

General Orders

The Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. Our 62nd Year



and The Iron Brigade Association

NOVEMBER 10, 2011 GAIL STEPHENS Jubal's in the Valley, Summer 1864



In the fourth summer of the Civil War, a small Confederate army came close to carrying off the improbable — the seizure of Washington, D.C. Our November speaker, Gail Stephens, will discuss this Confederate campaign in her talk to our Round Table.

In June 1864, Lt. Gen. Jubal Early slipped away from the works around Richmond, where Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia faced Grant and the Army of the Potomac, and moved rap-

idly through the Shenandoah Valley into Maryland with an army of 16,000 veterans. Lee's orders to Early — take Washington, which had been stripped of veteran troops to reinforce Grant. The Union high command in Washington refused to believe the first reports of a Confederate presence north of the Potomac and took no action. The Union commander in Baltimore, Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace, was convinced of the threat, and mustered a small force near Frederick, Maryland, where on July 9 he and his men managed to hold Early's army an entire day, though outnumbered two to one. Warned by Wallace, Grant swung into action and put a corps onto steamships to reinforce Washington. The race was on. Though the Confederates did not succeed, this little known campaign is one of the most exciting and potentially most momentous of the Civil War.

Gail Stephens has a Bachelor's Degree in International Politics from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and did graduate work at Johns Hopkins and Harvard universities. She worked for the Department of Defense for 26 years, retiring in 1994 as a

member of the Department's Senior Executive Service. Upon retirement, Stephens began to study the American Civil War. She volunteers at Monocacy National Battlefield near Frederick, Maryland; lectures regularly on various Civil War topics, including Monocacy, Major General Lew Wallace and the 1864 Maryland campaign; and gives battlefield tours.

In 2002, Stephens won the National Park Service's E.W.Peterkin Award for her contributions to public understanding of Civil War history. She has written articles on Lew Wallace and Early's 1864 invasion of the North for several Civil War publications. Stephens' book on Wallace's Civil War

career, *Shadow of Shiloh*, published by the Indiana Historical Society Press in October 2010, recently won the Civil War Forum of New York City's William Henry Seward Award for best Civil War biography of 2011. She has just completed an essay on the establishment of national cemeteries for a collection of essays on Civil War battlefield preservation which will be published by the University of Tennessee Press.

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NOVEMBER MEETING AT A GLANCE

November 10, 2011 Gail Stephens "Jubal's in the Valley, Summer 1864"

Wisconsin Club 9th & Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee (Jackets required for dining room)

5:30 p.m. – Staff Meeting (Open to all members) 6:15 p.m. – Registration & Social Hour 6:45 p.m. – Dinner 7:30 p.m. – Program

Dinner – \$23 by reservation. Deadline: Monday, November 7, 2011 See page 7.

Speaker and topic are subject to change. In case of inclement weather, listen to WTMJ or WISN radio.



STATE SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

If you are interested in making a donation to the Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, you can write the check payable to the Commission and mail it to:

Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission PO Box 11391 Milwaukee, WI 53211-3091

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA

What better way to show off your pride in our organization! All items are made of first-rate, quality materials, modestly embroidered with the Round Table/Iron Brigade logo, along with your name or initials.

Mail:	Roman Blenski, Quartermaster	
	4601 W. Holt Ave.	
	Milwaukee, WI 53219	
Call:	414-327-2847	
Email:	dbcpmilw@execpc.com	
In Person:	Monthly Meeting at Book Raffle	
ITEM		COST
		* * * * * *

Blue Brief Case	\$25.00
Blue Light-Weight Sweatshirt	
Blue Izod Polo Shirt	\$40.00
Blue Dress Shirt	\$40.00
Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket	\$60.00
Iron Brigade Pin	\$5.00
CWRT Pin	\$5.00
Bugle Pin	\$5.00
Iron Brigade Medal	\$25.00
Red River Medal	\$25.00
CWRT 60 Year Medal	\$10.00

2011-2012 MEETINGS

WC – Wisconsin Club CC – Country Club of the Wisconsin Club

December 8, 2011 · CC James "Bud" Robertson, Jr.

January 12, 2011 • WC Parker Hills – Chickamauga

February 9, 2012 · WC Dave Wege – Patrick Cleburne

March 8, 2012 • WC A. Wilson Greene Chicago Nevins-Freeman Award Recipient

April 12 2012 • WC Marshall Krolick

May 17, 2012 • CC Brian Hoden Reid

June 7, 2012 • CC Dennis Frye – Antietam

ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

November 14, 2011

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m. Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center

November 15, 2011

Prairieville Irregulars, 7 p.m. Student Center, Carroll University Speaker: Brett Lobello, Curator or Education, Kenosha Civil War Museum

November 16, 2011

West Side Soldiers Aid Society, 7 p.m. Brief presentation on Civil War care packages followed by preparation of care packages for today's troops in Afghanistan. Information: (414) 427-3776

November 19, 2011

Remembrance Day Observance 148th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address with keynote speaker Stephen Lang Gettysburg, PA

November 22, 2011

Civil War Era Dances, Open Dance Session Hales Corners Village Hall, 6:30 p.m. Information: (414) 427-3776

December 10, 2011

Wreaths Across America, 11 a.m. Wood National Cemetery Reception after the ceremony at the Wadsworth Library hosted by West Side Soldiers Aid Society www.wreathsacrossamerica.org



In November 1947 Charles S. Schwartz spoke to our Round Table about "Civil War Ordnance."

"Fort Fillmore" was the subject of Herbert O. Brayer's talk in November 1951.

At the November 1957 meeting Frank Klement spoke about "Knights of the Golden Circle — Fact or Fancy."

"Two Who Might Have Been Stonewall" was the subject of W.B. Hesseltine's talk in November 1961.

Justin E. Walsh spoke about "Wilbur F. Storey, the *Chicago Times* and the Civil War" at the November 1970 Round Table meeting.

In November 1987 Dr. James A. Ramge was our speaker. The topic that night was "John Hunt Morgan: Folk Hero of the Confederacy."

"Sacred Ground: Americans and Their Battles" was the subject of Edward T. Linenthal's talk in November 1992.

Kenosha Civil War Museum



BRASS, WOODWINDS AND PERCUSSION

Saturday, November 19, 2011, 10am-4 p.m.

See Heritage Military Music Foundation's collection of 19th century band instruments. Watch members of the 1st Brigade Band demonstrate instruments and answer questions.

Two special presentations will occur during the day: "The Short Happy Life of the EB Brass Band," 1-2 p.m., presented by Dan Woolpert, Curator, HMMF Collection of 19th Century Band Instruments; "The Story of the Brodhead Bands," 2:30-3:30 p.m., presented by Ed Pierce, Chief Historian, 1st Brigade Band.



VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 10, 2011, 12-4 p.m.

Join the museum for an exploration of the traditions and activities of Christmas season in the Victorian Era. Learn dances with the West Side Victorian Dancers, enjoy family craft activities, listen to the Indian Trail High School Choir, partake in period refreshments and visit with the Valley Corps living history group throughout the day.

For information, contact the Civil War Museum at (262) 653-4141 or visit the website: thecivilwarmuseum.org.

1st Brigade Band in Free Veterans Day Concert at Milwaukee VA Medical Center

Friends of Reclaiming Our Heritage and the West Side Soldiers Aid Society invite you to a free evening concert by the renowned 1st Brigade Band on Friday, November 11, 2011, 7 p.m., at the Zablocki VA Medical Center.

The concert will take place in the Main Hospital, 3rd Floor Recreation Hall (Room 3435). Light refreshments will be served. Enjoy a stirring concert, take the opportunity to salute our veterans and learn about developments for the 11th annual Reclaiming Our Heritage, June 2-3, 2012. For information, contact Patricia Lynch (414) 427-3776.

AND SO IT CONTINUES... Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

November 1861 finds both North and South having gained no advantage in the seven months since the war began. Although there have been some battles in both the east and west, nothing of a decisive manner has taken place. Both Lincoln and Davis are urging their field commanders to "do something." The troops are beginning to look towards winter quarters.

November 1, 1861 • McClellan is promoted to General-In-Chief.

General Orders, No. 94 War Department Adjutant-General's Office

The following order from the President of the United States, announcing the retirement from active command of the honored veteran Lieutenant-General Winfield Scott, will be read by the Army with profound regret:

Executive Mansion, Washington, November 1, 1861.

On the 1st day of November, A.D. 1861, upon his own application to the President of the United States, Brevet Lieutenant-General Winfield Scott is ordered to be placed upon the list of retired officers of the Army of the United States, without reduction in his current pay, subsistence, or allowances.

The American people will hear with sadness and deep emotion that General Scott has withdrawn from the active control of the Army, while the President and a unanimous Congress express their own and the nation's sympathy in his personal affliction and their profound sense of the important public services rendered by him to his country during his long and brilliant career, among which will ever be gratefully distinguished his faithful devotion to the Constitution, the Union, and the flag when assailed by parricidal rebellion.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The President is pleased to direct that Major-General George B. McClellan assume the command of the Army of the United States. The headquarters of the Army will be established in the city of Washington. All communications intended for the Commanding General will hereafter be addressed direct to the Adjutant-General. The duplicate returns, orders and other papers here-tofore sent to the Assistant Adjutant-General, Headquarters of the Army, will be discontinued.

By orders of the Secretary of War: L. Thomas, Adjutant-General

November 2, 1861 • Lincoln relieves John C. Fremont from duty. Fremont would send a farewell address to his command and returned to his wife in St. Louis. Major General David Hunter would now take command.

November 3, 1861 • McClellan writes to his wife Mary Ellen: I have already been up once this morning – that was at four o'clock to escort Gen. Scott to the depot. It was pitch-dark and pouring rain; but with most of my staff and a squadron of cavalry I saw the old man off. He was very polite to me; sent various kind messages to you and the baby; so we parted. The old man said that his sensations were very peculiar in leaving Washington and active. I can easily understand them; and it may be that at some distant day I too, shall totter away from Washington, a worn-out soldier; with naught to do but make my peace with God...At last I am the "major-general commanding the army."

November 4, 1861 • The U.S. Navy enters Port Royal Sound.

Major General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson assumes command of the Shenandoah Valley District.

November 7, 1861 • Battle of Port Royal.

Union naval forces under Flag Officer Samuel DuPont secure an inlet between Charleston and Savannah including the island of Hilton Head. DuPont's seventy-five ships carrying twelve thousand men under Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Sherman were opposed by a pair of Confederate forts, isolated by swamps and water from the mainland, guarding the entrance to the sound. Three days before the battle Sherman would send out a circular to his men in which he said: *Soldiers! Let the dangers you have encountered and the anxieties you have experienced be an incentive to a greater exertion on your part in the holy cause in which you are engaged. The eyes of your country are upon you. Deceive not her expectations...Soldiers! You are contending against the enemy who depreciates your manhood, who denies that your prowess is equal to his. Belie this sentiment, or you will disgrace yourselves and your nativity.*

On this same day Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant would fight his first battle at Belmont, Missouri. During the battle Grant and his three thousand men would defeat Gideon Pillow and take the town only to then be routed by B. F. Cheatham.

November 8-9, 1861 • Battle of Ivy Mountain

William "Bull" Nelson (US) defeats Capt. Andrew Jackson (CS) in this early Kentucky battle. Additional action took place near Pikeville on the following day.

On the same day, two Confederate commissioners, John Slidell and James Mason, joined a British ship, the *Trent* in Havana en route to England. In international waters, the *USS San Jacinto* forced the *Trent* to heave to and surrender Slidell and Mason. Once this was accomplished, the *Trent* was allowed to continue on with both men's families on board.

November 9, 1861 • Maj. Gen. Henry Halleck is given command of the states east of the Mississippi and Brig. Gen. Don Carlos Buell is put in command of eastern Kentucky and Tennessee.

November 13, 1861 • Rev. M. R. Watkinson from Ridleyville, Pennsylvania writes Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase asking that the motto "God, Liberty, Law" be added to all currency to "...place us openly under the Divine protection we have personally claimed."

November 14, 1861 • Novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne writes to a British friend that "...the whole world, on this side of the Atlantic, appears to have grown more natural and sensible, and walks

more erect and cares less about childish things. If the war only lasts long enough (and not too long) it will have done us infinite good."

November 15, 1861 • Sherman is replaced by Don Carlos Buell as the head of the reorganized Department of Ohio.

A second pro-Union rebellion in east Tennessee, centering in the Chattanooga area, took place.

Capt. John Wilkes, aboard the *San Jacinto*, arrives at Hampton Roads, VA for a fuel stop and informs the port authorities of his passengers — Mason and Slidell. He refuels and steams north with instructions to deliver his "cargo" to the Federal prison at Fort Warren in Boston Harbor. Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts and Postmaster General Montgomery Blair would urge for the immediate release of both Mason and Slidell.

November 19, 1861 • Henry W. Halleck assumes command of Union forces in Missouri.

Jefferson Davis calls for the construction of a major rail network in the Confederacy which would allow for the rapid movement of both troops and supplies.

November 20, 1861 • Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase instructs James Pollock of the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia that "the trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins."

November 21, 1861 • Judah P. Benjamin is named Confederate Secretary of War by Jefferson Davis. The brother of Braxton Bragg is named Attorney General, filling in Benjamin's vacated post.

Albert S. Johnston calls for 10,000 volunteers and militia from Tennessee to help defend the area from Federal advances.

November 24, 1861 • Capt. Wilkes arrives at Fort Warren, Boston, with his prisoners, Mason and Slidell. Wilkes is toasted as a hero. In Washington, President Lincoln and his Cabinet confer on what was now called the "*Trent* Affair" and its potential repercussions.

November 26, 1861 • A convention at Wheeling in western Virginia adopts a constitution for a new state to be called West Virginia, created by secession from the state of Virginia.

November 27, 1861 • The *Trent* arrives in England with news of the American boarding in the Bahamas Passage and the removal of Mason, Slidell and their aides from the ship. The British Parliament is in an uproar over the incident.

November 28, 1861 • The Southern Congress officially admits Missouri to the Confederate States of America.

In the Northern states, a day of thanksgiving is observed.

November 29, 1861 • Along the coast of South Carolina and Georgia, fires could be seen as planters burned cotton to prevent it from falling into the hands of the North. The *Charleston Mercury* would proclaim, "Let the torch be applied whenever the invader pollutes our soil."

The month of November would end with Lord Russell, British Foreign Secretary, informing Lord Lyons, Minister to the United States, that the "*Trent* Affair" constituted aggression against England and that Mason and Slidell must be released, and further, that an apology be given for their seizure. If no action was taken within seven day, Lyons was directed to depart Washington and

return to England with all of his personnel. At the same time, Lord Russell directed the British Navy to take such measures as circumstances required, but to refrain from any act of hostility.

Private Day of Co. B, 25th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry would write: According to the customs of our Puritan Fathers, last Thursday was observed in Massachusetts and other states as a day of thanksgiving to God for his manifold mercies and bounties to the erring children of men. The day was observed here throughout all the camps as a holiday....

tonips office My word , Intelizence of a ver hature has reached her h Goven men tiletisque tous the knowledge Commander admiralty board muilo m Untopet Ileaner appears from the mamander William Intras Vau

John Russell to Richard B. Pemell, Lord Lyons, Saturday, November 30, 1861

Library of Congress, Abraham Lincoln Papers

IN MEMORIAM

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee extends their sympathy to past board member Jean Schwonek on the recent loss of her mother.

And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.



A Laugh Over — The Second Regiment had considerable of a laugh this morning over a report which they heard had reached Wisconsin, in the shape that we had been attacked in Baltimore, and that what were not killed were taken prisoners. It is very easy to believe it, but such a one as this is too humbuggery to believe. Tell your good folks that we of the Second Regiment don't believe a word of it, nor do we want you to. It isn't our style to be taken prisoners, especially by a mob.

Milwaukee Sentinel, November 15, 1861

THANKSGIVING 1861

A moment to reflect that for many in the Iron Brigade, this was their last Thanksgiving...

Washington, November 29, 1861 From an officer in the Second Wisconsin Regiment

Perhaps you think, because we are away from home, living in tents with nothing but tin cups and plates that we suffer from the want of the necessaries of Life. Now that you may not grieve away your life and flesh, I enclose you a Bill of Fare which we had to select from on Thanksgiving - yesterday. Gov. Randall was present at our table in our tent and ate off our tin dishes, drank champagne from our borrowed glasses and coffee from our tin cups. So was Gov. Seward, so was Senator Wilson, so was Gen. King and staff, some of Gen. McDowell's staff and sundry other distinguished officers and individuals too numerous to mention beside some who were not. The President intended to come but was interrupted just at the time of starting. Golly! Weren't we proud of the day and the occasion and the dinner and company? So we ate and drank and talked and talked and drank and ate and sung and toasted and joked and joked and toasted and sung until the flesh which was weak gave out while the spirit was still willing. But the best of it was we adjourned in good season and departed in quietness and peace leaving the largest share of the eatables to the men and music and others who had assisted us. There were about fifty and officers and guests at the table and as the Apostle says it was "A feast of reason and a flow of soul."

The bill of fare was as follows:

Second Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers at Arlington, VA Thanksgiving, November 28, 1861

Soup

Oysters

Turkey with Jelly, Ducks, Spring Chickens, Lamb with Mint sauce, Sirloin beef, Pig, Wild Goose, Baked Beans Boiled Ham, Corned Beef with Cabbage Vegetables Sweet Potatoes, Irish Potatoes, Onions, Celery Entrees

Pork Chops with Fried Apple, Chicken Pie Yankee Style

Fried Liver, Mutton Chops, Beefsteak, Ham and Eggs Lobster Salad, Scalloped Oysters Bread Corn Bread, Rye Bread, Wheat Bread Relishes French Mustard, Cole Slaw, Pickles, Horse Radish, Celery, Worcestershire Sauce Pastry Pumpkin Pie, Mince Pie, Ice Cream Wines Sparkling Catawba, Heidsick Coffee and Tea

THANKSGIVING WITH THE SEVENTH

Camp Arlington, VA, November 28, 1861 Messrs. Editors:

We beg the privilege to say a few words to our friends and relatives through the medium of your valuable paper. As today is Thanksgiving and as we are not compelled to drill, we have a little time to spare to write and feeling that our Annual feast day will be, this year, to many households an unusual solemn occasion, the empty chair telling a story of devotion, of courage, of determination to shield the remaining ones in the enjoyment of the blessings they are singing praises for and tenderly will the prayer ascend for the absent one's protection and guidance. We hope the day throughout the land will be observed as it never was observed before. A portion of the day might well be devoted to the preparation of a fitting tribute to our country's defenders.

Today the weather is fine; the sun shines bright and warm as at a June noonday. At half past eleven we, Gen. King's brigade, were assembled in front of the Lee mansion - Gen. King's headquarters - where His Excellency, Gov. Randall, addressed us. He spoke at some length, paid us many compliments and bade us farewell — yes, I fear a last farewell to many of us. We then returned to our quarters to partake of our noonday meal which, I may say, was almost a feast; and, as there is a good deal of doubt on the part of our friends at home as to our having enough to eat, I will mention the bill of fare which is not an uncommon thing with us; we seated ourselves at a pine table covered with a white muslin cloth. After returning thanks to the Giver of All Good, the thought occurred to us whether our friends and loved ones at home had as good a dinner to eat — but I am digressing. We commenced with mashed potatoes, roast beef, warm biscuit, fresh butter, pickles, tea and cream, winding up with apple pie, sweet cakes and crackers, fresh peaches, plum sauce, tomato sauce, oysters, fried nut cakes, green apples and good sweet cider. Considering that we are in the midst of enemies and in a

FROM THE FIELD...continued

soldier's tent almost on the field of battle, you may well imagine that, as it was all prepared by a sister's experienced hand who was seated at the head of the table, that it had a look of homelikeness... Let us hope and pray that when another Thanksgiving rolls about it may be such as one as will see our country rescued from its present dangers and that we will again be a united people joining in a general Thanksgiving to him who holds our destiny in his hands.



BOOK NOTES

Untold Civil War: Exploring the Human Side of the War

James I. Robertson, Jr., our December speaker, has written a new book in which he takes into account elements such as the role of weather, health, and high emotions; the world-changing effect of the rise of female workers; and the many "firsts" during the war.

The book is divided into six thematic chapters with each chapter beginning with a short introductory essay followed by approximately 30 self-contained stories that detail surprising, littleknown, and fresh aspects of the war.

When asked what type of stories he felt have the most resonance with his audiences, Robertson replied: The best stories touch the heart. Too much of modern life stresses percentages, statistics, and raw facts. History is most appealing when it underscores human experiences and their accompanying emotions. You can never understand the Civil War unless you comprehend the deep emotion of that time.



Baptism of Fire: The 44th Missouri, 175th Ohio and 183rd Ohio at the Battle of Franklin

A new book by past Round Table speaker Eric A. Jacobson and Richard Rupp follows up on their previous Franklin book, For Cause & For Country: A Study of the Affair at Spring Hill and the Battle of Franklin, with an examination of three regiments. Jacobson said they focused on these particular regiments because all three units occupy a particularly unique place in the history and context of the battle. None had been in combat, unlike the veterans who largely composed both armies, and all three ended up being involved in some of the battle's worst fighting, helping to contend with the massive Confederate breakthrough that unfolded on both sides of Columbia Pike.

Additionally, co-author Richard A. Rupp's great-grandfather, Peter Rupp, served in the 183rd Ohio Infantry and saw action throughout the Tennessee Campaign.



Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for November 10, 2011

Mail your reservations by Monday, November 7, 2011, to: ALSO, call in reservations to: **Paul Eilbes** 1809 Washington Ave. Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

(262) 376-0568

Enclosed is \$ (meal price \$23.00 per person) for reservations for November 10, 2011, meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee. (Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

Name of Member

General Orders, the official publication of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., is produced September through June and upon request of the Board of Directors.

Send submissions to **Donna Agnelly, Editor**, 420 Racine St., Unit 110, Waterford, WI 53185 or email to **dagnelly@tds.net** with "Civil War Round Table" in the subject line of your message. All submissions must be received by the Editor no later than the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. The Editor reserves the right to select articles and to edit submissions for style and length.

All address changes or problems receiving your *General Orders* should be directed through Membership Chairman Paul Eilbes.

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General Orders design & layout by Patricia A. Lynch, Harvest Graphics. Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$40), Family (\$50), and Non-Resident (\$25). See also the article on page 2 of this issue of *General Orders*. Contact Paul Eilbes for information: (262) 376-0568.

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., admits members of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges and activities of the Round Table.



As it is impossible for the United States to supply Blankets to the ARMY, now going into Camp at MILWAU KEE, an appeal is made to the patriotic citiziens of Wisconsin

TO FURNISH BLANKETS

EACH FAMILY CAN AT LEAST SUPPLY THE SOLDIER OF THE REPUBLIC WITH THIS NECESSARY ARTICLE.

IF SENT TO THE OFFICE of Col. James Holton, Assistant Quartermaster General at MILWUKEE, or by IL. W Collins, Quartermaster of the 13th Regiment, at JANESVILLE, or by J. A. Douglas, Quartermaster of Artillery at RACINE, they will be properly taken care of The names of contributors with the number they furnish will be recorded in a book kept for that purpose.

As the men will be in camp

IN A DAY OR TWO, and the weather is cool, it is necessary that the

soldiers should have blankets. We hope this appeal will not be overlooked.

> W W TREDWAY QUARTERMASTER GENERAL