercy of Jubal A. Early's raiders, who penetrated to the Shenandoah valley. Getty's division, including the Sixty-first, sailed up the Potomac to enter the Valley, and in passing Washington the vessels were stopped to look. The president was at the wharf, and a sigh of relief went up when the new division was seen to be veteran troops of the Army of the Potomac. Early, with 20,000 troops, was actually at the gates of Washington, and even the most hopeful believed that the Union capital was doomed. A brigade was hurried off to the fortifications north of the city and piloted by secret rumor to the very front, opposite Fort Stevens, where the Confederates had seized two wooded hills overlooking the fort.

So intense was the feeling that Lincoln and his cabinet went out to the fort to watch the battle. A crowd gathered wounded an officer by the side of the president, and he was begged to think of the nation if he did not regard his personal safety, and retire, which he did. The fire that provoked this episode was drawn by the sudden springing up from its cover of the Sixth corps brigade, Bidwell's, which constituted the remnant of the Sixty-first. The charge drove the Confederate advance from its vantage ground and Early gave up the attack. The remnant of the Sixty-first was killed and Maj. J. W. Crosby wounded.

Maj. Crosby was the hero of Marye's Heights, who didn't give up because of one knockdown. He was also one of the Wilderness victims, and was lying in hospital at Washington when Early's raiders appeared. His Wilderness wound was unhealed, and the surgeons refused to return him to duty, but in answer to his appeal granted a furlough which enabled him to join his men at Fort Stevens. He paid for his daring by the loss of an arm, and was discharged and made a good sound leader at the front. During the winter following, the regiment was recruited up to nine companies, and Crosby was asked to head it as lieutenant colonel. He took the hand and helped to lead fight, the charge upon and over Lee's intrenchment at Petersburg, April 2, 1865, and fell dead there, the last lamented hero of the noble sixteen.

After Fort Stevens the regiment went to the Shenandoah valley with Sheridan, and was in the thick of it at Charlestown, Winchester and Cedar Creek. Five officers were killed in Sheridan's battles, and the end of it all was that the regiment had one Colonel—Oliver H. Ripper, killed at Fair Oaks; George C. Spear, at Marye's Heights; J. W. Crosby, at Petersburg. Staff—Adjt. Geo. W. Wilson, killed at Spotsylvania. Captains—Louis Rodenbach, Company B, mortally wounded at Charlestown, Va.; W. O. H. Robinson, Company C, killed at the Wilderness; D. J. Taylor, Company D, and J. Barrett, Company G, killed at Cedar Creek; Joseph Bryant, Company E, killed at Fair Oaks. Lieutenants—Company A: John Pollock, at Fair Oaks; F. M. Brown, at the Wilderness; J. N. Price, at Charlestown, Va. Company B: William Scott, at Fair Oaks; William Laughlin, at Fort Stevens, and E. C. Kemper, at the Wilderness. Company C: C. H. Holden, at Fair Oaks, and J. W. Prophater, at Charlestown. Company E: S. F. Harper, at Marye's Heights. Company H: Alfred Stephen, at Fair Oaks. After Capt. Barrett and Taylor were killed at Cedar Creek there wasn't an officer above the rank of lieutenant in the regiment.

GEORGE D. KILBOURN.

Management of Hen Manure.

The most valuable property of hen manure is ammonia. If allowed to liberate it loses its value as a fertilizer. For the better preservation of the droppings a water-tight floor of dry road dust is best, for it catches all of the droppings of the fowls when not on the perches, and the frequent dusting covers them and prevents the liberation of the ammonia. Common ground plaster is excellent to mix with the manure. It can be sprinkled freely on the droppings during night and put away in barrels in a dry, and plaster thus made. The droppings board should be movable, taken out every morning and scraped into the barrel, and then shake a heavy layer of plaster over the manure each time. About ten parts of plaster (gypsum) to one of manure. A fine tooth rake, made purposely for this use, will gather the loose droppings, which can be treated in the same way.—Stockman.

GRAPE CULTURE.

A Method of Blanching Which Is Gaining Favor Among Market Gardeners.

The general requisites to the culture of celery are to keep the ground clean and mellow and the plants in growing condition, for which purpose Greiner, in his work "How to Make the Garden Pay," advises the frequent use of wheel hoes, horse hoes, steel rake and hoe. Next comes the process of "blanching." When the plants have made a good growth and the sticks begin to get cool, late in August, the ground near the plants re-

CELERY AFTER EARTHING UP.

ceives a thorough loosening, either by plowing a shallow furrow toward the row from each side or by drawing soil up to it with the hoe. The gardener now gets down on his knees, straddling the row, and gathering up all the stalks of one plant after another in his left hand packs the soil firmly around with his right, to retain them in this compact and erect position. More soil is then drawn up, or hoed up, to them.

No further treatment is necessary for the soft blanching sorts to blanch, than for market purpose, according to Mr. Greiner, we can greatly improve their flavor by earthing them up like the common varieties. Various methods are employed to blanch the crop. The one, though old, but yet commonly used, is to earthing up or "banking." This had best be done gradually in two or three operations. Soil is dug up from between the rows and banked up against the plants from each side, at the last operation almost to the tips of the leaves, as shown in the accompanying illustration.

In regard to other methods of blanching, Mr. Greiner says: "Blanching by means of boards is coming more and more into favor with market gardeners, and well deserves recommendation. The plants are first "hardled" in the usual way, and boards ten inches wide are then set on edge against the rows from each side, as here illustrated, and held in that position by tying a string around each set of two at each end, by pegs driven into the ground, by clamps or in any other convenient way.

"Common drainage, four or five inches in the clear, is sometimes used and recommended for blanching celery, but this method does not always give satisfaction. I have thought to improve on it, and had some boarding made five or six inches inside diameter, in shape like horizontal flowerpots. These are placed over the plants, one only for each plant if the soft blanching kind, and two or even three—one above the other—for each plant of the common kind. I have had good success with it and grown some fine blanched celery; but it seems to me that the expense connected with the purchase and breakage of the pots,

BLANCHING WITH BOARDS.

and the labor required for storing and taking to and off the field, must prevent the more extensive or general use of this method.

"Early in the season, and while the plants are yet growing rapidly, celery blanches beautifully in from two to three weeks after banking or boarding up, and is then in first class condition for use or market. Later it will take four or five weeks, perhaps even more, to bring the plants out in marketable shape."

NERVOUS DEBILITY.

DR. E. C. WEST'S NERVE AND BRAIN TREATMENT, a specific for Hysteria, Dizziness, Convulsions, Fits, Nervous Neuralgia, Headache, Nervous Prostration caused by excess or indiscretion, Nervous Weakness, Sleeplessness, Depression of Spirits, Impotency, Sterility, Loss of Power in either sex, Premature Old Age, Impotence, Lack of Confidence, Loss of Memory, Wakefulness, Emissions, Spermatorrhœa, Seminal Weakness, Impotency, Wasting Diseases, Leucorrhœa, Irregularities, Pimples on the Face, Blotches, Eruptions, Coldness, Lassitude, Pain in the Back, Dim Eyes, Wrinkles, Premature Decay, Exhaustion, Consumption, Insanity, Epilepsy, Fits, Dyspepsia, Liver Complaint, Constipation, Kidneys, etc., also Impotency of Generative Organs in Male or Female, caused by Abuse, Over-Work, Worry, Excessive Use of Tobacco, Opium or Stimulants, Mental Anxiety, Loss of Sleep, Loss of Appetite, Premature Old Age