



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

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FEBRUARY, 1978

VOL. 22 NO. 6

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-----177th Meeting-----

Date: Tuesday, February 7, 1978  
Speaker: Walter Greenwood, Jr.  
Subject: "Command and Control - Then and Now"  
Place: The Hermit Club, Dodge Court  
Preliminaries: 6:00 p.m. Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

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Fellow member Greenwood says he will make an examination and comparison of the problems, the policies and techniques of command and control of the armed forces by the national command authority as experienced in 1861-1865 and as those problems might be addressed today.

Our speaker, Walter Greenwood, Jr., Colonel U.S. Army, Retired, was Second Lieutenant of Cavalry Regular Army upon graduation from Virginia Military Institute 1940. In World War II served as Tank Battalion 53 Executive Officer and Battalion Commander 13th Armored Division. Served in Korea 1948-1951 as Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Military Advisory Group to the Republic of Korea (KMAG). In connection with Vietnam was Director of Combat Intelligence for the Army General Staff. He held command of staff appointments from platoon through regiment (the Eleventh Cavalry in Germany 1959-1960) and from battalion through the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

REPENT! THE END OF THE WORLD IS AT HAND!

The Newsletter of the Chicago Civil War Round Table, the oldest of all such organizations and possibly the largest, carries the following mournful intelligence in its December, 1977 issue:

LADIES ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP

By a final count of ninety-seven (97) to fifty-eight (58), the eligible voters have determined to admit women to membership in the Round Table. This decision is now final and so any ladies who wish to join may immediately submit their applications for membership to the Membership Chairman or Treasurer. The dues structure for women is identical to that applicable to men. Family or joint memberships for husband and wife are not available.

BOOK REVIEW, ELDEN E. "JOSH" BILLINGS, WASHINGTON D.C. CWRT

The Man Behind the Gunds. A Biography of General Henry J. Hunt, Commander of Artillery, Army of the Potomac. By Edward G. Longacre. South Brunswick and New York, A.S. Barnes and Company, 1977. \$15.00

This is the first complete biography of Henry J. Hunt, one of the virtually forgotten architects of Federal victory in the Civil War. Why is so significant a figure unknown today?

One possible reason is the unpopularity of artillery, a highly technical branch of the service, little understood by the average reader.

Another factor is that Hunt remained in the artillery where there was little chance for high rank and acclaim. Although he commanded the equivalent of a full-size army corps, artillery organizations were never designated or treated as such. At Gettysburg, he commanded 65 batteries, 364 cannon, over 8,000 officers and men, more than 7,000 animals, plus dozens of ammunition and baggage trains, thus making him both an administrator and a front-line commander; yet he never was given the full rank of major general.

Then, too, Hunt never sought to ingratiate himself with those who might have helped him to advance. Too candid to gloss over mistakes of others, he made many enemies. His hot temper resulted in a number of unseemly controversies, rivalries and feuds that lowered his status in the eyes of the high command.

He did not understand politics. He stood by unpopular friends, such as McClellan, until long after they had become liabilities. A devout Democrat, he never swung into sympathy with the Republican administration.

In Longacre's words: "Hunt neglected to enshrine himself in literature for two principal reasons: first, he detested the sort of egotistical self-indulgence that figured prominently in the published reminiscences of many of his Civil War colleagues; second, he never

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

FOUNDED FEBRUARY 19, 1957

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NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: Neville Bayless, Ray Swanson  
P. O. Box 5028, Cleveland, OH  
44101

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found time to write anything but short articles, and those only at infrequent intervals.

This, then, was the general who assumed command of the artillery of the Army of the Potomac on September 5, 1862. Reputedly, Hunt worked out the plan that was followed in driving Barksdale's forces from Fredericksburg, which was adopted by Burnside and claimed as his own. The whole initiative for this preliminary movement seems to have been managed by Hunt.

During Hooker's tenure as commander of the Army of the Potomac, Hunt served as little more than a staff officer. Batteries in the main army were made integral parts of the divisions with which they served, thus giving complete control of the artillery to corps and division commanders. Even the Artillery Reserve would receive orders from the adjutant general of the army through Hooker. Daily reports of the artillery would go to the adjutant general. This procedure made Hunt nothing more than artillery advisor to Hooker. Consequently, at Chancellorsville, the artillery was handled ineptly. During the battle Hooker realized his mistake and gave Hunt more power, but it was too late to be effective. One could cite many reasons for Hooker's defeat at Chancellorsville, but a main factor was poor use of artillery, a fact that he (Hooker) realized too late. Hunt was reinstated after that battle, and many reforms he had advocated were undertaken.

At Gettysburg Hunt reached the high-water mark of his career. Pickett's charge is well-known in song and story; less familiar is Hunt's stout defense of the Union position. In his order to conserve ammunition, Hunt ran afoul of General W.S. Hancock, commander of the Second Corps, who wanted to continue firing. Had his policy been followed, the artillery would have been out of ammunition when the charge took place.

In a dispute with General Meade after Gettysburg, Hunt threatened to resign, but was dissuaded by General A.A. Humphreys.

The remainder of the conflict was anticlimactic for Hunt. His sharp tongue and pen caused controversies with various generals. The growing warfare against the enemy's society as well as against armed men sickened him - he never accepted the concept of total war.

Hunt's struggle against poverty is the subject of the remainder of this valuable biography. Although he might have gained more financial security in another occupation, Hunt never had any idea of leaving the service.

All in all, Longacre has given us a competent biography of a man who deserved more from this government than he received and merits a place in the pantheon of American heroes.

Editorial Comment: By "Bill" Jones of the Washington, D.C. CWRT

Your editor doubts that Hunt at any time had "command", in the strict sense of the word, over all of the artillery of the Army of the Potomac, although under Burnside and Meade he may have exercised what now we often call "operational control" over all or most of it. Even under them, probably he had full "command" only over the artillery which was not assigned or attached to corps and divisions.

The issue of the extent to which the senior artillery officer of an army exercises control over all of its artillery had not been resolved fully even in World War II. In effect, his authority is what the army commander says it is. The Army Regulations of the day are discussed thoroughly in Hunt's article, "The Third Day at Gettysburg" in Volume III of Battles and Leaders and in the article which follows it, "General Hancock and the Artillery at Gettysburg," by Brigadier General F.A. Walker, together with Hunt's rejoinder. These will repay careful study.

It is not surprising that it was General A.A. Humphreys who dissuaded Hunt from resigning. Humphreys, an engineer, must have been familiar with Hunt's problems because the senior engineer officer of an army faced, and still faces, similar ones.

#### OTHER NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST

Sherman and the Burning of Columbia by Marion Brunson Lucas. (Texas A & M University Press, \$10.99) Professor Lucas of Western Kentucky University and a graduate of the University of South Carolina has written a well-documented book, using both original and secondary sources, regarding the fire that destroyed one-third of Columbia, South Carolina during its capture and occupation by the Union troops, February 17-18, 1865. Lucas' conclusion is that the holocaust was caused by blunders on the part of Confederates and Federals, alike. This work deserves interest because it throws fresh insights on one of the principle controversies surrounding General Sherman and the new concept of total war.

(This review from The Ram Rod, N. Car. CWRT)

ROADS TO GETTYSBURG by John W. Schildt, author of "Drums Along the Antietam" and dinner speaker on our 1966 Field Trip.

The Roads of northern Virginia, western Maryland, and central Pennsylvania were full in the summer of 1863. Armies were on the move, heading toward a place called Gettysburg.

Millions of words have been written about the battle, but very little about how the men in the blue and the gray got to Gettysburg. What was it like in the ranks as they marched with their wagons, cannons, and horses?

We have heard of Little Round Top and Devil's Den, but what about Gum Springs, Trappe Rock, Edwards Ferry, Burkittsville, Woodsboro, Barnesville, Carlisle, and Manchester? They, along with numerous other places, are a part of the Gettysburg story.

In the summer of '63 men of the Army of northern Virginia and members of the Army of the Potomac walked in the heat, mud, and rain, over 150 miles to the fields of Gettysburg. Roads to Gettysburg is an attempt to tell the story of the soldiers as they marched, and the drama of excitement and alarm in the towns and villages along the way. Read nearly 600 pages about it and study the fifty maps and pictures. Price, \$15.00. Order from: John W. Schildt, Box 37, Chewsville, Maryland 21721.

"The Battle of Westport, Oct. 21-23, 1864"  
Edited by Fred L. Lee

Extensively illustrated with maps, photographs and sketches. Contents:

- Part I "Decisive Conflict: The Battle of Westport" by Howard N. Monnett. Appendices follow listing troops and officers involved in the battle.
- Part II Commentary Regarding the Battle - Excerpts from contemporary diaries, etc. recalling the event.
- Part III A 23-point Battle of Westport Tour - Beginning in old Westport at Westport Road and Pennsylvania Avenue and running through the Byram's Ford area and south to 120th and State Line.

Softbound Edition. Bound in blue with black titling. Price: \$4.25 Ppd.  
Order from: Westport Historical Society  
P. O. Box 10076-Westport Station  
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

SOME MEDICAL "IF'S"

What a difference a little modern medicine might have made in the Civil War! First of all, IF Stonewall Jackson had had a shot or two of anti-biotic after his arm was amputated, he might have been back in action within a few months instead of dying of pneumonia.

Jumping into a boat, C.F. Smith barked his shin badly on the edge of the seat. An anti-biotic or sulfa-drug might have made the injury trivial, but he died of blood-poisoning. After the War, Sherman wrote: "IF C.F. Smith had lived, Grant would have disappeared into history after Fort Donelson." He might have been wrong, because Smith was considered to be an old man; after all, he was only three months younger than Robert E. Lee and four years younger than Albert Sidney Johnston.

As for Johnston himself, not even modern medicine was needed; IF someone with him at Shiloh had had the sense to cut away his boot and apply a tourniquet he might have lived and been back on duty within a short time.

And IF John Buford had had a series of typhoid shots, instead of dying five months after his great performance at Gettysburg he might have lived to command the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac. Phil Sheridan might have continued as an infantry commander or have commanded a division under Buford. -Washington, D.C. CWRT Newsletter.

#### GENERAL WHO???

In a talk about a year ago to the Washington, D.C. CWRT, the speaker, Joe Mitchell, stated that most Civil War students place far too much emphasis on the war in Virginia and that, while they are familiar with the names and exploits of Eastern commanders, certainly down to the corps, usually down to the division and often down to the brigade, they know little of corresponding and equally competent leaders in the West.

To illustrate this point, their editor, Bill Jones asks how many of the names of the following officers who took part in the Chattanooga-Atlanta Campaign do you recognize?

FIRST GROUP: Union: Maj-Gens. David S. Stanley, John M. Palmer, Richard W. Johnson; Brig-Gens. Alpheus S. Williams, Washington L. Elliott, Morgan L. Smith and Thomas E.G. Ransom. Confederate: Lt-Gen. A.P. Stewart, Maj-Gen. C.L. Stevenson.

SECOND GROUP: Union: Brig-Gens. William Grose, Nathan Kimball, John Newton, Thomas J. Wood, John H. King, William P. Carlin, James D. Morgan, Absalom Baird, Joseph F. Knipe, William T. Ward, Kenner Garrard, Charles R. Woods, J.A.J. Lightburn, William B. Hazen, William Harrow, Thomas W. Sweeney, Elliott W. Rice, John M. Corse, James C. Veatch, John W. Fuller, Mortimer D. Leggett, Walter Gresham, Giles A. Smith, Henry M. Judah, Milo S. Hascall. Confederate: Maj-Gens. W.H.T. Walker, William B. Bate, John C. Brown, Patton Anderson, H.D. Clayton, W.T. Martin, E.C. Walthall; Brig-Gens. George Maney (not Meany), John C. Carter, M.P. Lowrey, H.W. Mercer, J.H. Kelly, W.Y.C. Humes, W.S. Featherston, James Cantey, W.H. Jackson.

At one time or another, all of those in the FIRST GROUP were corps commanders and those in the SECOND GROUP were division commanders. Of course, a number of them served in both capacities. The list is incomplete; the more familiar names have been omitted.