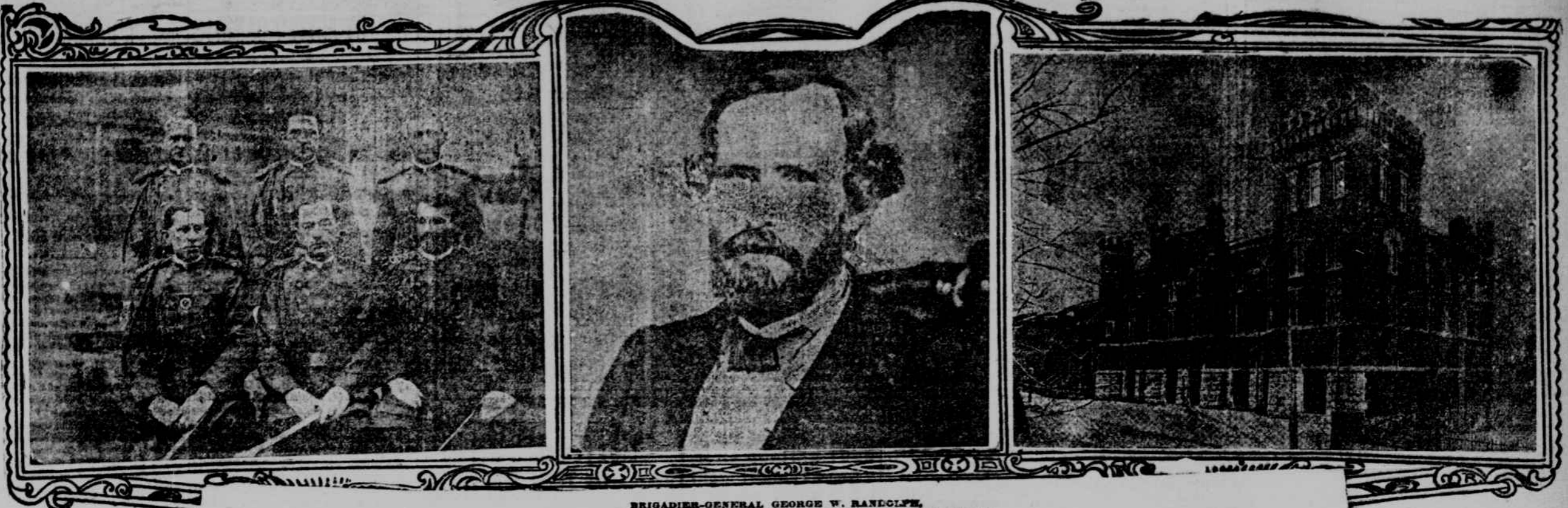


Howitzers' War Record Written From Bethel to Appomattox



BRIGADIER-GENERAL GEORGE W. RANDOLPH, Secretary of War, C. S. A., first captain of Richmond Howitzers, November 6, 1862.

HOWITZERS OFFICERS TO-DAY.
Left to right: Sentes—Captains W. H. Ham, H. Myers, First Lieutenant B. C. Rees, Captain-Sergeant E. H. T. Warwick; standing—First Lieutenant J. C. Pollard, Second Lieutenant John T. Wood, Second Lieutenant G. H. Myers.



GROUP OF RETIRED CAPTAINS OF HOWITZERS.
CAPTAIN H. C. CARTER. CAPTAIN J. A. HUTCHESON. CAPTAIN H. C. WORTHAM. CAPTAIN H. A. WILLIAMS. CAPTAIN B. LORRAINE. CAPTAIN E. J. BOSHER.



Howitzers' Monument, in Richmond.

The war honors of the Richmond Howitzers were won by that well known command of field artillery through baptism in many a field of blood. It is written on the walls of the armory—"From Bethel to Appomattox."

The original battery of the Richmond Howitzers was first organized November 9, 1859, mainly through the efforts of George W. Randolph, of Richmond, who was the first captain. He was afterwards promoted to brigadier-general of artillery, and finally rose to the exalted position of Secretary of War of the Confederate States of America.

The first service performed by the battery was at Harper's Ferry, Va., where it was sent to aid in quelling the John Brown raid. At this time the battery had not been uniformed. It was there that the Howitzers first met the man who was destined to become their famous commander in the great struggle between the States, viz., Robert E. Lee, who was then the Federal officer in command of that post.

The first guns that the battery used were naval or boat howitzers. They were very pretty small brass guns, mounted on iron carriages, curiously constructed, and on the occasion of their first parade the guns were drawn through the streets by ropes manned by the cannoniers. It was from the guns that the organization derived



HOWITZERS IN FULL DRESS AT STUART MONUMENT UNVEILING.

its name. When the battery was called into active service the guns, of course, were changed, but the command still retains the name of "Howitzers."

Defending Richmond.

When the question of secession was being agitated the battery began to increase its numbers, and when mustered into service on April 21, 1861, the membership had increased to 225 men. About that time it was sent down the James to repel the "Pawnee," an armed vessel of the United States Navy, which was supposed to be about to attack Richmond. The battery was first quartered in the basement of the Spotswood Hotel, and on April 28, 1861, went into artillery camp at Richmond College, where, in consequence of the increased membership, it was divided into three batteries and formed into a battalion, under the command of Colonel (afterwards General) J. B. Magruder. The first battery was commanded by Captain John C. Shields, first Lieutenant W. P. Palmer, afterwards captain, second Lieutenant Edward S. McCarthy, a gallant soldier, afterwards made captain, and was killed at Cold Harbor in June, 1862. At this time the battery was commanded by Captain F. Mossey, who was third sergeant in the battery, first Sergeant R. M. Anderson succeeded Captain McCarthy and retained command of the battery until the close of the war.

The second battery was formed under the command of Captain John Thompson Brown, who afterwards rose to the rank of colonel of artillery, and was killed in battle on May 31, 1861. This battery was sent to Gloucester Point, on the York River, where, with guns on the beach of sand, it engaged with and drove off a gunboat, the "Vanzant."

The third battery was formed under the command of Captain Robert C. Stannard, and was ordered to Yorktown, where, on May 28, 1861, it was reunited with the second battery, under the command of Major George W. Randolph. Captain Stannard died October 28, 1861, and was succeeded by Major F. Mossey, who was killed near Petersburg in 1862.

second with muskets, having fought its way as infantry from Petersburg, where the guns were left in the trenches for want of horses, to draw them to Appomattox; hence the battalion writes its history "From Bethel to Appomattox."

The battalion was represented by one of the three batteries, and sometimes by all, in the following battles: Bethel, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Manassas, Bull's Bluff, Mechanicsville, Gaines's Mill, Leesburg, Winchester, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania Courthouse, Gettysburg, Antietam, Creek Hill, Seven Pines, Sharpsburg, Mine Run, Petersburg, Appomattox, and others.

During the war 252 men were commissioned from the three batteries of the Richmond Howitzers and assigned to other commands.

Soon after the war that gallant soldier, Major H. C. Carter and others, who may indeed be enrolled among the bravest of the brave, conceived the idea of forming a club composed of the members of the three batteries of the Richmond Howitzers who served throughout the war, the object being to perpetuate the record of their glorious deeds and show the ties which bound them together throughout four long years of battle, suffering and privation.

As an outgrowth of the club, the present battery was formed April 21, 1871, many of the members of its old batteries existing thereby encouraging the very best young men of the city to join.

H. C. Carter was elected captain; D. S. McCarthy, first lieutenant; John S. Elliott, junior first lieutenant; John S. White, second lieutenant. All of these had served through the war with distinction. The following noncommissioned officers and privates were members: J. W. Gibson, J. B. Moore, E. S. Cardozo, W. H. Tamm, C. E. Wingo, W. L. Lewis, Charles Carrington, Robert E. Richardson, T. Boisseau, J. C. Tatum, H. Tate, Evans, E. A. Winn, Dr. T. E. Mayo, H. W. Jones, S. C. Sheppard, Lewis Booker, L. B. Tatum, J. A. Griggs, J. McCarthy, J. R. Foster, Jr., E. W. Stiles, E. J. Bosher, R. C. Wortham, W. C. A. Mayo, George Place, Junius L. Powell, St. George T. C. Bryan, E. M. Crump, W. P. Grestor, F. A. Jeter.

These men in enrolling themselves were promoted by a desire to perpetuate the old organization, of whose reputation, earned during the war, they had a right to feel proud.

Armory Facilities.
The battery held its first meetings in a building opposite the post-office, practicing gun drill with a wooden gun mounted on a carriage, in exact imitation of the field piece, which was Wilson-Marshall reclamation. Later on the United States government loaned it four brass pieces (Napoleonic), and with these it paraded for the first time and used a salute in honor of the celebration of the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway in the Kanawha River. Soon after this it was given four rifle pieces by the State of Virginia. Through the united efforts of the members of the battery, the Howitzers' Association and their friends, the city of Richmond granted their request and erected an armory for them on the old city square lot, where they thereafter held meetings and drills. The Howitzers spend much of their own money, and paid for much of the work done on the building.

In course of time the veterans, becoming tired of active service, gradually dropped out of the ranks, their places always being readily filled by younger men, who, though not having seen active service in the field, were equally imbued with military ardor.

Succeeding Captain Carter, R. C. Wortham, E. J. Bosher, B. Lorraine, J. A. Hutchison and E. A. Williams



Men exposed as in days of Pochontas strike.



PROTECTED GUN OF TO-DAY.

were successively captains of this famous battery.

Captain Williams retired after several years of service to the battery, and Lieutenant William M. Myers was chosen captain.

Captain Myers is descended from a long line of ancestors distinguished in both army and navy. He is the son of the late William Washington Myers, who served with such gallantry as first lieutenant of Riley's Battery (Roman, N. C. Artillery), Army of Northern Virginia, during the four years of war. He has an enviable record in the Howitzers. During twenty-two years of service he has never been absent on a parade of the battery; has accompanied the Howitzers on every trip they have taken since his enlistment. He has been a leader in every movement which would tend to the betterment of his command, and always looks out for the pleasure and comfort of his men.

Battery Events.

Besides the numerous festivals of distinguished Confederate officers and President Davis, with riot days and trips incident to patriotic celebrations, this battery has attended United States manoeuvres at Manassas, Gettysburg, and battery assignments at different points in Virginia.

A notable achievement was the famous march to the Jamestown Exposition in the summer of 1897. This march of the Howitzers was heralded over our entire land and was pronounced by army experts to be the greatest achievement of the kind of modern times. During a single day's march, with four green horses to the carriage and men unaccustomed to the work, the battery covered a distance of thirty-eight miles in rain over heavy roads. The Howitzers left Richmond on June 1 with orders from Governor Swanson to be at the Jamestown Exposition at the morning of June 12. To take part in the Virginia Day parade, and contrary to all predictions, except from those in close touch with the esprit de corps of the battery, they reached the exposition several hours ahead of time, and covered a distance of 24 miles in five days by almost a constant rain over a portion of the roughest roads in Virginia at that time.

A Notable March.
In the summer of 1895 the Howitzers, dismounted, marched from Staunton to

Alexandria, Va., a distance of 179 miles, over the famous Valley Pike, stopping a day to visit Luray Caverns as the guests of Lieutenant-Governor J. Taylor Ellyson, a war-time member of the battery. This region was scene of Stonewall Jackson's famous campaign, and Rev. James Fowler Smith, chaplain of the battalion, who was aide to Stonewall Jackson and carried him from the field at the Wilderness, delivered many interesting and instructive lectures on the most important engagements of the war, thus making the trip doubly attractive.

It was a march thoroughly enjoyed by every participant, and one which the battery hopes to take again at an early date, varying the route slightly to take in other battlefields.

Among the special features of the organization are smokers, watermelon feasts, receptions, banquets and the monthly dance of the Cotillion Club is one of the most popular. This organization has always, and still continues to maintain the very high standard attained by the Richmond war Howitzers, each in a military and social point of view, and fully have they sustained the claim to be worth successors of that old organization, whose guns were heard on nearly every battlefield of Virginia, from Bethel to Appomattox.

The Richmond Howitzers are armed with the modern three-inch breech-loading rifle and the latest equipment for same with the required uniform of the United States government.

The New Uniform.
Besides the service and dress uniforms issued by the State for the use of the militia, the Richmond Howitzers have a distinctive full-dress uniform, and are securing a new one, as shown in the picture, consisting of a coat of gray trimmed with red and gold, gray riding trousers with a red stripe, and patent leather boots. The hat dress is a tall black astrakhan bushy, with flowing red cock feather plume and trimmed in red and gold. For social purposes, when not in full dress, there will be a cadet blouse of blue, with gray trousers and a gray fatigue cap.



Proposed full dress uniform, sample worn by Lieutenant Pollard.

feet and ten feet deep, baths, gymnasium, reading room and pool table. This building is considered the best equipped of the kind in the South. Both buildings are thoroughly heated by steam. Between the two buildings is a large park used for mounted instruction during the summer season.

Enlargement is Planned.

Carrying out a plan of enlargement of these quarters to meet present demands of the organization, as well as providing facilities for housing the horses, which it is expected the national government will begin early in 1913 to issue to the field artillery batteries, it is proposed to connect these two buildings, which would provide a drill hall of adequate size to the needs of the present organization, and on the ground floor provide stalls for the animals and a riding hall, in which mounted instruction and gun drills could be taught during the winter as well as the summer months.

Mention has frequently been made of late of the attempts to form two new batteries, so as to permit the organization of a complete battalion of field artillery in Richmond. This would restore the war-time strength of the command, and would add prestige to the city and State.

One of the pictures, shown on this page is one of the old-style cannons, which required the artillerymen to be exposed at all times to fire from the enemy. It is proposed to connect these two buildings, which would provide a drill hall of adequate size to the needs of the present organization, and on the ground floor provide stalls for the animals and a riding hall, in which mounted instruction and gun drills could be taught during the winter as well as the summer months.

Present Officers.
The officers of the present battery are as follows: William M. Myers, captain; F. K. T. Warwick, captain-sergeant; E. C. Rees, senior first lieutenant; J. C. Pollard, junior first lieutenant; John T. Wood, senior second lieutenant; G. H. Myers, junior second lieutenant. Noncommissioned officers—Frank H. Bosca, first sergeant; B. A. Cleary, quartermaster-sergeant; H. F. Poindexter, stable sergeant; Sergeants—J. A. Holman, E. L. Macfarlane, Joe F. Seay, Charles LaFon, R. E. Hughes, W. M. Engard, Corporals—R. E. Bell, H. F. Harrison, L. F. Seiden, H. H. Christian, F. W. Kuchman, William R. McChesney, Charles A. Falvey, Paul W. Allison, F. Galt, H. F. Mitchell, H. W. Gill, E. Paulston, Jr.

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