

# Intelligence Service Europe

SCV Europe Camp #1612

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## Intelligence Service Europe, Year 11, Issue 1, Jan. 2018

### Commander's Letter

Members and friends of the Europe Camp, the year 2017 was a year full of joy but also full of suffering. We were pleased to welcome a future new member (Jörg Porstmann) to our ranks. He is about to prepare his documents for a membership. So we will grow again! And growing is an important and necessary means in this day and age to show those people who have conspired against our tradition, that remembering our ancestors is always an important part of our lives. It is sad to see that America's own tradition and history are being trampled on. Show our brothers and sisters all over the world that we are always with them. We will leave no stone unturned to honor the memory of the Confederate Soldiers. I would also like to thank all the people who guarantee our freedom and security on every day and especially on Christmas and New Year's Eve.

In the service of the South,



*Achim "Archy" Bänsch*  
Commander

## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Dear members and friends of Europe Camp,

Due to other commitments, no newsletter was published in 2017.

But now it is 2018 – and it is time to rejoin the battle for the good name of our Confederate ancestors.

In this issue, we report on some of the activities of the Camp in 2017, including a glorious WBTS reenactment weekend in Poland commemorating Colonel Heros von Borcke. And we are happy to report on a visit to a Confederate grave that grew out of our Camp's 2012 restoration of the grave of Confederate Navy Captain Page in Rome.

ISE has an extended readership both in Europe and North America. It is our Camp's window on the world.

You can help me to make this an interesting publication. What stories do you have of your Confederate ancestors? Who were they and what they do? Did they fool Yankees, escape from Yankees, capture Yankees?

These personal stories are often far more interesting than any history book. So, please send us your stories. They can be in English oder Deutsch and you and I can put the stories into form for this newsletter.

And if you have any other stories about the War, send them to me and I will try to add them.

The absurd post-war Republican fairytale that the War was all about freeing the slaves is now too deeply ingrained in the American psyche to be easily changed. To be at all successful in countering it, we need to consider why most Americans want to believe that the war was about slavery.

And we know someone who can help us do that. Dr. Vernon Padgett, Treasurer of the California Division of the **S.C.V.** wrote a brilliant article that can help us to understand why the fairytale is so powerful and can give us insight into how we bring people to the truth. I have Dr. Padgett's kind permission to present a version of his article in our next issue.

"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them." - Ephesians 5:11

The Editor



**Chris McLarren**

# Sharpsburg in Poland

## *The 2017 von Borcke Weekend in Giżyn*

By Chris McLarren,  
Europe Camp Adjutant



On the last weekend in July, the now-traditional von Borcke Reenactment Weekend was held in Giżyn, Poland.

**Colonel Heros von Borcke, C.S.A.** was a young Prussian cavalry officer who went to fight for the South, was Chief of Staff to Gen'l JEB Stuart, fought in many campaigns, was wounded and eventually returned to Europe on a diplomatic mission for President Davis. He was here when the War ended. His former home is located about 90 miles east of Berlin, Germany. Then it was Prussia, now it is Poland. He is buried there in the family mausoleum.

Our Camp was originally alerted to this unique possibility to honor a Confederate soldier here in Europe by Ms. Nancy Hitt of Louisville, Kentucky.

So, in 2008, Europe Camp, together with the great-grandsons of Heros von Borcke and of JEB Stuart, Ms. Hitt and re-enactors from Germany, conducted a ceremony of commemoration at the grave site. We returned in 2010. In 2013, Polish WBTS Re-enactors of the **14<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry** got in touch with us and since then, 'Lieut. Clayton' and 'Sgt. Smednir' have organized a von Borcke Re-enactment Weekend at Giżyn every year. Europe Camp conducts the Remembrance Ceremony for the Colonel.

For this small village in Poland, this is a unique event. Over the years, news of this event has spread over the region and beyond. It has also been televised on regional television.

This year the theme was **Sharpsburg 1862**. The Re-enactors normally gather on the Thursday before and set up camp. Then on Friday evening, there's a skirmish in the town. As is often the case in reenactments, the Yankees were outnumbered by the Confederates, so the conclusion was never in doubt. But the **58<sup>th</sup> New York** and its sister units, as usual, put up a good fight.

The people of the village were fascinated as the Blue and the Gray blasted away at each other right in front of their doorsteps.



Salute to the Village after the skirmish

On Saturday, there was an authentically confused skirmish in the nearby woods. In the thick underbrush, the sides mixed and engaged in close combat.

Then it was time for the commemoration ceremony for Colonel von Borcke.





Adjutant McLarren and 1Lieut. Clayton  
(Europe Camp's Flag in the top center)

This year, in addition to some 50 Union and Confederate troops<sup>1</sup>, over 100 local residents from all over the region turned out for the ceremony. I gave the address in English and Grzegorz Bogdan ("First Lieutenant Clayton" of the **14<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Volunteers**), translated into Polish. (*See text in this issue.*)



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<sup>1</sup> Drawn from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany and Sweden.

Flowers and wreaths from the Re-enactors and from Europe Camp were laid. And a volley of salute was fired off by the Blue and the Gray.



As the Union and Confederate troops marched off there was a rousing round of applause from the spectators. Afterwards, many people wanted to be photographed with our Confederate soldiers.

Shortly thereafter, it was time for battle. The particular aspect of **Sharpsburg** chosen for the battle was the Storming of Burnside's Bridge. The **14<sup>th</sup> Louisiana**, the **8<sup>th</sup> N.C State Troops** and the **1<sup>st</sup> Texas Cavalry** slugged it out with the **58<sup>th</sup> New York** and allied units. Murderous fire seemed to be indecisive, until the Yankees finally forced the bridge.



And all this was witnessed by over 200 (!) spectators from all over the region. (Remember, we're talking Poland here, not Tennessee!)



Afterwards the units of both sides lined up for well-deserved applause and lots and lots of pictures with the spectators.



It seemed everybody wanted to have their picture taken with our troops, Blue or Gray!



Also present in Gizyn was Richard Cicero, a member of *Lee's Lieutenants*, a Virginia-based living history group who portray leaders of the Army of Northern Virginia. Cicero's *persona* is Heros von Borcke himself, and Cicero's knowledge of the man is seemingly endless. Cicero's identification with his *persona* is so complete that he makes a **yearly** pilgrimage from Virginia to Poland, to stand with us at the Colonel's grave!





The Mausoleum at which we hold the ceremony was built by the von Borcke family and held the sarcophagi of Heros von Borcke and his parents.

At the end of World War II, this area was occupied by the Red Army and then by Polish immigrants who had been forcibly uprooted from their own homes in eastern Poland and had been brought to this area. (The Soviets took a swatch of eastern Poland and gave the Poles a swatch of eastern Germany.) The mausoleum was plundered and ransacked at that time and has been slowly deteriorating since then.

But the international interest shown by our camp and the re-enactors from several nations has changed all that. In recognition of the unique opportunity this event presents to their region, the local government became interested in renovating von Borcke's mausoleum.

Over the last 12 months they have requested support at both regional and national levels. They have now obtained funding and are now selecting companies to carry out the restoration work.

This is actually incredible! Despite all the differences between Germans and Poles over the centuries, but especially in the wake of the Second World War, despite all of that, local Polish authorities plan to stabilize and renovate the mausoleum of a Prussian officer who fought for the South during the War between the States!

If one of the duties of the Sons of Confederate Veterans is to care for the graves and memory of our brave soldiers, Europe Camp is doing its duty.

Would you care to join us next year and come see the progress made?? It will probably again in late July. You can come spend some time in Berlin and then travel out to Gizyn. If you can't bring your tent, good, inexpensive accommodation is available close by. And if you are a Re-enactor, there is still lots of room for another tent and both armies are looking for reinforcements!



*Commitment!*

Fotos: Author and <https://www.barlinek24.pl/aktualnosci/9693-bitwa-pod-antietam-1862>



## Address on the Occasion of the Honor Ceremony for Colonel Heros v. Borcke in Gizyn Poland, July 29, **2017**

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good Day to You!

I am Christopher McLarren, Adjutant of the Europe Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. We are an American national organization of the descendents of the Southern men who fought in the American Civil War 1861-1865.

Thank you for coming to join us here today.

Each year we return to Gizyn to honor a brave man who risked his life for the freedom of a foreign people. I speak of Heros von Borcke.

von Borcke was a young Prussian cavalry officer, who went to America to seek adventure and to gain military experience.

He went to the American South, where 6 million people had declared their independence from the United States and were fighting for the life of their new Republic against the invading armies of the United States.

Von Borcke slipped through the naval blockade and landed in South Carolina with no papers and not speaking English. But within a few months he was fighting in Virginia and did so for the next two years. He was wounded twice and was eventually send back to Europe on a diplomatic mission by our Confederate president.

After the war von Borcke returned to Prussia. Later he served in the Prussian army during the 1866 war against Austria. He then retired to his home here in this village. And he proudly flew a Confederate flag from his house over there until the day he died in 1895.

Many years after the war, Von Borcke returned to America and was honored by both his former comrades and his former enemies. His bravery and his devotion to duty were honored both by North and South.

For those who of us who identify with the American South, von Borcke was a hero because he risked his life for our cause.

And what was our cause?

Self-determination. The right of a person or a people to determine how they wish to live.

Is any of this relevant today? It most assuredly is.

Our president, Jefferson Davis, once said that the principles for which we fought would appear again although in a different place and a different time.

And he was right. This principle is very much under threat in 2017.

In many countries, there are minorities who want to control their own lives.

And in many countries, governments want to extend control over people's lives.

This is an eternal struggle and the American Civil War is a good example of what happens when people no longer agree to settle their differences peacefully.

But for today -

As we lay a wreath and fire a salute to von Borcke, we are also commemorating all those who fought for what they thought was right.

Let us hope that this generation and generations to come will not experience war, that we can settle our differences in peace.

In the name of my organization, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, may I express our deep thanks to those who have come to honor not only von Borcke but all the others in blue and gray who served their countries.

Our thanks to Sgt Clayton and Corporal Smerdir for their hard work in putting on this Weekend and Ceremony. Our thanks to the members of the 58<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry - and the 14<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry - for being here - in hot woolen uniforms - but here. Thanks to all the troops here today.

My deep thanks goes to Richard Cicero - who flies across the Atlantic from America to be here to honor the Major.

And our especial thanks go to the people of Gizyn. Your hospitality is gracious and very moving.

Long live Poland! Long live the South! Long live the United States!  
May we have peace!

*Christopher McLarren*

Adjutant  
SCV Camp 1612 (Europe)

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### ***Cpl. Domenico Rossi...***

***An Italian-Confederate Who "Rode With Nathan Bedford Forrest"***

***By Jeff O'Cain, SCV South Carolina***

*From Rome, Italy in 2010 to the 2017 Memphis Reunion, a special promise is fulfilled!*

In 2010 at the Europe Camp's Cross of Honor ceremony for CSN Capt. Thomas Jefferson Page in Rome, I first met an amazing SCV Compatriot, Pierluigi Rossi.



Pierluigi Rossi , Jeff O'Cain and Capt Page's Tomb, Rome, 2010

He alone manned the Italian SCV outpost there, and as I would find out along the way, he accomplished many incredible feats with respect to all the Italians who fought for the Southern Cause. One such accomplishment was to positively identify 1,600 of the 1,800 Italians who in 1862 sailed to New Orleans and fought for the South. A monument plaque was erected to them in the fortress at Civitella del Tronto, Italy.

A Confederate museum of sorts was established there as well, paying tribute to those courageous and brave Italian-Confederates.

Pierluigi shared with me his Confederate ancestor's story, that of Cpl. Domenico Rossi who along with 1,800 other Italians quickly mustered into Confederate service by the Louisiana Governor as the *1st Louisiana Italian Guard* in 1862 in New Orleans. As the war progressed the *Italian Guard Regiment* fragmented with its soldiers joining other units in the ATM and AOT. Cpl. Rossi joined up with an upstart small cavalry unit from which he could proudly brag after the war saying, "I rode with Nathan Bedford Forrest."

After the war Domenico settled in Memphis, opened a restaurant and became a prominent citizen there until his death in 1875. He was buried at the Calvary Cemetery under what was then a small yet beautiful Magnolia tree with a very impressive monument-type grave marker inscribed in Latin. The cemetery is in the downtown Memphis on what is today Elvis Presley Blvd.

Following Capt. Page's Cross of Honor ceremony in 2010 and during a very nice luncheon held not far from the Non-Catholic Cemetery, he quietly asked me personally that if I ever got to Memphis, or could even make arrangements from afar, to please put some flowers on his great-great grandfather's grave. How could I say no? Of course I had no idea how to fulfill my promise to him. Upon returning to the states I contacted a few SCV'ers in and around Memphis to render assistance but none could locate Domenico's grave in the Calvary Cemetery. I wanted so very much to be able to return in a few years to Rome for the re-dedication of what would be a masterful restoration of Capt. Page's impressive yet severely deteriorating grave site. I would be able to tell Pierluigi, "Mission Accomplished"!

But it was not to be. I not only had not placed the flowers but could not locate the grave site. And to make matters worse, my friend Pierluigi sadly died before the Europe Camp could hold the re-dedication of Capt. Page's grave site, now complete with a Cross of Honor and an Italian marble marker so denoting its restoration benefactor, *the Sons of Confederate Veterans*, complete with a large adorning color SCV logo.

Know that it was at Pierluigi's urging in the first place that the Europe Camp, with help from stateside SCV, embark on the urgently needed restoration. \$14,000 would need to be raised to fund the intricate and delicate restoration. Know that especially in Rome, the restoration of just about EVERYTHING requires a herculean effort with near overwhelming Roman regulations, restrictions and bureaucracy to overcome in the process. This wasn't just little "fixer-upper" to say the least and coordinating such from afar was not a simple task. Raising the funds seemed to be the easy part. (*Editor's Note: A vast understatement. Jeff spent innumerable hours and traveled hundreds of miles raising restoration funds.*) Pierluigi helped greatly and even contributed generously towards the effort. But the men of the Europe Camp "got ur dun" in true Confederate spirit.



The Re-dedication Ceremony 2012  
(With Commander Bansch and Adjutant McLaren, right)

In 2012 as the re-dedication ceremony finally approached amazingly well ahead of schedule, I felt a heavy personal sadness that I had failed in my personal commitment to Pierluigi Rossi to place flowers at his ancestor's gravesite. It bothered me greatly for years!

**But now "the rest of the story":** With the 2017 SCV National Reunion happening in Memphis I seized the opportunity to "strike" and hopefully fulfill my promise to Pierluigi! Unfortunately I could not, in fact, go to Memphis myself while still recovering from a serious illness. Hmm? What could I do? ALAS! I decided to lean heavily on some SCV friends planning to attend the Memphis Reunion to locate the gravesite and place the flowers Pierluigi had asked of me in 2010. My fine friend and former SCV Executive Director, Ben Sewell, stepped forward and finally, after 7 years, located the grave in the Calvary Cemetery on Elvis Presley Blvd.



The Magnolia Tree



Ben Sewell : Mission Accomplished!

His lovely wife, Sandie, took these historic photos as Ben proudly stood beside the tall grave monument still resting beneath the same Magnolia tree from 1875, but now a fully mature and beautifully huge Magnolia. It seemed so fitting for the man of whom Pierluigi proudly would say "My great-great grandfather rode with Nathan Bedford Forrest."



Not many Italians can utter those words...if there are, in fact, any after the passing of SCV Compatriot Pierluigi Rossi from Lucca, Italy! Ben quickly sent me the photos and a text, "Mission accomplished!" Yep, I cried!

Pierluigi, know that Cpl. Domenico Rossi's grave has now been adorned with the flowers you had wanted to honor him with. Now you can rest in peace, my friend! I'll be seeing you soon, and be sure to be wearing your prized Rebel kepi that you always so proudly wore. Perhaps the kepi was a little out of place and somewhat awkward in Italy, but I'm sure it's very much in style now in Confederate Heaven!

Jeff O'Cain



Editorial:

## Seeming Disaster

“To tar the sacrifices of the Confederate soldier as simple acts of racism, and reduce the battle flag under which he fought to nothing more than the symbol of a racist heritage, is one of the great blasphemies of our modern age”. Former U.S. Senator Jim Webb

There is so much going on in the United States now against our Confederate heritage, it is difficult to know where to start.

There was a short film of young people tearing down the statue of a Confederate soldier in Durham, North Carolina. Once on the ground, some people then literally kicked the statue in a fit of absolute rage.

[http://time.com/4902514/durham-confederate-statue-future/?utm\\_source=time.com&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=the-brief&utm\\_content=2017081611am&xid=newsletter-brief](http://time.com/4902514/durham-confederate-statue-future/?utm_source=time.com&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=the-brief&utm_content=2017081611am&xid=newsletter-brief)

Incredibly, they doubtlessly thought they were striking out against 21<sup>st</sup>-century racism in the United States. For that is what is happening here. Racism is a nebulous thing, but statues are a very concrete thing. You can't kick racism but you can kick a statue. And so, as inane as it sounds, these people, conditioned by 150 years of Yankee propaganda, really think they are somehow doing something against 21<sup>st</sup>-century racism by tearing down a Confederate statue!?!

But that statue represents real people like my great great grandfather. He was a Texas German *who opposed both slavery and secession*, but who joined the Confederate Army when his country was invaded by a foreign army.

These young people know nothing of that. And they are so enraged with real and perceived injustices today, they will not listen. They hate.

And this latest wave of hatred was aggravated by rightist racists in Charlottesville. They said they were there to protest the removal of General Lee's statue, but it must be clear to everybody now they were just misusing General Lee for their purpose - to strike out against the world. People were wounded and real blood flowed in the riots which then took place - but our Confederate heritage also suffered. Now even more people associate our flag exclusively with racists and extremists. President Trump was probably correct when he said that there were some good people in the crowd. But the event was tainted by extremists, who, I suspect, would not agree with General Lee about a lot of things. I'm not sure they really give a damn about General Lee. In any case - it is like the modern Klan using the Confederate flag: they do not represent what the flag represents to us.

So what do we do in this situation? I have no wise counsel. Our voices are drowned in the sea of hate which presently is engulfing the public scene.

Recently, I read an article that there is a movement in Argentina to remove the statues of 'Che' Guevara, because he no longer fits the image Argentina has of itself. (Political murderers are not welcome in Argentina.) As an outsider, I can only applaud this movement.

But it makes me aware that there is a time and a place for statues and that their time may pass.

But if statues are taken down, it should not be for the wrong reasons. We need to fight for all 'our' statues and street names and school names. We need to shout as loudly as we can that Gen. Lee has nothing to do with 21<sup>st</sup> century racism.

But it's a tough battle. And if we take losses, they must make no difference to our commitment to defending our ancestors' good name.

For remember, in their commitment to their country **your veteran, my veteran and General Lee were right**, and nothing Harvard professors, carping politicians, justifiably angry African-Americans or leftist radicals say can change that fact.

"If I ever disown, repudiate, or apologize for the Cause for which Lee fought and Jackson died, let the lightnings of Heaven rend me, and the scorn of all good men and true women be my portion. Sun, Moon, Stars, all fall on me when I cease to love the Confederacy. 'Tis the Cause, not the fate of the Cause, that is glorious!" ~~ Maj. R.E. Wilson, CSA

**Chris McLarren**

Editor



## STORY OF AN OLD BROKEN PISTOL

(CONFEDERATE VETERAN Volume 1 1893)

A Missouri ex-Confederate soldier named Boatright gave me this story: "I was with Gen. Taylor, not far from the Mississippi River. News had reached him that a single 'cotton thief' was at a certain place buying cotton and shipping it North. I was ordered to go and capture him and bring him in. I went alone, and as I was approaching the house where he was reported to be staying, I saw him going from it as fast as his horse could carry him. I gave chase and finally overtook and captured him. He had only a few dollars in money on his person, and in a pair of saddle bags there were only an old broken pistol and a shirt. I took him to headquarters. What became of him I never learned. My story is about the old pistol, which I appropriated. On examining it I deemed it of no value, and gave it to the children of a female cousin who lived at that section and whose house I more than once visited. At the close of the war I called there, and seeing the pistol I said to her "I will take this home with me as a trophy of the war." She readily assented, and I put it in my pocket.

My wife and children were at the home of my father in Franklin County Missouri about 40 miles from St. Louis. On reaching them I gave my children the pistol as a souvenir of the war, and it became a plaything for them indoors and out, and was often laying out in the weather. After a few years my father had a sale of his household effects, and the pistol was thrown into a box of old bits of iron, and was sold with them. A year later I was at the house of the purchaser and saw the weapon. A desire to possess it again came upon me. I give its history and asked for it, and it was given me. I took it to my then-home in St. Louis, and again it became a toy for my children. One day one of them came to me with the pistol and a splinter of wood in it saying, "There is something in here." I took the splinter, pressed it in and discovered there was something soft in the barrel. I called up my wife or hairpin, formed a sort of screw and succeeded in drawing out a roll of greenback notes. There were six \$100 bills and four \$10 bills, and the only sign of damage was rust marks from the pistol barrel on the outside of the role. It then became manifest why the captured cotton buyer carried that old broken pistol in his saddle-bags."

J.W.C.

Finally, I wish to include something you probably already know. But having some of the banknotes my ancestors may have touched, I think is this is one of the most poignant, saddest, truest statements of our ancestors' feelings toward their country anyone has ever written.

## THE CONFEDERATE NOTE

(by Major S.A.Jonas, of Aberdeen, Mississippi and republished in the VETERAN 1893)



Representing nothing on God's earth now,  
And naught in the waters below it;  
As a pledge of a nation that's dead and gone,  
Keep it, dear friend, and show it.  
Show it to those who will lend an ear  
To the tale that this paper can tell,  
Of liberty born of the patriot's dream,  
Of a storm-cradled nation that fell.

Too poor to process the precious ores,  
And too much of a stranger to borrow,  
We issued today our promise to pay,  
Hoping to redeem on the morrow.  
But days flew by, weeks became years,  
Our coffers were empty still;  
Coin was so scarce our treasury'd quake  
If a dollar would drop in the till.

We knew it had scarcely a value in gold,  
Yet as gold the soldiers received it;  
It looked in our eyes a promise to pay,  
And each patriot believed it.

But the faith that was in us was strong indeed,  
And our poverty well we discerned;  
And then little checks represented the pay  
That our suffering veterans earned.

But our boys thought little of prize or pay,  
Or of bills that were overdue;  
We knew if it bought us our bread today  
'Twas the best our poor country could do.

Keep it, it tells our history over  
From the birth of the dream to its last;  
Modest and born of the angel hope,  
Like our hope of success, it passed.

***Richmond, Virginia June 2, 1865***

# Intelligence

# Service Europe

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