

Stars and Bars of Richmond

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Civil War begins: Beauregard victorious!

By Student A.

MANASSAS, VA—An estimate of 1700 Confederate soldiers died July 21, 1861 in what has been called the first official battle of the Civil War. Southern forces, led by Brigadier General Joseph E. Johnston and Brigadier General Pierre G. T. Beauregard defeated the North by claiming nearly 3000 Union soldiers in the first Battle of Bull Run, better known to Southerners as the Battle of First Manassas.

While neither side was extremely large, our Southern troops were victorious because a division led by Union commander Brigadier General Irvin McDowell arrived late for battle.

Ironically, both sides had relatively the same game plan going into the battle. Both planned to attack the right side, but only as a decoy.

Robert E. Lee is a hero in the making

By Student B.

LEXINGTON, VA—Known to some as the general who traveled with a pet hen, Robert E. Lee is a hero in the making. Born on January 19, 1807 to parents Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee and Ann Hill Carter Lee, Robert E. Lee is a man who has worked hard to earn the respect of everyone



Shown here is part of the battlefield from the Battle of Bull Run in Virginia. The photograph is taken from the remains of a stone bridge looking upstream.

At the same time they would execute a stronger, more concentrated attack on the left side. However, if both sides had carried out their plans at the same time, and both had

down here in the South.

Lee learned many childhood lessons from his mother. The virtues of patience, control and discipline were all learned through Lee's mother. His father on the other hand would go from one failed enterprise to another. Most of the positive things Lee saw throughout his child-

been successful, the armies would end up doing a half circle around each other. Then they would be free to march right on out, unguarded, to Richmond or Washington, D.C.

Unfortunately for Union troops, one of McDowell's divisions was two and a half hours late. With no one to attack on the right side, and Union troops arriving in the masses on the left, General Beauregard realized he would have to move his troops to the left and begin the main attacks.

Already the North had lost a lot of men in the front line from the main attacks.

While the North seemed to be losing hold, the South grew stronger. When reinforcements from the North (continued on page 4).

hood occurred with his mother, but it could be easily argued that all of Lee's father's hardships could be seen as a way to learn perseverance. This led Lee to try harder to succeed, and succeed he did.

(continued on page 4)

South enraged as African American soldiers enter the battle!

By Student C.

RICHMOND, VA—In a move that has all of the south steaming mad, African American soldiers are joining the Union army. Dating back to 1792, blacks were prohibited from enlisting in the army. However, when President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862 things changed. Lincoln had fear that once signing the document, the border states of the Union would rebel and secede, and rightfully so.

Even more enraging is that the Union army is paying the black man too! Though African American soldiers are getting paid, it least it is less than the white man's paycheck. Blacks fighting a white man's war has especially angered many border states. They would much rather have the new soldiers not getting paid anything at all.

African American soldiers are paid \$10 a month, of which three dollars is immediately deducted for clothing. White soldiers, on the other hand, earn \$13 dollars a month, and none of them need to worry about paying a fee for clothes.

Many people, if not completely opposed to the idea of African Americans joining the fight, were somewhat hesitant to go along with the idea. As a result, very few African American soldiers have enlisted and out on the front lines fighting. Instead, many work as cooks, laborers, or teamsters, basically anything that is non-combat related.

Any white Union soldier who is captured by our Confederate Army faces the consequence of imprisonment, but any African American soldier captured faces an

even greater threat like death by hanging.

Bars and Stars has learned that, despite the South's determination to stop it, an African American unit is gaining momentum. The most famous, or widely recognized, 54th Massachusetts Infantry is continuing to be recognized for its bravery and courage. I say it is a stroke of luck, but this unit is getting more Northerners thinking and be more

and Charles Douglass, sons of glorified abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

On July 18, this new unit showed that they could actually fight among the ranks of great men. Confederate guns blasted non-stop, and by the end of the attack it was obvious that the new unit had lost. Casualties for the 54th Infantry were high, and about 250 troops had died. Among the dead was their leader, Shaw.

For the South this victory, although small, means a great deal. It gives us a new boost of confidence, and leads us to believe that letting African American soldiers fight in the war isn't going to be such a big deal, although many still are not pleased about it. For the North, they gain more recognition to show everyone that they can win this war.

Confederate troops unfortunately need to sharpen their battle skills if the South wants to defeat this black regiment.

The 54th Massachusetts Infantry will be a strong Northern force in future battles. They are proving to be a force not to be reckoned with and are able to hold their own despite unequal treatment.

This infantry in particular is steadfast in its commitment to the war and the North. If they are not stopped, as time goes on, their courage and bravery will become more easily recognized on both sides. It appears the first African American unit, the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, will be, in future years, the most recognized African American Civil War regiment.



The above shows six volunteer soldiers for the first major African American army unit, the 54th Massachusetts Infantry.

accepting of African Americans as soldiers. Unfortunately for us, they continue to inspire many more African American soldiers to join the Union.

The 54th Massachusetts Infantry, one of the first African American units formed, was formed in 1863 by Robert Gould Shaw, a distinguished Boston abolitionist. Of the African American soldiers enlisted, those that were once slaves and also free in the North, are some of the most well-known. Among them are Lewis N. Douglass

African Americans constituted less than one percent of the North's population, yet by the war's end made up ten percent of the Union Army. A total of 180,000 black men, more than 85% of those eligible, enlisted.

Food, drink, and hospitals: Are they all they're cracked up to be?

By Student D.

RICHMOND, VA—Food and drink is of course an essential component of the day for anyone, anyone who wants to live that is. During times of war and crisis, things are no different. The variety of food for soldiers however is not very extensive. The most common food and drink, for both sides of the war, is hardtack and coffee.

It is the responsibility of the Commissary Department to feed the troops. Both the Union and Confederate states have one, although it seems the North's Commissary Department is more successful in feeding their troops. Here in the South, we did not have a Commissary Department established until a year or so into the war. The North, on the other hand, had theirs setup at the beginning. For a while the Confederacy struggled to obtain food and send it to the troops.

One thing that is fair for both sides though is limited choices when it comes to deciding what to feed the troops. At this point in time we do not have the ability to preserve foods for very long. This is why hardtack is such a popular snack on the battlefield.

Meats are either salted or smoked while fruits and vegetables are dried or canned. Many officers do not understand proper nutrition, and because the variety of food is so limited, many soldiers are not able to receive adequate nutrition. Consequentially, as time goes on, the performances of the soldiers become less dramatic and impressive.

Food is given out to the soldiers in portions called rations. The food given to them is never cooked, so it is

up to the soldiers themselves to come up with ways to cook it. Because of this many soldiers cook their food over a fire together. They call their

untrained.

Almost all hospitals are hastily improvised and not one of them can provide enough services to help all of



This photograph shows some officers and surgeons outside of Seminary Hospital, in Washington D.C.

groups "messes" and the people in them "messmates".

If the troops are to be leaving for a march soon, soldiers will cook all their food at once and store it in their haversacks which are canvas bags with a sling made to be worn over the shoulder. On the inside of these bags there is an inner cloth bag that can be removed and cleaned. This however does not keep the bags from becoming extremely foul smelling at times and very greasy.

While the food quality for soldiers during the war is not all that impressive, at least it is effective. Hospitals on the other hand, are not as lucky. The quality of these facilities is extremely poor.

In the beginning of the war there was a core of 115 surgeons. All these surgeons stayed with the North except for 24, who chose to come help us in the South. These numbers are in fact quite small, but luckily for both sides, the numbers have vastly expanded. Most of these surgeons are male, and very inexperienced as well as

the soldiers who need it. Unfortunately for the soldiers who it is most essential to, antiseptics are virtually unknown, and anesthesia is just coming into general use. Also, most doctors do not understand that having dirt around when performing surgery really is not a bright idea.

Sadly, the mortality rates of soldiers are much higher from diseases and wounds than from being shot in battle. Being sent to a hospital is like being given a death sentence. Although there are no hard facts as to the numbers and causes of death for the Confederate Army, it is estimated that, based on the Union Army, the number of deaths from diseases and wounds are nearly double that of deaths from bullets on the battlefield.

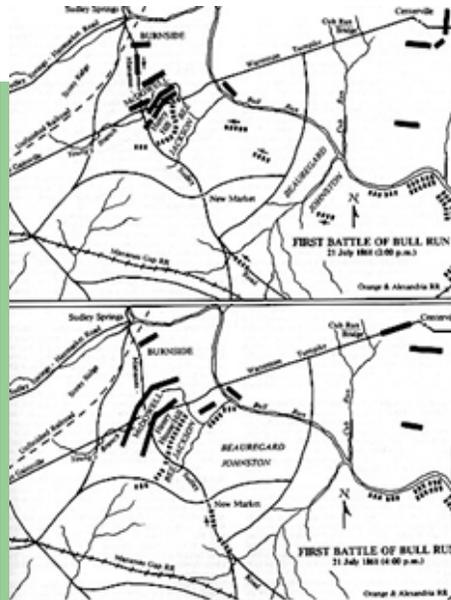
Fortunately the majority of soldiers are young. This may not seem like a good thing, but younger generations always have stronger bodies. This group of soldiers has the ability to recuperate and resist disease. Otherwise, the situation would be even more appalling.

Disease was the chief killer during the war, taking two men for every one who died of battle wounds.

At the first Battle of Bull Run, between 8 and 10 thousand bullets were fired for every man killed or wounded.


Editor: Claire D.

- General Robert E. Lee, commander of the Confederate forces, traveled with a pet hen that laid one egg under his cot every morning.



This is a map of the first battle of Bull Run. Highlighted are McDowell's, Beauregard's, and Johnston's troops.

Bull Run continued from page 1

began to come in, the South slowly became outnumbered and the men could feel it. But with a last chance to rally, three Confederate divisions broke towards the end, in the direction of Henry House Hill. Union troops were too slow to follow up, which then let the Confederates establish ground on the hill.

Once the South had enough units to maintain stable lines, Beauregard was able to give orders for a general advancement. Union troops could not resist the movement and the right side caved in; they had to retreat. The Confederates were too tired and inexperienced to pursue them anyway so the battle ended.

Casualties totaled to about 5,000 for both sides.

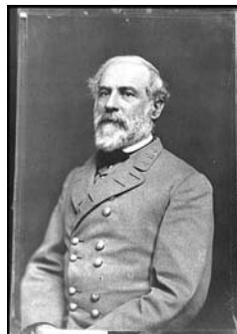
The North lost 3,000 due to being killed, wounded, captured or missing and the South lost about 1700 for the same reasons.

Although there were 35,000 Union and 32,500 Confederate troops, only 18,000 men from each side actually engaged in combat.

Lee continued from page 1

Lee attended the United States Military Academy, and graduated 2nd in his class. Perhaps even more impressive than that was Lee's record of no demerits as a cadet, which has never been matched. Early on Lee was in training for leading in the Civil War, although he was unaware of it. When, in 1845, the war between the US and Mexico started, Lee was asked to be a captain. It was also when he met some of the men he would be fighting with or against years later.

When some of the southern states began to secede, Lee was asked to become General for the North. Lee however, refused the position and offered his help to the president of the



Robert E. Lee, General of the Confederate Army, leads the South with honor and dignity.

Confederate States, Jefferson Davis. Lee was a natural-born leader, and no one in the south has had a bit of trouble following his example, and he was often victorious in battle, how could someone not?

But on April 9, 1865 Lee realized it was time for the

South to surrender. And when he did at Appomattox Courthouse, the other Confederate generals followed his lead, and the war was over.

After the war, Lee was nearly tried as a traitor. He was left with his civil rights suspended but was still offered many opportunities to provide a strong income for his family. Finally, Lee became president at Washington University in Lexington, where he served until his death on October 12, 1870.

Even before his death, Lee was known as a legendary figure, both for his huge passion for war and symbolism for "the Lost Cause," and will continue to be remembered throughout time.