

# Intelligence Service Europe

SCV Europe Camp #1612

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## Intelligence Service Europe, Year V, Issue 2, April / May 2012

### Commander's Letter

Compatriots and friends of our Camp!

We are moving quickly towards the summer, the sun smiles again and temperatures are rising. Spring time always gives energy to move forward. We have a big program for this year. The funerary monument of Captain Thomas Jefferson Page, C.S. Navy (commander of the C.S.S. Stonewall) and his son, Major T.J. Page, Jr., C.S. Army will soon be shining like new again.

Also we're looking forward to have our traditional honor ceremony at Col. Heros von Borcke's grave in Poland. In this issue you will find interesting articles. It's astonishing to find so many spots related to American history here in Europe. From many Confederate graves we're locating and marking one-by-one over the years, up to monuments remembering the origins of the USA. Read the article about the John Adams statue in Spain on pages 14/15. The 2nd president of the original United States has a previously little known memorial there. Remember also what Jefferson Davis said about the Constitution.

Well, enjoy this issue and be assured you can expect lots of news this year!

In the service of the South

*Achim "Archy" Bänsch*  
Commander



## Adjutant's Dispatch

Gentlemen of the South,

I am happy to report that we are making very good progress on our project to restore the Tomb of Captain Thomas Jefferson Page, Confederate States Navy, in Rome, Italy.

(As a short reminder – Europe Camp and compatriots from the States held an Honor Ceremony in Rome in 2010 – and vowed to work to bring back to life the badly-deteriorated monument to a remarkable U.S. Navy and C.S. Navy officer. (Page sailed the last Confederate ironclad ram from Europe – humiliating two U.S. Navy warships that backed down from his challenge. See my article in *Confederate Veteran* May/June 2011).

Through your generous donations and enthusiastic moral support, both from across the US (but especially South Carolina) and Europe (but especially from Spain), we are to the point where the legal documents can be signed so that the actual restoration work can go forward. A draft of the Agreement between the Non-Catholic Cemetery in Rome and the Executive Director of the Sons of Confederate Veterans has been approved by both sides and the final documents are being drawn up for signature.

Once this is signed, the funds can be transferred from National Headquarters and from the SCV Europe Camp to the NCC - and the work can begin.

It is presumed that the work will be carried out between now and high summer. If at all possible, it is planned to hold a Re-dedication Ceremony at the gravesite this year – possibly in September. I will keep you informed on this.

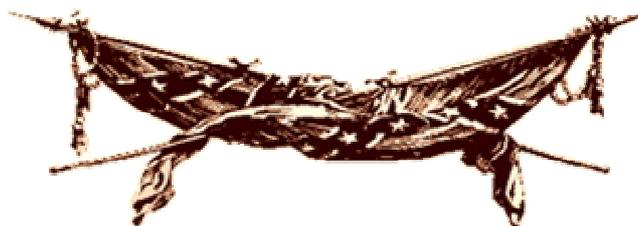
This restoration marks a major international effort to keep the memory of a memorable American (both U.S. and C.S.) patriot alive.

We are proud of our Captain – and I think he would be proud that we are doing our duty towards him.

Confederately yours,

*Chris McLarren*

Adjutant and Page Project Office



## **EDITOR' S NOTE**

Europe Camp's Sesquicentennial project in Europe is moving forward very fast! The most important Confederate funerary monument on European soil will shine like new very soon. Read the news release of Page Tomb Restoration Project Officer and Camp Adjutant Chris McLarren.

CiC Givens has a special message for us all. His column will come out in the next Confederate Veteran magazine, but we reproduce it here because of the importance of its content.

April 2012 is the 150 anniversary of the battle of Shilo. Read the excellent contribution by Robert Slimp, as published in the PPJ newsletter of the SCV South Carolina Division in February. I am indebted to both the author and Bill Norris, Editor-in-Chief of the PPJ, whose associate editor I am, for granting permission to publish it in our newsletter.

Also, our Camp Library is offering a very good e-book for free download, with a full account of the battle based on the personal experiences of Alexander Walker, war-correspondent of the *New Orleans Delta*. I think it's a good moment for recommending the readers to have a look at past e-book offers in other issues of the ISE, both in Word.doc and pdf. All of them are still being offered for free.. Just check out the past issues of our newsletter and contact me! May I mention that the book offered in this issue would cost you 27,99 \$ if bought as hard copy at *amazon.com* – and you can get it for free here! Even if you have the document printed after download it will be cheaper.

Did you know that there is a statue of John Adams in Spain? Adams shaped the Constitution of the United States; the treasure the Confederacy wanted to see protected and preserved many years later. Read about the story of this statue.

Bertil Haggman is one of our most active members, his contributions on Swedish Confederates in past issues have just been published in similar articles in this forum: [http://www.fantasy.com/civil\\_war/2012/02/18](http://www.fantasy.com/civil_war/2012/02/18).

We have a very special educational movie for you. See our Southern review of Buster Keaton's legendary "The General" and get an invitation for a historical railway raid next April 14. For us Europeans that's too far away, but it will be of interest to many of our growing American readers for sure.

Enjoy this issue!



*Raphael Waldburg-Zeil*  
Editor



## **Message from CIC Michael Givens**



15 March 2012, Beaufort, South Carolina

Compatriots, Family and Friends of the South,

I hope you are all well. We are living in troubled times. Assaults on our beloved Southland and her rich heritage are now coming faster than ever. Certain organizations that were once bastions of truth and providers of sanctuary for the noble story of the Confederacy are now aligned with the mythmakers of modern appeasement to downplay or falsify the deeds of our valiant ancestors. The dignity of our unique and decent people is being traded for an easy dollar.

When I imagine a world without the influence of the traditional values of the Southern American I see a dangerous place. If you agree and like me, witness the deliberate damage being waged on our culture then we must act now or we will lose our best opportunity to stem this irreversible tide.

The Confederate Veteran magazine comes out once every two months. By the time I write my column and it arrives at your doorstep the news is old. For the first time, I wish to share my thoughts with you early. The following article will appear in the next issue of our magazine. I wanted you to have it now so we may begin to work together to turn back this vicious assault.

In this column you will read about the need to sharpen our communication skills and how to begin to use them so that we may work as the mighty force that we truly are. I cannot do this alone. In order to turn back this storm of misinformation, I will need every one of you and more. The time to strike is now! Will you help? Will you stand for your ancestors as they stood for you?

God bless you all.

Michael Givens  
CiC, SCV

On Valentine's Day 1951 in the Chicago Stadium, Jake LaMotta defiantly stood his ground against Sugar Ray Robinson. In this his final fight with his long time adversary, LaMotta had a point to prove. In the thirteenth round he dropped his hands and leaned against the ropes inviting Robinson to do his worst. Director Martin Scorsese heightened the drama in this scene from his movie Raging Bull by aptly demonstrating LaMotta's will and stamina <http://bit.ly/xsdywH> . After six fights and sixty-five rounds with Robinson, LaMotta never once went down. Like Jake LaMotta, the Confederacy will not go down. Our enemies keep punching us, but we will not go down.

**We, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, are the vanguard. As for me, I wish others would stand and fight in this battle to honour and preserve the truth of the Southern Cause with us. But if we must fight alone, then so be it. When my days and efforts are discussed and debated by my own progeny, then I hope my actions to be considered in the same breath as my noble ancestors. For me, part of winning is the valiant act of standing for what is right, regardless of the consequences.**

English writer, G.K. Chesterton said, the true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him. Mr. Chesterton's phrase "what is behind him," may be interpreted in two ways; 1. our heritage is behind us and 2. our supporters are behind us. Our heritage defines the mission and our desire to defend it. Our ancestors were so committed to the cause that they were willing to fight, kill and die for it. I thank the Lord that there is little killing and dying in our battles today (always remember Michael Westerman), but even the bloodless battles are serious.

The supporters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans come from all walks of life. They are members of other heritage groups, unaffiliated Southerners and like-minded individuals from all over the world. Regardless of race, colour or creed, once people understand the true history of the South we often gain support.



During the War, Colonel John S. Mosby managed miraculous success, often with only a handful of men under his command. The reason for his triumph is attributed to his daring and relentless raids on the enemy. With surgical precision, Mosby caused such havoc behind the lines that the enemy was forced to expend their resources in places other than their front. Colonel Mosby was certainly responsible for extending the war by weakening and distracting his foe. Again, this was accomplished with a virtual handful of eager compatriots.

Imagine if Mosby had had the command of say 31,000 men (nearly the current membership of the SCV). Imagine again if Mosby had the command of 100,000 men (estimate of SCV plus supporters). If this had been the case, Confederate Soldiers today would not be referred to as "Rebels" but as "Patriots." We would not suffer a museum director who is intoxicated by the Yankee dollar and terrified to display a Confederate flag outside of a Confederate museum. We would not have to fight a department of motor vehicles merely to enjoy the same civil rights as other organizations of displaying our non-profit company logo on a license plate. We would not have to fight a state supported art museum for the right to fly a Confederate flag at a church that was built for Confederate veterans. Nor would we have to reschedule and relocate a Christian service to another location because the church where Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee worshiped might be afraid that a Confederate flag may be seen in public. No, if Colonel Mosby had had the power and support of this many men we would be enjoying the American brand of liberty today that was the vision of the founders of this grand republic at its inception.

Well, we certainly can't go back and join forces with Colonel Mosby, but we can follow his lead and do our duty as one massive fighting force today. To paraphrase the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu: I think that a strong SCV is the only SCV that will bring our enemies to the peace table. So how do we strengthen the SCV to force such an historic and life-changing event?

First, stop bickering amongst ourselves. Second, embrace the notion that some of our battles require a comprehensive strategy that is best directed from the office of your Division Commander and/or your Commander-in-Chief.

Our ancestors relied on couriers and the signal corps to relay messages and prepare the line of battle. Can you imagine the extraordinary success that would have resulted if General Jackson had had a device to immediately communicate with all of his men on the field, at once?

Can you imagine what would happen if we could orchestrate such a concentrated attack on an enemy position? If you can visualize victory then you can see the results of such an effort.

We are at a crossroads. We are approaching the midpoint of the sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence. In a few years we will emerge from this unique opportunity as a fraternal gentlemen's association, quietly meeting in buildings with no outward exhibit of the emotions so openly displayed inside or as the victorious defenders of the Cause that our families sacrificed everything for one hundred and fifty years ago. The former is nothing to be ashamed of. An association of like-minded Southerners is a noble and comforting thought. But if your desire is the latter option then you must arm yourself quickly with the tools to ensure success.

Our enemies are smart and cunning. They are cruel and self-serving and wish for us to fail. Our task at hand is easier than you might imagine. Communication is the key element to this plan, followed by precisely focused action. First we need each and every SCV Camp to have a unique and free email account. You may use any free service available just make sure its' password information can be passed from the present camp commander on to the next when necessary.

Set this up now and send the Camp's email address with the names of the Camp's officers to the SCV Chief of Staff, Spike Speicher. His email address is:

**[colspike@hotmail.com](mailto:colspike@hotmail.com)**.

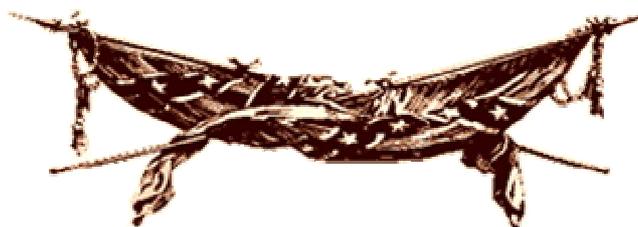
Once this is completed you will be subscribed to the Telegraph and will receive further directives only when it is deemed vital. Second, and this is very important, everyone, SCV member or supporter must open a Twitter account and follow the **[Commander-in-Chief@CICSCV](https://twitter.com/CICSCV)**.

Go to: **<https://twitter.com/signup>** and sign up for an account. The service is free and it enables me (or our future CIC) to direct actions for the immediate surgical strikes that will lead us to victory. The whisper of 100,000 people can be heard from far away, envision a resounding Rebel Yell from such an army. It's deafening.

Albert Einstein said, "The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing". You have the power to make a difference and effect a change for the better. I will not look on and do nothing and like The Raging Bull, I'm never going down! Are you with me? Let's Roll!

Respectfully yours,

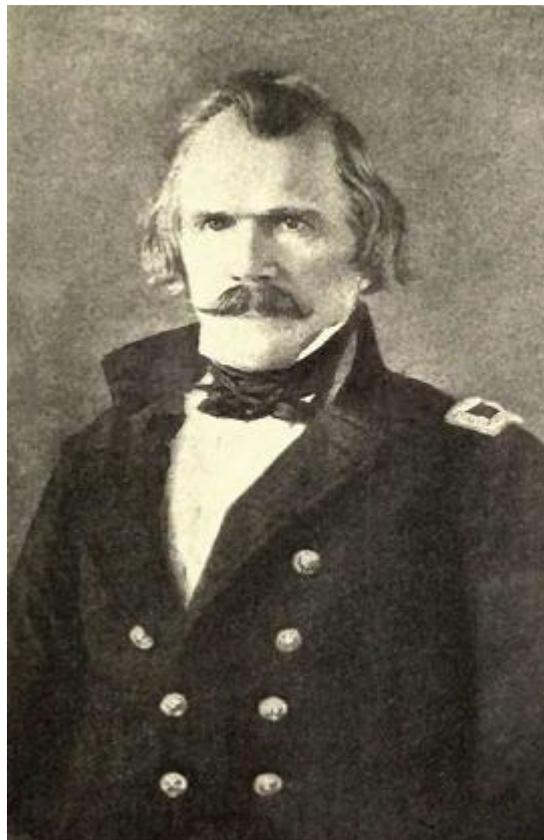
Michael Givens  
CiC, SCV



## **THE BATTLE OF SHILO**

By Robert Slimp (abridgment from the PPJ newsletter, South Carolina Division, SCV, February 2012)

The Battle of Shiloh (Pittsburg Landing) was by far the most important battle fought in the War for Southern Independence during the first months of 1862. The battle was fought on April 6 and 7, 1862 because a Union Army of nearly 49,000 troops commanded by Union General Ulysses Grant had moved down the Tennessee River deep into Tennessee and was encamped at Pittsburg Landing on the west bank. It was Grant's goal to march through Mississippi, beginning at Corinth and then through Alabama, where he hoped to capture enough Confederate forts, cities and towns to gain control of the Father of Waters for the Union.



**General Albert Sydney Johnston**

Confederate General, Albert Sidney Johnston commanded the Confederate army of about 44,700 troops and second in command was General P.G.T. Beauregard. General Johnson learned from intelligence obtained from Union prisoners, of Grant's intentions and decided that they would drive the Union invaders from the Tennessee before Grant could be reinforced by the Army of the Ohio, commanded by Maj. General Don Carlos Buell. Buell's Army would raise the number of Union forces to about 66,800 men. Unfortunately General Buell's Army arrived on April 5. That meant that if the Confederates hoped to win the struggle, they would have to make a surprise attack very quickly and separate the Yankees from their Gun Boat support, and their avenue of retreat on the Tennessee River.

General Beauregard feared that the element of surprise had been lost and recommended withdrawing to Corinth. General Johnson however, refused to consider retreat. Johnson named his newly assembled force, the Army of the Mississippi. He concentrated his men at first about 20 miles from Grant's position at Pittsburg Landing. His commanders were Maj. General Leonidas Polk, General Braxton Bragg, Maj. Gen. William J. Hardee and Brigadier Gen. John C. Breckenridge. On the eve of battle there was no knowledge of the coming surprise and Grant telegraphed General Halleck, his commander, that the Confederates were not anywhere nearby; he discounted any possibility of an attack from the South. When an Ohio Colonel warned General Sherman that an attack was eminent, Sherman replied, "take your damned regiment back Ohio. There is no enemy nearer than Corinth." Grant and Sherman would soon eat their words. The Battle of Shiloh would soon begin. Actually Shiloh was a small and almost unknown Methodist Church in a tiny farming community. It was located right in the middle of the battle area. Ironically, Shiloh means "Peace in Hebrew.



Unlike the Union President, Jefferson Davis had been kept informed and he had given Johnston, one of his favorite Generals, permission to attack. At 6 o'clock right after first light, the attack began. Johnston's Army was deployed for battle and spent the entire night bivouacking undetected only two miles away from the Union camps. Their approach and dawn assault achieved almost total surprise. The Union Army had virtually no patrols in place for early warning. Even pickets were so very few in number that they were immediately captured. Johnston had ordered General Polk to take the left, Bragg the center and Hardee the right. Breckenridge was in reserve, but was told to be ready to enter the fray immediately if the early offensive was slowed down. Even General Beauregard, admitted that the attack was flawless. Johnson led the attack himself attacking the right flank to prevent the Union Army from reaching the Tennessee River.

The Other Confederate Generals charged the Federal lines with massed troops on a three mile wide front. The Yankee soldiers began to surrender, drop their rifles and run for the Tennessee River. The other Confederate generals kept up the momentum of the three mile charge and thousands of Federal units were overrun and surrendered.

Maj. General Lew Wallace's command had been left in reserve at a place called Stoney Lonesome. As soon as the Confederates attacked, Grant sent orders for Lew Wallace to move his unit immediately to blunt the attack, but he took a different route from the one Grant intended. Lew Wallace's orders were to find and reinforce General Sherman. Not only did he fail to find Sherman but the battle line had moved so far that Lew Wallace now found himself in the rear of the advancing Confederate troops. Confused, he turned his men around and marched back to Stoney Lonesome and then to Pittsburg Landing arriving at Grant's position at about 7 p.m. when the fighting was practically at an end. Grant was infuriated and his battle report of Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace was so negative that it severely damaged his military career. Today, Lew Wallace is best remembered not as a soldier, but as the author of the great Novel, Ben - Hur.



On the main Union defensive line, starting at about 9:00 am, the men of General Prentiss and Maj. General Wallace's divisions established a position called the Hornet's Nest, in a field that was equally difficult to defend and attack. General Johnston decided the Confederates would try to force the Yankees out of this position and they began to succeed. The Union forces to the left and right of the Nest were forced back, and Prentiss's position became a salient in the line. Coordination among the Union units in the Nest was poor, and they withdrew based solely on their individual commander's decision. This pressure increased with the mortal wounding of Wallace who commanded the largest concentration of troops in position. Regiments became disorganized and companies disintegrated. However, it was not until the Confederates assembled over 50 cannons to blast the line at close range that they were able to surround the position, and the Hornet's Nest fell after holding out for seven hours. General Prentiss surrendered himself and the remains of his division to the Confederates.

A large portion of the Union survivors, numbering about 2,400 men were captured.

Looking to keep on outflanking the Union Army, General Albert S. Johnston led another charge against the Union forces to keep them from Pittsburgh Landing when suddenly at about 2:30 pm, he was shot in his left leg. He deemed his wound to be insignificant and easily treated but about half an hour later he fell from his horse and died almost immediately. Doctors, who examined him said, had he sought medical help right away he would have easily survived. He bled to death due to a severed artery.



**Johnston Memorial, Shilo National Military Park**

Beauregard assumed command and immediately ordered Johnston's body hidden to avoid hurting moral. President Davis later said that one bullet had killed his best General. Unfortunately Beauregard was in the rear and did not know exactly what was happening in the battle when he took command. He resumed attacks against the Hornet's Nest which was likely a tactical error. The Union flanks were slowly pulling back to form a semicircular line around Pittsburg Landing, and if Beauregard had prevented this by outflanking his enemies, he might have defeated the Union Army very quickly. However April 6 ended without the Confederates being able to stop the Union forces from defending their entry to the Tennessee River and their gun boats. General Beauregard sent a telegram to President Davis announcing "A Complete Victory!"



**General Beauregard**

General Beauregard did not come to the front to inspect the strength of the Union lines but remained at Shiloh Church. He also discounted intelligence reports from Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest that Buell's men were crossing the river to reinforce Grant. If they could do that overnight, it would be too late to win the next day. Forest was right and by morning Beauregard was unaware that he was now outnumbered by about 45,000 men. The Confederates had withdrawn south into Prentice's and Sherman's former camps, and Polk's bivouac, miles southwest of Pittsburg Landing. The Confederate soldiers were very tired, and needed to locate food, water, and shelter for a good night's rest. By the morning of April 7th, General Buell's Ohio Brigade raised the number of Union soldiers to about 62,000, while the Confederates were down to about 28,000 effective men. General Beauregard was not yet aware of the fact that he was so badly outnumbered.

He planned to continue to attack and drive Grant into the Tennessee River. Instead, he was surprised by Union forces moving forward in a counter attack toward the Confederates. The Confederate defenders were taken by surprise and were not only unprepared for an attack, but it took two hours to locate General Polk and bring up his Division. However, by 10 a.m. Beauregard had stabilized his front with his corps commanders. The fighting was so intense that Sherman described it in his report as "the severest musketry fire I ever heard." In the early afternoon Beauregard launched a series of counterattacks from the Shiloh Church area, aiming to ensure control of the Corinth Road. The Union right was temporarily driven and flanked but soon Beauregard's attack was repulsed by Grant. With over 10,000 of his men killed, wounded or missing, Beauregard realized that he had lost the momentum and was low on ammunition and food. He knew he could not obtain his objective of driving the Yankees into the Tennessee River so he withdrew beyond Shiloh Church using 5,000 men under Breckenridge to ensure control of the Corinth Road. These forces kept the Union forces at bay until 5 p.m. when the Confederates began an orderly withdrawal back to Corinth, Mississippi. The now exhausted Union troops stopped their slow advance.

On the morning of April 8, Grant sent Sherman south along the Corinth Road on a reconnaissance mission to ascertain if the Confederates had retreated or were regrouping to resume their attacks. As the 77th Ohio Infantry approached, having difficulty clearing the way in the unfriendly terrain, Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest ordered a charge producing a wild battle. Col. Forrest led the charge but he soon found, as he looked over his shoulder, that he was alone and only a few yards from a large group of Union soldiers. They yelled, "Kill the Rebel officer. Don't let him get away." A Yankee soldier shoved his musket into Forrest's side and fired, striking him above the hip. Although seriously wounded, Forrest was still mounted and escaped back to his own men. In a few months, he recovered and was back in the Army.



In conclusion, the battle ended in a draw but taught all the men who participated, including the Generals that the war was going to be a long and bitter one indeed. Union casualties were 13,047 (1,754 killed, 8,408 wounded and 2,885 missing or captured), Confederate casualties were 10,699 (1,728 killed, 8,012 wounded, and 959 missing or captured).

## JOHN ADAMS STATUE IN BILBAO, SPAIN

We're always glad to show something that links Old Europe and America. Here's a little known fact of History. John Adams visited northern Spain in the late 1770s and had great interest in the self-ruling laws (Fueros) of the Basque and Navarre people, which is said played a part in his thoughts while drafting the American Constitution of 1787. The bronze statue, made by sculptor Lourdes Umerez, was placed 2003 by the city of Bilbao.



The statue of the 2<sup>nd</sup> president of the United States is located beneath the Deputies Palace and the Main Street (Gran Vía) of Bilbao.

Even being a federalist, Adams would have never agreed to Lincolnite politics. The Constitution Adams helped to draft was much cherished by the states which seceded from an already distorted Union in 1860/61. It's the feeling expressed by Jefferson Davis: "I love the Union and the Constitution, but I would rather leave the Union with the Constitution than remain in the Union without it."



**JOHN ADAMS**  
(1735 – 1826)

**BIZKAIA (IV. GUTUNA. AMERIKAKO ESTATU BATUETAKO GOBERNU ERAKETEN DEFENTSA. 1787)**

*"...aparteko jende honek bere hizkuntza zaharra, talentua, legeak, gobernu eta aldaketa bako ohiturak gorde dauz, Europako beste edozein herrik baino gehiago."*

**BIZKAIA (CARTA IV. UNA DEFENSA DE LAS CONSTITUCIONES DE GOBIERNO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA. 1787)**

*"...esta gente extraordinaria ha preservado su antigua lengua, genio, leyes, gobierno y costumbres sin cambios, mucho más que cualquier otra nación de Europa."*

**BISCAY (LETTER IV. A DEFENCE OF THE CONSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE USA. 1787)**

*"...this extraordinary people have preserved their ancient language, genius, laws, government, and manners without innovation, longer than any other nation of Europe."*



**BILBAO**  
UDALA  
AYUNTAMIENTO



Plaque on the monument's base reads in Basque, Spanish and English

## THE PREACHER'S CORNER

From Pope Benedict XVI, February 9. An abridgment of a short preaching about an essential outcry of Christ dying on the Cross; it's valid for Christians of any denomination.

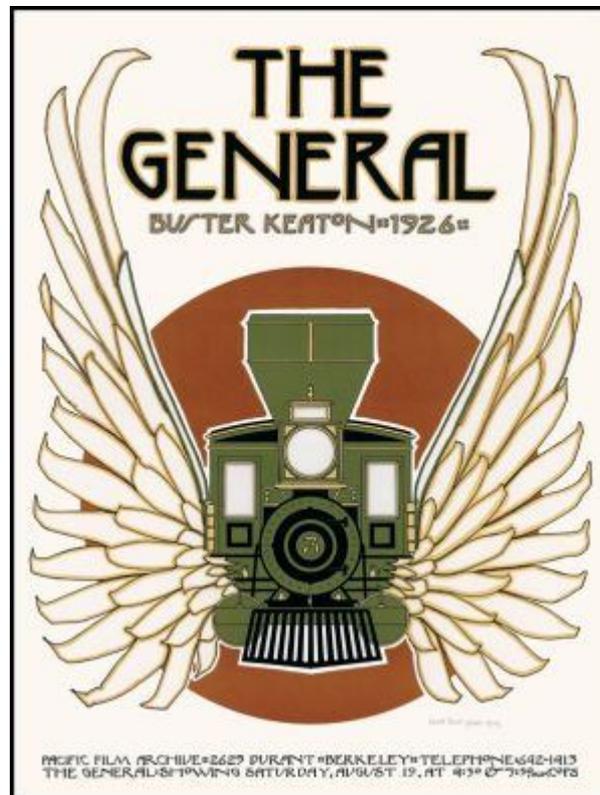
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today I want to reflect with you on the cry of Jesus from the Cross, **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”** This cry comes after a three-hour period when there was darkness over the whole land. Darkness is an ambivalent symbol in the Bible – while it is frequently a sign of the power of evil, it can also serve to express a mysterious divine presence. Just as Moses was covered in the dark cloud when God appeared to him on the mountain, so Jesus on Calvary is wrapped in darkness. Even though the Father appears to be absent, in a mysterious way his loving gaze is focussed upon the Son’s loving sacrifice on the Cross. **It is important to realize that Jesus’ cry of anguish is not an expression of despair: on the contrary, this opening verse of Psalm 22 conveys the entire content of the psalm,** it expresses the confidence of the people of Israel that despite all the adversity they are experiencing, God remains present among them, he hears and answers his people’s cry. This prayer of the dying Jesus teaches us to pray with confidence for all our brothers and sisters who are suffering, that they too may know the love of God who never abandons them. May God bless all of you!



## EDUCATIONAL MOVIES

### THE GENERAL (1926)

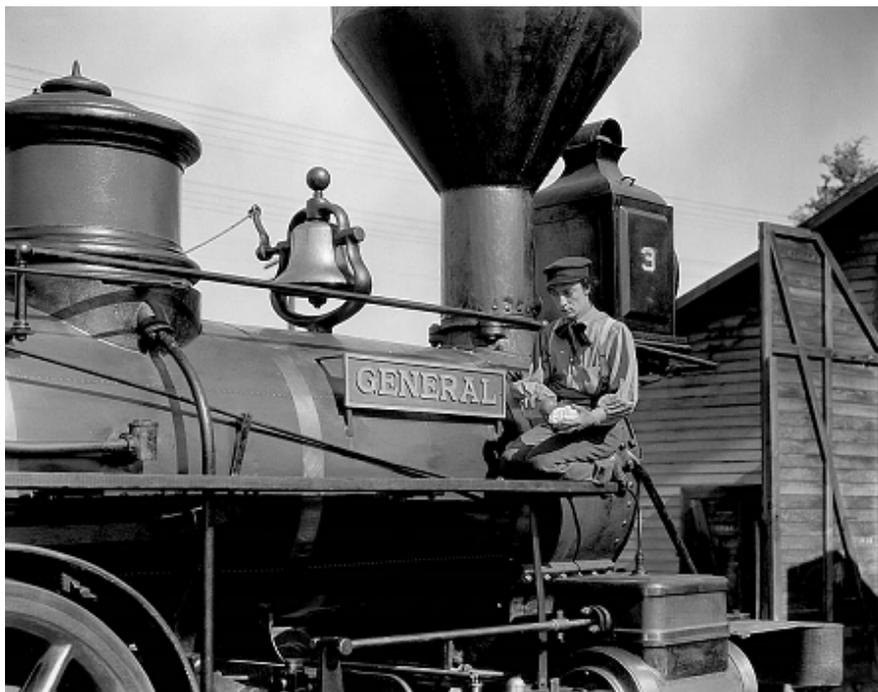


**Plot summary:** Engineer Johnny Gray (Buster Keaton) is rejected by the Confederate army because he is more valuable as locomotive expert; to make it worse he is taken for a coward by his beloved Annabelle Lee (Marion Mack) because he does not appear in uniform as she had expected. A sudden chance to become a hero emerges when Yankee spies steal his cherished locomotive and kidnap Annabelle: Gallant Johnny wages a one-man war against the hijackers, roaring along the iron rails while being harassed by an unpredictable errant railway mortar which moves on its own. Returning victorious from his adventures, he is given an officers commission and wins a place in Annabelle's heart. It's a great action drama with the unique gags of Buster Keaton.

**Analysis:** Introduced in modern DVD covers as "a great silent comedy classic" Buster Keaton's 1926 masterpiece (he co-wrote the script and directed the movie together with Clyde Bruckmann) is far more than that. It not only portrays Confederates as the "good guys" being Buster Keaton himself a Southern hero (in the comical way of Keaton, but a hero after all), it presents a perfectly produced mix of comedy & action thriller. Keaton adapted for his script the 1862 events of Andrew's Raid against the Western Atlantic Railroad in Georgia.

Johnnie Gray is not a coward. He is the first in line at the recruitment office. But the enlisting officer rejects him (not telling him the reason: he is more valuable to the South as an engineer). Annabelle believes he didn't even try to enlist, and she refuses to even speak to him until he is in uniform.

Keaton portrays very well the feeling of a young Southerner of that time: the wish to fight, to defend his home, to be useful – and the heartache of having been disdained by his beloved girl. This is the main plot of the entire adventure so perfectly developed on the screen: Johnny fights to save his girl, his engine and to serve the Southern Cause. Thus, Keaton portrays far more than a comical hero-by-accident. And the photography of this motion picture is much better than many productions which came decades after. According to film historian David Robinson: “Every shot has the authenticity and the unassuming correct composition of a Mathew Brady Civil War photograph. No one not even Griffith or Huston or Fleming caught the visual aspect of the War as Keaton did.” By the way, the stunts shown in this movie are far ahead of its time.



**Johnny Gray and his beloved locomotive: The General**



**The plot thickens during the chase**



**Beside first-class stunts, The General includes many real scenes of disaster. In fact, Keaton destroyed more than two dozen locomotives while making this movie.**

Definitely more than a great silent movie comedy classic, we recommend “The General” as a masterpiece in combining action and comical scenes while telling a wonderful Southern story of heroism, sense of duty, spirit of sacrifice and true love.

And to remember the 150. anniversary of the historic event we would like to invite especially our American readers (to most of us, Europe is too far away to attend) to the Great Locomotive Chase Historic Tour next April 14, 305 Depot St. Dalton, GA 30720, Saturday, April 14, 2012, visiting originals sites where the chase took place.

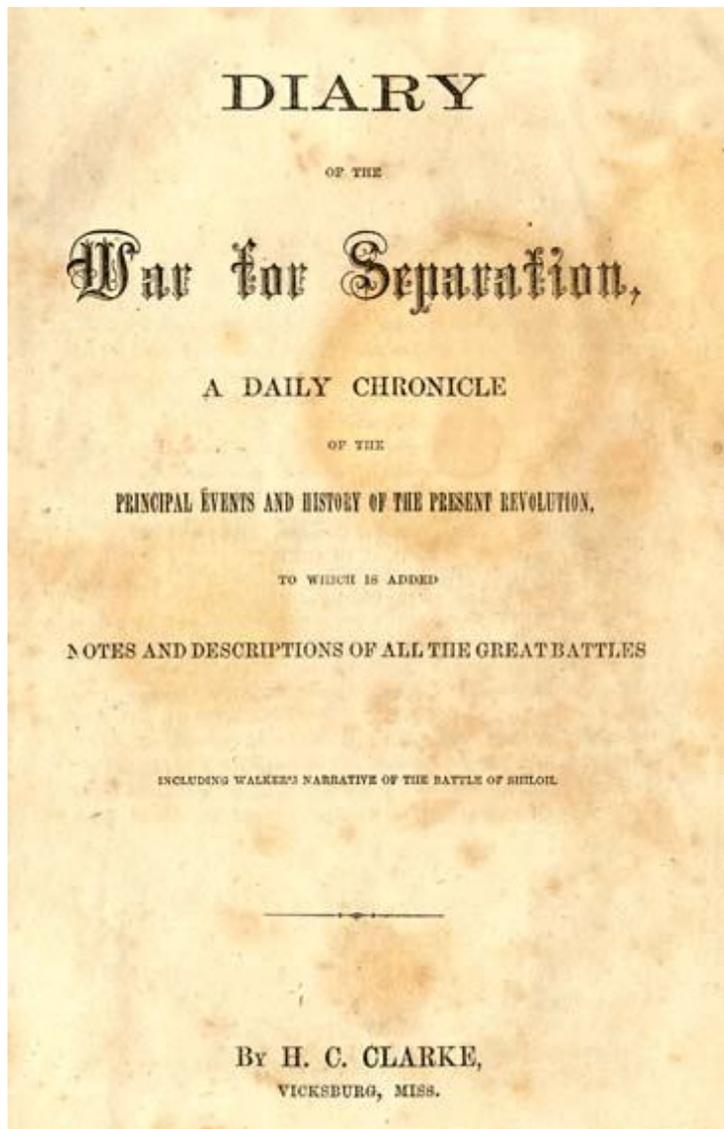


For more information click here: <http://glctour.eventbrite.com/>



**CAMP LIBRARY**

**DIARY OF THE WAR FOR SEPARATION,**



**A DAILY CHRONICLE OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS AND HISTORY OF THE PRESENT REVOLUTION, TO WHICH IS ADDED NOTES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF ALL THE GREAT BATTLES INCLUDING WALKER'S NARRATIVE OF THE BATTLE OF SHILOH.**

BY  
**H. C. CLARKE,**

From the Preface: "The Narrative of the Battle of Shiloh was written by Alexander Walker, of the New Orleans Delta. The sketch was published in parts, in the columns of the Delta, and is now published complete for the first time. It is one of the most graphic descriptions of a battle ever written."

This is a War-time book, fiery pro-Southern and patriotic, it must be read without losing the historical context. Order it for free as Word.doc from the Editor: [\*\*partisanranger@swissmail.com\*\*](mailto:partisanranger@swissmail.com)

# Intelligence

# Service Europe

**Bi-monthly electronic newsletter.**

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