



They Drank from the Same Canteen

Source: Perrysburg Journal (Perrysburg, OH), May 27, 1910, Page 6, Image 6

Captain S. P. Horrall tells a pretty story of an incident during the battle of Perryville, Kentucky on October 8, 1862. Captain Horrall thus relates it:

“The Forty-second regiment, by overpowering numbers, was compelled to surrender the ground that had been fought over, back and forth, three times, being held alternately by the Federals and Confederates, thus mixing side by side the wounded and dead of each army. As our men were retiring, Corporal Allen Gentry, of Company H, was passing a wounded Confederate, who asked for water. Though at danger or risk of capture, Corporal Gentry divided his own scanty supply with his enemy of half an hour before. They were no longer enemies. One of my own comrades lay dying near a Confederate. The comrade’s thirst slaked, the canteen passed into the hands of a young Confederate, who also lay dying the glassy look of death in his eyes. He drank the water, the last drop, then as did the federal soldier laid his head to rest in the long sleep. ‘They drank from the same canteen.’”



Let Our Flag Wave Over Them, Let Our Flowers Deck Their Graves

Source: The San Francisco Call (San Francisco, CA), May 28, 1899, Page 25, Image 25

“The graves of our dead soldiers command the respect...of all. Particularly this year, when there are at Arlington a large number of new-made mounds; when on the hillsides of Cuba and Porto Rico, and about the swamps of the Philippines, other American soldiers are buried, we should think of and decorate the graves of our heroic dead...”

“It will perpetuate the spirit of patriotism in our youths and help them to emulate the example of the men who died bravely, not only in our Civil War, but in our recent war with Spain. The idea of and the ceremonies of Decoration Day are beautiful. Its purpose is commendable. This year, of all years, should be observed with patriotic devotion.

“During the last twelve months, nearly twelve million people who were living under a tyranny and despotism have been freed from their serfdom and have become a part of the population of these great United States. Those among them who really know the changed condition hail the change with joy and gladness. Their gratitude is like that of Lazarus toward Christ. They realize that the American people has not been slow to offer the flower of its manhood to rescue them from thralldom and that, if it is given time, it will establish a stable government under which they can live in peace and happiness. Of course, I do not know more than any one else what is likely to happen in the Philippines. With other good citizens. I hope that the contest will be short and that the people in our new possessions will be willing to listen to reason instead of compelling us to further use force. Our troops there have manifested the same bravery, the same heroic fortitude and spirit of self-sacrifice as were shown in Cuba and Porto Rico, and have been shown since the beginning of

American history, and as will be shown until American history ends. We have lost good men. In warfare, those who die are naturally those whom we consider best.

“When Memorial Day comes, there will be new graves. Out at Arlington now the freshly turned earth shows where the men who died in Cuba and Porto Rico lie buried. Green mounds on the sides of the hills near Guasimas and about San Juan, will be decked with the red, white and blue on the 30th of May. The men who died in Cuba, the men who died in Porto Rico, the men who died and are dying in the Philippines, are just as much entitled to commendation and consideration as the men who died in any war in our history.

“Let our flag wave over them, let our flowers deck their graves wherever they may be...let our respect, let our love, wreath their memories.

“Heroes all! They deserve all that we can grant them —they deserve more than we can give them!”

– General Nelson A. Miles, Commander-in-Chief, U.S.A.



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Source: The Sacrifice That Defines America (Awake America Ministries), March 2015, Pages 118-119

Arlington National Cemetery is home of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This tomb is best portrayed by a verse from the Holy Bible in Hebrews 11:4d...*by it he being dead yet speaketh*. The tomb itself is silent but the clicking of the U.S. Marine guard's heels echoing off of the white marble speaks volumes to your heart. Time carries you back to the varied battles which claimed the lives of the many fallen heroes resting all around you. Awe overwhelms you and fills you with gratitude for their sacrifice. You are living in freedom because they chose to pay the price.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier came to fruition on March 4, 1921 when Congress moved to bury the first unknown soldier from World War I in the Memorial Amphitheater plaza. In later years a white, marble sarcophagus was placed over the World War I unknown soldier. In time unknown soldiers from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam were also interred in the Memorial Amphitheater plaza. On May 14, 1998 the remains of the Vietnam unknown soldier were declared known. The remains were declared to be First Lieutenant Michael Joseph Blassie. He was disinterred, and now the Vietnam crypt in the Memorial Amphitheater lies empty until today.

The elite Third U.S. Infantry Regiment of Ft. Myer, Virginia guards the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The highly disciplined, well-groomed, superbly trained sentinels guard the tomb 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The changing of the guard takes place every hour on the hour October 1 to March 31. From April 1 to September 30, the guard is changed every half hour.

All of the guard's activities for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier have meaning. The guard marches 21 steps down the black mat and for 21 seconds faces east. Then he turns north for 21 seconds, takes 21 steps down the mat and repeats the process. The twenty-one gun salute, the highest military honor, is symbolized by the repetition of the number twenty-one in the activity of the guard. Twenty-one is chosen from the sum of each number found in the year of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, 1776.