

# Intelligence Service Europe

SCV Europe Camp #1612

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## Intelligence Service Europe, Year III, Issue 5, Aug. / Sep. 2010

### Commander's Letter

In the past two months we had many work to do. The SCV Europe Camp starts a fundraising project for the preservation of the grave of Capt. Thomas J. Page and his son. Friends were visited! Our comrades In America held the SCV national Reunion 2010. And many thing's more. See our contributions in the ISE.

Further it's a pleasure for me to inform you that I now have finished my police study to get a higher rank. I'm now a police lieutenant.



*Lachim "Archy" Bänsch*

## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

The SCV National Reunion 2010 has brought many expected changes. Read the Commander's report about the new posts of some good friends of ours.

During the Sesquicentennial we'll talk more than ever before about the War for Southern Independence, about Americans who wanted to preserve the true meaning of the Constitution and were forced to fight those who wished to destroy it and even invaded their homes to destroy their families. This newsletter is not only conceived to reflect our many Camp activities and to include the contributions of our members, associates and increasing guest writers. It is intended as an educational tool to reveal especially to the European reader the many historical facts about the South and the Cause we defend today as our ancestors did in the past

A man who gave it all to defend his home state from Yankee aggression was Capt. Thomas J. Page. In the last issue you could read about our grave marking and memorial service for him in Rome. Now see our call for funding support in order to preserve the most beautiful Confederate gravesite in Europe!

Both our Commander and Adjutant have been reinforcing links of brotherhood with Confederate-friendly groups as important as the Hampton's Legion in Berlin, the faithful reenactors who did the salute firing at the Heros von Borcke ceremonials in Poland 2008. Read about their funny stay at Forest City!

A commendable fighter for the truth and to preserve Confederate heritage is our well-known Camp Angel Nancy Hitt. She has a wonderful new DVD video guide to show historical places related to the WBTS in Kentucky. Read also her contribution as guest writer regarding Kentucky Guerrillas fighting in Missouri and two of her ancestors there who rode with Quantrill and how she located and marked their graves!

Connecting with Nancy's fine contribution there is the film of the Educational Movies section. Would you believe that in America the motion picture "Ride with the Devil" received massive distribution problems and even had the promotional poster censored and changed to fit the infamous "political correctness"? We include also a special review by Patrick R. Marquis of the new 2010 director's cut presented in Blu-Ray, which is still unreleased in Europe.

In this issue you will also find a both interesting and curious report: Ever thought that comic strips can be very educational to children and adults alike?

During this summer months several reenactments are on the way, especially the Tenth Anniversary meeting of the group our full member Tom Landgraf belongs to. Several Camp members will attend some days of field encampment life. This will result in interesting contributions and pictures for the October issue.

For now, enjoy reading! And as always, please feel free to forward this issue to every one of your friends who might be interested.

Your most obedient servant,

Raphael Waldburg-Zeil, Editor



## **SCV NATIONAL REUNION 2010**

By Achim Bänsch, Commander

Last week, the Manse Jolly Camp #6 in Piedmont, SC organized the 2010 SCV National Reunion from July 21-24 in Anderson at the Civic Center there.



**Anderson mayor Terence Roberts shakes hands with South Carolina Attorney General Henry McMaster at the opening ceremonies for the 2010 Reunion**

A full report from the entire reunion can be read at the SCV Blogspot. Let's point out some interesting details for us:

The SCV has a new Commander-in-Chief! Michael Givens advances from Lt. CiC to full CiC for a two-year term. Michael had suggested the translation program of information into several languages which our Newsletter editor is now leading in the executive, with several translators still working in making many educational essays enjoyable for everyone around the world interested in knowing the Southern view of the facts during these Sesquicentennial years.

New Lt. CiC is former AoT Commander Kelly Barrow. Compatriot Barrow is a fine fellow who has always sent us in person the Newsletter of his Army. Wife

Cassie Barrow is a great friend of the Confederate Navy and has offered herself to support our Capt. Page gravesite restoration fundraising program.

As our Camp depends directly from the HQ Army of Northern Virginia, without any Brigade or Division levels, it does good to see former Heritage Defense Chief Frank Earnest now elected new Commander ANV! Frank has helped us much in the past with his open letter in the ISE, calling the peoples of Europe not to be deceived by the increasing misuse of the Battle Flag at sport events in certain countries here. His call was translated by us into several European languages and sent to sport clubs and Press agencies. In fact, flag abuse has been reduced in the last two years and does no longer appear in the press, which is definitely good (we continue having a vigilant eye on this...).

Chief of Staff Chuck Rand is now Adjutant-in-Chief. Chuck is well known to us all since the Heros von Borcke ceremonies in 2008 and has welcomed myself as true Southern brother while visiting Louisiana. Chuck, we guess you have been one of the best men in the post of Chief of Staff the SCV ever had. And what a great AiC you will be!!!

The Reunion ended Sunday, 24 July with the great CiC Reception, followed by the debutant presentations, grand Banquet and Ball.



**Debutante presentation**



## ATTENTION: URGENT FUNDRAISING CALL !



**Funerary angel monument beside Page's sarcophagus**

Camp members, associates, readers, and friends from both sides of the Atlantic – this is a call to arms for a serious enterprise! In the past issue of the ISE you could read that a wonderful grave marking ceremony and memorial service for Capt. Thomas J. Page and his son were held by our Camp in the Protestant Cemetery in Rome. Several SCV Compatriots from America attended the ceremonies; they went to Italy specifically to honor a great naval explorer, an American patriot and a righteous Southerner in the way he deserved.

Unfortunately his grave has been suffering the ravages of time and first restoration work is needed to keep the most beautiful Confederate gravesite in Europe in its original beauty! To ensure this, our Camp is requesting both the SCV in America (GEC, ANV and the South Carolina Division) to join us with an fundraising project that will include private donors and funds from many other sources both sides of the Atlantic. We will do that in close co-operation with the Administration of the Protestant Cemetery in Rome.

**Our part is to raise at least 5000\$.** That's a difficult task, indeed. But a wonderful opportunity to show our ability for sacrifice, to make real efforts and to prove things like being "a band of brothers" means more than empty words.

It shall be remembered that Thomas Jefferson Page was a member of America's most prominent families. His Grandfather, Thomas Nelson, was among the signatories of the Declaration of Independence for Virginia and the first militia commander of Virginia, appointed by Thomas Jefferson, future third

President of the USA. Page was named upon him. Capt. Page is a prominent American naval hero of the 1840's and 50's, and a great Confederate Navy officer who chose to defend his Native state from Yankee aggression. He commanded the last ship to cross the Atlantic in an attempt to break the blockade: the formidable CSS Stonewall ironclad.

It is time to have the tomb of this great Southerner restored in the proper condition. **Please, donate as much as you can to have this wonderful monument of Confederate glory in Europe well preserved and cleaned!**

Camp Associates, a special call to you: this is the moment to show your membership is more than having a certificate as wall decoration, act now!

**Readers interested in making donations may contact for information:**

**In Europe, Camp Adjutant Chris McLarren: [cmclvhs@aol.com](mailto:cmclvhs@aol.com)**

**In America, Compatriot Jeff O'Cain (SC Division): [jocain@sc.rr.com](mailto:jocain@sc.rr.com)**

Every donor's name will be included in an honor roll to be published in every issue of the ISE during the campaign. Contributions of 100 Euros (125\$) or higher will receive a special Camp certificate signed by the Commander for helping to preserve this important funerary monument for future generations as the testimony of heroism serving a rightful Cause and architectural beauty it is.



**Memorial column of Maj. Thomas J. Page Jr.,  
part of the Page grave plot**

## **SCV Europe Camp in Forest City**

By Achim "Archy" Bänsch, Camp Commander

Past June 26th the "Hampton's Legion" from Berlin had their yearly Summer Feast and we were glad to attend. It always does good to visit our first-hour allies from the German reenacting scene in their headquarters at Forest City.

Leaving the highway East from Berlin and following a dusty field road a bit less than a mile through waving corn fields you reach the headquarters of the "Hampton's". In every detail and full of love they have build up a little town in a style people would call "Civil War Era".

The Hampton's like to use their open summer party to offer every year again the opportunity to everybody interested to discover their reenactment live. It was nice to see so many people using that occasion. A lot of action was offered to the amusement of the visitors. Even a fighting scene with drunkards was reenacted. The Provost guard brought them into jail. Afterwards there were court-martialed.

Late afternoon there was music and dancing. The Hampton members and their wives performed period dances in evening dress. Also a Country-Band made music for the amusement of the visitors.

Chris McLaren and I had a lot of fun that day, but before we started partying I had a meeting with my Adjutant. Much of the Camp's work is done by e-mail and phone, so we used our physical meeting to discuss some Camp business in person.

All in one, we had a wonderful experience in best spring weather. We will be there next year again to visit our friends and allies of the "Hampton's Legion"!



**Forest City**



**SCV Europe Camp Commander Archy Bänsch and Camp Adjutant Chris McLarren with some of the Hampton's Legion officers and NCO's.**



**Adjutant Chris McLarren makes a payment - using Confederate currency**





**Court martial**



**Fun at the "Biergarten"**

## **NANCY HITT LAUNCHES EDUCATIONAL DVD**

Our Camp Angel from Kentucky is one of the most active Southern women in preserving Heritage and defending the Confederate Cause. Not only does she work close with our Camp's logistics providing the Crosses of Honor for our Confederate grave marking program in Europe and doing all the paperwork to obtain VA headstones. Nancy has stepped forward on her own to help educating people. Her DVD "Kentucky Bloodletting, 1864-1865" is focusing on places related to events at the end of the WBTS and afterwards. Not a normal TV documentary, but a walk: together with Nancy's descriptions and comments the camera makes the viewer visit every place with her. During more than two hours you will learn a lot of the brutal events in Kentucky during and after the WBTS while being there "in person" on location thanks to the camera views and Nancy's voice. There are many historical markers in Kentucky, but unmarked places of historical value are shown as well. You will see many interesting gravesites, from Generals to unknown soldiers. Some lay in beautiful cemeteries, others rest in a wilderness with their headstones in much need of restoration.

All in one, a fine production intended especially for Kentuckians, but interesting for everyone during the following four years of the Sesquicentennial.

This ISE newsletter recommends Nancy's work to all our readers! Our Camp Angel is the most serious and reliable person to put your trust in: this DVD work will not disappoint you! We recommend it as wonderful promotion of history in an American State and as a perfect guide to everyone interested in the WBTS while visiting Kentucky. Cost of the video guide is 15\$ (11EU) shipping inclusive; it is available in version for European DVD readers and it works fine - the Editor's word on it! For orders from Europe it's best to exchange Euros into dollars first and mail the cash. Contact Nancy for details and ordering info: [\*\*hunleyhitt@earthlink.net\*\*](mailto:hunleyhitt@earthlink.net)



## **Blood-Washed Dixie**

By guest writer Nancy Hitt, KY. Camp Angel, Europe Camp #1612

**Editor's note: This wonderful contribution is especially interesting and fits well the analytical review of this issue's Educational Movie.**

Kentuckians, including some of my own ancestors, turned Missouri into a bloodied, killing-field during our War for Southern Independence. During the 1820s and 1830s many folks from Kentucky trekked into Missouri and settled in places like Lexington, Independence and Westport. The battle of Lexington also known as the "Battle of the Hemp Bales" took place upon the grounds of the home of a prominent Kentuckian, Oliver Anderson.

Due to the brutal incursions made into Missouri by the *freebooters* from Kansas before and during the war, hundreds of young men joined forces with Confederate partisan units to fight those abolitionist brutes. One of my distant Yager cousins served under William Clarke Quantrill and George Todd. We are both descendants of Nicholas Yager of Germany. He was a 1717 immigrant into Virginia who served as an indentured servant to Governor Spotswood in the area around Culpeper.

Judge James Barnes Yager was raised and married in Washington County, Kentucky. Richard Francis "Dick" Yager/Yeager was his only son. After moving to Missouri, Judge Yager and Richard became freighters on the Santa Fe Trail only to be raided by Jennison's gang. Thousands of dollars of supplies were stolen from the Yager home by these cut throats.

This robbery was the catalyst that drove Richard Yager to join forces with Quantrill. He captained small bands deep into Kansas to raid places that he was familiar with due to his former experience travelling upon the Santa Fe Trail. On July 19, 1864, George Todd and Yager with a company of partisans attacked the Yanks at Arrowrock, Missouri.

Yager was shot in the head and left in a cornfield north of Arrowrock and cared for by Jennie Flannery/Flanery on Gilliam's land. Two weeks later, the Yanks found Yager and murdered him. Jennie turned herself in to the Federal authorities in order to protect Gilliam. She was placed in jail, and Gilliam was saved from a possible execution. Yager's wife, Martha J. "Mattie" Muir, descended from the Kentucky Muirs. Mattie and her daughter Mollie along with some of her Muir relatives were jailed in Leavenworth, Kansas, before Yager was killed.

Here is more evidence of the abuse our enemies meted out to the gentler sex of Missouri.

According to the Margaret Watts Hays letters (see: [www.wattshaysletters.com](http://www.wattshaysletters.com)): "They say if they get Dick they will torture him four days and then burn him." These violent threats kept the southern men fighting with determination. Margaret was the wife of Confederate Upton Hays who was a descendant of Daniel Boone. She and her five children witnessed their home being burned by Yankee villains! Margaret was a first cousin to Yager as her mother and Richard's mother were Berry sisters from Kentucky.

In 2007, no one had been successful on locating the gravesite for Richard Yager, but with good fortune I was led to his final gravesite, likely his third. We do not know for sure where he was originally buried, but in 1871 his body was

removed to the Confederate/Self Cemetery in Kansas City at 71st and Troost Street. By 1893, all the soldiers buried at the Confederate Cemetery were moved just across the street into Forest Hills Cemetery at 72<sup>nd</sup>/Gregory Street and Troost Street. This move included the 75 unknown Confederates who had died defending Westport, Missouri. This data was detailed within an old D.A.R. book which contained a list of cemeteries. The book is entitled "Vital Historical Records of Jackson County, Missouri 1826-1876" by the Kansas City Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. It only lists four actual names of soldiers buried in 1871 at the Confederate Soldiers' Cemetery.

These four names were: Upton Hays who had a marker at Forest Hills, Richard Yeager, William McGuire and Officer Jones from Arkansas.

After this discovery, I placed an order for two V.A. markers, one for Yeager and one for McGuire. It is documented that Hays, Yeager and McGuire all rode with Quantrill, more research is needed to determine more about Officer Jones so in the future a V.A. marker can be placed at Forest Hills in his memory.



**VA marker stone for William F. McGuire**

On Sunday, October 12, 2008 at 2 p.m. a memorial service was held for the two newly marked graves under the beautiful U.D.C. monument and in honor of all Confederates buried at Forest Hills Cemetery. The names of many of the soldiers were called out and a gong struck in their honor. A well-known Kentuckian, General Jo Shelby's name was announced. He also rests with several members of his family near to the base of the Confederate monument. Harold Dellinger and members of the Major Thomas J. Key S.C.V. Camp #1920 of Kansas City, Kansas, organized this fine ceremony.

I read this eulogy by General Alpheus Baker, the “eagle orator of Alabama” as I believe it to be one of the most sublime every written about our Southern soldiers:

“Pondering the past, I have sometimes looked up into the skies of a cloudless night, at the lights of glory with which God has chandeliered that dome. And I would see scattered here and there stars of the first magnitude: Sirius and Arcturus and Aldebaran, and others whose names I knew. And to me they represented the leaders in the war. But beyond and back of them, and without which the heavens would have been bereft of their splendor, glittered an innumerable host of other stars which no astronomer has named. And there, streaming far across the skies was the milky way; a wide river of glory whose every wavelet is a nameless star. And to me they represented the private soldiers, the unknown men, the nameless heroes; who, faithful to a soldier’s duty, for which they expected no pensions or honors or reward but the sublime consciousness of its discharge, fighting for the right as God gave them to see the right, bore up the stars and bars of *blood-washed Dixie* to disaster or to victory upon a thousand fields. Is it not right that such men should never be forgotten?”

I am proud to have the surnames of Yager, Muir and Berry in my family lineage!



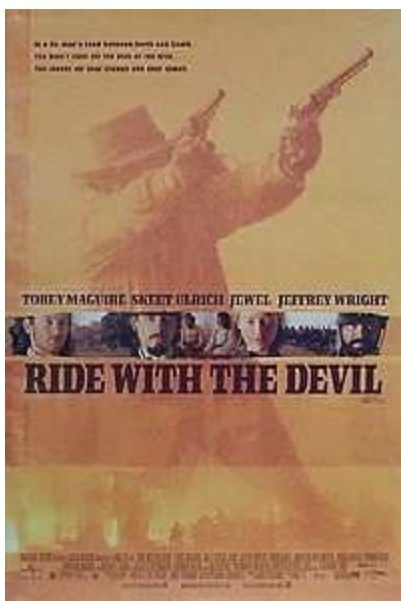
VA marker stone for Richard Francis Yeager, Nancy’s collateral ancestor

## EDUCATIONAL MOVIES

### RIDE WITH THE DEVIL (1999)

This movie was defined in America to be *politically incorrect* and was not widely distributed. You may see reproduced below two different promotional posters. The second one is a most ominous re-designed cover for the first DVD release, after the motion picture had found quite a few film theatres willing to show it. Director Ang Lee himself agreed during an electronic interview with the press while on visit to Spain to the fact that, much to his surprise the film had met a lot of distribution problems in the USA.

This definitely deserves a closer look at this genuine Missouri Guerrilla movie:



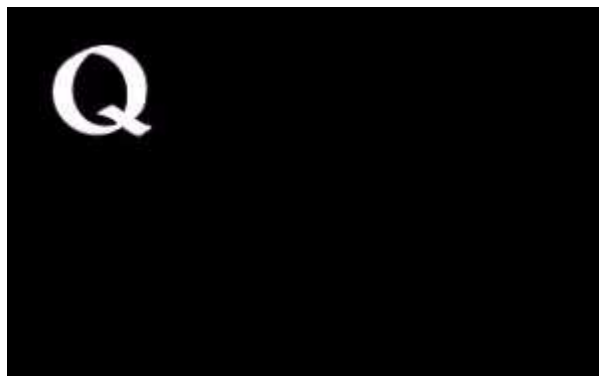
**Plot summary:** At first view the summary is simple: Young friends join the Southern side in the Missouri-version of the American “Civil War” in order to protect their families and because the time demands a ultimate decision regarding their way of life. But the story is by far more complex. Jake Roedel (Tobey Maguire) is the son of a German immigrant unionist (the movie does not mention that his true German name is most probably Jakob Rödel). Despite his father’s unionist convictions, Jake and his best friend Jack Bull Chiles (Skeet Ulrich) find themselves thrust into battle against the Yankees when Union marauders destroy Jack’s family plantation and bluecoats kill Jake’s father just because his son has chosen the Southern side. The Bushwhackers, the pro-Confederate Missouri Guerrillas, will fight with no quarter or mercy.

During harsh winter they must disperse and find shelter. Four Guerrillas hole up in a hidden hillside dugout: Roedel, Bull, Simon Clyde (George Baker) and his former slave and loyal friend Daniel Holt (Jeffrey Wright). They are supplied with food by a young widow, who is compassionate but certainly not a lady, Sue Lee Shelley (Jewel Kilcher). Jack Bull and her become lovers and as a result, Sue becomes pregnant. After Jack dies during an amputation following a battle wound, Jake brings Sue Lee to safety. When the season changes brutal Guerrilla warfare intensifies; the peak is Quantrill’s raid on Lawrence, Kansas.

Some of the Bushwhackers already distrust Jake because he is of German origin (most Germans in Missouri are pro-Union). He becomes increasingly isolated from his comrades as the movie goes on and he tightens his friendship with Holt, the former black slave. While recovering from a murder attempt by fanatical Guerrilla Pitt Mackeson (Jonathan Rhys-Meyers) he meets Sue Lee again. She has a baby now and after some internal struggle Jake decides to marry her. The young family decides to go to California, loyal Daniel goes with them and the film ends as they separate, Daniel Holt leaving for Texas to search for his mother, still a slave.

**Analysis:** As said, the story that lies behind is deeper and more complex as stated in most summaries. Let's start with the changed poster/cover for the DVD home video edition (which was delayed four months to make promotion even more difficult). What immediately caught your attention is the fact that Black Guerrilla Daniel Holt has vanished, although being Jeffrey Wright an actor in a leading role (his name remains). Political correctness at its best: a black cannot fight for the South, thus, censorship! That must bring back to our mind that ten thousands of blacks fought for the South, even the very character of Daniel Holt is based on a black Missouri Guerrilla, John Noland, who rode with Quantrill's raiders. Holt, the free black, fights against the self-proclaimed Missouri abolitionists out of loyalty to the man, Simon Clyde, who freed him from slavery by legal manumission. Loyalty and friendship are highly praised in this movie, as hate and prejudice, the fruits of war, are shown with crude realism.

But for people going to buy the DVD an additional graphic warning is included in the cover: Southern Guerrillas burn the American flag! This action is today one of the most despicable acts against people and country, against the *American Nation*. But it is shown out of context: the raiders of Lawrence do this in the movie as an act against Yankeedom, which has perverted the true meaning of the original US flag, now becoming oppressive to a free Missouri in their eyes. The scene, anyway, is very short and does not deserve to be exposed in such predominance on the DVD cover. The intention is clear: to cause in the audience a hearts-and-minds prejudice against the Missouri Bushwhackers.



**Quantrill's Black Flag**

We must have a look at the time the movie plays in to get a deeper understanding of all the psychological shading of the characters and complexity of the situation in Missouri in the 1860's. It is astonishing to see how Taiwanese director Ang Lee (later to become controversial for "Brokeback Mountain") caught the most unique realities felt in Missouri during the WBTS. Also the actors and the script; in both the language and the attitudes of their characters, nothing feels anachronistic or anything less than genuine and heartfelt. "Ride with the Devil" makes clear the Bushwhackers ride for Missouri and freedom in their way of life. How much Yankee spirit was menacing that free way of life is perfectly explained when Missouri gentleman Orton Brown (Tom Wilkinson) hosts Jake and Jack to a dinner at his house. Brown show mixed feelings by Jack's description of the Bushwhacker's mission. Finally he tells Jack that the Guerrilla for the Southern cause cannot win. But not because the Yankee military is unstoppable, rather the cause was lost the day the Unionists and abolitionists built the town of Lawrence, Kansas, and the first thing they erected there was a schoolhouse. The Unionists brought children from all around to attend school there, to learn the same thing. The Unionists wanted everyone to think and live the same way and would not rest until they did. The South didn't give a damn about such conformity and was content to let people live their own lives. That was why the South would lose, and the Yankees would win. "*It all began with that public schoolhouse*", Orton Brown says. Even with some Guerrillas not being totally aware of the fact, exactly this is what the pro-Southern Missourians were fighting against: Yankee imposition of a way of life, as it would happen with the public school system after the WBTS.



**Riding for a free Missouri out of the Yankee Union: Roedel, Clyde**

As the fighting goes on we see constantly augmenting hate and brutality. How crude the Bushwhackers have become is shown in a poker playing scene with scalps of killed Federalists used instead of money (no prisoners are taken since at the beginning a freed bluecoat is responsible for killing Jake's father).



Interesting is the added particular racist note that one “German” (blonde) scalp is worth several black scalps, while Holt is sitting beneath at the camp fire (he is often referred to as “George’s nigger”, but that’s just normal 19<sup>th</sup> century language). Jake’s own nickname “Dutchie” derives from “Dutch”, the phonetically Anglo-American reinterpretation of “Deutsch” which means just “German”. He is constantly confronted with that prejudice, despite being a good Missourian and bold fighter. There are hate and prejudice again, flourished by the brutal war in Missouri. The peak is the traitorous murder attempt against Jake Roedel done by insane fighter Mackeson who shoots him in the leg in the midst of a battle with Union Cavalry after the Lawrence raid.

While recovering from his leg wound the story softens up, the romantic phase between Jake and Sue Lee leads to their marriage (which includes loyalty feelings to his dead friend Bull and the wish to preserve the little newborn’s honor by fathering the baby). Meanwhile, the Bushwhackers are picked off one by one. The ending of the movie introduces a kind of escaping from the horrors of war: Jack and Sue Lee decide to move to California. In a chivalrous way, Daniel Holt salutes them with his hat before departing to search for his mother in Texas. Bushwhacking is gone; a new future opens for the survivors. The movie ends in the midst of the prairie. That means the new life will commence or not, thus it’s not necessarily a happy end: we will never know what happened to the little Roedel family in California or to Holt in Texas.



**The wedding scene: Jake Roedel gets finally married to Sue Lee.**

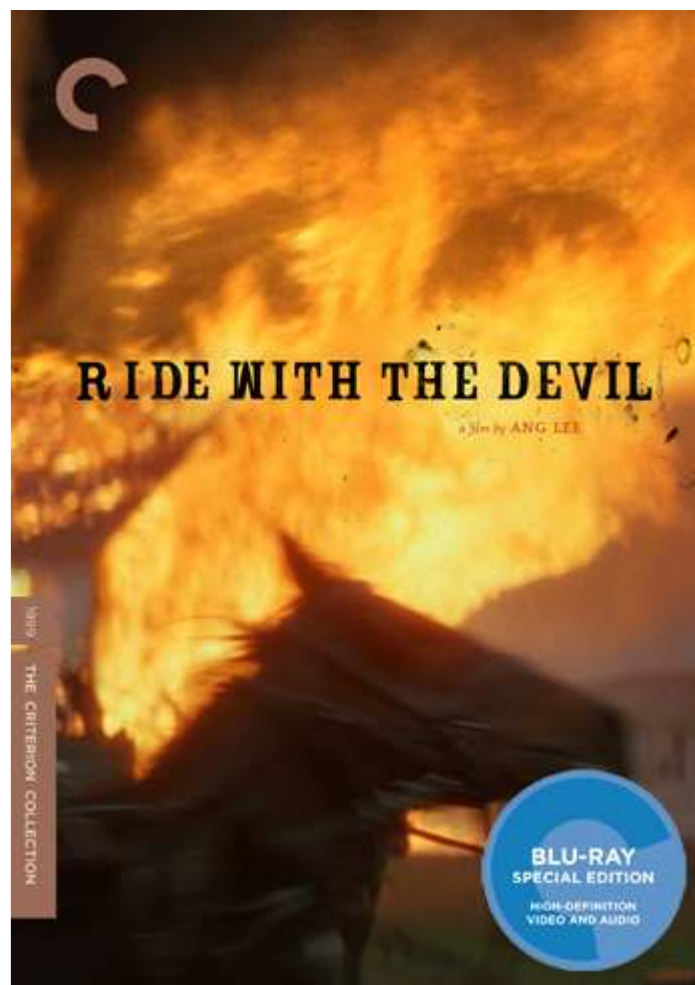
We truly recommend “Ride with the Devil”, as a very good testimonial of “Civil War” Missouri. But to see how much improved is the upcoming new 2010 director’s cut of the movie read the following review by guest author Patrick Marquis.

## Ride with the Devil – Director’s Cut

Extract from the original review by Patrick R. Marquis.

**Editor’s note:** We are most indebted to Patrick who sent us his entire review after talks with Nancy Hitt, of this new May 2010 DVD/Blu-Ray version which is still unreleased in Europe. Patrick’s views are most interesting and make us expect this new release with enhanced interest. For full content of the review and an awesome historical photograph of the real John Noland (that man actor Jeffrey Wright’s character Daniel Holt is based upon) see:

[www.quantrillsquerrillas.com](http://www.quantrillsquerrillas.com)



**New Blu-Ray cover design for the 2010 director’s cut version.**

“Although director Ang Lee’s original movie, Ride With the Devil, based upon Daniel Woodrell's novel, Woe to Live On, was far from perfect, I enjoyed it nonetheless. But when I first saw it, I had the nagging feeling that somehow something was missing. Apparently so did Ang Lee.

But the film was easy to enjoy because Lee took young, fresh actors and transformed them into characters who looked like the weathered guerrillas who fought the Missouri border war. Under Lee's direction, these young actors blossomed into some of Hollywood most valuable, sought-after actors: Tobey Maguire later became the face of the Spiderman franchise; Jim Caviezel tackled *The Passion of the Christ*; Simon Baker assumed roles in *The Mentalist* and *Land of the Dead*; and Jeffrey Wright moved on to star in *Syriana* and *Angels in America*. In *Ride With the Devil*, Wright starred as Daniel Holt, a black confederate guerrilla fighting against the Jayhawkers, Redlegs, and Bluebellies. [...]

When *Ride With the Devil* originally arrived in theaters with a runtime of 138 minutes, it was not the cut director Ang Lee had originally hoped for and envisioned. The newly released director's cut, in the form of a DVD, runs a little more than 10 minutes longer than the original. Instead of just adding footage, Lee has rearranged a few sequences adroitly, while removing others. Most of the additional editing is employed to enhance character development—such as an additional scene featuring Alf Bowman. In the original release, Alf is seen only once, as a captured Jayhawker who is in danger of being hung in reprisal for the killing of some Confederates who were executed. In the scene, Jake takes pity on Bowman, and he is released to take a message back to the Yankee commanders. Later, we hear that immediately upon his release, Bowman murdered Jake Roedel's father. Now, we view a pre-war wedding where the Pro-Union Bowman swore he would never do anything to harm his pro-Southern neighbors. This demonstrates the hypocrisy displayed by many of the pro-Union supporters and troops in Missouri at that time.

Lee incorporates a few other minor additions: a small group of guerrillas is shown beating a Union soldier, and Jake and Holt are shown going into the home of a dead neighbor. Director Lee also focuses a few more frames revealing the beauty of the Missouri countryside, which contrasts starkly with the madness and violence of war-time Missouri.

One of the most noticeable subtractions from the film was the removal of a sequence where Dutchie (Jake) writes a letter explaining the guerrillas' tactic of dressing in Union clothing. Dutchie does add that the guerrillas still "wear their guerrilla shirts close to their hearts." Other sequences have been slightly rearranged, such as the moment where Jake and Jack discuss the "positives" of Jake losing his pinky. Also there's a small amount of added footage involving Jake and Sue Lee, as she is shown breastfeeding her baby late in the film. Finally, there are several elements that have been changed in the Lawrence raid. However, I'll not disclose the details so that my readers can enjoy the enhanced production features and additional, expanded shots of the best rendition to date of Quantrill's greatest military victory.

As a stickler for authenticity it took me a long while to realize that Hollywood has no motivation to make a 100% accurate film because a 100% accurate film is not a marketable commodity. Yet the authenticity of this movie's portrayal of the Civil War in the Midwest is one of the best Hollywood has every produced. Not everything is correct, but the result is highly impressive. From the scenery to the dialog, from the costuming to the weaponry, this film earns the highest honors. It certainly more than passes the "first glance test," only a true expert could spot the few miscues that are present.

To his credit, Lee resists the temptation to incorrectly portray slavery as the predominant issue in the story, something to be analyzed and dissected at length. That is because slavery was not the predominant issue for Missouri's version of the Minute Men. Quantrill's guerrillas, mostly young boys, were fighting against overwhelming odds to protect their families and their farms. Ang Lee, in line with these motives, had the courage to show the strong bonds that existed between the former slave Daniel Holt and his white comrades. Thanks to the acting skills of Jeffery Wright, Simon Baker, and Tobey Maguire, these bonds are as natural and believable as they are historically accurate.

Both the audio and video in this DVD have been greatly enhanced and improved in this edition. For those who are interested in further details, they are available on-line. Suffice it to say the differences are clearly visible, so every moment looks and sounds great. Finally, there are added features to this Criterion Collection release, two feature length commentaries are included. In the first, director Ang Lee and writer James Schamus give their insights. The next commentary has Fred Elms, Drew Kunin, and production designer Mark Friedberg, providing a blow-by-blow account of the filming process with recollections and anecdotes galore.

However, the unexpected surprise of the disc is the interview with Jeffrey Wright—a candid, insightful, and sometimes humorous interview.

Wright comments as follow: "Most films that I see in this country dealing with race, I mean, come on man, are just not helpful. Especially now as we look back at our history in the Obama era, it's more complex. What separates this film from other films that deal with the Civil War and other films that deal with historic racial dynamics [is that] Ang was open to the complexity of it. That war is a seminal event in the character of American history which continues to form who we are today and who we will become."



**Actor Jeffrey Wright**

Wright's interview was truly something special. He reveals his experience in shooting "his favorite film," and he recalls it "vividly." He discusses how this became his first role where he didn't have to audition first, that Lee thought he was right for the part because of something he saw in Wright's eyes. Jeffrey fondly remembers the actors were placed in an environment where they could fully immerse themselves in their new roles, and that they couldn't wait to get to work everyday. I was laughing when Wright candidly stated that making the movie was boiler-plate fantasy for him because he was "riding horses every

day, shooting up white folks, and getting paid a LITTLE to do it.” I know this writer spent many a day when I was young riding an imaginary horse beside Quantrill and the James brothers. But in today’s politically correct world, it takes some real gumption to admit it on camera. Bravo, Mr. Wright.

[. . .]

Impressively, Wright had the integrity to admit he struggled with the underlying theme of the movie, until the director Ang Lee said to him plainly: “These are two men who grew up together as boys, you played together, and you had this relationship, and in spite of there being this obvious hierarchal dynamic, you still LOVE HIM. There were certain negative structures that were undeniable; at the same time there were human relations that belied the racial tensions.” Wright also admitted that they had to re-shoot one scene on four different days. It was the scene where Jewel’s character questions why Holt was inside the dug-out instead of out plowing in the fields. Holt said he did not want to give in to what was really happening, because “he wanted to impose his modern views on race.” But once again, Ang Lee took charge. He told Wright that he knew the scene “hurt” Wright, and that he should acknowledge his pain and just get through the moment.

Finally, Wright wondered why the “powers that be” couldn’t find a way to market the film when it was originally released. To this writer, the answer is that those powers don’t want this story to be told because it doesn’t fit the carefully crafted fairy tale where the vile and inhuman Confederates were defeated by the saintly boys in blue. The powers that be don’t want people to realize that the slaves and their master did respect and even love each other. Instead, the powers that be want to impose their modern views on race in an effort to continue to stoke the flames of distrust and disharmony that still exist nearly 150 years later.

So I whole-heartedly recommend that everyone pick up a copy of this director’s-cut, which is a vast improvement over the original release. Whether you are a novice or an expert on the Missouri-Kansas Border War, it is well worth the investment of \$35.00. Don’t waste your time watching the original release, see the film the way the director intended it to be seen. Wright, who plays a black Confederate in the film, thinks it is the most positive film about historical American racial relations ever made.

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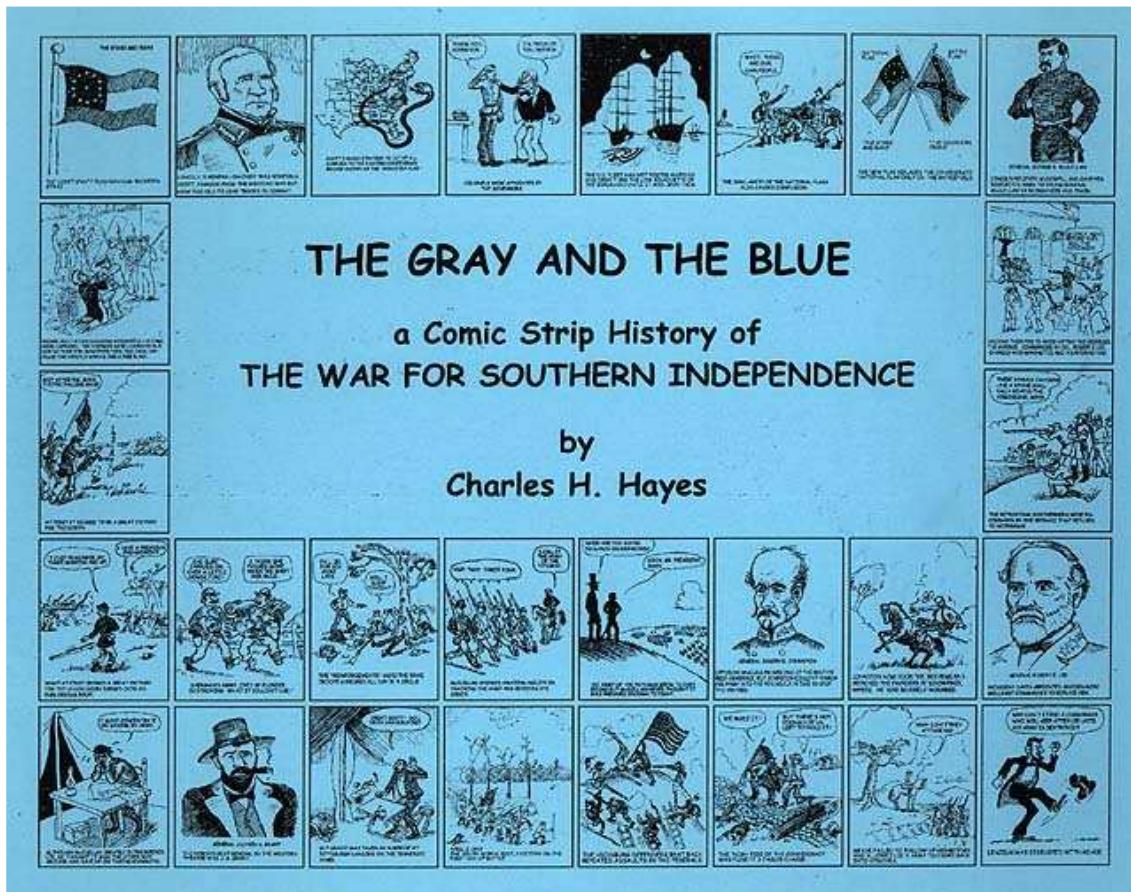
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## ABOUT "CIVIL WAR" COMICS

Especially during the Sesquicentennial years we need to report and inform of everything related to the WBTS that might be educational, both in America and in Europe. Comic cartoons are a very modern communication form to tell stories and to teach History to kids and young people. It is rather surprising that in America, the land of comics the figures of the men who fought the country's most critical war have never found a place in the pen of famed authors in the way the matter should have deserved.

SCV Compatriot Charles H. Hayes is a worthy exception. He reported us his work "The Gray and the Blue", a really interesting Comic Strip.



**Front cover of Hayes Comic strip about the War for Southern Independence**

Hayes presentation of the entire War Between the States takes the reader from Fort Sumter through every battle till the bitter end at Appomattox in hundreds of cartoon panels. A perfect introduction to America's defining conflict, it is fast-moving enough to keep the interest of grade schoolers, yet sufficiently factual and historically accurate to please the adult reader. His cartoons, partially based on original photographs and drawings, have a representative visual impact. They include figures with dialogues and additional short text notes. Hayes has advertises in the Confederate Veteran.

Unfortunately, to date it is not possible to make online orders with credit card; he just accepts checks and money orders. That makes it difficult to order issues from Europe, but to our American readers we can truly recommend this work which has the double value of being entertaining reading and a good educational tool for parents schooling their children in History.

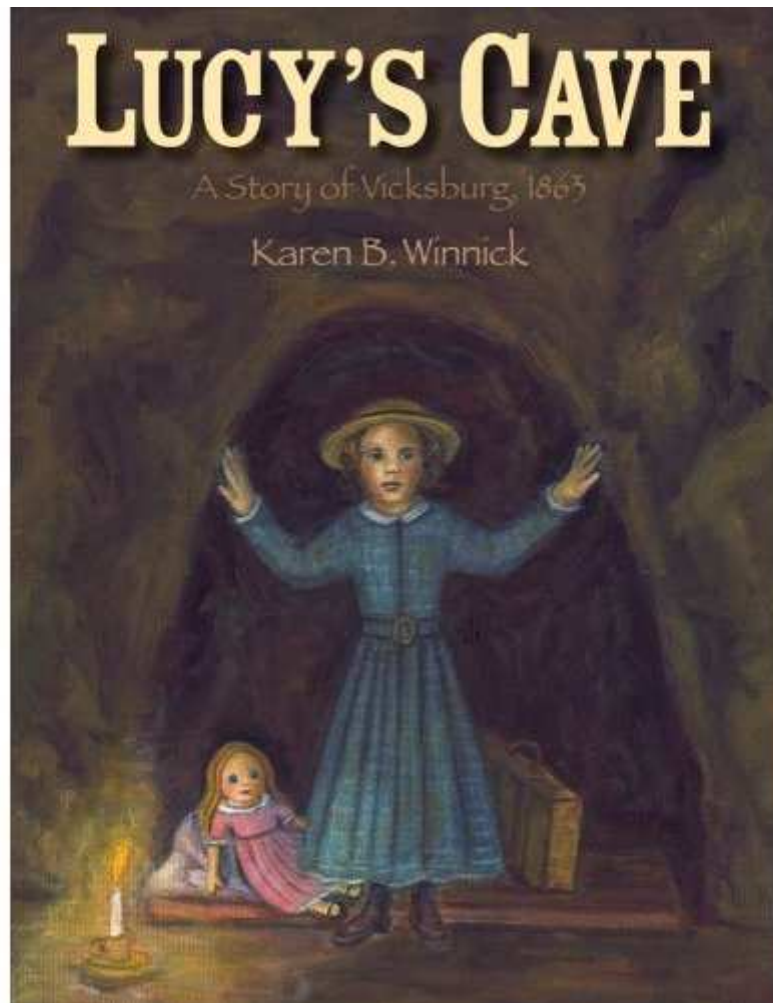
You can see more pages and ordering details by clicking on this address:  
<http://www.b17.com/civilwar/graybook/index.htm>



Two Yankee soldiers after looting a Southern farm. Dialogues and short footnoted texts are helpful to children in understanding the drawings.

An interesting mix of good illustrated novel for kids with accompanying pictures that would be perfect for a comic strip is "Lucy's Cave. A story of Vicksburg, 1863" by author Karen B. Winnick. Vicksburg, Mississippi is under siege. Forty-seven days, during which many families must take refuge in a series of caves and tunnels. The book is based on the published remembrances of Lucy McRae, who experienced the horrors of the Vicksburg siege and the cave shelter as an eleven-year old girl. Told from a child's point of view, with its carefully-researched text and oil paintings, Lucy's Cave is historical fiction for kids at its finest. Families eating lumpy cornmeal, even rats for dinner, sleeping on wooden planks, hauling buckets of water for subsistence in the same buckets of human waste for disposal and living endless days in a dimly lit cavern. Lucy's Cave makes a valuable addition to any collection of children's

books with educational content that can be read and explained by parents. And: the pictures are most inspirational to create a wonderful comic series in the future.

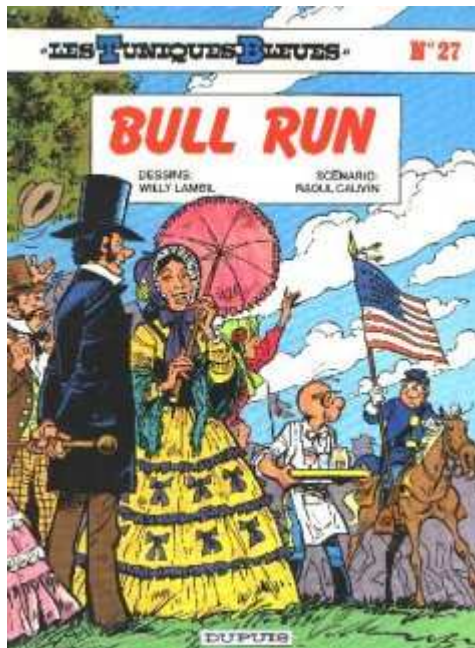


**Book cover of "Lucy's Cave. A story of Vicksburg, 1863"**

In Europe, the comic series *Les Tuniques Bleues* ("The Bluecoats") by French/Belgian author Raoul Chauvin and drawings by Willy Lambil is about adventures related to the WBTS and the Indian Wars. First appeared in 1968 in the comic magazine *SPIROU*, 53 issues have appeared since. It is among the best-selling comics in French language. All the stories have Sergeant Chesterfield and Corporal Blutch in the leading role. The first is righteous and devoted to the Northern cause – but clumsy and unlucky; the second is a lazy undisciplined fellow who is always behind an opportunity to desert for a while and to get rid from military duties. As a result, this Yankee duo is involuntarily most disastrous to the Union Army in every adventurous issue of *Les Tuniques Bleues*. Beside the hilarious performances of Chesterfield and Blutch (a humor sometimes similar to Oliver Hardy and Stan Laurel), the well-drawn full color stories are realistic and historically quite accurate. Even most unknown events of the WBTS are made accessible to the European public by these comics. The issue with the little known story of the David torpedo boats used to defend Charleston harbor, "Le David" is quite remarkable (although mixing it with the Hunley submarine and the CSS Manassas ironclad ram). Among the many themes of the collection are titles like "Bull Run", "Quantrill", "Émeutes a New York" about the Draft riots of 1863 or the especially funny "L'oreille de Lincoln"

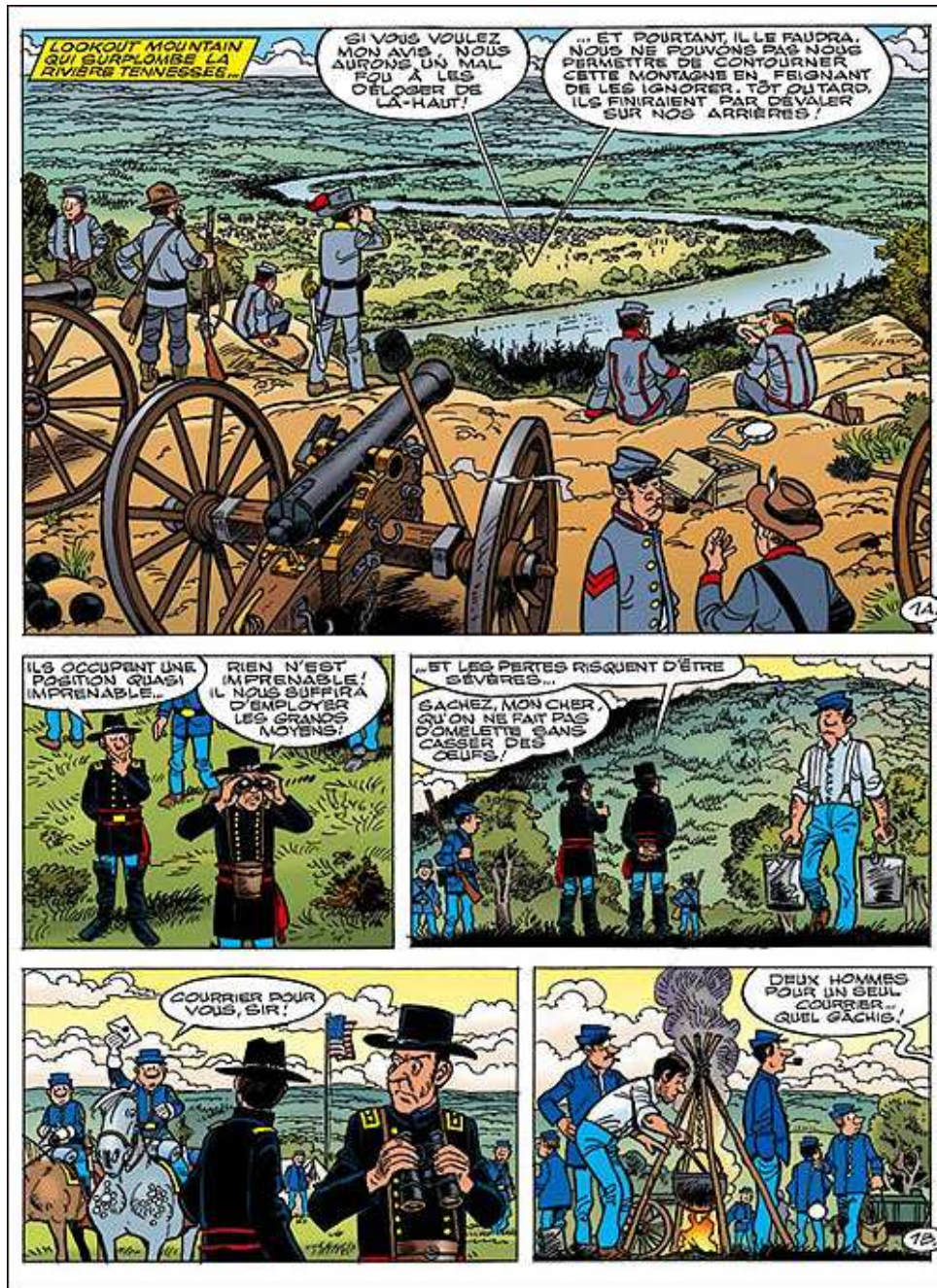


(Lincoln's Ear), an episode about a spy sent by Old Abe to watch General Grant's alcoholism...



Hubert Leroy, member of the Steering Committee of the Confederate Historical Association Belgium (CHAB) sent to the ISE editor a issue of Les Tuniques Bleues, "Duel dans La Manche", regarding the fight of the CSS Alabama and the USS Kearsarge off Cherbourg in the British Channel (in this issue Sergeant Chesterfield and Corporal Blutch find their unique way from the Union Army into the Navy - and back). For this episode the authors even requested the CHAB to provide historical information. It makes definitely good summer reading!





Drawing quality of "Les Tuniques Bleues" as shown in this page of issue 52 "Des bleus dans le brouillard" at Lookout Mountain

All in one, well done by European authors, coming close to the WBTS including a good portion of humor! Some issues have appeared in German as "Die blauen Boys" (The Boys in Blue). Although an English edition of one issue was published in 2004 as "The Blue Tunics" by Reney Editions it was not until 2008 that Publisher Cinebook has started to print some comics in English as "The Blue Coats" (only 4 selected issues to date). It would be really interesting to have some day the entire collection well translated and published in the USA with the same sense of humor taking the bluecoats to parody and derision as in the original version in French. More desirable it would be to see Southern artists starting during the Sesquicentennial a full-color comic cartoon series in the same drawing-style of these Belgian comics, but entirely devoted to the Cause of Southern Independence to help creating interest in the kids!!!

## **THE PREACHER'S CORNER**

Read the Bible, rejoice in the Lord. It will give you strength and it will give you consolation, both as Christian and as a Confederate.

### **Recommended reading: Philippians 4:4-9**

“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”

True Southerners are full of faith; their lifestyle is interwoven with God. They can ask themselves these questions and find them answered in the Epistle: Isn't our Cause true? Isn't it honorable? Isn't it just? Isn't it pure? Isn't it gracious and of good report? We can say YES and quote the Epistle again: “If there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.”



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