

The ***RUNNER***

Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

***** May 2013 *****

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 9 May** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30.

Please join us as we conclude our 2012 – 2013 Program Year with our May meeting. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict

***** May Program *****

Fort Anderson: Then and Now

Join us on May 9th when **Jim McKee**, Brunswick Town/ Fort Anderson Historic Interpreter, presents a program about the history and present day going-ons at the fort.

In 1862, General Samuel G. French decided a fortification at the Brunswick Town site would make a valuable addition to the defenses along the Cape Fear River. Major Thomas Rowland was placed in charge of the construction of an earth fortification on the site of the ruins of the St. Phillips Church. Rowland began construction on March 24, 1862 and he called the fortification Fort St. Phillips. Battery A ran parallel to the river and Battery B ran perpendicular to the river. The ordinance at the fort consisted of rifled 32 pounders, smoothbore 32 pounders, smoothbore 24 pounders, and Whitworth breech loading guns. The fort was enlarged and extended westward under the command of Major William Lamb and Major John J. Hedrick.



On July 1, 1863 and to honor a fallen North Carolina general, George Burgwyn Anderson, the name was changed to Fort Anderson. With the fall of Fort Fisher on January 15, 1865, Fort Anderson became the most important defensive position to prevent the Federals from advancing on Wilmington from the west side of the river. On February 18th, the fort was flanked by General

Jacob Cox's Federal forces and the Confederates abandoned the works on the morning of the 19th.

Fort Anderson's isolated location will serve its preservation well for the next 150 years for much of the fort remains as it had been in February 1865. Jim McKee will be giving an update of archeological efforts that have been and will be done at this wonderful example of Civil War military engineering.

Editor

******* Civil War Humor *******

In the midst of a desperate war, soldiers – Union and Confederate – could find something to relieve the stress in most situations. The following efforts were taken from *The Dispatch*, the newsletter of The Civil War Round Table of New York, October 1981, Vol. 31 No. 2.

At Kennesaw Mountain in 1864, General Sherman sat on a top of a high hill before ordering General Jacob Cox to threaten the enemy's left. Sherman gave his orders to Cox and then added, "And burn a few barns as you go along Cox. I can't understand those signal flags but I know what smoke means."

The 11th Mississippi Regiment was noted for being a rough, tough fighting unit that asked no quarter and gave no quarter. Being backwoodsmen, they were also famous marksmen. A farmer near where they were camped approached General Whiting and reported the loss of a hog within the 11th's lines, testifying that a shot had been heard followed by a squeal. General Whiting replied soberly, "I am satisfied you are mistaken. When an 11th Mississippian shoots a hog, it don't squeal."

Bob Cooke

******* Raffle Winners *******

Raffle Master: Ed Gibson
Special Assistant Raffle Master: John Winecoff

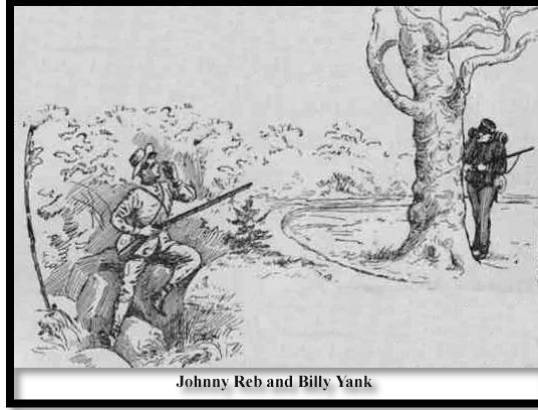
If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, see Ed Gibson at our next meetings.

April Meeting:

<i>General Lee's Army</i>	-	Martha Watson
<i>Secession Divided</i>	-	Dennis Wrynn
<i>Cities of the Dead</i>	-	Linda Lashley
<i>Cloud Splitter</i>	-	Bill Jayne
<i>Stillness at Appomattox</i>	-	Tom Taylor
<i>Everything Civil War Book</i>	-	John Winecoff

******* The Civil War Exchange *******

The Exchange is for members of the CFCWRT to alert others about items that are being sought or are being offered for sale or trade.



1 – CFCWRT member, Dennis Wrynn, has a set of hand-painted pewter figures of CSA leaders by Ron Wall for sale. They are Jeb Stuart, Bedford Forrest, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and John Mosby. He is asking \$120 for the set in the original display box. If interested, call Dennis at 910-458-2657 in Kure Beach.

******* Trivia Questions for May *******

- 1 – How large was the normal garrison at Fort Anderson during the Civil War?
- 2 – When the Confederates abandoned the fort early on the morning of February 19th, what actions did the Federal troops undertake?
- 3 – The Confederate Infantry bore the brunt of combat during the war. What were the total losses among the infantry that joined Lee's army in 1862?
- 4 – What were the desertions by year in the Army of Northern Virginia?
- 5 – What were the ages of the oldest and youngest member in Glatthaar's sample?
- 6 – On the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, a massive bombardment by Confederate artillery was to weaken the Federal defensive positions on Cemetery Ridge before the Pickett- Pettigrew infantry attack. By all accounts, many of the Confederate artillery shells overshot the Federal positions. Why?

******* Member News & Activities *******

If you have member news that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, let me know about it.

1 – The May meeting is the final of our 2012 - 2013 program year. The 2013 – 2014 program year begins in September. Have a good summer and come again for more Civil War history in the fall.

2 – April 6th was **Park Day** at Fort Fisher and the CFCWRT was represented by **Bob Cooke** and **Linda Lashley**, who worked at Ft. Fisher raking and loading thousands of oak leaves under the windswept oaks across the street. This area is frequently used for weddings and family gatherings. Executive Director **Paul Laird** and State Historic Site Interpreter **Becky Sawyer**, also Round Table members, were involved in heading up the 66 volunteers who assisted in getting the site tidied-up for the summer tourist season. - **Linda Lashley**



3 – BCWRT Spring Trip 2013 – **Petersburg to Appomattox May 11 – 12, 2013** led by Will Greene, executive director of Pamplin Historical Park and The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier in Petersburg, Virginia. Contact: **Mike Powell** 910-278-3545 or mpowell6@ec.rr.com.

4 – North Carolina Military Historical Society Symposium, **May 11, 2013, 0930 – 1500** Hours, Museum of History, Raleigh, NC. **North Carolina and the War of 1812**. Contact Bruce Patterson for additional details or <http://www.ncmhs.net/>. – **Bruce Patterson** 910-794-8905.

5 – The North Carolina Military Historical Society is sponsoring a military history book sale of more than 200 titles on **Saturday, May 25, from 10:00am to 4:00pm**. The sale will be held in the yard of the NCMHS Military Museum located in the Air Force Recreation Center off Fort Fisher Boulevard (US Highway 421), which is located 1.2 miles south of Kure Beach Village traffic light or, .5 mile north of the Fort Fisher Civil War Museum. **Dennis Wrynn** 910-458-2657.

6 – **Our State** Civil War History Weekend, May 31 – June 2 - Come down to Wilmington on May 31-June 2, 2013, as *Our State*'s popular Civil War Series comes to life. Writer Philip Gerard and Historian Chris Fonvielle will take us on a journey into life in North Carolina during the Civil War. From Civil War era music to the importance of flags to what soldiers carried – you'll experience history first-hand in this Adventure Learning Weekend getaway. <http://www.ourstate.com/events/civil-war-weekend/>

******* May 1863 *******

May 1863 saw two major events of the American Civil War. The first of these was the death of 'Stonewall' Jackson. The South was experiencing many difficulties - be it military or economic - and the loss of a highly talented military commander who seemed to thrive on being in the field as opposed to being in a tent studying maps was a major one. The second important event of May 1863 was the North's attack on Vicksburg.

May 1st: Stonewall Jackson halted the Union advance against Lee near Chancellorsville. Hooker told his junior commanders, much to their astonishment, that the Union army would go on the defensive as a result of this setback despite having a 2 to 1 advantage in terms of men over the South (90,000 to 40,000).



Lee and Jackson at Chancellorsville

May 2nd: Jackson commanded a force of 25,000 men in an attempt to get behind Hooker's main force and to attack them in the rear. It was a very bold plan that had to work. If Jackson's army was wiped out, Lee would have been left with just 15,000 men. To convince Hooker that his men were retreating, Lee ordered numerous trains to ride up and down the Fredericksburg/Richmond railway – even if their carriages were empty. His plan worked and Hooker became convinced that Lee was pulling back his men. Lulled into a false sense of security, Hooker may well have taken his eye off of what was going on and when Jackson launched his attack behind Hooker's line, the Union army was unprepared. Many parts of the Union army were driven back. However, in an attempt to know what was going on at the front, Jackson went to the front line to assess the situation for himself. One of his own men did not recognise him and shot him. Jackson was badly wounded.

May 3rd: Hooker lost the Battle of Chancellorsville and he ordered the Army of the Potomac to prepare for a retreat. However, not knowing of this, General Sedgwick, believing that an attack on Fredericksburg would be successful, ordered such an attack. Initially he was very successful and captured 15 cannon and 1000 prisoners. However, without any support from Hooker he was totally isolated and at the mercy of Lee's army.



May 4th: Sedgwick's men held off the first assaults on their positions by Lee's army. Then in a stroke of fortune, the whole area was shrouded in fog and Sedgwick used this to get his men out of Fredericksburg without further loss. In a Council of War, Hooker announced that the Army of the Potomac was to retreat to Falmouth, Virginia.

May 5th: Very heavy rain helped Hooker's army in their retreat as it greatly hindered Lee's army in its efforts to follow up its successes in May.

May 6th: The last of the Union's army had withdrawn. The Battle of Chancellorsville was a huge success for Lee and Jackson and if the weather had been better could have been a lot worse for Hooker. Hooker lost 17,000 men despite a 2 to 1 advantage over Lee. However, while the Union could sustain such losses, the South lost 13,000 men and they could not survive such a rate of attrition. The Confederacy agreed to spend \$2 million on purchasing European naval ships. The requirement for the ships was simple: they had to be able to operate in the Atlantic yet be able to sail up the River Mississippi. The leaders of the Confederacy believed that such a ship would be able to break the Union blockade of southern ports.

May 8th: Nearly a week after being accidentally shot by one of his own men, it became obvious that the wounds suffered by 'Stonewall' Jackson were life threatening. An arm had already been amputated but a chronic infection meant that he wasn't expected to live. Nearly one week after the shooting, Jackson was drifting in and out of consciousness.

May 9th: General Grant threatened to take Vicksburg, the key to the Mississippi. The Confederate leader, Davis, promised commanders in the city every means of support. The Confederate defenders of Vicksburg had a dislocated intelligence system and so had little knowledge of Grant's movements.

May 10th: 'Stonewall' Jackson died.

May 14th: Jackson fell to Generals Sherman and McPherson. The Union government continued to put pressure on Great Britain not to sell naval boats to the South.

May 15th: Sherman destroyed manufacturing centres and railroads in and around Jackson so that when Union forces moved on, they could not be reused by those who lived in Jackson – and supported the Confederacy. It was a foretaste of what he would do in future months.

May 16th: Union forces attacked Southern forces defending Vicksburg at Champion's Hill. The South had 22,000 men and faced a Union force of 27,000. Both sides suffered 2,000 casualties – though the Union army was better able to cope with such casualties. However, the South commander, John Pemberton, made one major error. Rather than keeping his men out in the field to face Union forces, Pemberton withdrew them to the poorly defended Vicksburg.

May 17th: At dawn Union forces attacked Confederate defences at Big Black Rock, just outside of Vicksburg. The attack was so swift that the defenders only had time to get off one volley of shots before being overrun. The North captured 1,700 Confederate troops and 18 cannon and lost just 39 dead and 237 wounded.

May 18th: Sherman's leading men reached the outskirts of Vicksburg.

May 19th: General Grant ordered a hasty and not well-prepared attack on Vicksburg. There were two reasons for this. The first was that he hoped to take advantage of what he hoped would be Confederate demoralisation within Vicksburg. The second was that prior to the success at Big Black Rock he had ignored and effectively disobeyed an order by his superior, General Halleck, to withdraw his men from Vicksburg and march to Port Hudson to assist General Banks in an attack there. One way of smoothing over this breach of military discipline would have been a swift, decisive and successful attack on Vicksburg. However, the attack failed and the North lost 900 men.

May 20th: Grant's men dug themselves in around Vicksburg. Union warships patrolled the River Mississippi around Vicksburg to hinder any Confederate use of the river. However, despite their military success, Union forces had not had it all their own way. They had to make do with five days rations over a three-week stretch.

May 21st: Grant's troops received their first batch of food in weeks when bread arrived along with coffee. Grant hoped that this would boost the morale of his men and ordered an attack on Vicksburg the following day.

May 22nd: The attack was a failure and the North lost 500 killed and 2,500 wounded. The ruined Grant's misguided belief that Vicksburg was not well defended. He withdrew his men and ordered Vicksburg to be besieged. Grant later described this as an attempt to "out-camp the enemy". Grant's siege line stretched for 15 miles around Vicksburg.

May 27th: Union forces attacked Port Hudson. It was a failure as Confederate troops were well dug in. The North lost 293 dead and 1545 wounded. As at Vicksburg, a decision was taken to besiege Port Hudson.

May 28th: The Union siege at Vicksburg was hampered by the fact that Grant had marched with small and manoeuvrable artillery. Therefore he did not have the necessary artillery to bombard Vicksburg. However, this problem was solved when large Union naval guns were brought up the Mississippi and installed ashore. Once operational, they were used to destroy known Confederate defences. In 1862, extensive defence lines had been built around Vicksburg. However, during the winter of 1862/63, they had fallen into disrepair and were only repaired after the clash at Big Black Rock on May 17th. 30,000 Confederate troops manned these defences commanded by General John Pemberton. They faced 41,000 Union troops commanded by Grant – though this figure was to rise to 70,000 men by the summer. Life for the besieged citizens of Vicksburg and Port Hudson was hard as food and fresh water supplies dwindled.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/may-1863-civil-war.htm> (accessed April 1, 2013).

******* July 1863 *******

As a native Tar Heel, I found Dr. Joseph Glatthaar's discussion of the losses among North Carolina troops at Gettysburg moving. I had three great-grandfathers and a great-uncle who fought there. The great-uncle was wounded, captured, and ultimately died of his wounds.

I came across General Isaac Trimble's report on the third day's fight at Gettysburg. What I found interesting about Trimble's writing was a Virginian's positive comments on the bravery of the North Carolinians who came under his command. Trimble reportedly said of these men, "If the men I had the honor to command that day could not take that position, all hell couldn't take it." Note: Trimble's comment about the profane terms credited to him by North Carolina's General James Lane.

On the morning of the third, I had been put in command, by an order of General Lee, of two of the brigades of General Pender, who had been wounded. These were both of North Carolina troops commanded by J.H. Lane and Alfred M. Scales. On taking command of the troops, entire strangers to me, and wishing as far as I could to inspire them with confidence, I addressed them briefly, ordered that no gun should be fired until the enemy's line was broken, and that I would advance with them to the farthest point.

When the charge commenced about 3:00 p.m., I followed Pettigrew about 150 yards in the rear, a sufficient distance to prevent the adverse fire raking both ranks as we marched down the slope. Notwithstanding the losses as we advanced, the men marched with the deliberation and accuracy of men on drill. I observed the same in Pettigrew's line. When the latter was within 100-150 yards of the Emmetsburg Road, they seemed to sink into the earth under the tempest of fire poured upon them. We passed over the remnant of their line and immediately after some one close on my left sang out "Three cheers for the Old North State!" Both brigades sent up a hearty shout and I said to my aide "Charley, I believe these fine fellows are going into the enemy's lines."



They did get to the road and drove the opposite line from it. They continued there some minutes, discharging their pieces at the enemy. The loss here was fearful. I knew that no troops could long endure it. I was curious to know how things went on with the troops on our right, and taking a quick but deliberate view of the field over which Picket had advanced, I perceived that the enemy's fire seemed to slacken there and some squads were falling back on the west side of the Emmetsburg Road. By this I inferred that Pickett's division had been repelled and if so, it would be a useless exercise of life to continue the contest. I therefore did not attempt to rally the men who (moved?) back from the fence.

As I followed the retiring line on horseback at a walk to the crest of Seminary Ridge, under the unceasing discharge of grape, shell and musketry, I had cause to wonder how any one could escape wounds or death.

On reaching the summit of the ridge, I found the men had fallen into line behind some rude defenses. I said "that is right, my brave fellows, stand your ground and we will presently give these chaps as they have given us", for by all the rules of warfare, the Federal troops should, as I expected they would, march against our shattered columns and seek to cover our army with an overwhelming defeat.

In turning over the command to General Lane, I used some expressions of commendation for the gallant behavior of these men, but **I am sure I did not use the profane terms which General Lane quotes my language.**

Being severely weakened and unable to follow the army in retreat, I made no report of the battle in terms of killed and wounded. General Lane and General Scales have done this, which shows the fearful loss in these two brigades in the charge of July 3.

In *General Lee's Army: From Victory to Collapse*, Glatthaar reported that from late April to mid-October 1863 that 70% of the North Carolinians who served in the ANV were either killed, wounded, or captured. This was the highest casualty rate among troops of any state that provided troops to the ANV. These losses adversely affected the home front in North Carolina and would impact the level of desertion among North Carolina troops later in the war.

Editor

Source: <http://nccivilwar.lostsoulsgenealogy.com/ownwords/lanesbrigadegettysburg.htm> (accessed April 13, 2013).

***** April Program *****

Lies, Damn Lies, and Statistics: The Army of Northern Virginia and Some Interesting Numbers

Statistics: *The classification and interpretation of such data in accordance with probability theory and the application of methods such as hypothesis testing to them.*

Mind-numbingly boring? Not when they were shared by **Dr. Joseph T. Glatthaar** of the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. For those who attended the April meeting, Glatthaar made charts and numbers not only interesting, but fascinating. He probably fielded more questions from the audience than any other meeting I have attended – that in itself meant that we were not asleep but followed the data and thought about its relevance.



Joe began his presentation with an explanation of “why” he began the exhaustive study of the Army of Northern Virginia: rather than having researchers (including himself) “cherry-pick” facts and numbers to support a conclusion, Glatthaar wanted to use a statistically random sample of members of Lee’s army to mathematically determine valid facts and numbers. With the aid of a statistics talented colleague, Kent Tedin, at the University of Houston, Glatthaar determined that a sample of 600 men – 150 artillerymen, 150 cavalrymen, and 300 infantrymen – would be required to yield valid findings. He then spent months selecting the individuals who made up the 600 man sample. Once Joe had his 600, he reviewed service records (approximately 800 reels), census records, county histories, obituaries, family histories, pension files and other data bases to flesh out the 560 enlisted men and 40 officers and their individual stories. The results of his study – from 1989 to 2008 – were presented in his ***General Lee’s Army: From Victory to Collapse.***

The most significant finding may have been that the men in Lee’s army were more closely linked to slaveholding than had been previously thought. 44.4% of the men lived in slaveholding households. Lee’s men also had a higher median wealth than the men of comparable ages in the states from which Lee drew his troops. Glatthaar’s complete findings can be found in his latest book, ***Soldering in the Army of Northern Virginia.***

What’s next for Dr. Glatthaar? He is almost complete with a similar study of the men of the Army of the Potomac. He is also trying to get funding to develop a statistical data base that would use 4,000 randomly chosen Confederate soldiers.

Editor

******* Trivia Questions for May *******

1 – How large was the normal garrison at Fort Anderson during the Civil War? The normal garrison would have been about 200 men drawn from artillery units. After January 1865, the garrison was reinforced by units withdrawn from forts Caswell, Campbell, Holmes and Johnston. Additionally, General Johnson Hagood’s brigade of South Carolinians was sent as reinforcements. The garrison swelled to 2,300 men before the final battle for the fort.

2 – When the Confederates abandoned the fort early on the morning of February 19th, what actions did the Federal troops undertake? The Federals heard the withdrawal of the Confederate troops and they quickly moved into the fort and were able to capture some of the last departing rebels. Unfortunately for the Federal Army victors, the Federal Navy was not aware of the new tenants and began a bombardment of the fort. The Federal army troops waved a white canvas tent to alert their naval compatriots to their plight.

The Federal army surrendered the fort to the Federal navy.

3 – The Confederate Infantry bore the brunt of combat during the war. What were the total losses among the infantry that joined Lee’s army in 1862? 83.1% of those who joined the infantry in 1862 were KIA, WIA, died of disease, discharged for disability, or POW at least once, and 74.4% of those who joined the army in 1861 were. Per Dr. Glaathaar, that was a startling number.

4 – What were the desertions by year in the Army of Northern Virginia? By early 1865, Lee’s army was losing 120 men a day to desertion. During this period, the men were subsisting on a diet of approximately 900 – 1200 calories a day, a diet so deficient in vitamins and minerals that the men could not receive the full nutrition from the food they ate. By comparison, the United States Army today provides its soldiers 4,000 calories a day. Clothing was scarce for many of the soldiers and they actually favored battles with the Union forces during the winter months so that they could get items from the Union casualties. Even equipment like axes and picks were in short supply.

Desertions by Year

6.8%	15.6%	33.6%	34.5%	9.5%*
1861	1862	1863	1864	1865

* complete records were not available for the last months of the war.

In spite of the hardships of service during late 1864 and early 1865, 67,000 men were with Lee in late March 1865. Continued Federal pressure by Grant’s troops at Petersburg forced Lee to abandon his line on April 2nd. After a week trying to escape the closing Federal noose, Lee surrendered at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. By the 12th of April, 26,018 men of the ANV were formally paroled by Grant’s forces.

5 – What were the ages of the oldest and youngest member in Glatthaar’s sample? The oldest man in Joe’s sample was 62 years old. The youngest man was 14 years old. The Army of Northern Virginia was desperate for men to continue the fight. The use of old men and especially young boys was a horrible indicator of how desperate the Confederacy became in the final stages of the war.

6 – On the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, a massive bombardment by Confederate artillery was to weaken the Federal defensive positions on Cemetery Ridge before the Pickett-Pettigrew infantry attack. By all accounts, many of the Confederate artillery shells overshot the Federal positions. Why? On March 13, 1863, an explosion at the Confederate States Laboratories on Brown’s Island in Richmond killed approximately 50 workers. Many of those killed had been young women who had been engaged in the manufacture of shells, fuses, and other ordinance for the Confederate artillery services. As a result of the disaster in Richmond, General Josiah Gorgas and his ordinance officers were forced to secure supplies from other laboratories throughout the South to supply the armies of the Confederacy.

At Chancellorsville in May 1863, William Allan, an ordinance officer on Jackson’s staff, noticed that shells and case shots had exploded prematurely after exiting the cannon’s mouth. Several weeks after the battle, Allan submitted an official notice concerning his observations. Gorgas and the Confederate Ordinance Bureau took Allan’s observation seriously and the Richmond Laboratories began monthly testing of all ammunition, primers, and fuses from the various manufactories.

Lt. James Dinwiddie, at the Richmond Laboratories, was assigned the duty to test ammunition and fuses from the Charleston and Selma arsenals. A week after the battle at Gettysburg, Dinwiddie completed his test. The Charleston fuses were well made; however, they burned slower than they had been designed. Dinwiddie found that, “A spherical case shot with a 4” fuse would burst at 5” – that is at least 200 yards beyond where it was intended to burst.” The Ordinance Bureau found that fuses produced in Charleston, Augusta, and Atlanta burned slower than those that had been manufactured in Richmond. Fuses from Charleston had been sent to the ANV after the March 13th explosion.

The lack of consistency in fuse manufacture among the different arsenals caused experienced Confederate gunners to over shot their target. Porter Alexander was entrusted by Longstreet to direct the 170 cannons that were gathered to blast the Federal positions prior to the Confederate attack. Alexander ran short of ammunition and the smoke from the massed cannon obscured his view of the bombardment effectiveness. Alexander measured the return fire of the Federal gunners and when the return fire slackened, Alexander informed George Pickett that he must attack.

There were more than fuse issues on that July 3rd; however, the 15,000 or so infantrymen who charged into the Federal positions played the devil for the artillery’s failure.

Source: Joseph T. Glatthaar, *General Lee’s Army: From Victory to Collapse* (New York: Free Press, 2008), 258 – 287.