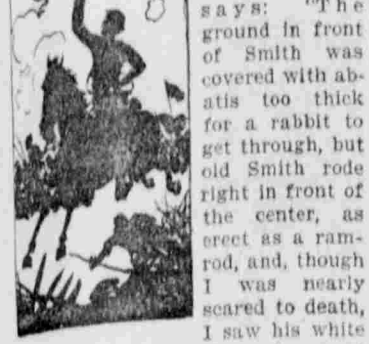


TOLD BY THE VETERANS

TRUE STORIES APPROPRIATE TO MEMORIAL DAY

AFTER General Grant had looked over the ground and said in that emphatic way of his, "The place must be taken," there was nothing to be done but to take it. A column was formed, with General C. F. Smith's division on the left and the Lewis Wallace's on the right. One of the surviving veterans of that time says: "The ground in front of Smith was covered with abatis, two thick for a rabbit to get through, but old Smith rode right in front of the center, as erect as a ramrod, and, though I was nearly scared to death, I saw his white moustache over his shoulder and so went ahead. At the abatis the men fell like logs. The fire was awful, and, seeing some wavering, Smith put his cap on his sword, swung it high in the air and yelled: 'Come on, boys! No flinching now!' as cool as a cucumber. Picking up a path among the trees, our men followed their gallant chief up the hill and planted their colors on the breastworks."



The Smiths were "in it" that day, sure enough, for still another of the name under fire. Wallace's division led by the Eleventh Indiana zouaves and the Eighth Missouri under General Morgan I. Smith. As they set out on the ascent Colonel Smith lit a cigar and led the way until they reached the crest. Before they reached it, however, his cigar had been shot away, and, taking out another, he asked for a match, which was handed him by a soldier. "Thank you," he said. "Take your place now. We are almost up."

One of Custer's Performances.
It was while Phil Sheridan was fighting Wade Hampton at Trevilian Station, Va., that Custer, taking advantage of the enemy's preoccupation, slipped up a by-road directly in Hampton's rear and seized all his spare horses and wagon trains. Just about the time that he had got them some cavalry from Fitz-John Lee's column galloped up in the rear of Custer, and there he was caught between two fires. But, although he lost not only his captured wagon trains, but his own as well, and, though another body of the enemy immediately struck him from another direction, Custer was equal to the desperate situation, somehow extricated his little force intact, straightened out his third line of battle and held on until Merritt's brigade charged through to his relief.

Uncle Sam Goes Everywhere.
"Where do you belong?" asked a Virginia of a wounded soldier who was taken prisoner on the field of Chancellorsville. "I belong in Pennsylvania," was the reply. "Then what in blazes are you doing down here in Virginia?" "Well, I comes down here to fight," says the unfortunate man. "To fight, eh? Then why don't you do your fighting in your own state?" The "Pennsylvania Dutchman" thought a minute, then replied: "Well, I fights mit Uncle Sam, and Uncle Sam he goes everywhere!"

A Victory by Forrest.
It was General Forrest's motto, so tradition states, to "get there fastest with the mostest men" and to sweep his opponents off their feet by the vehemence of his onslaught. At one time, however, he was apparently taken at a disadvantage when General Sturgis, with an army of 8,000 men, confronted Forrest when he had with him only half that number of troops. He assailed Sturgis on his own chosen position and was at first repulsed, his leading brigade being hurled back with terrible slaughter from the breastwork of rails and logs behind which were entrenched his foes. Believing that the time had come to advance and charge the Confederates, the Union troops had no sooner got outside their breastworks before Forrest was upon them like a demon, having a two horse battery, the pieces of which were charged with canister. He opened up

at a range of only 60 yards. Such a terrible gap was formed that the Union men were thrown into confusion, taking advantage of which two Confederate brigades charged hotly into the mass and, quickly taking six guns, turned them upon the foe, soon changing apparent victory for the Union into a pronounced defeat. This victory was won by Forrest at Brice's Farm, Mississippi, and was the outcome of Sturgis' attempt to sweep him from Sherman's line of communication.

Those Foreign Muskets.
The United States government imported some foreign arms during the first years of the war, speaking of some of which a certain officer reported: "In platoon firing with the Belgian muskets I can always tell how many pieces have been fired by counting the men on the ground. It's a case of 'fire and fall back' flat. One of these Belgian muskets will kick like a mule and burst with the greatest facility. Several soldiers in our Illinois regiments have been killed in this way. The bayonet, too, is a novelty—a soft iron affair apparently designed to coil round the enemy, thus taking him prisoner."

The Assault on Cold Harbor.
When General Grant wrote in his personal memoirs 20 years after the war, "I always regretted that the last assault at Cold Harbor was ever made," he voiced the feelings of thousands who agreed with a celebrated southern officer that "it was not war; it was murder!" This regret, however, could not save the lives of the thousands who met death or wounds on this occasion nor detract from the valor of the Confederates who so resolutely repulsed the glorious columns charging madly to their death. All that can be said of the fighting at Cold Harbor, declares a competent war critic, is that on the Federal side it was a wild havoc of slaughter. Veteran officers set the example of gallant exposure as though the hopelessness of the situation could be relieved by godlike bravery. Scarcely 22 minutes from the time the signal was given the repulse of the corps was complete. Three thousand men had fallen. Among the officers the loss had been portentous.

Outwitted His Captors.
One of the distinguished captures of Gilmer, the rough rider of Early's raiding column in his famous dash, was Major General W. B. Franklin. Placed in a carriage, he was sent across the Maryland line into Virginia under escort of a strong mounted guard. His captor was kept very busy scouting and raiding, and one night was away from his command for several hours. Returning at dawn the next morning, he was disgusted to find the prisoners except General Franklin sleeping soundly in fence corners and various places. But the general he could not find at all. It seems that the distinguished captive had an ample supply of liquor in his valise, which he was allowed to retain, and, being of a generous disposition, had treated his guards to all they wanted—and much more than was good for them—with the result that freedom dawned upon him about the time that the fact of his escape dawned upon Gilmer.

A Youth's Act of Heroism.
The Confederate defenders of Fort Gregg, near the city limit of Petersburg, less than 220 in number, were suddenly assailed by several thousand of the enemy and repulsed five charges in succession before finally overpowered by numbers. When bullets ran short, the riflemen hurled stones and bricks over the low parapet upon the heads of the daring assailants and fought the unequal battle until reduced to less than 30 in number of un wounded men. After these were wounded that all was lost a youth named Atkinson from North Carolina seized the tattered flag he and his comrades

had so bravely defended and dashed over the parapet, followed by bullets from perhaps 500 rifles, but safely escaping with the trophy of his valor.

It Made a Difference.
When the Union troops were passing through Missouri in pursuit of General Price, a crowd of negroes came out of some cabins to look at the soldiers, one of whom asked, "Boys, are you all for the Union?" "Oh, yes, massa, when you uns is about we la." "And when Price comes you're all secess, aren't you?" "Lor, yes, massa; we's all good secess then. Can't low the white folks to get ahead ob niggers in dat way, massa."

A Confederate Hero.
"The grandest sight of my war experience," declares a grizzled veteran who yet treads the earth with martial step, "You are my prisoner!" said the guerrilla. "My name is Mosby—Jack Mosby,"

handed the sergeant his rifle and said: "He is too brave. Let him go!" He was finally shot dead by a bullet through the temple within 30 yards of our fort."

Fighting Behind Movable Breastworks.
Colonel Mulligan, who did his best to defend Lexington in September, 1861, attributed his defeat mainly to a clever trick of the Confederates in using movable breastworks on the second day of the attack. "They had," he said, "constructed a breastwork of hemp bales, which they rolled in front of their lines up the hill, advancing under this cover. All our efforts could not retard the advance of those bales. Round shot and bullets were poured against them, but they would only rock a little and then settle back. Heated shot were fired on them with the hope of setting them afire, but they had been soaked and would not burn. By means of these movable breastworks the Confederates advanced so close to the intrenchments

front. It was at first believed that he was giving false information, but he was recognized as a former Union soldier, his advice was followed, and General Joe Johnston's careful plan went for naught.

The Song of the Shirt.
"The shirts made by the patriotic ladies of America," wrote a soldier feelingly from the front, "are noble articles as far down as the collar, but would not do to use as an only garment."

A Sharp Subter Fright.
It was not often that the opposing cavalry came into such close quarters that they could use their sabers with effect, but it happened on one notable occasion in east Tennessee 37 years ago. Yes, more than a quarter century has passed since Colonel E. M. McCook, at the head of a cavalry division from Burnside's army, met and charged upon two divisions of Longstreet's men under Captain Morgan and Armstrong. While McCook led his division at a galloping charge, La Grange, at the head of a demibrigade, came upon a superior force of Morgan's troopers around a battery, made a dash for them and sabered the gunners as well as their cavalry supporters, taking two cannon and many prisoners.

A Rifle Duel Where Honors Were Even.
At the battle of Fair Oaks, when the Confederates dashed upon the Federal outposts, it chanced that the Palmetto regiment of South Carolina came abreast the Sixty-first Pennsylvania and opened a rifle duel at less than 40 yards. Colonel Ripley and several other officers of the Sixty-first were killed, the regiment losing 263 by death and wounds, or one-half the total number engaged, while the Palmetto regiment suffered about an equal loss. The regimental flag of the Pennsylvania regiment was torn to shreds by bullets, and in this condition was wrapped about the body of Colonel Ripley, to be carried north and buried with him.

An Advance Without Orders.
In recalling some of the stirring events of the war and some of the unique incidents there is one episode that should not be overlooked, and that is the time when the privates took matters into their own hands and won a victory. The soldiers of the Army of the Cumberland were ordered to clear the rifle pits at the base of Missionary ridge. This they did, and then, according to orders, lay on their arms and let the Confederates pop at them without replying. This did not suit the Union men, and soon they began to get uneasy. First one regiment, then another, moved out and started up the ridge until finally the whole Army of the Cumberland was climbing that hill, struggling over rocks and timber, but ever onward, without any orders having been given for an advance. The result was that eventually General Thomas' soldiers captured the ridge and turned the batteries, winning a decisive victory.

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United
A Memorial Day Poem
BY EDWIN L. SABIN
Copyright, 1901, by Edwin L. Sabin.
Peace to the soldiers slumbering 'neath
The oak and elm and pine.
Peace to the constant hearts that wreath
Their garlands round each shrine.
Thanks to our God that hallowed slain
May know their work well done—
For the blue and the gray, no longer twain,
Now do and pray as one.
Thanks that each southern battle scene
Drifts farther, farther back;
That a Santiago lies between,
A second Merrimac;
That a Grant and a Lee stand side by side
Instead of face to face,
And the blue and the gray in love abide
By Time's eternal grace.
While the red that shows is only the rose
In many a blossoming vale,
And the hosts that harked for nearing foes
List to the nightingale.
And in north and south, the country through,
The flag streams out today
O'er hearts all true to the Union blue
Though heads alike are gray.

at your service. Stuart's cavalry is all around us and Stonewall Jackson's between you and the army."

And Stoughton was so thoroughly deceived that, though having an army of several thousand within call, he allowed the guerrillas to carry him off a prisoner.

The Fighting Fifth New Hampshire.
Where all were brave it might seem invidious to mention merely a few, but the limitations of space make this necessary. The Union regiment accredited with the greatest number of men killed in battle is said to be the Fifth New Hampshire, which emerged from Gettysburg "with only 97 men with the colors." It took part with recruited forces in the awful onslaught at Cold Harbor, where it lost 69 men in that brief morning's work.

Bounding over the parapet of a Confederate battery without firing a shot, they charged the enemy's second line, but, having no support, were obliged to fall back on the battery, disputing every foot of the ground in a hand to hand struggle. The Confederate artillerists fell upon them as they retreated, but they beat them off, singly and together. The last to leave the scene of carnage was a captain of the gallant Fifth, who with a parting blow split the head of an opponent from

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