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"Mind Jotting Down A Good Pass Defense While You're About It?"

100 YEARS AGO



## Yankees Whipped Again By Rebels

By LON K. SAVAGE

The mismanagement, confusion and inefficiency that caused the tremendous rout of federal troops at Bull Run in late July 1861, cropped up again 100 years ago this week in another federal attack near Washington.

Again, the federals were beaten -- and beaten badly. Nearly a thousand Union soldiers became casualties when they were cornered on a bluff overlooking the Potomac. There, just 30 miles north west of the national capital, they were captured or shot down by the scores; many drowned by trying to swim to safety; their commander, -- a national hero and former United States Senator -- was shot through the heart and killed. And when it was all over, a hue and cry went up in the North just like the hue and cry which had followed Bull Run.

### NO BATTLE PLANNED

This battle, unlike the one at Bull Run, had not been planned. Gen. George B. McClellan merely had suggested to Gen. Charles P. Stone at Dranesville that "perhaps a slight demonstration" along the Potomac would help the Union cause. Stone, in the same spirit, gave one of his officers--Col. Edward D. Baker, of Idaho, a Republican who had resigned from the Senate -- discretion to reinforce his small detachment on the Virginia side of the Potomac at Ball's Bluff. And Baker carried it from there.

Without investigating the opposite shore and apparently without any previous planning, Baker ordered his men across the river. Three hundred men crossed shortly after midnight, October 21 from Harrison's Island, ascended the 70 feet of Ball's Bluff and made their way to nearby Leesburg. There they ran into Confederates and retired to the bluff under fire. Meanwhile, boatload after boatload crossed the river, and the men took position around the bluff. By mid-afternoon, Baker himself crossed and took command of 1,700 men.

By this time also, Confederate Gen. Nathan "Shanks" Evans with an equal number

of men had taken strong positions in the hills surrounding the bluff, and his musket fire was taking its toll on the Confederates.

### CONFEDERATES CHARGE

Late in the afternoon, the 13th, 17th, and 18th Mississippi and the Eighth Virginia charged furiously, and Baker's defenses crumbled. Trying to rally his left, Baker himself, fell under Confederate fire. The New Yorkers and New Englanders tumbled headlong down the bluff, and so many crowded onto one of the boats that it was swamped and the men floundered in the water.

From there on Evan's job was little more than a mopup. More than 700 Yankees surrendered; 49 were killed and 158 were wounded (one of them being a young Massachusetts lieutenant named Oliver Wendell Holmes). The Southerners had lost only 33 killed and 115 wounded.

That was far from the end of it, however. Federal fury at the loss fell upon poor, innocent General Stone, and within four months he would be imprisoned as the scapegoat; his military career ruined from then until the end of his life.

NEXT WEEK: CONFEDERATE SAILORS TRIED FOR PIRACY.



## NOTES from an EDITOR'S DIARY

Peter B. Young



A WEEK AGO-- The paper came out, and I had taken advantage of a hiatus in the Buck schedule to make an off-tackle plunge deep into the heart of the American Southland.

So there I was, a yankee standing on Dexter Ave. in Montgomery, Alabama, looking up the route which Jefferson Davis rode to take the oath of office as the first (and last) President of the Confederate States of America.

I had come to Montgomery for a number of reasons -- one of which is pertinent to this column.

It was a WEEK AGO that I dropped by the office of Maj. Gen. Orvil A. Anderson to pay my respects and talk about the tricky relationship between old times and new problems.

Anderson had directed the operations of the mighty 8th Air Force in World War II, operations which burned out most of Urban Germany. This man literally wrote the book on strategic bombing.

Then, in 1950, from his position as the founding commandant of the Air War College, Anderson advocated a strategic strike on the five Soviet atomic plants that were -- in his phrase-- "hatching eggs."

If he had been successful in his advocacy of that plan, the course of World history

would have been changed. We would not now be worrying about Berlin and fallout shelters and Laos and South Viet Nam.

But, in a preview of the more publicized McArthur case, General Anderson was sacked (more or less in disgrace) by President Truman. The Air Force, though, takes care of its own and a little office was found at Maxwell Air Force Base where the "retired" strategist could shuffle a few papers and be on call when needed.

Now Anderson presides like a ghost at every USAF banquet table. History has caught up with the out-of-step prophet. But this is small consolation to the old man since every day he sees his worst fears being realized. And so he sits down there in Alabama, in an agony of frustration, and when friends come to call he really explodes.

"In terms of their purpose, which is world domination, Khrushchev and Mao are very able leaders. They understand the fundamental truth that you don't win without scoring. So, they score all the time. We, on the other hand, have a policy of 'containment' which, by definition forbids us to score. Every time there is a chance for us to score-- such as Hungary in 1956, such as East Germany right now--

We pass it by. We think if we were to score, that might start a war and we certainly couldn't do a thing like that!

"But Khrushchev and Mao know the war is raging all the time, and the way to win it is by scoring. So they do. We have a policy of 'containment' and we are the ones who are contained; we have a policy of 'deterrence' and we are the ones who are deterred. How queer can you get?"

"Now we could have had a relatively cheap victory in 1950. But this is 1961, and I can't give you a victory on the 1950 terms. And remember the price will be even higher in 1962."

I asked General Anderson whether the price for "victory" was not already prohibitive. This is a difficult question, because it depends entirely on your definition of the term "Prohibitive."

"You're off the beam," said Anderson, who frequently employs aerial metaphors. "Instead of worrying so much about what the casualty figures would be if we win, why don't you worry about the casualty figures if we lose? If we lose, I guarantee you that we're all dead."

The old man believes (with considerable justification) that the Soviets do not intend to conquer this country. Rather, they intend to eliminate

### PUPPY CREEK CYNIC

## Philosopher Says Man Can Enslave Himself Without Help Of Machines

Dear editor: I never have been worried over the chances of machines replacing man, as some people seem to fear as the machines get more and more complicated, especially the big, block-long electronic brain machines. In the first place, any time a machine can take over any job of work I'm doing, it's welcome to it. Nothing about that prospect that scares me.

But I was interested in the reasons a scientist gave the other day on why machines will not replace man.

According to this scientist, machines can't really think, they have to depend on man to put them into operation and to tell them what to add or subtract or multiply. And therefore, he said, to clinch his point, 'machines will never outstrip and

enslave man, they lack reason and cannot do what man endowed with reason can do, namely, screen sense from nonsense and make decisions from inadequate or even incorrect data."

As I understand this scientist's argument, if you feed a machine the wrong information, it'll come up with the wrong answer, it's only when you feed it the right information that it can come up with a correct answer, whereas if you feed man with the wrong information, he'll reason his way out and still come up with the correct answer.

Now, I'll tell you. This scientist may know a whole lot about machines, but I'm afraid he doesn't know a whole lot about people.

Two thirds of the world today is being fed the wrong information, and so far the people have reasoned their way through it no better than what you'd expect out of a hand-cranked adding machine.

Invariably, I suppose, when you feed the wrong information to a machine, bells ring and lights flash "tilt" and it comes up with the wrong answer, but feed the wrong information to people and you never know whether they're going to blow a fuse or throw their hats in the air and vote for you. There's many an officeholder today who owes his success to the fact people aren't as apt as machines when it comes to analyzing data.

People are more like my tractor engine. Regardless of what kind of gasoline you pour into it, it won't always plow. It may be true that machines will never enslave man, but we really don't need a machine for that anyway. Man is managing to do that by himself.

Yours faithfully,  
J. A.

### WHEN IS IT OUR TURN?"

## President Visits Carolina, World Is Daily More Grim

Last week, the young President of the United States visited Fort Bragg, a significant portion of which lies within Hoke County.

The publisher of this newspaper stood within a few feet of the President as he watched a demonstration of military skills and spoke briefly to the men of the 82d Airborne Division.

At the same time that the publisher was trailing in the President's mighty wake at Bragg, the editor of this newspaper was in Alabama for a six hour talk with one of the living legends of the U. S. Air Force, Maj. Gen. Orvil A. Anderson.

This coincidental coverage last Thursday by both publisher and editor demonstrates the old and obvious fact that the great conflict with the Russians reaches deep into the heart of every American community.

In connection with this conflict, there are still plenty of things that need doing right here in Hoke County--a realistic civil defense program, to name just one.

But since there is now supposed to be a "dialogue" going on between the young President and his constituents, we will direct our editorial remarks to the rolling rhetoric the Commander-in-chief delivered both at Bragg and earlier, at Chapel Hill.

To the paratroopers of the 82d Airborne, Kennedy offered a new phrase to describe our relationship with World Communism. He coined the phrase, "Cold Peace," to describe what has been going on since the end of World War II.

We regard that as a most unfortunate phrase. It is the position of this newspaper, repeatedly expressed, that a very real war is now in progress between ourselves and the forces of world communism. To put the "peace" tag on this great conflict is to continue the confusion of Americans as to what is going on and what is at stake. This continued confusion weakens our fighting fibre.

Now, of course, the President was trying to get away from the "Cold War" cliché, a phrase that is equally unfortunate. We need to keep ever in mind that men die daily in this conflict that is neither "cold" nor "peaceful." To the contrary, it is uncomfortably hot and violent.

And the mere fact that the use of nuclear weapons would make it considerably hotter should not blind us into thinking that as long as the "nukes" are kept on the shelf, the world continues "cold" or "peaceful."

The President also told the troops that it was forces such as theirs that "make it possible for freedom to maintain its position."

But a quick glance at the front page of any newspaper will show that "freedom" is everywhere on the defensive, as huge chunks of territory and people continue to slide over to the other side.

At Chapel Hill, the President took the long view. He said, "We must distinguish the real from the illusory, the long range from the temporary, the significant from the petty."

In other words, don't get excited about Laos, Cuba, Berlin, the Congo, Viet Nam, etc. These are all "petty" disasters. They don't count for much in the long range scheme of things, for, "If we can do our duty undeterred by fanatics of frenzy at home or abroad, then surely peace and freedom can prevail."

Well, now, we're all for the long view. We are all for the traditional American optimism that in the long run peace and freedom can "surely prevail." God is on our side, isn't He? Well, isn't He?

However, we would suggest to the President that if you don't win in the short run, there isn't any long run. The nation now reminds us of the clobbered boxer who staggered back to his corner at the bell and told his handlers to quit worrying because his whole strategy was to make the opponent over-confident from success.

Another grimly appropriate story from boxing is that of the fellow who told his friends that he had once gotten into the ring with Floyd Patterson and "I scared Floyd almost out of his mind." His friends wondered how this was possible, and the fellow replied: "Floyd thought he'd killed me."

And so round after round has gone to the Russian boxer, who, presumably, is both over-confident and scared by the margin of his easy victory to date.

We trust we are not joining the "fanatics of frenzy" when we ask, along with General Anderson: "When is it our turn to win a round?" When do we score?

At the discouraging rate events are trending now, The Great War for the World (our phrase) will be over before Uncle Sam does much more than throw one or two feeble jabs.

Meanwhile, we return to the difficult task of helping fight through a realistic civil defense program right here at home. So long as the president blows hot and cold--scaring folks one day and talking about "Cold Peace" the next--this difficult task is just about impossible. Maybe we need a few "fanatics of frenzy" after all!

## ECM Available For Drivers

ECM is the term given by the Air Force to special equipment that makes it possible for our bombers to sneak past enemy radar. The ECM initials stand for, "electronic counter-measures."

Now, with typical American ingenuity, some home-grown genius has applied the ECM principle to the problem faced by motorists who tangle with the radar speed traps operated by the Highway Patrol.

This week's New York Times carries an advertisement for "radar-gard," a little black box which is described as follows:

"Radar-Gard is the new electronic instrument that gives advance warning of radar-controlled speed zones within a one-half mile radius. An electronic 'beep,' set off by intercepted radar beams, alerts driver to reduce speed."

The advertisement even has the gall to justify this product with the claim that it "promotes safe driving." Obviously, it does no such thing. It is a device which enables the motorist to speed with impunity, until "radar-gard" warns him that the enemy lurks nearby.

ECM for the speeding motorist does open up some fascinating vistas. How about a small not. A very real problem now in the area of arms control is the fact that atomic energy is

How about a paralyzing nerve gas for thieves on the really big jobs?

How about a piggy-back rocket device for the ear burglar who, ordinarily, risks life and limb clambering over buildings?

You may think we're being facetious when we make these suggestions, but actually we're not. A very real problem now in the area of arms control is the fact that atomic energy is becoming so plentiful that it can be expected to turn up in the arsenal of powerful criminal groups such as the Mafia.

Government planners foresee the day when Mafia gangs will do their dirty work assisted by small nuclear weapons, presumably fall-out free.

And such a day of scientific "triumph" is brought nearer by the ECM that is now available

to speeding motorists. We can only add that the chronic speeder, for whom this device is expressly designed, is every bit as much a criminal as the professional racketeer.

"Radar-Gard" is available for \$39.95 from Goldsmith's Department Store in New York. Surely, it is the latest in a long line of miracles to flow from American ingenuity and abundance!

Kenneth Crawford writes, in Newsweek: "Granted that American public opinion is mercurial, all available evidence indicates that it is solidly behind Mr. Kennedy in his handling of the crisis and that it will remain so as long as he 'stands firm'. He is criticized more for doing too little than for doing too much to counter Soviet pressures. Judging from opinion polls, editorial comment and informal soundings, the 'better dead than Red' stickers appearing on automobile bumpers, while they may oversimplify the attitude, nevertheless, reflect something of the prevailing national mood. People are fed up with Khrushchev's hypocrisy and bluster. And this isn't because they lack understanding of the consequences of atomic war."

J. Edgar Hoover reports that fines, savings, and recoveries in FBI investigated cases during the year ending last June 30 reached a new peak of \$187,654,822, a figure which represents a return of \$1.34 for every dollar appropriated for the agency.

At the end of August the Defense Department announced that it was setting up a single Defense Supply Agency to serve all the military services--a move urged by the Hoover Commission and other authoritative bodies which have studied military procurement problems. The new Agency may handle an inventory of as much as \$21 billion, and Defense officials estimate its creation may save the taxpayers \$50 million a year.