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## OUR ONLY DAY.

Were this our only day,
Did not our yesterdays give
Hope and memory their interpretation,
How should we bear to live!

Not merely what we are,
But what we are and what we try to be,
Make up our life—the few days each a year,
The near days outside.

At once world iron forget
Its keen pressure and our failures of bliss,
And its dulcimer pause of feed expect,
Were there no day but this.

And who, to win a friend,
Would be the cowards of his heart purile
A fellowship that should begin and end
Between a night and night?

Who, too, would pause to paste
Of insult, or remember slight or scorn,
Who would let slight be dealt, or injury with knife,
Were there no day but life.

Who would take heed to wrong,
To misery's complaint or pity's call,
The long world of woe against the strong,
If this one day were all?

And what man would wish shame,
The vanity of effort, price of caste,
The wing sparkle of the better brain,
If this day were the last?

Are, what were all days worth,
Were there no hope for morrow? or to-morrow—
If every human life that drops to earth
Were lost for evermore?

But each day is a link
Of days that pass and never pass away;
For memory and hope—to live is think—
Each is and only day.

—Charles Stimpson in Harper's.

# TIGER CANNONEERS.

## BATTLES OF THE WASHINGTON ARTILLERY, OF NEW ORLEANS.

**Famous Before the War and Early in the Fight—Crack Regular Batteries Went Down Before It at Bull Run—Marye's Heights Held and Then Lost.**

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LOUISIANA, like Virginia, had a heavy end of the Confederacy's fight to keep up, and was not behind in buckling to the task.

There was more excuse for secession spirit among the people of old Louisiana than of any other section of the south. They had been forced into the United States federation against their will and present when Napoleon I turned the magnificent empire of the Mississippi valley to the republic for a song.

A turn of a hand in 1861 might have placed Louisiana independent of both the Union and the Confederacy, but the hand didn't turn, and the Pelican State cast her fortunes in with Dixie. As a sort of a left over from previous war outfits, New Orleans in 1861 boasted of a crack soldier company, big with past glories clinging to its name, if nothing more. That was the Washington artillery, dating from 1846. It was originally the artillery company of the Washington regiment, a legion of infantry, artillery and cavalry. In the Mexican war the artillerists served under Taylor on the Rio Grande, and afterward, until 1861, the company was kept up at the expense of its members and was the peer of any citizen troop in the south.

When the state decided to paddle its own canoe in the secession fracas, the Washingtons stepped to the front as the men for the hour. "Adams," "Gillis," "Green," "Clanceres," "Girardy" and other scholarly bands with picturesque names rallied to the head of the cannoneers. The commander of the Washingtons was J. B. Walton, and when the train from Cerolf Virginia sounded along the gulf shore he tendered Jeff Davis' government a battalion of 250 men with nine cannon ready to take the field. The formation was four companies or batteries, and while there were not guns enough to go around, and such as there were were of ancient pattern, the deficiency was soon made up from captured cannon.

In the Confederate service batteries were specially designated by the names of the commanders, and these necessarily changed often; hence the Washingtons were known to friends and enemies by various titles, yet the name Washington artillery clung to them, and detachments claiming it were so numerous that the corps seemed ubiquitous, like the troopers of Morgan, Morgan and Forrest.

The first fight of the Washingtons was at Bull Run. One detachment had a duel across the stream at Blackburns Ford on July 18 with Benjamin's famous United States battery, and won so easily that the men thought the war would be a picnic for them fighting at long range. They changed their minds, however, in the battle of the 21st. The battalion was split in five detachments and the fourth and fifth with their battleaux, and as about every Union soldier on that field can say that he fought the Washington artillery. They were at times outshot by our regulars, but, taking upon by volunteers, stamped in the gamin that our flank cannoneers carried into Beauregard's lines and had to be called again when Johnston's surrening column dashed up from the Manassas railway and turned the tide at a stroke. Then Walton had gathered his guns on Henry Hill. Beauregard rode to the spot and exclaimed within hearing of the men: "Hold this position and the day is ours. Three cheers for Louisiana!" Creole pride and creole blood needed no other spur than Beauregard's appeal, and the Washingtons cheered and fought their guns and held the hill, history tells us with what result.

The chief feature of the corps device of the Washington artillery was the head of a fierce tiger, showing lovely fangs, ready to mangle his prey. This was seen everywhere at Bull Run on the gaskets of each section, and in the hotly scared state of mind of most people who looked against Walton's guns it probably seemed as though the Bull Run thickets were tiger lairs. Bob Wheat's Louisiana battalion of infantry got away with the same "Tigers" or it would doubtless have rested where it belonged, and consolidation history would turn on the chances of the "Tiger cannoneers" instead of the Washington artillery.

The United States batteries opposed to the Washingtons at Bull Run were the famous ones of Ricketts and Griffin. The creole boys did so well that the old army generals on their side showered them with praises and their government took up the gun. The rank of colonel of artillery was created for Walton, and he was made chief of that branch of service in the Army of Virginia, his battalion being placed in reserve.

During the battles in front of Richmond in 1862 the Washington artillery enjoyed its holiday in reserve and scarcely kept its

"HOLD THIS POSITION."

cannon from rusting. The Tigers were ready and often begged to be put in, but there were enough without them. At Malvern Hill the batteries waited all day on the edge of the fight, with caisons packed and horses harnessed and ready.

Toward the close of the day a messenger dashed to Col. Walton's tormer, bound down an envelope at random, handed his cap and said aloud: "Tell the commander that the two words that ordered the Washington battalion into action at once. But a moment and the lobby parade was all that remained of Lee maneuvrandled the order for attack.

At Second Bull Run our two companies of the Washington were in reserve and followed Jeb Stuart to his exploits and fought in the line with Pickett's brigade. The reserve batteries were put in at the angle where Longstreet and Jackson's lines met in the evening of the second, to overwhelm Pope's corps at Groveton on the 30th of August. It was these guns that baffled Porter's attack and saved Jackson. At Antietam the crack Louisiana battalion was posted on the Sharpsburg hill in rear of the infantry. Hence all Jackson's men knew, and there were to be no reserves in the struggle to keep McClellan's army at bay that 17th of September, the bloodiest day of battle this continent ever knew. Wheat Longstreet formed his line he said to the artillerists, "Put all in, every gun, long range and short range." They were needed, and it came to this in Colonel Miller's third company that in the contest of an hour and a half for the mastery of Sharpsburg heights the captain was the only officer left out of five, and he had only enough men to work one gun. The infantry around about were little more at ladders, and a sergeant of the battery sent among the men to get help to work the guns. Regiments of fresh troops that served to the enemy exhausted, McClellan hurled against that hill. Longstreet dismounted and directed the work of Miller's guns, while Miller himself and Longstreet's staff officers handled the rammers and cartridges and rolled the ammunition forward after each recoil. They saved the hill.

Rarely but US Artillerists rolled their shots after rumbling our lines at Sharpsburg when Bonnie spoke up his latest attack across the Dunker Lodge. Wires he got across the creek to the bluffs long lines of cannon were awaiting him, and a few minutes finished the business there. The battalion lost at Antietam a officers and 62 men killed and wounded, a heavy roll for regularly. But when reserves are called in it comes hot work.

It was on the heights at Fredericksburg that these Tiger cannoneers did their bloodiest work. Their camps on the crest of Marye's Hill signaled the fire crossing of Burnside's army usually in scattered Confederate corps to the scene, and afterward moved down the storming columns of Hancock, French and Howard in front of the stonewall and sunken road. The pieces were well masked by trees and shrubbery and a line of extended earthwork rebuttals. The fire was hot and Burnsidemen reached the foot of the slope and began the assault ignorant of what was in it. Six times above. Then the word of Lee, Walton, "Tracton! Cannoneers Hurry!" and the awful slaughter by canister and shrapnel. But when reserves are called in it comes hot work.

It was not all one sided, though, for the Union artillery and sharpshooters from the houses on the plain and from the Stafford bluffs across the valley made targets of the cannoneers perched on those heights. At one season the sun remaining home was been through the same time by a shrapnel shatter's bullet, and the arm of a comrade that seized the shell from his hand was instantly shattered. The man holding rest

WHERE SHELLS FLEW.

on the same piece dropped away with a shattered elbow and his successor was shot down before the loading was finished. At another piece a corporal was struck by a bullet while seeing a cartridge. He coasted inside before his breech and begged to have "one more shot," sighted the gun and arose to pull the lanyard, when a solid shot struck him to the breast and he fell dead across the breech. In another piece the fight was merrier for a time. A solid shot from a Union battering gun tore through its breech and knocked it out of gear. One of the cannoneers picked it up and said, "Let's send it back again." For the sport of it it was rammed into a gun and sent down the hill. Into the old record it had been intended to add and not destroy. That cannoneer was badly wounded before the laugh over his joke had died away.

It was that Tiger's 30 men killed and wounded to hold Marye's Hill that day, and they went through another fierce ordeal at Chancellorsville, when that 30 killed and wounded, he captured and 8 cannon made prizes by the enemy. That block they didn't hold the hill either. West Point's crack corps stormed those heights on Sunday, May 3, 1863, four guns of the Washington artillery were stationed to guard them. The remainder, with numerous infantry troops, were in reserve, but somehow the cannoneers were on the crest before the reserves could rally to aid it. When they did finally rally, many of them shared the fate of their fellows.

At Gettysburg the Washingtons opened the ninety-gun cannonade of Creutzer Ridge to make Pickett's job easier, but there was no glory to win for Confederate cannoneers in a fight where their side made the charge. Also at Chickamauga, six weeks later, when they were with Longstreet's corps the Confederates still labored under the belief that the infantry captured cannon as prospects the battle. After the western campaign ended, in fall, the battalion was ordered to the defense of Richmond, on the James river line. In 1864 it was in the front of the fighting at Drewry's Bluff and at Petersburg, never ceasing a battle, for the day of reserves in the southern cause was over. At Drewry's Bluff, May 16, 1864, the battalion lost 40 killed and wounded. A month later it entered the works at Petersburg and stood there to the end. At Petersburg it lost both and mounted Fort "Gregg" across the way from the "Crater." Its 30 men were in action that day against overwhelming numbers. Every battery in the battalion was effectually torn when began at intervals to fall. In the afternoon Fort of Fort Gregg, the last Confederate stronghold to give in when the works fell, on April 2, 1865, Lieut. Maloney, of the Washington, with a load of twenty-five drivers, handled the guns. The defense was one of the most noted of the war.

One year after Walton's battalion left New Orleans it was disbanded by the Washington artillery panel. Beauregard's work stood in Shiloh. It was the superposition of the three land on all the dynamite fields of the Confederacy, as the Tiger battalion had done in the east. So the east and western artillerists, Stewart and "Old Reliable" alone of the many corps were not by the mere tactics of the most that fought the Louisiana boys.

GEORGE L. KILMER.

### American Opals.

An opal, found and cut as a gem in this country, was sold by a jeweler in this city the other day for $100. It was obtained from a newly discovered mine in the state of Washington, near the Idaho line. At that place, which has been called Opal City, the volcanic rocks are honeycombed with cavities that contain small nodules of this precious variety of hydrated quartz. Many of them are of great beauty and value.

Speaking of this discovery of American opals, Mr. George F. Kunz, the expert in gems employed by Tiffany & Co., exhibited to the reporter the great Hope opal, one of the most celebrated in the world. It formerly belonged to Henry Philip Hope, the Dutch banker, who owned the finest collection of precious stones ever put together. He bequeathed the national debt of Brazil and took his pay in diamonds from that country, which originally inspired him with his hobby. Among the well known gems possessed by him was the Hope diamond, a blue white stone of forty-four carats, valued at $100,000. Hence the large, magnificent pearl, drop shaped, which weighed one thousand ounces, surrounded in the setting by a cornet of diamonds.

The opal referred to, though of Mexican origin, is said to have been among the ornaments of a Persian shrine in the Seventeenth century. It represents the sun with a full face carved on its surface, the rays being supplied by the antique gold setting. As is very common with Mexican opals, it is badly flawed—in fact, so crushed that it would probably fall to pieces if the setting was removed. It is oval in shape and its longest diameter is about an inch.—New York Sun.

### The Impudent Barber.

The impudency of a barber gives the natural Persian the opportunity of many witty proverbs, and all at the barber's expense. The Hindoo has as much dread of his untiring propensities as the Europeans, but it is currently believed their gossip saved many a life during the terrible year 1877-8. The chatter of the barber has on his tongue tip, and the slightest encouragement of it unloosens the bag wherein he stores his tales is gladly seized.

The injustice of the petty native judges, the exacting demands of the itinerant magistrate, the monetary embarrassments of some young rajahs one of the regiments, the frustration of a marriage bed, are duly recounted, and even the contents of the letters which pass between the pair can by astute questioning become the common property of an entire station.—San Francisco Chronicle.

### A Regal Dish.

Of course every one knows how the favorite English dish of beef came to be called "sirloin." It is not, however, equally well known that at Chingford, Essex, is a place called "Friday Hill House," in one of the rooms of which is an oak table, with a brass plate let into it, inscribed with these words: "All lovers of roast beef will like to know that on this table a lion was knighted by King James I on his return from a hunting in Epping forest."—Million.

### Volta's Discoveries.

Volta, on his side, made the discovery that two or more different metals are necessary in the production of electricity. He constructed the "battery" of pile of silver and zinc, with moved layers of moistened paper between them, and with five couples extricated for the first time all the same effects of electricity and currents as powerful as electricity produced by friction of glass and sulphur or by amber. This is the origin of what we now call the "voltaic pile," which was improved by experimenting with other substances, and by Volta himself.

Instead of the two pieces of metal and moistened paper, he placed metal strips in cups of brine and obtained the results. Very little improvement has been made in the voltaic pile, and today it is little changed from its first invention.—New York Telegram.

### What Americans Want.

Miss Nortis, the author of "Rosalindes of a Happy Life," came to America and found her father's young grandson in New Jersey. He asked her to send home to get recommendations as to his qualifications. He had brought with him one which said he was "honest and industrious." He told her this sort of thing did not amount to much. No one cared to read that, as the country itself made our industries. What Americans wanted to know, he said, was whether a man had the qualifications necessary to get along. The inquiry was, "What do you know?"

### The First American Directory.

The first American directory was issued at Philadelphia in 1785 by Francis White. It comprised eighty-three pages, with 1,300 names, and was sold at half a dollar.—Golden Days.

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