

In Camp on The Rappahannock

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 4

SUMMER 2007

Special points of interest:

- Annual Inventory Reduction Sale Underway-Great Gifts
- Perryville and New Orleans program seating now available
- Dec 2007 Sherman's March through SC has only 3 seats left. Don't miss out--it will be special!
- BGES pushes WWII Sicily/ Italy program back to 2009

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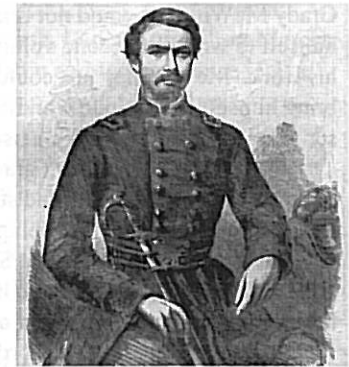
Sigel and Lyon at Wilson's Creek

Our August staff ride to Wilson's Creek offered the most detailed and critical look at this early battle ever undertaken in modern times. Led by historians Bill Piston, Parker Hills and Len Riedel the small cohort was informed, challenged and stimulated during an intensive immersion program designed around oppressive and memorable heat that often topped out at over 100 degrees in the field. Soft serve ice cream never tasted so good!

Three important aspects of the battle were uncovered begging one significant question. Of primary interest was the importance of the Wire or Telegraph Road as a 19th century interstate. Indeed it is impossible to understand much of the early part of the war without understanding

the primacy of the Wire Road. We traveled what was left of it to the pre battle engagement at Dug Springs and speculated that General Lyon's battle plan may have emerged from his previous operations along the road and that Generals McCullough's and Price's carelessness the night of August 9th may have resulted from the belief that Lyon had been there and wouldn't be coming back any time soon.

The second feature often overlooked is how much of the maneuver and battlefield is outside of the park boundaries. Indeed the secretive marches of Lyon and Sigel are neither marked nor recognized for their conception or brilliance of execution. Even worse, the core area of the four Confederate attacks against



Was Franz Sigel villified after Wilson's Creek because he was incompetent or because he was German?

Bloody Hill are outside the park boundaries--ironically across fields that are cleared of trees and undergrowth making it easier to envision those military operations. Unfortunately the park is not as visually open.

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Bearss & NGS To Do Another Book

Can It Be Even Better the 2nd Time Around?

In July, the National Geographic Society, Ed Bearss and the BGES agreed to collaborate on a second Bearss book. Parker Hills will be the editor. The tentative manuscript will be slightly longer than

the current book Fields of Honor. While still based upon the manuscripts of Bearss from BGES tours the theme of the book will be more focused allowing for more detail. The release date is targeted for early 2009 and work on the

manuscript has already begun. NGS editor, Lisa Thomas will again superintend the project. BGES will be compensated both up front and with royalties from this second book. We will keep you posted.

Braxton Bragg in the Wake of Perryville: Misplaced Officer One of Reasons the South Lost the War

The command of the Confederacy's western armies was dysfunctional with overt disloyalty in the subordinate officer ranks. The most reviled of the commanders was Braxton Bragg. Why was he so disliked?

It might be helpful to understand that Bragg's biographer, Grady McWhinney could not bring himself to write the second volume of his work. McWhinney just couldn't bring himself to continue working on someone he considered so loathsome.

Bragg, a West Point graduate, brought order to his forces and stability to northwest Florida before being called to Corinth. His performance at Shiloh should have alerted someone to his limitations and yet he was promoted to four star general rank. As subordinate to Pierre Beauregard he inherited the command after Beauregard was fired.

His first military campaign

took him to Kentucky where he failed to reign in Departmental commander Kirby Smith. Smith's independence prevented the effective use of the Confederate soldiers. After the battle at Perryville, Bragg held a council of war to determine what to do. When advised to retreat he accepted the recommendation only to be abandoned and criticized by the same officers who had advised him to take the action.

Bragg's military misfortune continued when an early success at Stone's River was reported to Richmond only to be downgraded to a draw or withdrawal. Bragg allowed himself to be maneuvered out of central Tennessee during the Tullahoma Campaign with very little bloodshed. Efforts were made to ease Bragg out of command but departmental commander, Joseph E. Johnston refused to take command. Bragg was sustained despite an increasingly aggressive campaign by



Bragg may have earned Davis' support and loyalty at Buena Vista subordinates to displace him

In September 1863, Lee's First Corps commander, James Longstreet came west to aid Bragg's army and participated in the victory at Chickamauga. He quickly joined in the chorus of critics. Dissention continued to plague the high command and in the wake of the victory, Bragg engaged in recriminations to remove disaffected subordinates. President Davis attempted to smooth the waters; **continued on page 4**

New Partnership to Expand Tour Offerings

A new arrangement with a retired British Army officer will add four programs to our 2008 schedule and will open the entire BGES schedule to a group of primarily European citizens and at the same time will open a number of European tours to the BGES.

Peter Lockwood of Olde Country Tours outside of London is an old and respected friend of Civil War students

and a leading member of the American Civil War Roundtable of Great Britain. He usually conducts two to three multiday tours of Civil War sites in America annually. They are usually tailored for a small audience and involve a number of battlefields in the same tour.

The arrangement allows more general tours of major sites than BGES currently offers and provides

a meaningful well run program for individuals who may not want the depth that our other programming offers.

Each organization will list an agreed number of each other's tours as their own and will advertise them with the annotation that this program is being conducted for BGES by Olde Country Tours. Both organizations have pledged a high level of quality and we believe you will enjoy any tours you take with them.

BGES's Annual Inventory Reduction Sale Book Bonanza Opens New Avenues of Scholarship for Members

You'll find enclosed an order form for our 2007 Inventory Reduction Sale. We have a particularly robust series of important offerings that are surplus from various tours and special book offerings. You will also find some special prices on the Bearss' book

Fields of Honor in both trade and leather editions.

All books are discounted, some as much as 95%. We are ready to order our 2008 seminar books and need the shelf space. Members of the BGES First Edition Autographed Book Club have had a three week head start and some books may be now sold out; in

that case money will be refunded.

This is a real chance for members to probe into areas that might otherwise be daunting. I know that before we set this schedule I was too busy to read in these areas, now I am delighted to have done so--you will be too. All books are new and well worth your investment.

Bearss Legacy Programs, A Magical Mystery Tour

If you aren't participating in Ed Bearss' Legacy Tour programs you are missing a "not likely to be repeated" treat. Recently, we completed the Philadelphia Campaign, the 1776 Long Island and New York Campaigns, Washington's Crossing, Trenton and Princeton; the 1777 Highlands Campaign including Stony Point, Fort Montgomery, Fort Clinton and West Point as well as Washington's Final Encampment at Newburgh.

The American Revolution is certainly misunderstood and the battlefields unappreciated and yet there are powerful sites still extant. We threw caution to the wind and tackled New York City with substantial rewards—the battle of Brooklyn and a dramatic interpretative stop at Flatbush Pass. We also visited the Conference House on



We studied New York City's Rev War history and also found Grant's tomb. Here's a view from Brooklyn.

Staten Island where the Howe brothers attempted to broker "peace" with Colonial representatives. In Manhattan, we visited Kips Bay, the Battle of Harlem Heights, Fort Washington, and later Fort Lee. Bearss had never taken a tour to those sites before. Kudos to Jim Davis for helping us make it happen.

North of the city we visited Stony Point where "Mad Anthony" Wayne earned his reputation and Fort Putnam at West Point which Benedict Arnold plotted to turn over to the British. A stop at Morristown reminded us that there was more than one severe winter for Washington's army.

As rich as this was Philadelphia was also a treasure trove. Brandywine, the Paoli Massacre, the Battle of the Clouds, Germantown, Whitemarsh, Valley Forge, Fort Mercer, Fort Mifflin and Independence Hall all made this a trip to remember.

We have 3 Rev War programs left—Boston in October, the Swamp Fox in the Carolina Lowlands from Wilmington, NC next April and the Saratoga Campaign of 1777 in late July 2008. I wouldn't miss any of them!

New Parks at Vicksburg & Gettysburg

As we learned at Wilson's Creek it is often hard to get an accurate interpretation when the historic vegetation has been overgrown. Fortunately, many battlefields are being dramatically cleared to restore the Civil War era view sheds.

At Vicksburg, the areas in front of John McClernand's siege lines have been cleared to reveal trench lines, monuments and fortifications that

hadn't been seen in 50 or more years. Other points have been cleared to open up the siege to an extent that people may get some concept of the magnitude of the effort. BGES will be visiting the park in mid November. Attendees will get to see the entire length of the defensive positions and the federal siege lines in detail never before undertaken.

For several years now the NPS has been clearing the Gettysburg woodlots

fronting Longstreet's attack on the second day. New vistas include the Trostle Woods and Plum Run where Barksdale was killed, the Devil's Den; the area of Farnsworth's charge, the Rose Farm and the Slyder Farm. The vistas are stunning. We will cover those fields in depth in June 2008. Make your plans to rediscover Gettysburg. I can assure you won't ever forget it!

With A Little Help For Our Friends

BGES to Partner with Ford's Theater in Presidential Box Flag Replacement

While the NPS's Ford's Theater site is being renovated the BGES will play a key role in its restoration by replacing three flags that were in the President's box when he was assassinated. You may see a black and white copy of one of them on page 6. The work will be completed before the theater reopens at the end of 2008.

One flag is made of silk and will be handpainted. The flags will be made to the exact specifications of the originals. The three staff poles supporting them were also and will be exact replicas.

The project will be done at a cost of less than \$6,000. Beth Cromwell is responsible for the project. She will be working with Ford's Theater historian,

Gloria Swift. Fundraising will start soon. All BGES members will be given an chance to participate in the project. BGES members have always been leaders and no doubt this project will be successful as well. With the Lincoln Bicentennial Commemoration set to begin in 2009, BGES is proud to play its part at this national site.

Sigel and Lyon at Wilson's Creek from Pg 1

Finally, the logistics on both sides were so poor as to make anything more decisive than a meeting engagement impossible. So why was Lyon there? What did he hope to achieve? Why didn't Fremont support him or recall him? Would Lyon have obeyed the order or was he driven by ideology to fight a decisive battle?

The post battle reports suggest that Lyon was attacking a vastly superior force. This worn out argument seems to be a double edged sword that was easy for commanders to use and they did. First by suggesting that they were outmanned they have a ready made excuse for a defeat should one occur. On the other hand, it makes the victory even more dramatic or heroic should they actually win.

While Lyon was clearly outnumbered it was not at the levels that his subordinates claimed after the battle. Indeed if Lyon faced the odds that Samuel Sturgis and John Schofield claimed then he was irresponsible in making any attack at all. Thus we were led to conclude that he didn't really believe that or he would not have split his force.

This begged the real question that arose after following Sigel's march to the Confederate rear. This move does not appear to have been the result of Sigel voting his German constituency or demanding a separate command. Indeed Sigel's presence and success on the battlefield was not an independent action nor was his move to block the Wire Road with

artillery and infantry. It was our conclusion that he was ordered to position himself to catch the routed Confederates after Lyon attacked. He had a smaller force because that was all that was needed to catch the fleeing enemy. When he was unexpectedly attacked by McCullough his force rallied in Springfield which led us to conclude that he had positive control of his troops until they were routed but even then they had the presence to reconstitute.

We won't ever know the plans of Lyon and Sigel. They were not written down and that in and of itself was sufficient to play a major part in the Union defeat. But tradition may not be more than a long standing and disguised prejudice against the German immigrants and those who "Fights mit Sigel." Certainly historians looking for new angles to this story might consider it.

Bragg's Fall from Grace continued from Page 2

but, Bragg would not be easily satisfied. His orders had not been implemented at McLemore's Cove or during the battle of Chickamauga and the victory was more an accident of Union incompetence than Confederate tactics. When Bragg failed to order an aggressive pursuit to Chattanooga he was all but finished as a commander.

Bragg engaged in an ineffective siege of Chattanooga. While there he dispatched Longstreet to Knoxville thus fatally weakening his force. When

US Grant opened the "cracker line" it was but a matter of time. At the end of November, Lookout Mountain was lost and Missionary Ridge shortly thereafter. Routed and disgraced, Bragg requested and was relieved of his command.

Leadership is defined as getting things done through the actions of others. Bragg failed because he was not a leader. Subordinates mistrusted him and consequently withheld their loyalty. Bragg did the same. Luck also played a role and Bragg was unlucky.

At Shiloh he drew the position opposite the Hornet's Nest and unimaginatively assaulted it repeatedly. At McLemore's Cove he missed the chance for a crushing victory because he could not get his attack orders carried out. Finally, he appeared to lack manhood. He asked subordinates their opinions of him and they insulted him. Nathan Bedford Forrest thought him so weak that he threatened to kill him if he ever crossed him again. None were ever held to account.

Funding the War, North and South

Both governments faced huge challenges in funding mobilization for war. The Northern states and government had a tradition of governance spanning just over 70 years. That legislative experience allowed the administration under the guidance of Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase to immediately estimate and begin planning for the increased expense. Even at that time the estimated cost per

day would be nearly a million dollars. Chase was prepared to borrow 75% of the money and planned to raise another 19% from the sale of public lands and other increases in collections from existing revenue sources. Four days after 1st Bull Run, Congress authorized a domestic tax bill that levied duties on real estate and various other sin taxes associated with consumption of goods. This effort proved unfair and was soon

replaced with a personal and corporate income tax. This Legal Tender Act was signed but not implemented. However by early 1862, it was modified to a direct tax rate of between 3% and 5%. In 1864 it was further amended to increase the rates to a range of from 5% to 10%. Although ruled unconstitutional in 1872, it did raise the expected revenue and formed the basis of our present income tax system.

Continued on page 5

The 1820 Missouri Compromise, Pandora's Box

Although the United States was barely 30 years old slavery had placed its mark indelibly on the national psyche. With 11 free and 11 slave states in the Union Congress had carefully attempted to alternate the admission of free and slave states. By 1818, Missouri had benefited from immigration to the extent that she was ready to petition for statehood. With thousands of slaves already living in the territory admission as a slave state was considered essential to protect the slave owners. This was unacceptable to the free state legislators who saw within the proposal a growing influx of slaveholding southerners throughout the territories of the Louisiana Purchase.

Admission of Missouri as a slave state would have given the slave states an advantage of two votes in the Senate but within the House of Representatives the free states would still hold a 105 to 81 advantage. Regardless, the free states would not compromise and it took a movement by Maine, which broke away from Massachusetts, to provide a countervailing vote in the Senate.

The immediate problem was now solved; however, the longer term problem lurked. If slave owners flooded into the new territories it would be hard to disenfranchise them so an arbitrary line was drawn restricting slavery to the areas south of 36 degrees and 30 minutes latitude. That congressional

agreement served as the basis for future expansion and created conditions by which slave owners sought to expand their opportunities in Cuba, Nicaragua and ultimately Mexico. That later war promised new slave territories that Pennsylvania congressman, David Wilmot attempted to sidetrack with the Wilmot proviso. That prohibited slavery in any of the territories ceded from the Mexican War. Although the amendment failed, the lines were clearly drawn.

In the next newsletter we will discuss the implications of the Compromise of 1850.

Perryville Walking Tour Can't be Beat

At the end of October, Auburn University professor Ken Noe, author of *This Grand Havoc of Battle*, and Perryville site manager Kurt Holman will lead a VIP tour of the campaign and battle that ended at Perryville in October 1862. Based in Harrodsburg at the historic and grand Beaumont Inn this is a wonderful fall interlude that you shouldn't miss.

Perryville was the culminating battle in Braxton Bragg's and Kirby Smith's ill-fated effort to "liberate" Kentucky.

Plagued by duplicity and Smith's refusal to subordinate himself to Bragg, the Confederates lost a golden opportunity to win a dramatic and decisive victory over Don Carlos Buell's Union army. Buell lost his job; but, Bragg lost the confidence of his subordinates with ramifications that would play out within the Confederate leadership over the next 14 months.

Perryville is the most important battle in Kentucky and like other dramatic battles such as Prairie Grove

in December 1862 it secured a state permanently for the Union. The tactics are interesting and the battlefield itself is nearly completely preserved thus making it possible to walk all the hallowed grounds as they were. Indeed this may be the greatest battlefield preservation achievement in the past 20 years—a timely response to an opportunity with the benefit of seeing a site in its pure form, a rare treat especially when led by such august scholars. Call us for more details.

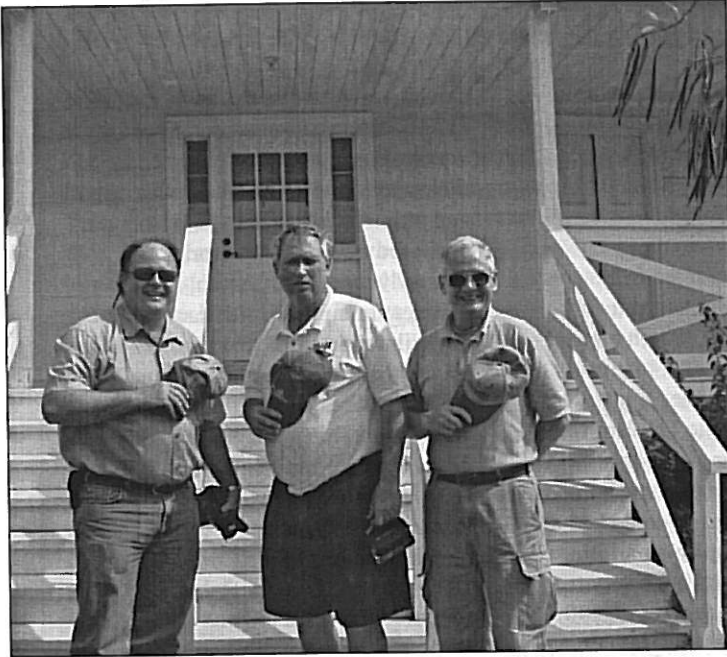
Did You Know? The Democrats considered nominating Jefferson Davis as their candidate for president in 1860--his sponsor was Benjamin Butler! Davis feared that his nomination would polarize the party and suggested former president Franklin Pierce of New Hampshire be nominated for another term.

Funding the War from page 4

In the South fierce independence and suspicion of a central government fueled resistance to a central collection system. It was not until 1863 that Secretary Memminger was able to get legislation approved. Because of the built up debt of the first 21 months of the war he sought a 10% tax rate and a 1% real estate tax. The representatives in Congress anxiously upped the ante

proposing rates on income of between 14% and 24%. The Senate Finance committee decisively rejected that and proposed its own legislation ranging from 5% to 15%. Political reality severely watered down the bill and the rate finally implemented exempted the first \$1000 of income and only levied 1% to 2% on incomes. While touted as anti inflationary, the government was unable to implement an effective collection system (perhaps because

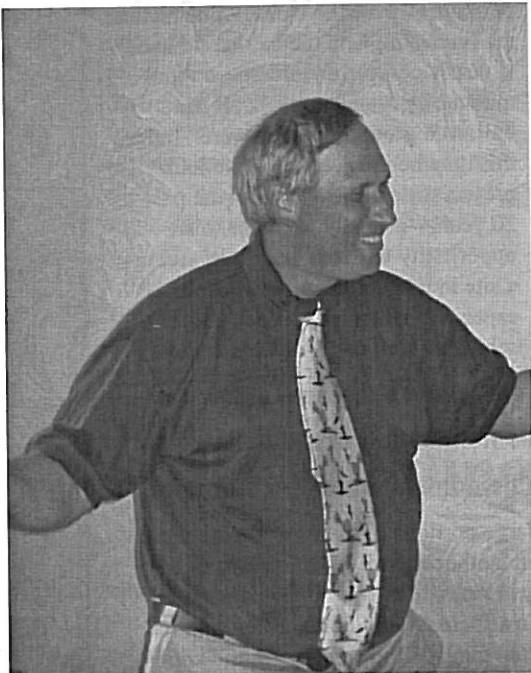
large portions of their population were in land occupied by Union armies) and that which was collected was insufficient with the runaway inflation that plagued the country. In the end, Congress never displayed either the will or the capability to make the decisions necessary to give the Confederate States government the financial resources needed to fight the war.



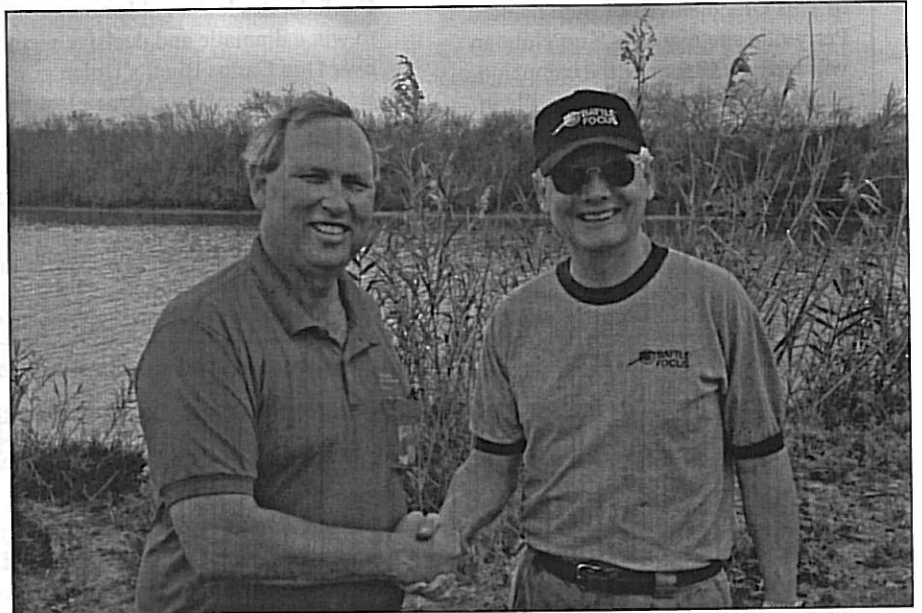
Here are Bart Allen of Dallas, Texas, Executive Director, Len Riedel and Parker Hills at Robert E. Lee's house at Fort Ringold in Rio Grande City. This was part of Lee's Texas prewar career.



This is the US Treasury Flag which is one of the three flags that the BGES is going to replace at Ford's Theater. There are two United States type flags and their flag poles which are part of the job



On the trip to Europe, Riedel failed to edit the instructional letter requiring gentlemen to bring coats and ties for dinner. Since he didn't bring one the BOBs presented him with a chicken tie for his golf shirt and in mock protest of the preponderance of chicken meals on the menu.



The last battle of the Civil War was fought on the banks of the Rio Grande near South Padre Island at Palmito Ranch. I had told Parker Hills that I could and would take him places that he would have never imagined existed and when we stood at the banks (that is Mexico across the river) he broke into this grin and said "By Golly you did it! It wasn't much to look at but it was the last- a real buff's check box item.



Perhaps the most important honor we had at Omaha Beach--BGES lowered the flags at the American Cemetery. WWII vets Ed Bearss, Bill Plant and Dale Roth were assisted by US Army Rangers and combat veterans John Hoy and Ken McGraw and veterans Brigadier General Jim Grant (USAF retired) and Major Len Riedel, (USAF-retired).



This picture is the least incriminating of the lot! Jim Grant, and Len Riedel are enjoying a Belgium Waffle with Strawberries and cream at a sidewalk cafe. This followed a grilled Bratwurst. Tom Cotter is pretending to be good--let he who is without sin....Take two Lipitor in the morning.

THE BLUE AND GRAY EDUCATION SOCIETY'S NEWSLETTER

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None the worse for the wear. Here we stand in front of the cathedral in Cologne. It was one of the few structures to survive the fire bombing of Germany. Ian Glennie, kneeling next to Ed, was our facilitator and he certainly opened doors for us. Willie (not pictured) was a great driver!

Bearss' Archive Project Goes to Europe

Simply Incredible: At 84 Years Young He Walked Our Feet off and Watered Our Eyes

I just have to say this before reporting on the Ed trip to Europe. This man is the most astonishing fountain of knowledge that the good lord ever blessed a country with. Calling him a National Treasure is inadequate. I will tell you that we will never see his likes again in our lifetime. How he acquires this knowledge, orders it and then interprets it can't be described; but, it wasn't until we make this trip and he gave me copious notes to guide me in preparing for a future Italy program that I came to fully appreciate it. I hope he lives forever and certainly through these archives and tapes he will.

Its tough work but someone had to do it! From July 10-22, twenty four friends and members of the BGES followed Ed Bearss across the "Great Battlefields of Western Europe." The names are enough to raise goose bumps: Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno and Sword Beaches, Pointe du Hoc, The hedgerows at Brecourt Manor, Pegasus Bridge, cemeteries honoring all the dead—British, German and American, The Battle of the Somme, Lochnagar Crater, Waterloo, The site of the death of the Red Baron of Germany, Rommel's brush with death,

Operation Market Garden, The Battle of the Bulge, The Huertgenwald (Haunted Woods), Elsenborn Ridge, Malmedy, Bastogne and Remagen (site of the Ludendorff Bridge)! But I can tell you nothing is as powerful as walking the sites.

As emotionally evocative as the battlefields were the special features of the tours were even more memorable. At one end of Omaha Beach we had lunch at the Hauserman's in their Vierville-sur-Mer Chateau where both the Germans and Americans made their headquarters before and after the landings. The young boy, Hauserman was a witness to the battle in his back yard. We walked into the hedgerows that so vexed the allied breakout and rode on a prayer and the wind with the airborne troops in their gliders into St. Mere Eglise. We experienced combat raw and deadly—the Lochnagar crater at the Somme and the endless machine gun defended trenches where men charged over the top at the call of a whistle. We saw Napoleon meet his Waterloo and walked in the courtyard where so many soldiers engaged in hand to hand combat. We then suffered with the British

paratroopers who found themselves unable to seize the bridge at Arnhem and rejoiced when the bridge at Remagen was found intact. We followed the "Bucket of Blood" Brigade into the Kull Gorge and respected the bold tenacity of the Americans in the desperate fight. Of course everyone recalls the plight of the isolated 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne. We knew how it must have relieved "Nuts" McAulliffe when Patton's III Army arrived. Who could ever forget George C. Scott's heroic portrayal?

While we gained over 60 hours of precious archival narratives we also had something much more memorable—a great time! Far in excess of the fee that was charged. The vast majority of the group traveled over and back together but the group was solidly bonded long before the tour ended. We even saw the birth of a new affinity group—the Bobs. Better known as the "Back of the Busers," they developed an identity, language and culture that will rival other great Bearss' groups such as the Joe Hooker Society for fame and tradition. Next on the agenda is Sicily and Italy—pass the pasta and vino.