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Commander Achim "Archy" Bänsch

**Intelligence Service
Europe,
Year 14, Issue 1,
May 2021**

Memorial Issue

Commander's Letter

After an eventful election campaign in America, we are now slowly calming down and continuing to follow the escalating situation of permanent hatred against all Confederates. Seeing some Americans trying to destroy their own history fills me with bitterness and sadness. I can only hope that we in Europe, as descendants of the Confederate soldiers, will be able to stand together and show the world that the American path is not the right one. It is up to us to preserve and communicate the true story. Thank God, it is still possible to speak and report uncensored about our American ancestors.



Unfortunately we lost two good comrades in our camp in a short time. In January our friend Raphael Waldburg-Zeil passed away and in March my father passed away. At my father's funeral, our camp was able to put up a small delegation with a flag. Unfortunately we had to limit the number of participants due to the current Corona situation. Nevertheless, I was proud to be able to appear publicly as a member of the SCV to show the public that the descendants of the Confederate soldiers are active in Germany.

Achim Bänsch
Commander

The Editor's Message

Spring is the time of the returning sun (for those of you reading this in South Carolina, remember we're in Europe at about the latitude of Hudson's Bay!) Our best wishes to you for the Spring!

We have just been through a year of Covid - and it has been a difficult year. Indeed, it has been so rough and news about Covid is so omnipresent that it pushes almost everything else off to the side.

Since we are an ocean and 160 years away from our Confederate ancestors and there is so many troubles going on, I think we may be forgiven for not having thought much about our people and their struggle. I am always pleased when the newest edition of *Confederate Veteran* arrives in the mail because, for a while, I can return to the world of my great great grandfather -where there are clear 'rights' and clear 'wrongs'. Where there was heroism and even nobility. And to remind me who I came from.

We call this the Memorial Issue because we have just lost two comrades. Archy Bänsch's father has left us. He had been a member of this camp since its re-founding more than a decade ago. And Raphael Waldburg-Zeil, longtime editor of these pages and a true friend of the South also passed over the river at the too-early age of 55. We have obituaries for both of them.

I include a message from our Commander-in-Chief. If you did not receive this directly from Headquarters to your email address, please let me know so that we can ensure that you are on the notification list.

So, for some minutes, come join us in our ancestors' world. It will help to remind us that our trials and tribulations, as difficult as they are, cannot really compare with those of our ancestors. But just as they bore up under their difficulties, so too, as their descendents, we will bear up under ours.



We don't forget. Others may, but we don't.



ADJUTANT'S CALL

by Chris McLarren
Camp Adjutant

As I mentioned, our own present-day problems take up so much time, it is easy to forget our commitment to our ancestors. But next month, I would ask you to again renew your commitment to our people and our cause and to renew your membership in the Sons of the Confederate Veterans.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SCV COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF



April 6, 2021
Announcement # 5
160th Anniversary of the War for Southern Independence

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The month of April of each year is designated as Confederate History and Heritage Month throughout the South and shall be set aside to honor, remember, and revere the history of those who served in the military forces and all those millions of its citizens of various races and ethnic groups and religions who contributed in sundry and myriad ways to the cause which the Confederate soldier fought for and held so dear.

From its founding on February 4, 1861, in Montgomery, Alabama, until the Confederate ship CSS Shenandoah sailed into Liverpool Harbor and surrendered to British authorities on November 6, 1865, a four-year struggle was fought to secure the independence of the Confederate States of America. This April 12, 2021, marks the 160th Anniversary of the War for Southern Independence with the firing on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. As Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, I encourage you to observe this noble time in our history, when men and women of the South stood courageously for liberty even in the face of insurmountable odds. Not a Civil War fought to take over the United States as it is called in history books today, this was war in which Southerners fought to defend their homes and families against an aggressive invasion by federal troops. The South peacefully seceded, just like our founding fathers did in 1776 with England, and all we wanted was to be left alone to govern ourselves. But the North and Abraham Lincoln would not allow the South to peacefully leave because of the taxes and tariffs the South paid. So, the South fought for her liberty, and fought valiantly. It was a war to which we remain connected by the unbreakable bond of our heritage to our Confederate Veteran forefathers, let us never forget them.

Over the next four years, various 160th Anniversary reenactments, memorial services, and a host of living history presentations in schools, parks, and cemeteries will be held all across the Confederation. I also encourage officials and departments of state, county, and municipal governments, boards of education, elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, businesses, and all citizens to participate in programs, displays, and activities that commemorate and honor our shared history and cultural inheritance during this time of observance over the next four years. This is a tremendous opportunity for teachers, students, and families to get out and learn more about our Southern culture and its rich heritage. So much is portrayed by Hollywood and the "Cancel Culture" movement today presenting the South as evil; when, in reality, the South was the most peaceful, rural, and Christian part of America before the war and Reconstruction destroyed the pastoral way of life here. We



see various municipalities across the Confederation give in and remove our memorials, change school names, and streets because of wokeness”. Therefore, I ask every Camp, Brigade, and Division, starting this month of April to take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate the positive things about our Southern heritage and culture, as well as to learn from the political dangers that once led to a deep division in America over the role of the federal government in people’s individual lives.”

Starting at 4:30 AM on April 12, let us remember when General P.G.T. Beauregard was forced to give the order to open fire on Fort Sumter to prevent a “Yankee” invasion after he received a report that the federal garrison would be resupplied and reinforced by orders of Abraham Lincoln on that day, a blatant act of aggression upon the sovereignty of the southern people. Let us remember those actions of the federal government that led to a four-year struggle for the South to defend hearth and home from Northern aggression and the loss of live on both sides that numbered over 750,000 men and how it affected those after that conflict that resonates still today throughout the South. Therefore, I ask all of our Compatriots, both sons and daughters of the South, to proudly display our flag on April 12th thru the 13th in remembrance of those two days of bombardment at Fort Sumter and the struggle that led our ancestors to fight to preserve their culture and heritage for future generations. I also ask that you participate in observances this month and over the next four years that would remember, respect, and revere the sacrifices as well as educating the general population about the truth that our ancestors fought and died for during those four years of conflict.

Thank you for all you do to perpetuate the memory of our Confederate ancestors and the true cause they fought for during that time.

Deo Vindice,
Larry McCluney, Jr.
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Again – If you did not personally get this directly from HQs, tell me so that we can put you on the list – ED

A GENERATION PASSES!

In March 2021, our Commander lost his father who, like ‘Stonewall’ Jackson, ‘crossed over the river’. So in his family, a generation has



passed, a generation closer to their South Carolina Confederate ancestors. Erwin was a long-time member of this Camp.



Erwin Bansch was born in 1930 in Breslau, in the province of Silesia, which was then part of Germany and is now in Poland. As a patriotic German citizen, he fought on the Eastern Front in 1944 and 1945 as a teenager.

An Excerpt from My Father's Life *By Achim Bansch*

At the end of the Second World War he fought in the fortress of Breslau until shortly before the surrender of the German army. He was captured in battle by a Mongol unit of the Russians, who mistreated him and put him on the canon barrel of a T-34 and then launched an attack on the German positions. But his comrades recognized the situation and let the tanks pass. A Russian officer from another unit ended this inhuman condition after the attack.

My father was then loaded into cattle cars as a prisoner of war to take him to Siberia. There were several train stops along the way. During one of these night train stops, my father was able to jump out of the train in an unobserved moment and escape into a dense forest nearby (the forest was at this point only 50m from the train). The guards of the train did not run after him, but were content with a strong "hail of fire" from their submachine guns. Despite the many shots, my father remained unharmed. After a march of several weeks my father managed to make his way to



Breslau (Polish:Wroclaw). However, he was seized by Polish partisans who immediately put him up against a wall to shoot him. Shortly before the order to fire was issued, the head of the firing squad changed his mind and instructed my father to clear mines with the help of his fingers. It was therefore foreseeable that he would not survive for long.

After the first day of mine clearance, he was released home to his parents on the condition that he return to mine clearing the next morning. He was told that if he did not appear, his parents and siblings would be shot.

My grandmother had a sister who was married to a Russian officer before the Second World War. This officer happened to be a local commander in the city of Wroclaw. So she asked my father to visit the officer during the night and describe his situation. After my father had met his uncle (the Russian officer) and recounted his experiences, the Russian local commander went out the next morning to my grandparents' house. Once there, the Polish partisans were already there and put my family against the wall to shoot. According to my father's story, everything went very fast. The Russian soldiers jumped from their vehicles and opened fire on the Polish partisans on the orders of my father's uncle. They killed them all! My family and the house were marked with a poster that reads that the residents and the house were under Russian protection.

After a few weeks, my father was able to make his way to the American-occupied South of Germany. There he spent some time before going to France where the French Foreign Legion was looking for soldiers. There he signed a five-year contract (1948-1953) with the *Legion Etrangere*. [He served in Algeria, Indochina (Vietnam) and Tunisia- ED.]



After serving in the Foreign Legion, he earned his money as a mercenary in the Congo for a year. After that he returned to Germany and worked for the American Army in the Labor Service (German civilian auxiliaries in Stuttgart. Later he was a professional rescue swimmer.- ED)

(Translated and lightly edited by the Editor)



Reflecting the many facets of his life, the commemorative ceremony conducted for him was attended by members of the SCV, the SCV-Mechanized Cavalry, the German Army and the Légion Etrangere.





Europe Camp Members
Rene Drinkuth Sven Niebler Archy Bänsch

Our condolences to Achim and his family.



It is with great sadness that we note the passing on January 15th, 2021 of Camp Associate Member and former ISE newsletter Editor Raphael Waldburg-Zeil.

Based on his obituary published by Raphael's great friend John Polo in the Cracker Newsletter of the Florida SCV Mechanized Cavalry, we bring you Raphael's story:

Raphael was an historian, a writer, a translator. He spoke five

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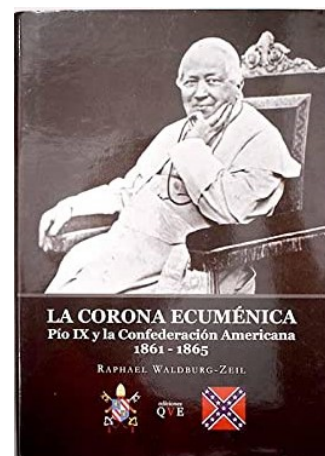
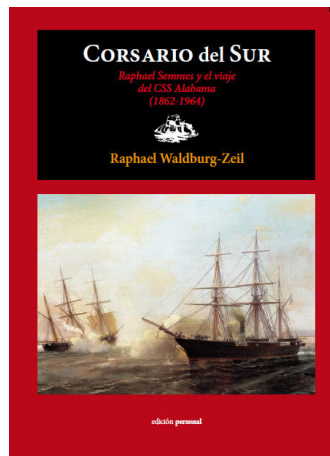
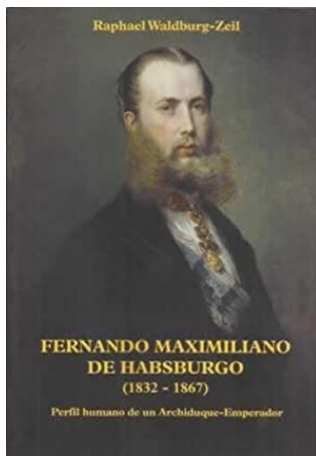


languages. He worked for NATO. He worked in the courts in Germany and at the National Court in Spain. He was a contributor to several history and defense publications in Europe, the USA and Australia. He received several journalistic and literary awards. He was fascinated by the history of USA, especially in the War Between the States.

Although he rarely mentioned it, Raphael descended from a noble family in Switzerland, where he was born. Much of his life he spent in Spain, the homeland of his mother.

Raphael was the author of several books, all of which were published in his country of residence, Spain and in Spanish. Of primary interest to us is perhaps his study of the voyage of the CSS Alabama. He also did what is perhaps the most insightful study of the correspondence of His Holiness, Pope Pius IX, with our Confederate President, Jefferson Davis. For this he did major research in the materials of the Vatican Library with the full support of the Vatican.

Raphael also published a major work on Emperor Maximilian of Mexico, as well as a study of aspects of the Roman Empire and even a collection of stories for First Communion.



Several years ago, he contracted ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis). This is a progressive nervous system disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, causing loss of muscle control.

Americans may know this as Lou Gehrig's disease. Doctors aren't sure why ALS occurs. Eventually, it lames control of the muscles needed to move, speak, eat and breathe. There is no known cure for this fatal disease.

Raphael moved to a health care centre in Munich, Germany several years ago, and it was there that I had the pleasure of meeting him several times



over the last years. On one of those occasions I took the opportunity of interviewing him. As several of our Europe Camp members were not yet with the Camp, when the interview was published in 2018, I take the liberty of including it again here so that you can get a better measure of the man who did so much for our Camp.

2015 INTERVIEW WITH Raphael Waldburg-Zeil, Editor, Author
by Chris McLarren

Many of our readers know of Raphael Waldburg-Zeil as he was the Founding Editor of this newsletter. For several years he kept those of us in Europe abreast of Confederate developments in America; but also let our stateside compatriots know that we lift the flag in Europe, too. He has also written many articles for various SCV publications in the United States. Some two years ago (2013), Raphael began to have physical troubles which made it impossible for him to continue as Editor.

Over the years, Raphael has received numerous awards and citations for his superb defense of Confederate heritage. (Rafael is one of very few non-US citizens to be given the SCV's prestigious H.L. Hunley Award).

One of our Camp's allied organizations is The 290 Foundation (Britain), which is especially interested in the naval history of the American 'Civil War'. At their 'Last Salute' event in Liverpool, England last November (2015), President Ian Dewar asked me to present their Certificate of Merit (Gold) to Raphael, who resides in Munich, Germany. I enthusiastically agreed.



Editors are not often in the public's eye - and they are usually interesting people. So, after the presentation, I interviewed Raphael so



that we could find out more about the man behind the pen:

[So you were born in 1966 in Switzerland.](#)

Yes, but we moved around a lot because of my father's job with a bank. And, later, in my own job as translator and interpreter, I worked in Spain, Switzerland, Germany. And that marked my life. But I'm not German. I'm German by passport, Swiss by birth, but I'm not European really, I'm American by heart. It's a strange – many people say, "Ah! German by birth, Swiss, Austrian – very European. But not at all – I'm American in everything! Nationally, internationally, economically, politically – everything!

[Where does this connection with America come from?](#)

I don't know. I like the American Constitution, I like the American ideal, the American way of life. All my contacts with America were very good from the very beginning. And I think that everything the Americans do, this is what I would do. How to start an enterprise? This is what I would do. What you think about North Korea? This is what I would do. The Commander of the South Carolina Division has told me, "You are a transplanted American, born in the wrong country." And I said "Yeah! I know.

[And what is this Confederate connection?](#)

Perhaps because of my interest in history. I had a special interest in the North and the South. When I was a young man, it was just the military, the battles. But then I started to look behind the carnage and the blood. There must be some real reason behind it all. And I read the more official accounts about the 'rebels' and the abolition of slavery and so. But then I looked behind more and more and I thought, "Damn! The Confederates were right!" Defending the American Constitution, defending states' rights. They were defending their own states from an invasion. Many, many people did not support slavery, they were just defending their homes, from the common soldier up to General Lee and Stonewall Jackson. They were defending Virginia. They were defending their home state. The poor people, barefoot, some of them with a musket from 1812. And they fought so fiercely. There must be a reason behind this – they were defending their homes.

And I think the Confederates were closer to the spirit of the American Revolution, the American ideal. This does not mean being un-American. On the contrary, after the Civil War, they were the best Americans ever. I told you in our first meeting of the men who won the Second World War were all proud Southerners: even Eisenhower, who was not directly a Southerner, had a picture of General Lee in his office in the White House. Many of them played as children with old men who



were Confederate veterans. Lieutenant-General Buckner, one of the bravest of the World War II generals, was very proud of his father, a Confederate general. So there's absolutely no problem with keeping Confederate heritage high and being a very, very good American.

So I read more and more articles and books attacking the South and defending the South and I made up my mind to defend Southern heritage. And then I found out about the Sons of the Confederate Veterans and they were doing a good job, so I asked if there was a possibility to join and they said sorry, no, you have to be a descendent. So I asked if it was possible to become an associate member. And they said, yes, but not to the national organization - you have to be part of a camp. So I thought there are maybe two possibilities: in Texas there is lots of German heritage so perhaps I can find a camp there. And the other possibility was South Carolina, the very heart of secession and there I found Mark Simpson, then Adjutant of the General McGowan Camp. And we had a very good understanding from the very beginning and he persuaded the Commander to make me an associate member. This is very strange - Lawrence, a small town in South Carolina, with this strange man from Europe. So I started my work with the SCV. And Simpson continued to promote me and my work. So people from Kentucky asked me to write an article. And other places. Alabama. South Carolina. I received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Commander of the Kentucky Division and was made an associate member of a camp in Alabama, although I had never been there. People were grateful for help in the fight for Confederate heritage. And of course these things were morale-boosters for me, too. But two years ago I had to stop.

What's the Spanish connection?

My mother is half -Spanish and my grandmother is Catalonian, from Barcelona. So even in Spain I'm quite multi-cultural. And my grandfather was Castilian from central Spain so I have connections with different traditions in Spain and I spent a long time in Spain and my father used to work in Spain. By talking to you, I feel how multinational I am. So, in Spain for example, I can understand the Catalonian secession movement. I don't think it's correct, I don't support it but I can understand it.

But you lived in Spain for a long time,

Yes, for half of my life, in Madrid and Barcelona. I speak Spanish and Catalonian too but not so much anymore. I need more practice.

And you've written a book about the **CSS Alabama** but you have



[some other things that you've written.](#)

I wrote books about military history. I started with the *Alabama*. I read the books and the diaries and the letters. So in writing the book over two years, I was really making the journey with the Alabama again. The title of the book is *The Corsair* and I didn't like it so much - the correct translation would be Southern raider. Around 20% of the book is about the background of the diplomacy surrounding the voyage and the book does not end with the sinking of the ship. I found out some things that others did not know. For example, that Semmes had five slaves but since he had five children and it was perfectly normal for each of the children to have a servant that was nothing unusual. He treated them very well.

The next book was about Pope Pius IX and the American Civil War, which is the grand book of my life. It took three years, which was possible because I went to the Papal Legation in Madrid and said, "Gentlemen, this is what I want to do. Can you support me?" And I was lucky because the second man in the Legation was a church historian and he said "Yes, that's great! I will support you." He got me everything that he could and he told me not to write officially to the Vatican but write to this particular man and say that I came with the official support of the Papal Legation and they will help you. And it was incredible! The first time I went, they said they couldn't help but the second time when I asked for this and that and this, they said "Of course, Sir." And they gave me everything I needed, because I came 'officially' from this church historian. And it was wonderful! They sent tons of things! This was a paradise for an American historian as they also had letters from American bishops.

[And the book was only published in Spanish?](#)

There is a man looking for it for an English translation and of course (the story of the Pope's sympathetic correspondence with Confederate President Jefferson Davis-Ed) will be an atomic bomb in America. So we'll see, we'll see.

Thank you, Raphael!





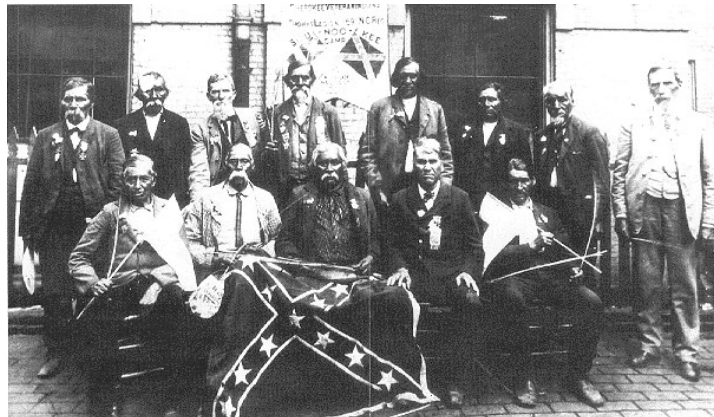
One other point: Our hand-made, embroidered Camp flag, held here by Jason Bell at a ceremony on Poland, was a gift of Raphael Waldburg-Zeil.

He will be missed!

A German Newspaper: Present-day 'Prussian' interest in the South!

The ***Preussische Allegemine*** (*Prussian General*) is a smaller German newspaper, published in Hamburg. Its readership is largely made up of older Germans, often refugees or the descendents of refugees from the east provinces taken over by Russia and Poland after World War II. Interestingly, it recently published an article about the Confederacy! We provide a translation with permission.

Indians for the Confederates in the Civil War



Cherokee Confederate Reunion, New Orleans 1903

In the times of “Black Lives Matter”, the Democrats like to give the impression that in the so-called American Civil War the Northern states were concerned with defending the cause of the underprivileged Blacks against the interest of the Whites in the Southern states. It is true many Blacks served voluntarily in or were drafted into the Union Army.

Another non-white population, the so-called ‘Redskins’, were considered in the North less as allies than as a kind of fifth column in the South. Some of the scouts for the Union Army were Native Americans, but their number was limited.

On the basis of their experience with discrimination and oppression by the Union, Native Americans often opted for the Confederate States and provided considerable contingents for the armed forces. Residing in the South, Cherokee, Chickasaw and Choctaw offered almost all of their fit male tribe members. Part of the Seminoles and Creeks also joined the Greybacks. The Indian units fought in the Western states which in the larger contest was only a kind of side theatre. But their effort was important so that the Confederate Army could concentrate its strength in Virginia.

In 1862, there were already three regiments which consisted entirely of Native Americans: the 1st Choctaw/Chickasaw Regiment, the 2nd Cherokee Mounted Rifles and the 3rd Cherokee Regiment. They receive their baptism in battle on 10 August 1861 at the costly -1317 dead Yankees, 1232 dead Confederates- but successful for the South Battle at Wilson’s Creek/Missouri, also known as the Battle of Oak Hill’s. 300 Cherokee fought on the Confederate side on 26 December 1861 in the Battle of Chustenahlah/Indian territory/Oklahoma; 800 Native Americans at the very bloody Battle of Pea Ridge/Arkansas; around 3000 on 30 September 1862 in the Battle of Newtonia/Missouri. In the Battle of Cabin Creek/Oklahoma from the 1st to 2nd July 1863 the Confederate side consisted almost exclusively of Indians. In the Battle of Fort Smith/Arkansas of 31 July 1864 one of the two Confederate brigades was Indian.

Of the over 179,000 black soldiers in the Union Army, only a few were officers, not a single one was a general. It was different among the Native Americans in the Confederate Army. Cherokee chief Stand Watie led an Indian regiment in the southern army and was promoted to General in 1864. (He was the last Confederate General to surrender-Ed)

Klaus Gröbig

(Translation: Ch. McLarren)

*Of course for modern-day Germans, this is all just interesting trivia.
But it is Confederate trivia! And that in 2021!*



Our thanks to Herr Gröbig and the Preussische Zeitung.



Yes! These are Donald, Mickey, and Goofy pictured as Confederate soldiers in front of Stone Mountain, Georgia on a \$5 stamp of the Caribbean nation of St. Vincent for the World Stamp Expo 99! **Yee-Hah!**



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