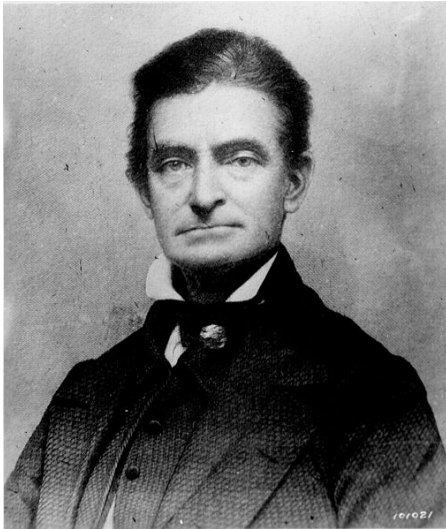


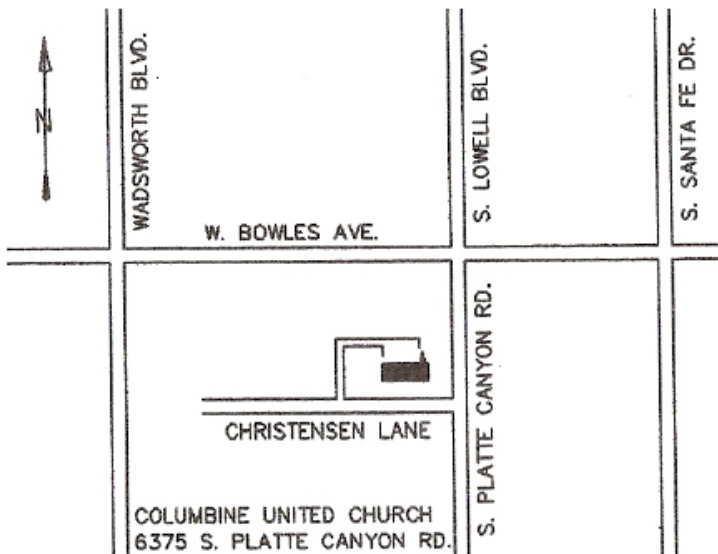
January 8 2009



**John Brown**  
**A firebrand in the night**



Reviled in the south and revered in the North, John Brown was truly a warning on what was to come. **Nick Kurtz** will be presenting on this controversial figure. His talk will cover the full range of John Brown's life, but will focus primarily on Bleeding Kansas and Harper's. An American abolitionist who advocated and practiced armed insurrection as a means to end all slavery, President Abraham Lincoln said he was a "misguided fanatic". Historians agree John Brown played a major role in starting the Civil War. His role and actions prior to the Civil War, as an abolitionist, and the tactics he chose still make him a controversial figure today.



Members begin to gather at 6:00 PM for dinner and discussion about the "War Between the States." Buy plenty of tickets – Ian is sure to have some great books (as always) for this month's meeting. Everyone present will receive one free ticket and additional changes are available at 5 for \$1.00.

As always everyone is encouraged to bring in additional items to sweeten the pot. The drawing will take place at 6:45 PM just prior to the new business portion of the meeting. The presentation will begin promptly at 7:00 PM.

## Upcoming Presentations

*(Read ahead, share your viewpoints, the roundtable encourages discussion)*

January 8, 2009 – John Brown by Nick Kurtz

February 12, 2009 - Causes of the Civil War by Mike Lang

March 12 – Close Quarter Combat by Tom Lux

April 9 – Doddv. Lang at Valverde by Dennis Potter

May 14 – NEED PRESENTER

June 11 – NEED PRESENTER

July 9 – Ned Grauel & Dave Townsend – The Wheatfield

August 13 – NEED PRESENTER

September 10 – NEED PRESENTER

October 8 – NEED PRESENTER

November 12 – NEED PRESENTER

December 10 – NEED PRESENTER

## Special Note:

One of the more pungent tragedies of any war is the collateral damage to civilians. Stuart Lawrence is serving in Afghanistan with his unit, and has asked if we might be able to help with some items for these civilian. First, Stuart's note, and then some clarification items.

ALL:

*The Kapisa PRT (my unit) will be trying to give Humanitarian Assistance to the widows and their children in Kapisa Province. The latest count from the Afghan Relief Association is:*

*Location NTK \* - 253 widows*

*Location NTK - 237 widows*

*Location NTK - 72 widows*

*Location NTK - 243 widows*

*Location NTK - 190 widows*

*(NTK - classified village locations; bad guys hate us giving anything to the villagers)*

*Children are estimated about 1500+.*

*If you are able to help in any way, it would be greatly appreciated. Any package put together for these women would be standard (no logos) women's and children's winter clothes, any type of gloves and blankets.*

*Thanks!!*

*Stuart E. Lawrence, Jr.*

*MAJ, S-3*

*KAPISA PRT*

**\* (NTK = need to know)**

Additional information from e-mails with Stuart:

*Any civilian winter coats, hats, gloves, boots, scarves, etc., without any logos (cartoon characters [especially Porky Pig!], Simpsons, USA, Star Wars, etc. in children's clothing) will be okay. I checked with the Afghan women interpreters and there are no restricted colors for women.*

*These people are so poor that the poorest American would be rich over here. They live in a mud hut with only charcoal to heat the place. It makes us feel like wimps when we go back to the heated and somewhat clean B-huts! The kids are walking around with flip flops and no socks. Frostbite is very rampant in the children so the next time a college student of mine bitches about living in the USA, I'll email them a photo of kids their age living over here.*

If you have any items that you can bring to the next meeting, I will package them up and

make a second shipment. If you would rather donate money, I'll take it and buy more items. **This is a time critical issue**, and soon the needed hats, gloves, etc will be out of season at our stores and harder to find. If you need additional information, please give Dave Townsend a call at 303-973-0549.

## **President's Message:**

President's Message:

"The Greatest Armies of All Time" Part 12-Conclusion

For the last 12 months I have tried to give you a dispassionate and comprehensive look at some of the greatest armies of all time, or at least as I see them. In tying it all together I have found that the process is one that has been not only fulfilling one but also somewhat frustrating. On one hand I was able to study about several ancient civilizations that I would normally not give a second thought too. This process also gave me a new appreciation of how history, in many ways really does repeat itself. And it also taught me that if you want to get into the heads of people like Robert E Lee and George S Patton you need to study the history that these men studied. It was frustrating in that I realized that were several armies that I did not include that were worthy of mention. The armies of Alexander the great, the North American Plains Indians, and the U S Marine corps, just to name a few. I suppose that is somewhat like the scientist who sets out to prove a theory one way or another or the man who take a long and difficult journey. It is not the final destination or the final conclusion that answers the question. It is the journey itself that yields its own answers. In the movie version of General Patton's life, the actor George C Scott spoke a line that to me sums up so much of why we study history and the history of warfare in particular. He said, "Compared to war, all of man's other

endeavors pale in comparison." Now I don't know if Patton ever really said this, but I believe it is one truest statements ever made about the history of warfare. Since the beginning of recorded time nothing has shaped the course of our history more than our long history of conflicts with one another. Almost every advancement in technology medicine and science can be traced in one way or another to warfare. The great irony of studying the "Greatest Armies of all Time" is that we think we live in an enlightened society that longer has a need for war. We want to believe that destructive wars are things of the distant past. But the reality is that as long as we have those in our world who resort to oppression and violence, we will have a need for a standing army. And the leaders of that army will need to look at the past to learn from its mistakes and build on its successes.

## **Dave A.'s Maunderings**

Patriotic Civil War Tokens – Part 3

"Shoot Him on the Spot"

In this final column on this subject, I'll discuss a set of these interesting tokens of the Civil War that relates to a couple of specific incidents that occurred early in the war. These are some of the few actual events that are directly connected to Patriotic Civil War Tokens. At the end of this column, I'll mention a few more such events.

The standard reference book on Patriotic Civil War Tokens is the *Standard Catalog of United States Tokens, 1700-1900*, by Russell Rulau. The version I've used for here is the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, © 2004. The discussion in this book regarding our subject is presented in such a way as to indicate, without ever quite directly saying so, that the two separate events described below are intimately connected. However, as nearly as I can tell from a number of sources, there is really no such connection.

As many of you may know, a subsequently renowned event that inflamed Northern sentiment took place in Alexandria, VA on May 24, 1861. The loyal Southern sympathizer James T. Jackson, owner and proprietor of the Marshall House hotel took serious offence when Col. E. Elmer Ellsworth of the 11<sup>th</sup> New York, aka the “First Fire Zouaves,” removed from the hotel’s roof a “secession flag.” As Ellsworth descended the garret stairs with the offending flag, Jackson shot him through the heart with his shotgun, killing him instantly. Zouave Private Francis E. Brownell, stationed at the foot of the garret stairs, although fired at and missed by Jackson, shot Jackson through the head, killing him in turn. Private Brownell was rewarded for his actions by promotion to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and in 1877 with the Medal of Honor. Brownell’s medal and a small scrap of the actual flag involved are now held by the Smithsonian Institution.

The First Fire Zouaves had been recruited among fire fighters in New York City by Colonel Ellsworth in April 1861. Ellsworth, only 25 years of age at his death, had previously organized in Chicago another Zouave group that had toured several northern cities earlier. President-elect Abraham Lincoln had been escorted from Illinois to Washington, D.C. by Col. Ellsworth, among others. According to *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, Vol. I, pg. 179 (note), “Colonel Ellsworth had endeared himself to President Lincoln, who was deeply affected by his (Ellsworth’s) death. For several hours the remains lay in state in the East Room of the White House.”

Col. Ellsworth’s tragic death was seized upon by many Union men as a pivotal event and used to create further enlistments in the Union forces. Col. Ellsworth’s body was next taken to City Hall, New York City, and viewed by thousands there, to view what was believed at the time to be the first military death in the new

struggle between the states. “Remember Ellsworth” became a popular Union slogan and the new 44<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment called itself the “Ellsworth Avengers” and “The People’s Ellsworth Regiment.” Items associated with Ellsworth became popular in the North, with the fatal shotgun (see below) ending up at the Smithsonian Institution.



The second event tied by Rulau to the Ellsworth incident is the now-famous phrase: “If any one attempts to haul down the American Flag, shoot him on the spot.” This was taken from a telegram from then Secretary of the (US) Treasury (and later Major General of Union volunteers) John A. Dix to W. Hemphill Jones. Jones, chief clerk of the Treasury, had been sent by Dix to New Orleans to save the government revenue-cutters (ships) there and at Mobile, Alabama and Galveston, Texas, from seizure by the Confederates. On Jan. 29, 1861 Jones had telegraphed Dix to the effect that the captain of revenue-cutter *McClelland* had refused to obey orders of the Treasury Secretary. Dix immediately telegraphed back the following message found in the note on pg. 149 of *Battles and Leaders*: “Treasury Department, January 29, 1861. Tell Lieutenant Caldwell (who was under Jones) to arrest Captain Breshwood (of the *McClelland*) assume command of the cutter, and obey the order I gave through you. If Captain Breshwood, after arrest, undertakes to interfere with the command of the cutter, tell Lieutenant Caldwell to consider him as a mutineer, and treat him accordingly. If any one attempts to haul

down the American flag, shoot him on the spot. John A. Dix, Secretary of the Treasury." Dix's life story is an interesting one, and those of you with subscriptions to Ancestry.com may want to read his entry there under "American Civil War General Officers."

The last sentence of Dix's telegram was seized upon by Union men as an appropriate nationwide response, although I'm unaware of any subsequent shootings under that order. The tie into Patriotic Civil War Tokens appeared on a number of dies used to produce tokens, principally in the format shown below:



The legend on the left reads: "IF ANYBODY ATTEMPTS TO TEAR IT DOWN" around the outer rim, with "SHOOT HIM ON THE SPOT" surrounding the central ring containing the word "DIX." The legend surrounding the flag on the opposite side reads: "THE FLAG OF OUR UNION" with the date 1863. Most of the tokens with these devices are fairly common, so it was a popular issue at the time. One variety has "SPOOT" instead of "SPOT," so the die engraver must have thought he was

punching in the word "shoot," rather than "spot!"

Another popular theme for these tokens, both during the war and today, is related to the famous duel between the USS *Monitor* and the CSS *Virginia* (or *Merrimac*), with the Monitor depicted on one side and various other devices on the other side. Leading up to the presidential election of 1864 there appeared tokens with busts of Lincoln, McClellan and other candidates, with nearly all of these being quite rare and correspondingly expensive today.

Thus ends our brief look at Patriotic Civil War Tokens. As time constraints have kept me from researching parts of this series as thoroughly as I would have preferred, I'll gladly accept questions, corrections, and comments, be they good, bad, or downright plug-ugly, at [dwarmagast@comcast.net](mailto:dwarmagast@comcast.net)!

## Offensive Operations

Matt Spruill ©2008

This is part one of a three-part article that will discuss offensive operations and forms of maneuver. The terms for these operations and maneuvers are modern but many of them were used in the Civil War. Examples of each will be given.

United States Army doctrine recognizes four types of offensive operations: movement to contact, attack, exploitation, and pursuit.

A movement to contact is conducted by a force when the commander is unsure of the exact enemy location and force. Two good examples of this are, first, Rosecrans's Army of the Cumberland's movement from Nashville in late December 1862 south towards Bragg's Army of Tennessee. Unsure of exactly where Bragg was located, Rosecrans marched his army south across a wide front, until he had developed sufficient information that Bragg was probably concentrating at Murfreesboro. Second is

the classic Civil War example of a movement to contact, is Meade and Lee's respective advance towards each other in Pennsylvania in late June and on July 1, 1863.

An attack, which uses various forms of maneuver, is conducted to destroy or render combat ineffective an enemy force, or to capture key terrain. As a form of maneuver attacks are subcategorized as hasty attacks and deliberate attacks. Hasty attacks are those that are conducted with little or no planning. Usually they follow the movement to contact when one commander attempts to gain the initiative and defeat part of the enemy force in front of him before the rest of the enemy army can be deployed. The attack by Hill's Corps on July 1, 1863 is an example of a hasty attack, as are the actions of the Army of the Potomac's Ninth and First Corps at South Mountain on September 14, 1862, and Hood's Army of Tennessee at Franklin on November 30, 1864. The deliberate attack is conducted after prior reconnaissance and planning. There are many examples of this type of attacks throughout the Civil War, among them: the Army of Northern Virginia on June 26, 1862 at Beaver Dam Creek (Seven Days Battles) and July 2, 1863 at Gettysburg; the Army of the Potomac on December 13, 1862 at Fredericksburg; the Army of the Cumberland and the Army of the Tennessee on November 25, 1863 at Chattanooga. The forms of maneuver used in an attack, hasty or deliberate, will be discussed in Part 2.

An exploitation often follows a successful attack with the purpose of preventing the enemy from re-establishing the defense and to capture objectives deep in the enemy rear area. Usually an exploitation follows an attack, but it can follow a successful defense if the attacking enemy force decided to retreat. After Rosecrans maneuvered Bragg's Army out of Chattanooga in September 1863, he was

attempting to conduct an exploitation and capture objectives on Bragg's line of communication and supply. However, before the operation could be fully developed, Bragg regained the initiative and attacked Rosecrans.

A pursuit, like the exploitation, follows a successful attack or a successful exploitation. Where the exploitation orients on capture of terrain, the pursuit orients on the enemy force. The purpose of the pursuit is to cut off, capture or destroy an enemy force that is attempting to escape. The best example of a pursuit is the operations conducted by the forces under Grant's command from March 29 to April 9, 1865 as he pursued Lee's retreating Army of Northern Virginia west from Petersburg to Appomattox Court House.

#### **Points of Contact**

President, Mike Lang	720-840-1416
Treasurer, Larry Peterson	303-674-1740
Newsletter, Dave Townsend	303-973-0549

e-mail: [RockyMtnCWRT@aol.com](mailto:RockyMtnCWRT@aol.com)  
website: [www.RockyMtnCivilWarRT.com](http://www.RockyMtnCivilWarRT.com)

Message group home page:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockyMtnCWRT>

To subscribe to message group, send an email to:  
[RockyMtnCWRT-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:RockyMtnCWRT-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

December Issue Submission Deadline: Nov 30