

Sumter to Appomattox

The Official Newsletter of the New South Wales Chapter of
The American Civil War Round Table of Australia

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Please visit our website www.americancivilwar.asn.au

A Message from the Chairman –

As we come to the end of another year's activities, I have been reflecting on the "highs" and "lows" for 2007 and keep wondering what we as a Committee and I as your Chairman need to do to keep the "ball rolling" to ensure that our Chapter of the Round Table remains viable.

Certainly, the 2007 "highs" included quality speakers like Bruce Dennett and John Diamond who added a "professional historian" dimension to our meeting presentations. This was balanced, however, by the small attendances at the majority of the meetings. Indeed, it represents a significant problem in inviting quality speakers if our group is extremely small. Any suggestions you might have for me on how we can "lift our game", would be greatly appreciated!

For me, a real "low" were the deaths of two of my great friends who were also members of our Civil War group. I will really miss seeing Alan Winkworth, medico and true Civil War enthusiast with whom I spent many days exploring Civil War sites in America. Pat Boland, a friend from my army days in the 1950s, will be sorely missed by all who valued scholarship in military history matters. To their relatives, I can only say I share your loss.

One of the initiatives that your committee has underway is the planning for our next Conference, scheduled for early 2009. Planned to coincide with the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, this conference will be "bigger than Ben Hur" if our plans come to pass. Members should keep the first half of February 2009 free for this conference.

Lastly, I would draw your attention to the papers enclosed with this Newsletter relating to our Annual General Meeting on November 30. All positions on the Executive and Committee and I mean **all**, are "up for grabs" and I can assure you that every one present incumbents will not be upset to be "rolled" in the election on that night. Please give consideration for nominating for these positions – we really need new blood!

I hope to see you at the next meeting and at our Xmas Party.

Paul Kensey

Our Next Meeting

Our final regular meeting for 2007 will be held on **Monday, November 12** at the **Roseville Memorial RSL Club, Pacific Highway, Roseville**. The meeting will commence with a bistro-style dinner at the Club from 6pm with the proceedings of the meeting proper to commence at 7:15pm. This meeting will be the second of our "double-barrelled" presentations:

1. "Lincoln – The Devil Incarnate - A Southern Perspective" (David Smith)
2. "Will the Real Abraham Lincoln Please Stand Up" (An Interactive Quiz with four of our Members)

Members can be guaranteed that these presentations will both inform and entertain and complete our 2007 program on a high note!

Our Xmas / End-of-Year Party

The last function for the year is our Christmas /End-of-Year party to be held at our normal meeting venue, the **Roseville Memorial RSL Club, Pacific Highway, Roseville**, on the evening of **Friday, November 30**, commencing with our AGM at 7pm followed by pre-dinner drinks and dinner from 7:30 pm.

As noted by our Chairman this function is one for the wives and partners as well as members of the Chapter, so please bring along your "better half", if only to show that there are others who do not share with us a passion for matters Civil War.

The cost for the evening is \$35:00 per person (all inclusive) with the evening being subsidised to a significant extent by our raffle and from Chapter funds. Please let Brendan O'Connell know if you are coming as soon as possible but no later than Friday, November 17. Brendan can be contacted either by 'phone on (02) 9449 3720 or by e-mail at secretay@americancivilwar.asn.au. We are looking forward to see you at this Party in the coming weeks.

It Happened in November

HATCHES AND DISPATCHES

November 3, 1816 – Jubal Early, (CSA), is born in Franklin County, Virginia;

November 5, 1818 – Soldier-politician, Benjamin Franklin Butler, (USA), is born in Deerfield, NH;

November 9, 1825 – A P (Ambrose Powell) Hill, (CSA), is born in Culpepper, Virginia;

November 13, 1814 – Joseph (Fighting Joe) Hooker is born in Hadley, Mass;

COMMAND CHANGES

November 1, 1861 – Major General George B McClellan succeeds retiring Lieutenant General Winfield Scott as general-in-chief of the Union armies;

November 2, 1861 – Major General John C Frémont is relieved of command of the Union's Western Department;

November 5, 1862 – President Lincoln relieves General McClellan of command of the Army of the Potomac replacing him with Ambrose Burnside;

November 10, 1862 – McClellan takes an emotional, spectacular farewell of the Army of the Potomac;

November 24, 1862 – Confederate General Joseph E Johnston is assigned to the major command in the West comprising six states;

November 30, 1863 – Gathering his defeated army in north-west Georgia, Braxton Bragg learns that his resignation has been accepted by President Davis.

BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS

November 11, 1864 – Federals in Rome, Ga., destroy bridges, foundries, warehouses of use to the enemy and proceed towards Atlanta;

November 16, 1864 – General Sherman and 60,000 Union troops leave a burned out Atlanta and begin their march to the Sea;

November 17, 1863 – The Confederate siege of Knoxville, Tenn, gets underway and the partial siege of Chattanooga continues;

November 29, 1864 – The Federal army under command of John Schofield withdraws under Hood's nose without suffering attack in the "Spring Hill Affair" (in Tennessee).

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

November 6, 1860 – Lincoln is elected President of the United States;

November 8, 1864 – Lincoln is re-elected as US President with Andrew Johnson of Tennessee as his Vice President;

November 12, 1861 – The Confederate blockade runner *Fingal*, purchased in England, arrives in Savannah with military supplies;

November 15, 1861 – The YMCA organises the US Christian Commission for support to Federal soldiers;

November 19, 1863 – Lincoln delivers the *Gettysburg Address* at the dedication ceremony for the new national cemetery at Gettysburg;

November 25, 1864 – Confederate agents set fire to a number of New York hotels and Barnum's Museum without causing significant damage;

November 26, 1861 – A convention at Wheeling adopts a constitution for a new stateto be called West Virginia, created by secession from Virginia;

November 27, 1863 – General John Hunt Morgan and a number of his officers escape from the Ohio State Penitentiary and manage to reach Confederate territory;

November 28, 1861 – Southern Congress officially admits Missouri to the Confederate States of America.

Inescapable Logic...

"I have just heard that one of my brothers was killed in the war. Since he chose to be our deadly enemy, I see no reason why I should bitterly mourn his death. Why should I sympathise with the Rebels? They would hang my husband tomorrow if it was (sic) in their power!"

- Mary Todd Lincoln, 1862.

"A battery of field artillery is worth a thousand muskets"

- William Tecumseh Sherman

"The shot that struck me down is the very best that has been fired for the Southern cause. While (I do not have) the confidence of the government, now they have in my place one who does possess it"

- Joseph E Johnston commenting on Lee's promotion to command the Confederate Army, June 1862

It Happened in December

HATCHES AND DESPATCHES

December 3, 1826 – George Brinton McClellan is born in Philadelphia;

December 5, 1839 – George Armstrong Custer is born in New Rumley, Ohio;

December 6, 1833 – John Singleton Mosby, (CSA), is born in Edgemont, Virginia;

December 13, 1818 – Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of Abraham Lincoln, is born in Lexington, Kentucky;

December 19, 1814 – Edwin Stanton, US Secretary of War 1862 - 1868 is born Steubenville, Ohio;

December 29, 1808 – Andrew Johnson, 17th US President, 1865 – 1868, who succeeded Lincoln, is born in Raleigh, S.C.;

December 31, 1815 – George Gordon Meade is born in Cadiz, Spain.

COMMAND AND POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS

December 2, 1863 – General Braxton Bragg turns over command of the Army of Tennessee to Lieutenant General William Hardee at Dalton, Georgia;

December 4, 1862 – Confederate General Joseph E Johnston assumes command in the West;

December 14, 1861 – Brigadier General H H Sibley is assigned command of all Confederate forces on the upper Rio Grande and in the New Mexico and Arizona Territories;

December 15, 1863 – Major General Jubal Early, CSA is assigned to the Shenandoah District.

NAVAL ACTIONS

December 1, 1861 – US gunboat *Penguin* captures the blockade runner *Albion* off Nassau and confiscates its cargo;

December 12, 1862 – On the Yazoo River, Miss., the Federal ironclad *Cairo* strikes a mine and sinks;

December 17, 1861 – Federals sink a number of hulks loaded with stones in Savannah Harbour in an effort to halt shipping;

December 24, 1864 – Federal fleet bombards Fort Fisher, guarding Wilmington, NC, the last Confederate open port;

December 30, 1862 – The USS Monitor, hero of the battle with the Merrimack, flounders off Cape Hatteras in heavy seas, 16 officers and men are lost.

BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS

December 7, 1862 – Confederate raider, John Hunt Morgan, with 1,400 men surprises a Federal garrison at Hartsville, Tenn., taking 1,800 prisoners;

December 16, 1864 – Battle of Nashville ends as Confederate army commanded by General John B Hood, is almost destroyed by Union troops under General George Thomas;

December 25, 1864 – Federals land troops to take Fort Fisher, N.C., but the assault fails and they are withdrawn;

December 26, 1862 – Federals attack a guerrilla camp in Powell County, Kentucky;

December 28, 1862 – Federal Army of the Frontier pushes back Confederates at Dripping Springs, Ark., capturing Van Buren.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

December 8, 1862 – Lincoln issues Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, pardoning participants in “the existing rebellion” if they take the oath to the Union;

December 9, 1863 – Black Federal troops at Fort Jackson, La., mutiny over alleged mistreatment of one white officer of his troops;

December 10, 1861 – An Act of the Confederate Congress in Richmond admits Kentucky to the Confederacy, thus completing the 13 states;

December 11, 1861 – Already suffering under the Federal blockade, Charleston, S.C., is struck by a disastrous fire sweeping through its business district;

December 18, 1865 – The 13th Amendment to the US Constitution abolishing slavery is declared in effect by Secretary of State Seward after approval by 27 states;

December 20, 1860 – The South Carolina Convention in Charleston passes a formal declaration of secession. The first state to secede;

December 22, 1864 – General Sherman sends President Lincoln: “I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah;

December 27, 1860 – The US flag is raised over Fort Sumter as South Carolina troops occupy Charleston forts.

This publication is the official newsletter of the New South Wales Chapter of the American Civil War Round Table of Australia. All inquiries regarding the Newsletter should be addressed to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Chapter by telephone on 9449 3720 or at PO Box 200, St Ives, NSW, 2075 or by e-mail to secretary@americancivilwar.asn.au

The Einstein Factor

The popular *Einstein Factor* quiz show screens on the ABC's Channel 2 at 6:30pm on Sunday nights and is hosted by the quirky Peter Berner and regularly features, as part of its braintrust, the former quiz champion, politician and author, Barry Jones. In the first round of questions each contestant is asked a series of questions in their area of special interest followed by a bonus question which if answered correctly by the brains-trust gains the contestant double points.

In recent times a number of the contestants chose American Civil War battles as their special interest subject. The latest of these was some one who had won previously with his special interest topic being the Battle of Gettysburg. Now, he returns with his choosing the Battle of Antietam as his area for questioning.

Here are his questions – how would you have gone?

Question 1: At the time of the Battle of Antietam who was the American President?

Question 2: Robert E Lee's failure to secure victory at Antietam led to which key country to postpone recognition of the Confederacy?

Question 3: Thomas Meagher led the Union's famed what nationality brigade at the Battle of Antietam?

Question 4: A Union regiment was said to have fought its way across the Lower Stone Bridge with the promise of what rations?

Question 5: Which commander of the First Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia did Lee call his "Old Warhorse"?

Question 6: When Major General Joseph Hooker was wounded command of the First Corps passed to whom?

Question 7: Union fire in the morning of the battle included from that of 20 pounder what rifles named after their inventor?

Question 8: The Confederate troops that confronted Burnside's men at the Lower Bridge were led by which former Georgia politician?

Question 9: Confederate Colonel Stephen Lee famously characterised the Battle of Antietam as artillery what?

Question 10: Which two Pennsylvanian regiments have monuments in Miller's Cornfield where they lost so many men?

Question 11: Acquitting himself with less than distinction, General George McClellan's HQ was at what house?

Question 12: Which Union general exclaimed – "My God, we must get out of this"?

Question 13: The Louisiana brigade under Harry Hays had what big cap appellation?

Question 14: After the battle Lee's Army of Northern Virginia retreated without pursuit to which state?

Question 15: Which priest rode shouting Roman Catholic Church words of absolution to those who were about to die?

Bonus Question.

The Battle of Antietam had the highest number of casualties of any in the American Civil War. True or false?

Answers to these Questions...

The answers to these questions asked on this Einstein Factor program are as follows:

1. Lincoln
2. England
3. Irish Brigade
4. whiskey
5. James Longstreet
6. Gordon Meade
7. Parrott Rifle/Gun
8. Hell
9. Robert Toombs
10. The 128th and 137th
11. Pry House
12. Sumner
13. Tiger
14. Virginia
15. Father Corby

Bonus Question: False

How many questions did you get correct straight off the bat?

Words of Wisdom...

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

Abraham Lincoln