

# "Intelligence Service Europe"



SCV Europe Camp #1612



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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ADJUTANT'S DISPATCH	1-2
EDITOR'S NOTE	3
ADMIRAL SEMMES NIGHT, MADRID	4-8
A TEXAN GRAVE IN BELGIUM	9-11
HEROS VON BORCKE	12-14
SWEDISH CONFEDERATE COLONELS, PART 3	15-16
THE PREACHER'S CORNER	17-18
EDUCATIONAL MOVIES	19-21
CAMP LIBRARY	22



## Intelligence Service Europe, Year III, Issue 3, Apr. /May 2010

### Adjutant's Dispatch

**Membership:** I am happy to report that all Camp Members are now paid up. We have received a request for membership in the Camp by an U.S. citizen presently residing in Germany.

**Rome:** Plans for the Remembrance Ceremony for Captain Thomas Jefferson Page, C.S.N. and his son, Major T.J. Page, Jr., S.C. Army, are going along well. We expect to have members attending from Germany, Italy and Sweden. We will be joined by two SCV members from South Carolina, one of whom is also visiting the grave of his Grandfather, who died in Italy in World War II.

**Poland:** The Commander has directed me to announce that the Europe Camp expects to participate in a Remembrance Ceremony for Colonel Heros v. Borcke, C.S.A. in Poland in the autumn. We are looking at a date in September and hope as many members can join us as possible.

**Camp Flag:** As an established SCV Camp, we need a Camp Flag to be displayed at meetings and at events, such as the Rome Ceremony. (The SCV no longer provides the white, square, SCV flag.) With the concurrence of Commander Bänsch, I conducted a survey of the members, providing several designs – and asking for designs – to choose from. The Membership accepted this Design:



Associate Member (and Newsletter) Editor Raphael Waldburg-Zeil, who submitted this design, most generously offered to have the flag made – and at his own expense!! We are very grateful for this generous gesture and support for the Camp.

Some members preferred a Camp Flag based on the 2nd National Flag. One such member suggested that the Battleflag should be reserved for actual units (and, as I understood him, for re-enacting units) However, long-standing SCV practice has been to use the Battleflag as the basis for SCV Camp flags. By doing this we, above all, honor the veterans themselves first and only secondly the Nation which they so bravely defended.

The previous Europe Camp of the 1990's also had a Camp flag. I contacted the previous Commander, Colonel Heinrich Wirz (descendent of the Captain Wirz of the Andersonville Prisoner-of-War-Camp), who promised to try to locate the old flag, which has been lying dormant for some ten years.

If all goes well, our new colors will first greet the sun in Rome!

Chris McLarren  
Adjutant



## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

This will be the month of two important events! The grave markings of CSN Navy Captain Thomas J. Page and his son in the Protestant Cemetery in Rome, including a memorial service, and our first physical Camp meeting in the Fortress of Civitella del Tronto with members from throughout Europe! The ISE will report in full detail about all this in the next issue. The Camp's efforts continue also on other fronts; read about our efforts in helping to mark the grave of Texas Cavalry Captain Frank Van der Stucken in Belgium with a Cross of Honor.

Camp member Bertil Haggman continues introducing Swedish Colonels in Gray, while Hubert Leroy remembers his impressions during the Heros von Borcke grave marking ceremonies in 2008.

The Confederate Navy and the Southern war effort on the oceans have an important part in this issue. Last March 17 in Madrid, Spain, we had the presentation of the first book written in Spanish about Captain Raphael Semmes and the journey of the CSS Alabama. The book has created great interest among naval historians and Spanish Navy officers. Read inside about this great American evening promoting history and Confederate Heritage!

In Europe we continue facing the fact that much good will towards the WBTS and the South is combined with the fact that too many people know about the War and the Confederate Cause only by movies. This was one of the reasons to include the section Educational Movies in our Newsletter during the Sesquicentennial. In this issue we introduce a well known naval adventure: "The Hunley", a TV production of extraordinary quality. In addition we recommend a superb Hunley docudrama made in German language.

Finally, in the Camp Library section we continue on the oceans with the important and interesting war memoirs of Admiral Raphael Semmes, a Word.doc copy of the original edition of 1869; more than 400 pages, with not only the greatest American Naval adventures but a detailed analysis of the truth about secession and the real causes of the War.

Enjoy this issue and expect a very interesting June edition!

Your most obedient servant,

## **DEO VINDICE**



*Editor Sigvard Hultberg*

## **Admiral Semmes Night, Madrid, March 17, 2010**

Presentation of the book

“Corsario del Sur: Raphael Semmes y el Viaje del CSS Alabama, 1862-1864”

**by Raphael Waldburg-Zeil, author**



**Sitting right to left: Molly Long, Spanish Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution; Hugo O'Donnell, Royal Academy of History; Colonel E. Baldwin, introductory speaker, Eva Garcia, President US Navy League Madrid Council, Raphael Waldburg-Zeil, Associate SCV Europe Camp 1612, author.**

Some 90 people, among them a large selection of Spanish Naval historians, attended the presentation of the first book entirely researched and written in Spanish about CSN Captain Raphael Semmes and the two year voyage of the sea-raider CSS Alabama. Venue was the Cultural Center of the Spanish Armed Forces in Madrid, a Government institution devoted to military history. I felt most honored to have obtained permission to introduce my book in a conference room there.

The presentation began at 19:30. Colonel E. Baldwin, Director of Cultural Affairs, introduced the speakers, pointing out the book is a very important contribution to general military history and most interesting to a nation with naval traditions like Spain. Molly Long, President of the Spanish Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, went back to the American commerce raiders of the Revolutionary War like John Paul Jones, creating an excellent link in tradition to Raphael Semmes. Next, the President of the US Navy League, Madrid Council, Eva Garcia, remembered the CS Intelligence Chief in Europe,

James D. Bulloch, was the uncle of President Theodore Roosevelt, founder of the Navy League in 1902 and his younger brother Irvine, a midshipman and afterwards the Master of the Alabama. She continued introducing Spanish-American naval links, including the Spanish ancestors of the first full Admiral in the US Navy, David G. Farragut. Then she went into the book reading and commenting from several chapters and recommended them for both the educational and fascinating reading.

Main speaker of the evening was Hugo O'Donnell, member of the Spanish Royal Academy of History and director of the editorial project of the Spanish Ministry of Defense to create a new Military History Encyclopaedia. Regarded as Spain's foremost naval historian himself, O'Donnell called the book a masterpiece of research and analysis and like Mrs. Garcia, he thanked the author for having made available this almost unknown part of naval history to the Spanish reader at highest academic level. Then he explained the contents and focused that the Alabama was a commissioned warship and commerce interceptor, not the "pirate" as the ship had been shown to the world by Yankee war propaganda. Finally he introduced my humble person, and announced he will feel honored to write the foreword to the second edition of my book.



**Hugo O'Donnell represented the Spanish Royal Academy of History,  
Molly Long the Daughters of the American Revolution**

I started explaining the necessity of having this story told because it was so unknown to the Spanish public, including academic circles. This lack of knowledge I said, made necessary introductory chapters on Confederate diplomatic efforts with England and France, Secretary of the Navy Stephen Mallory and his decision to answer the continental blockade with an "oceanic blockade" of the Yankee commerce destroying it with sea raiders. And the Confederate Secret Service in Europe, with all its achievements in blockade-runners, ironclads, raiding cruisers, especially the building of the Alabama.

The guiding line of the book is not only the fabulous naval adventure of the Alabama under unspeakable difficult general conditions, from the crew, the lack of naval bases, the diplomatic pressures from Washington, storms and hurricanes, the legal aspects of capturing prizes, etc. but the figure of Captain Semmes as great naval commander and person of finest human qualities also as husband and father. The analysis of the personal diary of Semmes during the voyage has been done never before focusing in the human suffering and the sense of duty as reflected in his writings including the less often noticed fact that he was a devoted Roman Catholic which conducted his understanding of life and duty.



**Listening audience**

I remembered anecdotes like the first emancipation of the War, Union slave David H. White, taken from a Delaware businessman and proclaimed free aboard the Alabama on September 1862, followed by the enlistment of White as ship's steward with same pay as the white stewards and with NO differences to be made because of his race. This makes the CSS Alabama the first American warship without racial segregation. I pointed out the US Navy did not follow until after World War II (full story also in this ISE Newsletter, August/September issue 2009, pages 5-7). Interesting are comparisons included in the book, like quotes from the Captain's journal calling the three ships of Columbus "glorious" and the Mayflower a "little pestilent ship" which brought to America "the Puritan Yankee cockroaches".

The tactical mind of Semmes is analyzed in events like the battle with the USS Hatteras, the first battle between a screw-steamer and a side-wheel steamer; both the battle itself and the effects in the Northern press are analyzed, this led him probably to try to sink the USS Wyoming in the South China Sea knowing that, through the media, it would have a devastating effect in Northern public opinion and force Gideon Welles to launch more ships against him, making the blockade less tight and giving the blockade runners more probability of success. Such thoughts prove the strategic mind of Semmes. The book's annexes on the

Alabama Claims of 1872 (documents published for the first time in Spanish) and some comments about the archaeological work done on the recovered artefacts from the ship ended my intervention.

The presentation lasted from 19:30 until 21:30 because the speakers had much extended themselves. Socializing during the magnificent cocktail afterwards lasted till midnight, being Admiral Semmes the hero of the night! 64 copies of my book were sold, many people brought copies they had already bought, and thus I had to sign almost a hundred books!

The only sad thing was the absence of the invited naval attachés of every country ever touched by the Alabama: the Spanish Navy had organized an event in the port of Cadiz the same day and the embassies sent their attachés there. But thanks to the US Navy League they were informed afterwards of the event. The book presentation will be included in the USNL Madrid electronic newsletter, which comes out every two months, like ours. 2 press photographers took many pictures for several military magazines to come out next month.

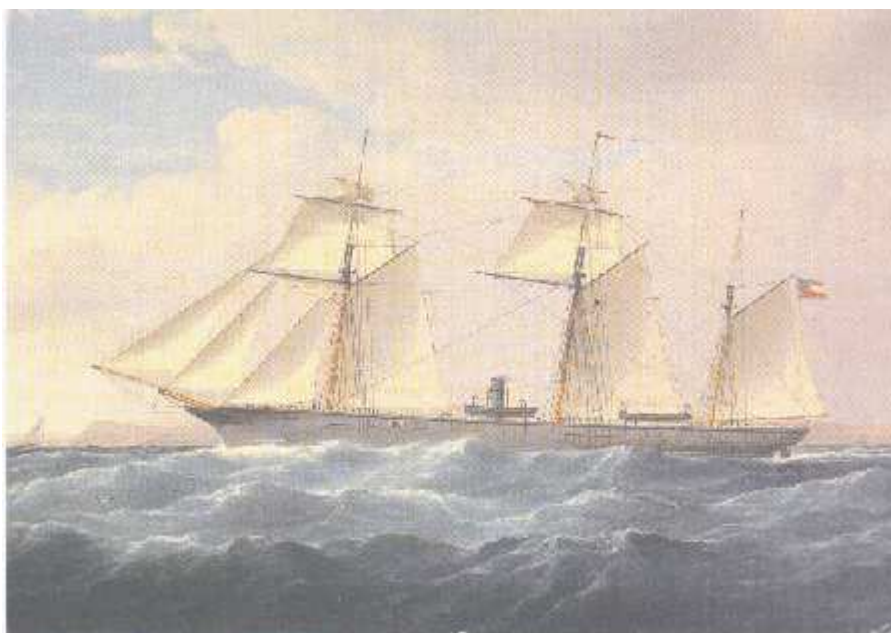
All in one, we had a great night devoted to Admiral Semmes and the CSS Alabama which also contributed to a better understanding of the Confederate Cause and the Southern War effort.

## **DEO VINDICE**



**The hero of the night, Captain Raphael Semmes  
(Photographed aboard the Alabama, Cape Town, South Africa, 1863)**

# REMEMBRANCE IN UNITY ACHIEVED! ! !





**A Texan grave in Belgium:  
Captain Frank Van Der Stucken,  
Company F, 1st Texas Volunteer Cavalry, CSA**

Most sadly, our Camp has found again Confederate descendants in Europe who weren't aware of that fact and who have shown no interest in seeing the grave of their ancestor properly marked as an honorable Veteran of the Confederate Army. A year and a half ago a similar case was the first setback of our Camp: the descendants of German Partisan Ranger Robert Von Massow stated they had "just no interest" in any ceremony to honor him. But Massow's gravesite is no longer known and this new case is different. The family grave of Captain Frank (Jean-Francois) Van Der Stucken, Company F, 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Volunteer Cavalry, is located in Antwerp, Belgium. Our Camp ally Hubert Leroy, from the Confederate Historical Association Belgium (CHAB), the man who located, cleaned and marked the forgotten grave of CS Commissioner A.D. Mann in Paris, France, last year (see ISE June/July 2009, pages 6-7), has found Van der Stucken's family grave in fine condition and contacted one of his descendants. Unfortunately, this old man didn't show any interest in the Confederate past of his ancestor and we couldn't find any other person able to authorise a grave marking with the Cross of Honor (provided as always by our Camp Angel Nancy Hitt, UDC Kentucky), or even a wreath lying. After almost three months of maneuvers, we must still wait and see, but we will keep an eye on this and work hand in hand with the Belgian CHAB to see the grave finally marked.



**Van der Stucken family grave Schoonsenh Cemetery, Antwerp, Belgium  
(Photographs by Hubert Leroy, CHAB)**

## Biographical notes

Frank van der Stucken was born in Antwerp, Belgium, in 1830. He and his younger brother migrated to Texas in 1846. In the early 1850's he opened a store in Fredericksburg and soon became a prominent citizen. In December 23, 1852 he married Sophie Schoenewolf, a German immigrant. He was twice elected county commissioner of Gillespie County, and in 1856 he delivered the town's first church bell. He also secured government freighting contracts to supply Texas military posts in the west.

Military matters were to overwhelm him soon, as the State of Texas joined the Confederacy and suffered the War of Northern Aggression. In a typical Texan dilemma, most Gillespie County residents held Unionist sympathies; the vote held in February 1861 had resulted in 17 in favor of and 400 against secession! Opposition to the Confederate cause was so strong there that the many who wanted to enlist to fight for the South did so in neighboring counties. There was no opposition however, to create local defense companies which meant no active military service against the Union. Six such companies were raised in Gillespie County in 1862 with a total strength of over 300 men.

Frank Van Der Stucken was authorized to recruit 75 men for a mounted ranger company. He was given the rank of Captain, Texas State Militia, his company supposed to serve as a home guard unit for Indian defense. These rangers were under state, rather than Confederate jurisdiction, but Frank's objective was to pick up volunteers for the regular Confederate Army.

Shortly after their organization they were detailed to guard federal prisoners at nearby Fort Mason. Many members of the company objected to guarding prisoners whose political beliefs were often as Unionist as their own and there was talk of a mutiny. When word of a plot to help the Yankee prisoners to escape and to rejoin the Federal Army reached Captain Van Der Stucken, he quickly ended it at gun point. Van der Stucken told the reluctant Unionists the very essence of discipline: no matter what their personal feelings could be, as long as Texas was part of the Confederacy and his men were in State service, they would have to acknowledge the fact and to follow orders.

In July 1862 the company was ordered to transport the prisoners from Fort Mason to Vicksburg, Mississippi, to be exchanged for Confederate prisoners. This time the men performed well. But while in Vicksburg, General E. P. Bee thought the location was too critical to have a unit with Federal sympathies as part of the defending forces and sent them to the Rio Grande frontier where they fought Indians and Mexican *bandidos*. In January 1863 the unit was again ordered to escort another group of prisoners to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, doing it with success and without any problem. In December of the same year, Captain Van Der Stucken's unit was brought into regular service. The Texans joined General Richard Taylor's army as Company F, First Texas Cavalry Regiment, CSA, and given the responsibility of rounding up Union sympathizers and bringing them to trial. As expected, this caused only troubles; the company was almost useless in this role, especially because many of the suspected men were Texans from around Gillespie County: friends and neighbors of the soldiers supposed to catch them. In February 1864 the Company had become so ineffective that it was disbanded. Frank Van Der Stucken returned home to Gillespie County to serve as elected Chief Justice. The surrender of the Department of the Trans-Mississippi West in summer 1865 sealed the War's end. He took some money he had hidden and returned to Belgium, having lost his beloved

Confederate State of Texas forever. Frank Van Der Stucken is buried with wife and two children in Antwerp.

Some readers may say Captain Van Der Stucken's command and records are not the most glorious, but we must point out two most honorable facts:

1. He came from a Unionist county in Texas. Being a Belgian immigrant and married to a German immigrant it was expected from him to stay "loyal" to the USA as many other Texans did. Frank Van Der Stucken followed his own decision and opted by the heart to serve the Confederacy as the better option for Texas. This is most respectable having in mind all the pressures surrounding him. And so is his 1865 decision not to stay in occupied Texas but to return to Europe. His own brother Felix remained in Texas after the War; he was appointed County Commissioner by the US military government between 1868 and 1870 and in 1904 organized the Citizen Bank of Fredericksburg, being its president till his death in 1913. The two immigrant brothers show quite well the differences of mind existing in the dilemma of Texas during the WBTS.

2. His unit was composed by many Unionists – not Yankee traitors at all, but patriots who saw a better future for Texas by staying in the Union – this caused a lot of trouble to Van Der Stucken as the Company's commanding officer. Once in regular Confederate service the problems grew up because of their use as military law enforcement force rather than to defend Texan soil, especially from Mexicans and Indians, which would have been the better option. Captain Van der Stucken displayed an extraordinary capacity of maintaining the discipline in his unit under the given circumstances, even was able to quell a rising mutiny. He is certainly not to blame for the final disbandment of his Company and he was never discharged in dishonor from the Confederate Army; it was his decision to return to civilian live, still serving his countrymen as elected Chief Justice in Gillespie County till the War's end.



**Jean Francois (Frank) Van Der Stucken with his wife and two unmarried children**

## On the track of Heros von Borcke

By Hubert Leroy, guest writer. Confederate Historical Association Belgium

(From the Editor: Our friend and ally Hubert Leroy represented the CHAB during the ceremonies for Heros von Borcke in Poland last September 2008. This is his account remembering that memorable event)



**Original gravestone of Heros von Borcke at Giesenbruegge. It had been vandalized by Russian soldiery in WW II.**

In 1885 or thereabouts, in the small Prussian village of Giesenbruegge (Pomerania), was a large country-house over which waved every day the Confederate Battleflag! Maybe it seems paradoxical but it was not: the landlord had served with the South during the American War between the States.

As a matter of fact, on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1862 in Charleston harbor a big burly Prussian got ashore from the blockade runner Kate. His name was Johann Heros von Borcke, a cavalry officer who, like a number of contemporary Europeans, came to enlist in the Confederate military forces.

Von Borcke served in General J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry and, thanks to his ability, was promoted to the rank of chief of staff. The Prussian trooper took part in many actions, always impetuously leading the way with the Virginian squadrons. For all that, during the battle of Middleburg in June 1863, he was wounded; after a long convalescence, he was found unfit for combat. Ever since, he served in administrative posts more appropriate to his health. In December 1864, now a

lieutenant colonel, he was entrusted by Jefferson Davis with a diplomatic mission in Europe. That is in London that he came to know of Lee's surrender in April 1865.

The rest of his life was rich in various events, notably his participation in the war between Prussia and Austria, in 1866. All that will make an article in the next CHAB News. (Visit the CHAB Homepage: <http://www.chab-belgium.com>)

### **September 2008**

In the morning of September 3<sup>rd</sup>, a motor coach bringing from Berlin members of the von Borcke and Stuart families, representatives of the SCV and the UDC, as well as two members of the CHAB, Heinrich Wirz and myself (Wirz representing also the MOS&B), stopped in a small village in Poland, over whose market-place waved a Confederate Battleflag. We were in the old Giesenbruegge, now called Gizyn after the events and changes which happened since the end of World War II.

We had come in that remote place in order to be present at the ceremony of homage to Heros von Borcke whose grave had finally been found after long years of quest. As a matter of fact, during the Soviet advance, the von Borcke family's manor had been partly destroyed, like its outbuildings and chapel. The tombs in the near-by graveyard had been sacked by soldiery searching for gold and jewels. Every inhabitant of this small village – first of all Jerzek Zigmund, the mayor – was waiting for us with impatience and curiosity, for our coming had been announced for several months yet. The chapel ruin in which lay the graves of von Borcke and his parents nowadays is in a wood which partly covers the ancient estate. So, it has been necessary to clear it and to cut an access way for the event.



**From left to right: Eckhard von Borcke, JEB Stuart IV (SCV), Heinrich Wirz (MOS&B) and Hubert Leroy (CHAB)**

Some people could smile at that unusual ceremony but it had the merit, friendship and peace being the keywords, of gathering together representatives of various nations: Poland, Germany, USA, Switzerland and Belgium. As for the inhabitants of that small village in the ends of the world, it was **THE** event!

After spirited speeches, Eckhard von Borcke, great-grandson of the Prussian trooper, and J.E.B. Stuart IV put on the newly provided gravestone a Confederate Cross of Honor, as well as a bunch of flowers, followed by a triple salute of musketry by the Hampton's Legion reenactors from Berlin. This was the climax of the ceremony.

During the whole event, under a dazzling sky, the village choral society and some local musicians were performing in homage to H. von Borcke and in honour of us privileged visitors; it was well appreciated.

We had a very hearty rural meal and then the whole audience was bidden to go into the feast room where we attended a musical interlude and some dances from the Polish folklore brilliantly performed by charming young ladies. The day was drawing to an end and it was in company of J.E.B. Stuart IV, an old friend, and his son J.E.B. Stuart V that, after an endless drive, I rejoined Berlin, extremely happy.

Early on the next morning, the Stuarts flew off to Virginia. As far as I am concerned, I went back to Belgium with my head full of precious remembrances of those few days spent with friends passionately fond of that Confederacy whose memory is far from vanishing. We must also thank our friend and member from Kentucky, Nancy Hitt, who was the mainspring of that memorable meeting.



**Nancy Hitt (UDC) with SCV Europe Camp Commander Achim "Archy" Bänsch and Camp Adjutant Christopher McLaren**

## SWEDISH CONFEDERATE COLONELS (Part 3)

By Bertil Haggman, Sweden, full member Europe Camp 1612

### Lt. Colonel Eric Erson, 52nd Regiment North Carolina Infantry, C.S.A



Eric Erson was born in Haglunda, Sweden, in 1840. He emigrated to the United States to work for the Hammarskjold family. When the WBTS broke out he worked as a merchant in Lincolnton, North Carolina. He started out in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment North Carolina Infantry, C.S.A. as a private. Erson mustered out in November 1861 but reenlisted in 1862 this time in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Regiment North Carolina Infantry. In 1863 he fought in every campaign of the Army of Northern Virginia.

At one time he commanded the 52<sup>nd</sup> NC Infantry as a part of the famous Pettigrew-Pickett charge. Adjutant John H. Robinson wrote:

*“When about halfway across the intervening space the enemy opened on us a most destructive fire of grape and canister. When within about 250-300 yards of the stone wall behind which the enemy was posted, we were met by a perfect hailstorm of lead from their small arms. The brigade dashed on, and many had reached the wall, when we received a deadly volley from the left. The whole line on the left had given way, and we were being rapidly flanked. With our thinned ranks and in such position, it would have been folly to stand, and against such odds. We therefore fell back to our original position in the rear of the batteries. After this days fight, but one field officer was left in the brigade. Regiments that went in with Colonels came out commanded by Lieutenants.”*

During the siege of Petersburg in 1864 he distinguished himself and in August of that year he was promoted to lieutenant colonel. He fought at Petersburg on April 2, 1865 and surrendered with the remnants of his regiment at Appomatox on April 9, 1865.

In 1866 he married his sweetheart, Sara Jane Arent, and they had two daughters, Fannie and Mary. He started a political career in Lincolnton and eventually was elected county commissioner. In 1872 he was thrown from his horse and suffered internal injuries and passed away at the age of thirty-two.

In 1999 Erson was honored at a ceremony at Saint Luke's Lutheran Church in Lincoln County. A bronze marker was placed at his grave and a volley was fired by reenactors in his honor. Lincoln County is connected to eight Confederate generals (four by birth), among them Major General Stephen Dodson Ramseur and Major General Robert F. Hoke.

I had the privilege to be present in Lincolnton at the service in 1999 and spoke at the Memorial Birthday Service for the two generals and Lt. Colonel Ramseur. I pointed out that a few years before a small number of members of SCV Europe Camp # 1612 gathered at what is probably the northernmost Confederate grave in the world. It was, I said, in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Louis Lybecker of Sweden, who had come to America to fight for the Confederacy.



**Gallant Brigadier General Pettigrew,  
commanding the NC Brigade Eric Erson  
served under with the 52 Infantry Regiment**



## THE PREACHER'S CORNER

Regarding the recent sad episode of Anthony B. Taylor, the Catholic Bishop of Little Rock, Arkansas, who stated General Robert E. Lee fought for “the culture of dead”, we take note of how many ignorant persons exist in important public charges. We would like to remember to him that not only important Confederates like Secretary of the Navy Stephen Mallory, General P.G.T. Beauregard and Admiral Raphael Semmes were Catholics, but also countless officers and enlisted soldiers. In addition, many great heroes of the South were Catholic military chaplains, Father Abraham Ryan, the poet-priest of the Confederacy, Father John B. Bannon, Chaplain of the 1<sup>st</sup> Missouri Brigade and later Confederate Secret Agent in Ireland, Father E. Blimel, Chaplain of the 10th Tennessee Infantry (the first Army Chaplain ever killed in action in American military history) and many others. Episcopal brothers of Arkansas Bishop Taylor were good Confederates, like the Bishop of Charleston, South Carolina, Patrick Lynch, who became President Davis envoy to the Papal States, Bishop Martin John Spalding of Louisville, Kentucky, who warned Pope Pius IX about genocide and total war Lincoln was waging against the South.

Bishop Taylor definitely needs education – **and he needs our prayers**. Here we include a wonderful prayer by St. Claude de la Colombière (a Jesuit priest, like Ryan and Bannon), suitable for Catholics and Protestants alike:

### Act of Confidence in God

My God, I'm so persuaded that You watch over all who hope in You and nothing can be lacking to those who await from You all things, that I have determined to live from now on without any concern, letting go and giving You all of my anxieties. I will sleep and rest in peace because You, O Lord, and only You, have secured my hope.

Men can deprive me of possessions and reputation; illnesses can take away my strength and means to serve You; I myself can lose Your grace because of sin; but I will not lose my hope; I will conserve it until the last instant of my life and all the efforts from demons trying to take it away from me will be useless. I will sleep and rest in peace.

May others expect happiness in their richness and talents; some may lean on the innocence of their lives, or the rigor of their penitence, or above all on the amount of their good works, or the fervor of their prayers. As for myself Lord, all my confidence is my confidence itself. Because You Lord, only you have secured my hope.

No one has been deceived by this confidence. No one who has waited in the Lord has been frustrated in their confidence. Therefore, I am sure that I will be eternally happy because I firmly hope to be; and because You, Oh, My God, are in whom I expect all. In You I hope Lord, and never will I be confused.

I know very well, even too well that I am fragile and inconstant, I know well the power of temptations against the most firm virtue; I have seen the stars fall from heaven and columns from the firmament; but none of this can frighten me. As long as I maintain firm my hope, I will be conserved from all calamities; and I am sure to hope always, because I hope the same in this unchanging hope.

In conclusion, I am sure that I cannot hope in excess in you and that I will receive all that I would have hoped for in you. Therefore, I know you will sustain me on the most rapid and slippery slopes, that you will strengthen me against the assaults and make my weakness triumph over the most tremendous enemies.

I hope you will always love me and I will love you without interruption; to take once and for all my hope as far as it can reach. I hope in you and only in you! Oh, My Creator! In time and for all eternity.

**Amen.**



**General Lee in prayer**

## EDUCATIONAL MOVIES

### THE HUNLEY (1999)



**Plot summary:** It is one of the most legendary stories of the Southern war effort: “The Hunley” tells the incredible but true story of the manually propelled submarine which achieved to be the first underwater vessel to sink a warship in action. Set during the siege of Charleston in 1864, the movie introduces first the desperate situation in the beleaguered city. This motivates the heroism of a handful of men; the movie shows training and development of tactics with the submarine, regarded at the time by most just as an underwater coffin. In the most dramatic way, the Hunley crew brings the submarine to full performance and sinks the USS Housatonic, but the heroes will perish in they return journey.

**Analysis:** This movie was made for TV and home video release; it achieves by far more than what from such a production can be expected. The movie obviates the story of development and first diving attempts of the vessel financed by H.L.Hunley. It starts with him and the entire crew drowning in a diving accident. The most intriguing and interesting part, in addition to the well developed and further shown story, is how the movie dares to explore the human natures of the uncommon and extraordinary volunteers of the new crew and their commander, CS Army Lt. George A. Dixon (Armand Assante).

Dixon is put in a spotlight, both because Assante is the actor in the leading role, but also because his character has all the responsibility in the operation. What is known about Dixon is shown in a fair accurate light, including the episode with the gold coin at Shilo, which saved his life by stopping a bullet (shown in the movie as Dixon's nightmare trauma). Dixon's recurring visions of his dead wife show how much he loved her. The serious doubts of the commanding officer at Charleston are shown, General P.G.T. Beauregard (Donald Sutherland, peculiar and with the sometimes waggish undertone typical in his acting). General Beauregard had the last word in the operation and it is thanks to his decision that the Hunley got a last chance. The big historical inaccuracy of the movie is to credit Beauregard with the development of the spar torpedo.

The men who volunteered to operate the swimming coffin (operating the manual crank without any guarantee of not going down at the very first training dive) are not immediately introduced as Southern heroes. The movie takes its time trying to analyze what kind of men they could have been. The feelings, temperament and performance of the crew who led the Hunley into success but died valiantly accomplishing their duty are shown much on the basis of artistic freedom, due to the fact that little is known about these men and their private lives. The crewmen are portrayed in all their complexity and human enervation, but pointing out their spirit of service and sacrifice, with iron discipline in the critical moments. Some are shown as daredevils first, but they will submit to discipline and duty. This is not only a fair homage to them, but also what comes most accurately and closest for sure to the real facts of the men and the story.



**Armand Assante as Lt. Dixon and his supporting actors as the Hunley crew.**

As the Hunley was lost in action and still several versions and explanations about are in existence, the movie scriptwriter resorted to fantasy: Dixon is wounded, the Hunley hull is hit by the torpedo explosion wave and water penetrates. Having decided not to die by slow asphyxia, they flood the submarine, dying by quick drowning. This is probably the only serious historical inaccuracy of the film, as Charleston archaeologists working on the recovered wreck have found out that the wooden seats of the men remained dry for a long time, being slowly covered by sediments. This would speak against the drowning scene, but we will probably never know the truth about their death.

We recommend "The Hunley" for its accuracy and heroic depiction of 9 men against the whole Union Navy, knowing their sacrifice could be the key to open the blockade of the South.

A true story! Well shown. A must!

**„MISSION X: ANGRIFF AUS DER TIEFE“**

In addition to the Hunley movie, we recommend to our German and French speaking readers this TV docudrama about the Hunley. It's a most interesting 2004 production by the German TV channel ZDF. Authors Axel Engstfeld und Christian Heynen have done an excellent job researching and introducing the Confederate submarine to European audiences. Not only the story of Horace L. Hunley, his submarine, Dixon and his men are clearly presented to the viewer, but also a fair defense of the Confederate side is done (the documentary makes clear that the South was under menace from the industrial North). Despite some minor mistakes (General Beauregard's uniform has no rank insignia and the button array is wrong, the CS Navy Jack is used as CSA national flag, etc...) the reenacted scenes are very good. The actor playing James McClintock is almost as sharp as his only historical photograph. Accompanying music in the action scenes is from the TV series „A Band of Brothers“, this helps to achieve good emotional feelings in the audience. We congratulate the two German authors for this documentary drama, its detailed contents and the neutral fairness in presenting the whole story. Because fairness reveals always one fact: the South was right and the fight heroic.



**Horace L. Hunley (wearing a frock coat) inspecting the submarine turret**

Keep an eye on it, several TV channels have aired this docudrama in the last five years and continue doing it. The 44 min. production can be ordered on DVD or VHS tape by the ZDF Channel. Contact the Product Sales Department Manager Rainer Mueller for a copy. E -Mail: [Mueller.Ra@zdf.de](mailto:Mueller.Ra@zdf.de) Cost is 40 Euro, shipping in Europe included.

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DURING THE  
WAR BETWEEN THE STATES.

BY  
ADMIRAL RAPHAEL SEMMES,  
OF THE LATE CONFEDERATE STATES NAVY,  
Author of "Service Afloat and Ashore, during the Mexican War."

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