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FROM THE STAFF OF MILITARY HISTORY DETACHMENT

The printing of the Winter 1998 Journal returns to the old format of printing articles from different time periods of the Arkansas Militia and Arkansas National Guard. The staff hopes the following articles will be enjoyable for you to read while enlightening you to our state's military heritage which you might not be familiar with. Each publication in the future will hopefully provide the same service. The staff welcomes articles from any source to be considered for publication in the journal. We have obtained a few articles from college students which will be published in future journals and solicit such scholarly research from any person. If interested, please provide us with a copy (not original document) of your research. The staff will select those articles felt to be of merit for our particular type of journal, and request permission to edit articles for length and pertinence to the Arkansas Militia, Arkansas National Guard and Camps Pike and Robinson. Comments and corrections, regarding the journal, are welcomed from the readers.

The Military History Detachment requests assistance in locating and obtaining any artifacts, records, photographs etc. pertaining to the Arkansas Militia, the Arkansas Army and Air National Guard, Camp Pike and Camp Robinson. These requested items will be used for research and display in the Arkansas National Guard Museum when completed. The museum currently has in its possession a wide variety of artifacts and records representing many persons, units and topics. Of special interest are artifacts from those persons and units who served as a guardsman during combat in WWI, WWII, Korea and Desert Storm, although any articles are greatly welcomed from any time period. This year will also be the centennial of the Spanish American War and the staff would like to request information regarding artifacts and information from the Arkansas troops who participated during that event. The efforts of the Arkansas National Guard Museum, to provide the people of Arkansas an opportunity to glance back into her military past, can only be achieved with the assistance of the people of the state providing the articles for display. Please make us aware of any such items which may be preserved for future generations. The past support given the museum in this endeavor has been very much appreciated and all who have donated artifacts, money and time deserve a heartfelt thank you!

**ARKANSAS MILITIA FOUNDATION
Lloyd England Hall - Camp Robinson
P. O. Box 2301
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THE BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA MEXICO

AS TOLD BY A PARTICIPANT AND MEMBER OF
THE 1ST ARKANSAS MOUNTED RIFLEMEN.

From the Arkansas Banner Newspaper,
Little Rock, Arkansas, 21 April 1847
Buena Vista, Mexico, Feb. 25th, 1847

Dear Sir:

Taylor and Santa Anna met upon this field on the 22nd (the birthday of Washington). Santa Anna was conquered, and has returned to the South.

The Arkansas regiment and part of the Kentucky cavalry were left at Aqua Nueva on the 21st, after Gen'l Taylor had taken his position at this place. At about 12 o'clock at night their picket guard was fired upon by the advance guard of the Mexican army.

We were immediately formed to cover the retreat of the train of wagons which were conveying the provisions of our army to this place, but after waiting an hour or so, without the enemy's

appearing, we fell back and encamped with the rest of the troops at this place.

Early on the morning of the 22nd, Santa Anna advanced to Encantada where he halted and encamped. He immediately sent in a flag to Gen'l Taylor with an order to surrender forthwith, to which our General made a suitable answer, but I have forgotten what it was.

Our whole army, at first approach of the enemy, had been formed upon the field, but we rested upon our guns til 3 o'clock p.m., when the enemy fired a gun, a 9-pounder, I think it was.

Did you ever hear the first gun of battle? It breaks expectancy, and speaks that the die will soon be cast. At its sound we all started to our feet; but

some time passed before we heard another, and we were soon lolling on the ground, joking about the coming events.

There is a large mountain on the left of the battlefield, looking toward the south; and it was on the side of this mountain that we first discovered Mexicans. At the distance of two miles they could be plainly seen marching up the steep sides by thousands, and all so regular that they looked like a vast black belt that girded the eminence.

After an hour or so, a volley of musketry burst forth from a slope of the mountain upon the Kentuckians and the Indianians that were stationed at the base of the north end. They returned it, and the battle was commenced in earnest. Occasionally we could see the smoke rise from Santa Anna's cannon, and in a few seconds afterwards we could hear the sound echoing in the mountains, as if they were warring with guns. Thus the fight continued till half hour after night. No other demonstration was made by the enemy, and the troops, except those engaged, were called from the field; and while returning we often looked back at the battle on the mountain, and the flashes of the guns seemed like streams

of bright meteors darting from a black cloud.

We slept upon our arms, and before daybreak next morning, the 23rd, a tremendous popping of guns up the valley made us jump to our feet. In a second we were on our horses, and soon upon the field. The position assigned our Regiment was at the north base of the mountain. The battle upon the heights had commenced with the break of day—the enemy above and the volunteers lower down. Bayonets and guns glittered among the rocks and shrubbery as if a shower of silver was falling. The enemy's number increased till the whole mountain was in a roar, and covered with smoke. They swept down in thousands and the few defenders gave way and took another position lower down.

Soon after the main body of the enemy appeared, coming immediately to our position. One of the Indiana Regiments was ordered to our support; but after standing a heavy fire for a time, it gave way and left us alone. We were ordered to fall back and take a position across a deep ravine. We did so, but the result was that we had to abandon it also, from a shower of balls from cannon and

muskets. As soon as we commenced falling back, the lancers did make a charge, and we repulsed them and drove them back to the Mexican infantry. Here Colonel Yell gave an unfortunate order. He dismounted Dillard's squadron to fight in a ravine till aid could come from the right flank of our army. The Mexican Infantry was advancing and pouring a shower of bullets down the ravine. We were near being prisoners.

After firing a round or so which checked the advance of the enemy we started for our horses. They were all killed or gone but two or three. Some of us regained ours and joined the Regiment. We then took a stand about two hundred yards from the ranch of the Buena Vista. The Kentucky cavalry, under Colonel Marshall, I forgot to mention, had shared the day with us, bad as it had been. When the stand at the ranch was made, both regiments could not have counted more than three hundred and fifty men; the rest had all been scattered by horses getting away, throwing them, or being killed under them.

The lancers, about two thousand strong, bore down upon us; at first about

one hundred yards distance we leveled and fired upon them. They sprung at the fire and we charged them. They separated in two divisions, one on our left, and the other on our right. We pressed those on the left and the work of death was raging. If balls, and lances, sabers, smoke and dust, shouting, groaning, and dying compose glory, we were in the midst of it. Not a word was spoken-it was all fighting. Here Colonel Yeli fell, and Captain Porter, and Poor John Pelham, the beloved of our regiment.

The Mexicans tumbled on every side. I saw them struck down with sabers and trampled beneath our horses' feet. I saw them beg with uplifted hands for mercy, but it was remembered that those very hands had driven their lances into the hearts of our countryman. They scattered; one part fled back to the Mexican infantry; the others got across a deep gully, and thro' the gap of a mountain on the right, and were seen no more that day. A piece of ordnance gave them a few farewell balls as they went.

During this time the other volunteers were in the midst of a fight on the right flank. When we returned to the

field after the rout of the lancers, the aspect of things brightened in our favor. The Mexicans charged up in sixty yards of a 6 pounder and the Mississippi Regiment; in another moment a fire burst forth from our men, and the enemy fell like wheat before a gust of wind.

The Illinois volunteers were in the midst of Glory. Never did I hear such a roar of guns. A lady may sweep her fingers along the piano's keys for the muskets, and strike the bass strings every second for the cannons, and it seems to me an idea of the firing might be conveyed.

Colonel Hardin was killed in a charge. He was the bravest of the brave. Colonel Clay and several other gallant officers also fell. The fight lasted until night. It had not been of an hour's duration, or of two hours, but from sun to sun it had raged; and during every moment of that time, bullets, cannon ball, bombs, and bayonets had been acting in their death work on every side. Historians will record a bloodier and more glorious victory than Monterey- than perhaps any this continent has ever witnessed.

Our loss is two hundred and twenty-three killed, three hundred and seventy-three wounded, and twenty missing-making in all six hundred and sixteen. The Mexicans lost two thousand killed, besides a host of wounded. We are taking prisoners yet every day.

Colonel Yell was fearless to recklessness. Captain Porter was not able to draw his sword in action, having suffered for some time with rheumatism. There is not a laugh or joke that is not turned to seriousness whenever the mention of John Pelham is made. On the morning of the 23rd, as we went out to battle, he was jesting with his friends about the coming cannon balls and bomb shells, and in the heat of battle he was lively and cool as he was in his mess at camp.

It does me good to tell the world of many of Our Regiment who fought at Buena Vista. There are Desha, and the two Searcy's, brothers, of Captain Porter's company, who stood and fought in danger wherever it offered. Not only in one attack or two, but as long as the battle lasted they were in the field. And I must do justice to Colonel Roane, whom I hate as a politician as much as any one

on earth. He was with us encouraging and managing our affairs with skill that I thought he did not possess. He shone upon this battlefield in a better light than I ever saw him. He seemed to fight for glory, and combined it with duty. He stood calm and cheered his men, when two riflemen were shot down on either side of him; and when it came to the charge at the ranch, his saber fell about him like a streak of lightning on the Mexicans, and their blood is upon it now. He led, and did not choose safety's side

for himself; and there is not one of us that does not feel he honored our state by his gallant bearing at Buena Vista. Dr. Roane heard that Frank Ross, our Sergeant Major, was wounded, and he went out into the fight to see him; he was near getting his head shot off by it. Frank is only slightly shot.

Doubtless you will hear from some other correspondent-so no more at present, but remain yours-till next battle.

(William

Quesenbury)

ARKANSAS MILITARY INSTITUTE

THE WEST POINT OF ARKANSAS

BY

SSG Anthony Rushing

(Source: *Tulip Ridge, Arkansas* by Jonathan Smith)

During the 19th century many states organized their own private military academies with the two most famous being the Virginia Military Institute and the Citadel of South Carolina. These military schools copied much of their academics, uniforms and administration after the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. In the 1840's the inhabitants of the community of Tulip, Arkansas in Dallas County began working towards establishing a school for higher learning for boys. This school would eventually evolve into the Arkansas Military Institute.

The school at Tulip began in 1849 and was dubbed the Alexander Institute after its new superintendent George Douglas Alexander. George Alexander was a native of Campbell County, Virginia and had recently been hired by the residents of Tulip to superintend the school they were organizing.

Alexander had quite a list of credentials to back up his selection. He had graduated from Washington College in 1842 where he had been a member of the Cincinnati Corps. This body was composed of students who were permitted to take military tactics and training at adjacent Virginia Military Institute. Alexander was thus able to obtain the military instruction that would enable him to start his military school in Arkansas. Upon graduation, Alexander served as the teaching principal at the Minden Female College in Minden, Louisiana and later as a teacher at the Hatcher Institute in Shreveport before beginning his career at the Alexander Institute in 1849.

In 1850 the men of the Tulip area decided they would like the new school to have a military bearing and in August of that year the Alexander Institute became the Arkansas Military Institute.

There was much work to be done to get the school organized. General Nat G. Smith of Tulip served as the president of the school's Board of Guardians/Trustees, while "Colonel" Alexander was appointed superintendent. The remainder of the Board was comprised of Dr. William Bethell, George C. Eaton, Benjamin Borden, James W. Eaton, Hector McNeill, John J. Samuel, Howell Taylor, George C. Lea, and James Pattillo. George Eaton, who was a member of the Arkansas House of Representatives was chosen spokesman and it was through his efforts that the school's state charter was obtained from the legislature December 18, 1850. The Act of Charter was important in that it defined regulations regarding administration, faculty and examination procedures as well as proper use of firearms.

The next major task was the selection of a faculty. Colonel Alexander, in addition to his duties as superintendent, would serve as Professor of Ancient and Modern Languages. However, more instructors would be needed. Colonel Alexander traveled to Lexington, Virginia to V. M. I. where he

hired a recent graduate, Thomas Owen Benton. Major Benton, as he was to be called, had graduated 5th out of a class of 17 in July of 1850 and would serve as Professor of Mathematics and Military Tactics.

The faculty was completed with Dr. Weldon Wright, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania as Professor of Sciences and Major Benjamin Borden, a former editor of the Arkansas Gazette, as lecturer on Rhetoric and Literature. The salaries of the teachers would be \$2000 - \$3000 raised annually for this purpose.

School was scheduled to begin on the first Monday in August and end on the last Thursday in May. There would be four departments of instruction with tuition paid for ten months. Collegiate level was \$50; Academic with ancient languages (chiefly Latin) \$50 or without languages \$40; Preparatory was \$30 and Elementary \$20.

The first year forty - two boys from the state entered the school representing several of the more prosperous and prominent families. By 1852 the school had received its firearms and cannons from the state arsenal and

military tactics could proceed accordingly.

The Arkansas Military Institute was considered to be one of the best in the state, as described in the following editorial from the Arkansas Gazette, *"If the establishment of excellent and well organized schools and the banishment and use of intoxicating liquors is an evidence of a moral and highly cultivated state of society, then are the citizens of Dallas County entitled to high praise. She is one of our newest counties, but she has set an example that is worthy the imitation of her sisters. Other counties have done much for the cause of education and the moral improvement of their citizens, but, considering the short time she has been organized as a county, she excels them all."*

Cadets seeking admission were required not to be less than 4'9" and fifteen years of age. Courses of instruction embraced by four years of study for graduation and was divided into 4th, 3rd, 2nd and 1st classes, modeled after other military academies. However, no student was permitted to enter higher than 2nd class. The older students lived

in barracks while the elementary and preparatory were boarded by local families.

Discipline in the Institute was strictly military for all students. The cadets, however, were the only students required to wear uniforms which were similar in make to those worn at the Virginia Military Institute. This was due, no doubt, to the influences of Colonel Alexander and Major Benton. Textbooks were also similar to those used at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Over the next few years enthusiasm fluctuated and Colonel Alexander resigned in 1856 to devote himself to his own farming endeavors which had grown quite large. The heavy cannon and firearms were returned to the state arsenal in Little Rock and Major Benton moved to the University of Louisiana where he received his degree in law. The school remained but its academics shifted from a military emphasis to a literary program until the coming of the War Between the States.

When the war erupted many young men flocked to answer the call to

arms. Quite a large number of former A. M. I. students joined the Confederate army. Most joined the local company raised by Captain George D. Alexander, their former teacher, along with other Tulip and Dallas County men. This company would be designated Company I, 3rd Arkansas Infantry and referred to by its members as the "Tulip Rifles". This company would be part of the only Arkansas regiment to serve the entire war in the east under the generalship of Robert E. Lee. When it ended four years later, only a few remained to answer the roll call at Appomattox.

Captain Alexander had his arm badly shattered at the Battle of Cacapon's Mountain on January 4, 1862, requiring its amputation. After healing, he was commissioned a major of artillery and appointed ordnance master at Camden, Arkadelphia and finally at Marshall, Texas where he supervised a strategic powder mill until the end of the war. Major Benton served the Confederacy as a major of artillery in Benton's Battery. He surrendered in the summer of 1865 at Fort De Russy on the Red River.

In Arkansas the Federal army made numerous forays into the Tulip area and destroyed all vestiges of the Arkansas Military Institute. The school was not rebuilt after the war and Arkansas' "West Point" ended its short existence. Although it was short lived, the A. M. I. provided a number of Arkansas boys with the best education available in state at that time. Many received the military training they would put to use during the war years 1861-65 and afterwards, while some never returned to reap the benefits of the education they had obtained along "Tulip Ridge".

(Note: The school had been given four Cadet cannons and these were put to use during the war. According to certain sources all four survived the war. One was buried under a road in Virginia to keep it from falling into Union hands. The others were used in the various National Military Parks throughout the country. One is located inside the visitor's center at the Petersburg National Park in Petersburg, Virginia. Efforts are being made to have the cannon returned to the museum at McArthur Park for display.)

GENERAL PATRICK R. CLEBURNE

The Stonewall Jackson of the West

by SSG Anthony Rushing

Patrick Ronayne Cleburne. The name alone left an everlasting impression on those who came into contact with him. To his enemies, he was "Cleburne the Terrible." Just to see his distinctive battle flags, with their blue field, full moon and inverted cannon, instilled fear and worry into the heart of many Union commanders. The effect on the Union enlisted man was much the same, if not intensified by their face to face contact with Cleburne's troops.

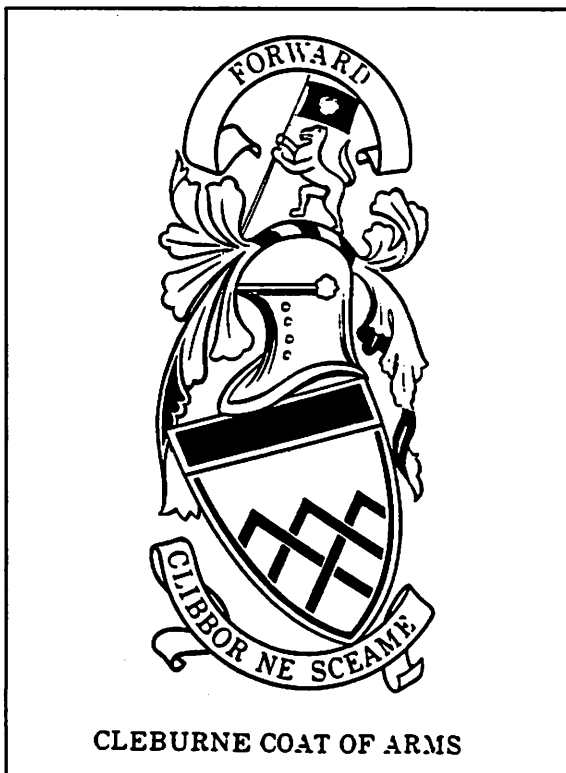
To his own men he was known as "Old Pat," "Pat Cleburne" or just "Cleburne." The respect and devotion of his men were matched only by those men who served under the legendary Stonewall Jackson in Virginia. In many ways the two generals were quite similar. Jackson and Cleburne were deeply religious and strong in their morals and Christian values. Both



had the devotion and control of their men that made many fellow officers on both sides envious of their accomplishments on the field.

One major difference between Jackson and Cleburne was the latter's intimacy and Irish humor with all who

knew him. Cleburne was forever involved with the numerous practical jokes which were common in an army. He was also fond of the company of pretty young ladies and always played the part of a gentleman. Like General Jackson, Cleburne denied himself the use of alcohol or other stimulants, knowing well their effect on his system. Perhaps the saddest resemblance of all was that both were to become battlefield casualties in the prime of their military prowess.



The fame which is associated with the name Cleburne had its beginning long before Patrick was born. Some of

Patrick's ancestors are names common to the early history of Western Europe. One such ancestor was Gospatrick who was descended from Saxon King Ethelred II and King Malcom II of Scotland. Gospatrick's own father was Maldred, the brother of Gracious Duncan who was murdered by Macbeth. The story is now a Shakespearean classic familiar to all students.

The Cleburne family appears to have originated in Westmorleland County, England sometime before the twelfth century. The parish church of Cleburne, which is still standing, dates to the twelfth century. One of the windows contains the Cleburne coat of arms and family motto, "Forward, Cleburne Ne Sceame," which means, "Forward, the Cleburne's do not know otherwise." Cleburne Hall, which stands across from the church, was built in the fourteenth century by Robert de Cleburne, the knight of the shire of Westmoreland. It was not until the English reconquest of Ireland in the 17th Century that the Clan of Cleburne settled in that country.

On March 16, 1828, a son was born to Joseph and Anne Ronayne Cleburne in County Cork, Ireland and he

was named Patrick Ronayne. After his childhood, young Cleburne began to consider his future vocation and decided to follow in his father's footsteps as a physician. At the age of eighteen, Patrick applied for admission to the medical school in Dublin, but failed the entrance exam. Feeling that he had disgraced his family, Patrick enlisted in the Queen's Army with the 41st Regiment of Foote which was soon to embark for India. Patrick planned to disappear from sight saving his family from any disgrace or shame; however, the regiment did not leave for India, but remained in Ireland. It was not until a good while later, however, that a kinsman made known Patrick's whereabouts to his family.

During the next two years Patrick applied himself diligently to his training and soon became a model soldier. This military experience would provide the ground work which would develop Patrick into the military tactician of the War Between the States. Soon after a promotion to corporal, Patrick purchased his discharge to accompany part of his family to the promising shores of America. On Christmas Day, 1849, Patrick, his older sister Anne, older

brother Robert and younger brother Joseph landed at New Orleans harbor. They embarked up the Mississippi River and settled in Cincinnati.

In 1850 Dr. Hector Grant and Dr. Charles Nash, two Helena, Arkansas physicians, purchased a pharmacy and through recommendations hired Cleburne to run the business. Patrick had now began his life as an Arkansawyer and Southerner. After successfully running the pharmacy for a number of years, Cleburne began to study law. He was admitted to the bar in 1856 and began practicing as a member of the law firm of Alexander, Scaife, Mangum and Cleburne. During these years Patrick became involved with the community and joined several organizations, including the Masons, the local debating team and St. Johns Episcopal Church. Still a bachelor, Cleburne was to be found at most all dances and parties and forever in company with a member of the fairer sex.

As the troubles between North and South increased, Patrick involved himself more and more with politics. Supporting his friend Thomas Hindman, who later became a Confederate general, Cleburne was in the midst of the political

furor so prevalent of the times. Due to his involvement, he was almost killed by an assassin during a stroll down the street with Hindman. When the secession crisis erupted after the election of Lincoln, Cleburne had already cast his lot. In a letter to his brother Robert, Patrick made his stand on the matter saying, "I am with the South in life or death....these people have been my friends and have stood by me on all occasions."

After the secession of the first seven Confederate states, Patrick Cleburne was one of the first privates to enlist in the company of militia known as the Yell Rifles, named after Mexican War hero Archibald Yell. At company elections, Cleburne was overwhelmingly elected Captain even though Arkansas had yet to secede.

When the rumor spread that the arsenal in Little Rock was to be reinforced by Federal troops, Cleburne's company, along with another unit from Helena, marched to the Capitol at once. The volunteers, along with Governor Henry Rector, received the surrender of the arsenal on February 8, 1861. Soon afterwards, nine companies were

mustered into state service as the 1st Arkansas Volunteers. On May 30, 1861, the group was officially mustered into Confederate service and designated as the 15th Arkansas Infantry. Captain Cleburne was again unanimously elected Colonel of the regiment. The troops were assigned to General William Hardee's command.

The regiment was sent to Pittman's Ferry in northeast Arkansas, where it drilled under the exacting eye of Colonel Cleburne. On September 19, 1861 Cleburne and the 15th Arkansas were ordered out of camp to repair the Point Pleasant Plank Road which was to be used to link Hardee's force with General Leonidus Polk's troops that were stationed at Columbus, Kentucky. Acting as the vanguard of Hardee's force, Cleburne and his group made their way into Kentucky. Arriving at Thompkinsville, Cleburne found the town almost deserted and the inhabitants very frightened by rumors of murder and plundering by the Confederates. One elderly woman met Cleburne in the road with an opened Bible and stated she was not afraid to die. It took several

moments for the gentlemanly Cleburne to convince her she was in no danger. During this march the only casualties were to be among the Texas Rangers who were fired on mistakenly by their own men.

Cleburne was appointed Brigadier General in early 1862. His brigade consisted of the 15th Arkansas, 6th Mississippi, 5th(35th), 23rd and 24th Tennessee, Shoup's Artillery Battalion and Watson's Battery. His star began to rise as his troops distinguished themselves in the Army of the West.

Attached to the Third Corps of the Army of Mississippi under General Hardee, Cleburne's brigade led the march of the army from Corinth towards Pittsburg Landing. His troops were to play a significant role in the Battle of Shiloh. As a prelude to the general engagement at Shiloh, Cleburne's men repulsed a cavalry force on April 4 and then camped for the night. On April 5, Cleburne reached the enemy's outposts and lines where he deployed his brigade to await the main body of the Southern Army. Heavy rains, however, delayed the march and it was not until after dark that the Confederate Army neared the

area. This caused the battle to be delayed until the following morning, Sunday, April 6, 1862.

At dawn Hardee's skirmishers engaged a small party of Federal scouts and Cleburne's men began moving forward astride the Corinth Road. Between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Cleburne's brigade neared the small church known as Shiloh and surprised the Union troops commanded by General William T. Sherman. Cleburne's brigade was deployed from left to right as follows: 24th Tennessee, 5th Tennessee, 6th Mississippi and 23rd Tennessee. The 15th Arkansas was sent forward as skirmishers and the newly attached 2nd Tennessee attacked the left flank. The 15th Arkansas engaged the enemy's skirmishers who fell back to their first line of battle. The men from Arkansas fell back on their reserves and soon the whole brigade came in sight of the enemy encampment where his first line of battle overlapped Cleburne's left flank by one half a brigade. The Federals had hastily thrown up crude breastworks of logs and bales of hay while awaiting the clash that was soon to materialize.

As Cleburne's men plunged forward they encountered a marshy area which proved to be almost impassable. As a result, Cleburne's lines opened up in order to pass around this obstacle. Cleburne, however, attempted to push through the middle where his mount struggled and threw him into the mire. In his report Cleburne stated that "with great difficulty I managed to get out."

As Cleburne emerged from the swamp, covered in mud, the battle was becoming quite heavy. Captain Trigg attempted to give some artillery support, but was forced to move to a better vantage point. It was the last service Cleburne would see from this battery during the battle. Upon reaching the Federal camps, the 6th Mississippi and 23rd Tennessee charged, but due to the tents, their lines became broken and a devastating fire quickly repulsed them.

The 23rd Tennessee regrouped one hundred yards to the rear while the 6th Mississippi made numerous assaults. The regiment lost three hundred officers and men of the aggregate four hundred twenty-five present. Just as the 23rd Tennessee broke, Cleburne, along with the regiment's former commander

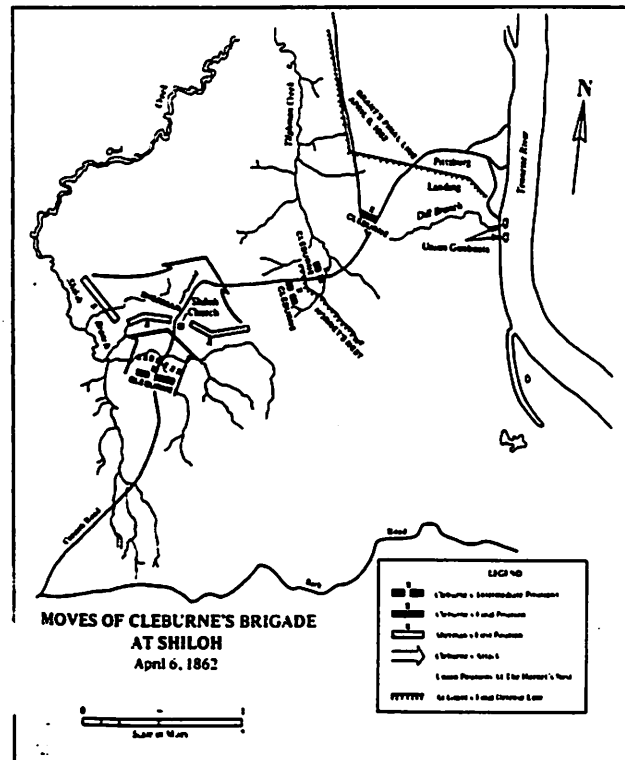
arrived and succeeded in rallying the remaining men. General Cleburne, being confident in Colonel Martin's ability, proceeded back to his left where his troops were driving the first lines of the enemy. The 2nd Tennessee came dashing up on the left and charged through a galling cross fire while the 24th Tennessee "stood to," returning volley for volley earning Cleburne's trust and praise. Cleburne's old regiment, the 15th Arkansas, had just delivered a devastating volley at pistol range when the general arrived. A lull soon developed on the left and Cleburne excitedly galloped back to his right.

Approximately one half of the 23rd Tennessee and sixty of the 6th Mississippi had reformed and were ready to once again advance against the stubborn resistance on their front. They advanced with a volley and a yell and the Confederate tide could not be turned. General Cleburne was at the front leading his men! After this brief fight the senior officer of the 6th Mississippi marched the regiment to the rear due to its lack of organization since most of its officers were casualties. Cleburne would

see no more of this decimated regiment during the battle.

Cleburne again returned to his left at 2:00 p.m. Most of his brigade was to the left of the battle raging around the Hornet's Nest. When Cleburne arrived, he found the 15th Arkansas and the 24th Tennessee halted under the brow of a hill. The 2nd Tennessee was so reduced in numbers from earlier fighting that it had to be sent to the rear to reform. It too, failed to reattach itself with Cleburne. The advance was ordered and the 23rd Tennessee rejoined the brigade which moved one mile, and engaged the enemy which were driven in retreat. The men soon ran out of ammunition and Cleburne was forced to send a fatigue party to carry up ammunition for over a mile. After resupplying the men, they once again advanced until the enemy artillery, along with fire from the Union gunboats, forced them to halt. General Beauregard ordered Cleburne to hold his position which he did until dark. He then marched his men to the abandoned enemy camps for much needed sleep. Sleep, however, was not to come. A night of continual rain and constant

shelling from the gunboats kept the tired men from getting the needed sleep.



At dawn the brigade reformed and moved forward. After advancing for over a mile, it came upon General Breckenridge's men in line of battle. To their front and left as far as the eye could see, the enemy's lines stretched through the woods. General Breckenridge ordered Cleburne forward, but the Irishman sent word that he had no supports. He reported that he was flanked and would be destroyed. However, he was told that the order came directly from General Bragg. Cleburne ordered the advance without

hesitation. As the men advanced through a thicket of young saplings, they received a devastating fire and were soon repulsed and routed. The 15th Arkansas was the only unit to rally around their general. They reformed and immediately charged the advancing enemy who fled in panic. Cleburne's brigade was now completely disorganized and scattered. He attempted to rally stragglers into an organized force but the Union pursuit was halted. General Cleburne remained personally on the field and with no assistance, he destroyed as much property as possible. He administered to the wounded until after dark at which time General Hardee ordered him back to Corinth. In two days of fighting, Cleburne lost over 1000 of his 2,750 men as killed and wounded. This was Cleburne's first major battle and he and his troops showed great promise. Afterwards, the Confederates retired to camp near Corinth, Mississippi. In May, Cleburne and his brigade fought a hotly contested engagement at Farmington beating back the Federates easily.

In July, the army marched to Chattanooga, Tennessee. The invasion of Kentucky was then put into motion

and Cleburne's brigade moved to Kentucky via Knoxville and Cumberland Gap. On August 30th, 1862 near Richmond, Kentucky, Cleburne was ordered by Major General Kirby Smith to move his division and two batteries forward and attack the enemy to his front. This was done and Cleburne's troops once again drove the enemy in confusion. As Cleburne moved back and forth along his lines he received a wound to the mouth which forced him to turn command over to Colonel Preston Smith until General Smith arrived to take over. It would be one month before Cleburne's wound had healed and he returned to his command.

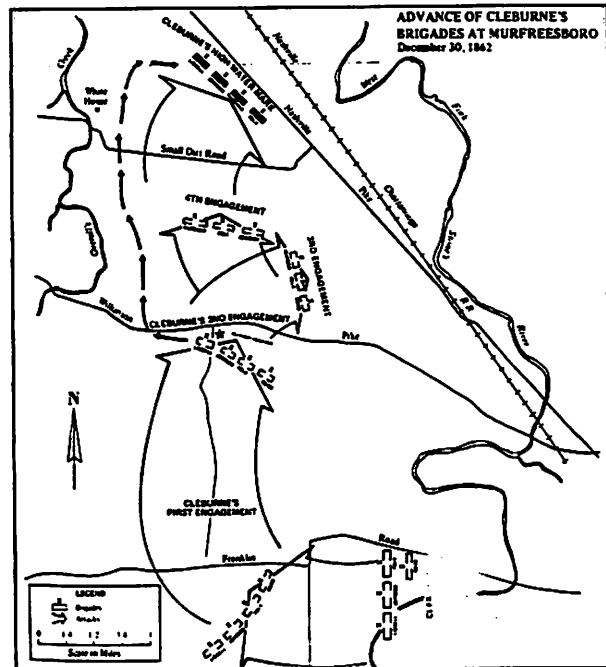
In December 1862, Cleburne and his troops were stationed at College Grove, Tennessee twenty miles from Murfreesboro. The brigade formed part of the left wing of General Hardee's Corps. On December 12, President Jefferson Davis visited the newly organized Army of Tennessee and after recommendations from Generals Bragg and Hardee promoted Cleburne to Major General. He was assigned to take command of General Buckner's division. This was a great honor for Cleburne

since he superseded two brigadiers who were his seniors in appointment. The bravery and skill which he had demonstrated on the battlefield was no doubt too much for President Davis to ignore.

On December 26, 1862 General Rosecrans began moving his troops towards the Confederates at Murfreesboro where they positioned for the battle soon to erupt. On the morning of December 31 Cleburne's troops along with McNair's Arkansas Brigade moved forward to the attack, catching the Yankees completely by surprise. In only a matter of hours Cleburne's Division had anchored the left wing of the army, captured and held over three miles of enemy lines and captured two stands of colors, six cannon and numerous prisoners. Cleburne's losses were 2,081 men out of 6,054 carried into the battle.

During the summer months the Confederates remained in southern Tennessee in the vicinity of Chattanooga. In September the Federals began moving south to once again challenge the Southerners. During the afternoon of September 19th, Lieutenant General Polk ordered Cleburne to report with his

division to the right wing. Cleburne's men forded Chickamauga Creek and



headed northward to the battle that was then raging. Some previously advanced regiments had fallen back to regroup and cheered as Cleburne and his troops passed. They knew what the enemy was about to receive. During a lull in the battle as Cleburne and his division approached, a young corporal turned to General Nathan Bedford Forrest and asked if the battle was over. Pointing up the lane, Forrest replied, "Do you see that body of infantry marching this way in columns or fours? That is General Pat Cleburne's Division and hell will break loose in Georgia in about fifteen minutes." Hell did break loose for the

Yankees just as predicted. Cleburne and his mount raced from unit to unit in an excited frenzy. Soon Cleburne's men were filled with this same fever and successfully drove the enemy to their front in utter defeat. General D. H. Hill stated that he had never seen troops behave more gallantly than Cleburne's division. The men from Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas and Alabama under Cleburne's command were a force to be reckoned with.

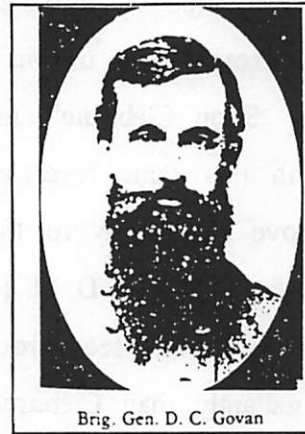
On the second day of the battle, the troops under Cleburne were met by fresh enemy troops rushed to that critical point. The Confederates there were held off, but the weakening of Yankees lines to meet Cleburne allowed General Longstreet and Hood to break through the Union right and win the day.

The Confederates remained along Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge while the Federal regrouped in Chattanooga. Soon the Yankees, led by General U. S. Grant, broke through and routed the forces on Lookout Mountain. General Cleburne was placed along Missionary Ridge and his line protected the only retreat route available to the Confederates. The responsibility of

staving off the destruction of the army would be left to Cleburne and his division. This was done in the fierce battle at Tunnell Hill. On the morning of November 26th, Cleburne was again ordered to hold the enemy in check at Ringgold Gap, Georgia with the same results. Cleburne and his one division defeated five divisions of General Joseph Hooker saving the Confederate wagon trains from capture and destruction. As a result of this success, General Cleburne received a communication from Richmond, Virginia that read, "Resolved, That the thanks of Congress are due and are hereby tendered to Major General Patrick Cleburne and the officers and men under his command for the victory obtained by them over superior forces of the enemy at Ringgold, Georgia on November 27, 1863 by which the advance of the enemy was impeded, our wagon train and most of our artillery saved and a large number of the enemy killed and wounded."

By May of 1864, the Confederacy was entering dark days. Cleburne and his division were involved in continual fighting until September. Cleburne and his men fought the battles of Dug Gap, Resaca, New Hope Church, Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Jonesboro and Lovejoy Station. After the fall of Atlanta, the Army of Tennessee turned northward to Tennessee. On November 27 while addressing his troops, Cleburne looked towards the horizon and vowed that "he would never lay down his arms and that he would rather die than surrender." It would be his final address to his gallant band of men. During an earlier address, Cleburne made his most famous fatalistic speech by stating, "If this cause that is so dear to my heart is doomed to fail, I pray heaven let me fall with it, while my face is towards the foe and my arm battling for that which I know to be right." Cleburne was to meet his destiny three days later on the fields at Franklin.

Arriving atop Winstead Hill on November 30th at Franklin, Cleburne viewed the Federal works and knew the outcome when General Hood ordered his men to attack the center. He was



ordered not to fire a gun until the first line of works had been taken and then go into the works with the enemy. Cleburne answered, "General, I will take the works or fall in the attempt." As Cleburne gave the orders to his officers, long time friend General Daniel C. Govan saluted and as he turned to go said, "Well Cleburne, few of us will ever return to Arkansas to tell of this battle." Cleburne replied, "Well Govan, if we are to die. let us die like men."

The order to move forward came and Cleburne obeyed. The brave men under his command did not fire until they had dislodged the enemy from their first line of works. General Govan was the last person to see Cleburne alive. He remembered seeing, "...Cleburne's horse step from under him. An orderly immediately turned his horse over to Cleburne. While in the act of mounting,

this horse was also killed and Cleburne proceeded on foot, waving his hat with sword in hand and disappeared into the smoke." Moments later Cleburne lay dead, a bullet passing just below his heart. Cleburne's men, unaware of his fall, gained the ditches just below the main works and awaited his order to make another charge. One young soldier stated, "We waited and waited and some wondered why the order never came, but I knew why. Pat Cleburne was dead, for if he had been alive, he would have given that order."

After the battle, General Cleburne's body would be buried in the small cemetery at Ashwood near Columbia, Tennessee. In 1870 a movement began in Helena to have Cleburne's remains returned to Arkansas. On April 27, 1870 the body was removed and escorted by a number of Masons to the depot for the trip to Memphis. Cleburne's body arrived there the next day. All business ceased for the day to pay last respects to their commander and friend. Accompanied by sixteen pallbearers, the casket made its way

through town. Behind the carriage was a long procession consisting of President Davis, former Tennessee Governor Isham Harris, Generals Chalmers, Cheatham, Fagan, Pillow and Bishop Quintard. Behind these men followed over one-hundred bare headed veterans. Flags were flown at half mast and all church bells tolled sadly for Cleburne. The casket was placed on a steamer at Memphis for the return home.

On the morning of April 29, the body was taken from the steamer and the cortege proceeded through the streets of Helena, Arkansas in much the same manner as in Memphis. Fifteen of Cleburne's Masonic brothers provided a graveside ceremony amidst tearful onlookers. After the ceremony the band played the fitting song, "Home, Sweet Home." Finally, Pat Cleburne had returned home. In the winter, when trees were bare, the tall marble shaft marking the grave was visible from the Mississippi. Whenever men who had followed Cleburne traveled the river past the monument, they stood at attention.

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT, OSCAR F. MILLER

The following news article and citation record the biography and actions of Saline County soldier, Maj. Oscar Miller, who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor from World War I.

From Nov. 14, 1918 Benton Courier

Information of the death in France of Major Oscar F. Miller was received by his relatives last Sunday. He was killed in action on September 30. The news was received with sadness by his circle of friends here who know his worth as a man. His ambition to make a record and to serve his country is considered as having much to do with his death. There was nothing too daring for him to undertake and he would have stormed any kind of defense of the enemy to have carried his army to victory. When he visited his mother and other relatives here in the summer previous to his departure to France, his enthusiasm in his work was unbounded and he was anxious to get to the firing line, and his friends could see why his superior officers had so rapidly promoted him. He remarked that there was no

more glorious death than to die on the battlefield.



Major Miller was the son of Mrs. A. J. Miller of Bryant. He was born in Franklin County, Arkansas. When he was nine years old the family moved to Saline County, where he was reared.

When the Spanish-American War broke out he was among the first to enlist in the U.S. Army and served four years. Then he became mail clerk, and an immigration inspector, in which work he was quite successful and made a splendid record on the Pacific Coast with headquarters at Los Angeles.

As soon as war was declared on Germany, he was among the first to offer his services and was given a captaincy with headquarters at San Francisco. In three months he was promoted to majorship and sent to Camp Lewis, Washington and from there to Camp Perry, Ohio where after a short stay he left for France, arriving there in July.

He is survived by his mother, wife and little son, brother Lieut. A. Miller, who is now in France, brother William, of Bryant, sisters, Mrs. W. A. Wilkerson, Benton, Mrs. Stinston, of Bauxite, Mrs. Marion Monk of Alfalfa, Okla., and Ruth (Mrs. Howard Thomas), and Helen Miller of Bryant. Major Miller, who was about thirty-six years of age, was with General Frederick Funston when he captured Aguinaldo, the Filipino leader, and was about the only one wounded in that historical event. Miller,

then a mere youth and a private in the army, was wounded by a bolo blow from a native who had hidden in a well.

Returning to the United States, Miller entered the immigration service and for many years was in the Los Angeles office, where he was known as an efficient officer.

He went to one of the first training camps and was one of the three officers promoted almost immediately to the rank of major. His chum was Major G. W. Farrell, also killed in action.

Major Miller had only been in France for about three weeks when he met his death. He was a member of the 361st Infantry of the Ninety-First Division. He fell in the battle of the Argonne Forest, an eight day conflict in which the Americans routed the Huns after desperate conflicts and is said to have been the deciding battle of the war.

They fought through forests gridironed with successive lines of trenches and wide frequent zones of barbed wire entanglements that were apparently impregnable.... Not once were they forced back by the Germans. They outfought the enemy's best. No

one will ever be able to exaggerate the courage and dash and tenacity of the men of this outfit. No one will ever be able to overdraw the hardships of exposure to pain too luridly, the Hades of shelling, nor the strain of eight days and nights of fighting and holding the line, without sleep, with little food, fighting on...always eager to attack again and again. This is how and where Oscar Miller died.

OSCAR F. MILLER

Rank and organization: Major, U. S. Army, 361st Infantry, 91st Division. Place and date: Near Gesnes, France, 28 September 1918. Entered service at: Los Angeles, Calif. Birth: Franklin County, Ark. G. O. No.: 16, W. D. 1919.

Citation: After 2 days of intense physical and mental strain, during which Maj. Miller had led his battalion in the front line of the advance through the forest of Argonne, the enemy was met in a prepared position south of Gesnes.

Though almost exhausted, he energetically reorganized his battalion and ordered an attack. Upon reaching open ground the advancing line began to waver in the face of machine-gun fire from the front and flanks and direct artillery fire. Personally leading his command group forward between his front-line companies, Maj. Miller inspired his men by his personal courage, and they again pressed on toward the hostile position. As this officer led the renewed attack he was shot in the right leg, but he nevertheless staggered forward at the head of his command. Soon afterwards he was again shot in the right arm, but he continued the charge, personally cheering his troops on through the heavy machine-gun fire. Just before the objective was reached he received a wound in the abdomen, which forced him to the ground, but he continued to urge his men on, telling them to push on to the next ridge and leave him where he lay. He died from his wounds a few days later.

AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY

ARKANSAS' INTERNMENT CAMPS

BY PATTY WOOTEN *Pine Bluff Commercial Monticello/Warren
Correspondent*

MONTICELLO -- The evacuation and relocation of Japanese-Americans after the bombing of Pearl Harbor is often described as a tragic drama in American history.

More than 110,000 American citizens were ordered from their homes on the West Coast and placed in 10 internment camps. Two of the camps were located in Southeast Arkansas --- at Rowher and Jerome.

This "drama" was cast by President Franklin D. Roosevelt when he ordered the U.S. Army to "exclude all persons" from designated military areas who were considered to be a threat to national security. Although the order did not specify who these persons were, it was clear that they would be persons of Japanese ancestry.

Many of these Japanese-Americans had brought their children up to be loyal American citizens who served in the armed forces and invested heavily in war bonds.

Mary Tsukamoto, an evacuee who was interned at Jerome, said she was shocked when the president signed the order. "We didn't live near an airport or military base."

In a rare interview before his death, Sam Yada, an evacuee at Rowher, said "we just went along with it."

"The Germans and Italians were also at war (with the U.S.) but they were never interned," said Yada. "That's what make people mad you see only the Japanese were interned.

In Democracy on Trial Page Smith said there was a significant number of pro-Hitler Germans and pro-Mussolini Italians living on the West Coast but government officials who had large numbers of Italian and German constituents were opposed to their evacuation. Also, the mayors of two large cities ---San Francisco and New York --- were Italian-Americans. "And, most troubling of all," Joe DiMaggio's father lived on the West Coast.

Yada said that when he arrived at Rowher in 1942 he was surprised to see barbed wire and armed guards. "Human beings were behind gates like animals," said Tsukamoto. "When the gates were shut, we lost something, we lost our freedom." The camps, or relocation centers, consisted of one-story frame buildings covered with tar paper. Each section called a block contained 14 barracks with each barrack divided into four to six private units called apartments. In addition to the apartments, each block had a dining hall, recreation hall, men's and women's latrines and a laundry room.

Populations at the relocation centers varied from 8,000 at Topaz,

Utah, to 18,000 at Poston Arizona, according to Smith. Jerome and Rowher had about 9,000 each. The camps had all the agencies of any city. in fact, Rowher was at that time the largest city in Southeast Arkansas after Pine Bluff.

Although the evacuees at Rowher and Jerome were envied because of their proximity to the Gulf of Mexico, making it possible for them to enjoy shrimp tempura, most evacuees feared being sent to the "swamps of Arkansas". Smith wrote, "Rumor had it, that bands of Indians would attack the center at Jerome, that mosquitoes there were the size of sparrows, that the center was situated in a swamp and that in rainy weather the entire center was flooded." An art teacher at Rowher, Janie Vogel, said before her death that the camp at Rowher was "the ugliest place I'd ever seen...no sidewalks, just mud."

Behavior Democracy on Trial in the camps ranged from patriotic cooperation to outright resistance. According to Smith, an evacuee wrote in, "after living in well furnished homes with every modern convenience and suddenly being forced to live the life of a dog is something one cannot so readily

forget. Down in our hearts we cried and cursed this government.”

Tsukamoto said it never occurred to her to fight the order. “We would never do anything to defy our government.” Four young Japanese-American citizens did however challenge the internment orders and were imprisoned. Their records were eventually cleared when Peter Irons, author of *Justice at War* uncovered records revealing “a legal scandal without precedent in the history of American law.”

Ironically, the relocation, which began by isolating Japanese-Americans into American society by “breaking down the traditional immigrant structure,” according to Smith. The younger Japanese-Americans were allowed to hold positions of authority in the camps that they would not have held outside the camps, and Japanese women gained equality in the camps.

However, more than 110,000 Japanese-Americans 72,000 who were American citizens by birth suffered a great injustice at the hands of the United States government. Their struggle for justice resulted in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 when the U.S. government apologized for the government’s actions and offered monetary compensation to survivors of the camps.

Charles Evan Hughes, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, wrote: “you may think that the Constitution is your security, it is nothing but a piece of paper. You may think that the statutes are security, they are nothing but words in a book. You may think that elaborate mechanism of government is your security, it is nothing at all, unless you have sound and uncorrupted public opinion to give life to your Constitution, to give vitality to your statutes, to make efficient your government machinery.



A.M.A.



A HISTORY OF THE ARKANSAS MILITARY ACADEMY

BY

2LT. SLADE A. McPHERSON

In 1913, Massachusetts was the first state to establish a State Officer Candidate School (OCS). It was not until 1957 that the Arkansas Army National Guard activated its first Military Academy to commission officers. Before this, the Arkansas Guard received commissioned officers from three sources. First these sources were: Second Lieutenants commissioned after completion at a federally operated Officer Candidate School with the active army, then Second Lieutenants commissioned through Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs at colleges and universities, and finally, Second Lieutenants commissioned through the satisfactory completion of the Army Extension Course (correspondents course).

The first two sources mentioned above could not provide a sufficient

number of Second Lieutenants to meet the needs of the Arkansas Guard. Most who graduated from OCS or ROTC chose to enter the regular army rather than to pursue a career in the National Guard and civilian world. Some of these officers would leave the army after several years, but by then they would be First Lieutenants or even Captains.

The third source, correspondents course, offered enlisted men an opportunity to become a commissioned officer. Candidates could not be effectively judged on their leadership potential, and the skills they have could not be developed properly with this course of action.

In July of 1956, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Major General Edgar C. Erickson, sent a bulletin to all National Guard Headquarters to each state urging the establishment of a state

OCS program. The materials required to start this course would be obtained from the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Instructor and student information from an active Army Training School (i.e. the Infantry School) would assure the Arkansas Military accreditation.

In March of 1957, the Adjutant General of the State of Arkansas, Major General (MG) Sherman T. Clinger, attended a conference at a military academy in Indianapolis, Indiana to decide if Arkansas could handle an academy of its own. MG Clinger selected Major (Maj) Joseph J. Milhoan, Jr. to be the first commandant of the newly formed Arkansas Military Academy (AMA). The commandant is a senior ranking officer for OCS and a senior enlisted soldier for the NCO's. Major Milhoan traveled to Indiana himself to observe at the academy. Upon returning to Arkansas, he immediately began to organize an academy in accordance with what he learned at the Indiana school. Colonel John B. Morris was named as the superintendent of the academy. Only one member of the academy at this time was enlisted,

Sergeant (SGT) Frank H. Randal. Very few funds were available to the academy in the beginning. A renovated WW II infirmary served as the first classroom. The candidates lived in WW II barracks which housed four men. The state bought small gas stoves to go in the 16 foot huts for the winter months. During the summer candidates could raise the side flaps to let air in.

The Arkansas Military Academy established its own guidelines and regulations regarding the conduct of candidates at the school. Fort Benning furnished only instructor materials for the class. In May of 1957 the Arkansas Military Academy became accredited by the National Guard Bureau, and in June of that same year the first class was held. The AMA's first class began with forty-six soldiers enrolled. It is important to note that not just any soldier could enroll in the OCS program. Admission to the academy was very competitive. A potential candidate had to, and still does, meet several rigid physical and mental standards, the same standards required of their active army counterparts.

Before being officially admitted into the academy, each soldier went

through a rigid screening process. The first person to screen a potential candidate was the soldier's commanding officer. Next the soldier was sent to battalion level to be screened by officers on battalion staff. Then, if the candidate made it through those boards, he was sent to AMA to be screened by the academy's staff. The screening boards were designed to keep the student attrition rate at a low level by weeding out the unqualified soldiers, according to the boards. Before a soldier could even be considered to attend the academy he had to meet a minimum set of educational and age requirements. The potential candidate, (1) had to be a U.S. citizen, (2) must not have reached twenty-eight years of age by the time of graduation, and be twenty-one years of age upon entering the program, (3) must have completed high school or have a G.E.D., (4) must have been a member of the National Guard and must have completed basic training with one of the active components of the Armed Forces, to include one year's service in the Army National Guard, or, instead, two years service in the Army National Guard, to include two annual training periods.

Each was also required to score a minimum of 74 on the Armed Forces Qualification Test.

The instructors at the academy also endured a rigorous selection process. The staff at the academy consisted of the superintendent, the commandant who worked full time at the academy, three tactical officers and a clerk who also worked full time at the academy. Major Milhoan and two of the tactical course officers. Tactical officers were the instructor/mentors of all the candidates. The job of the TACs as they are often referred to, was to mold and hone the officer candidates into future officers prepared to lead their soldier into combat.

By the beginning of the second class it became obvious there were not enough TACs on staff at the academy to properly handle a large group of candidates. As a result of this shortage, the AMA staff needed to have guest instructors to augment training the candidates. These guest instructors were drawn from guard units around the state as well as soldier from the Fourth United States Army Advisory Group, an active army unit. The first class operated with

only three tactical officers. None of the staff was paid for their participation at the academy. All of the positions at AMA were extra duty positions. The staff were members of other guard units around the state. Each trained candidates at AMA on their own time. The only type of financial reimbursement each could receive for these extra weekend training assemblies was travel pay. Major Milhoan and Sgt Randal were the two full time soldiers affiliated with the academy. Their jobs were federal technician slots. They worked at the academy during the week attending to any problems, administrative details, and ordering supplies.

Colonel Morris, Major Milhoan, and Sgt Randal were able, in just a few short months, to put together the state's first military academy which began in June of 1957. According to now retired Colonel Milhoan, there were no significant problems when the class started. There was a small problem of being able to get all of the candidates to their weekend drills for OCS. Most of the candidates were activated and on duty at Central High School. This was a minor problem that was solved by

contacting all of the candidates commanding officers and coordinating for their release to AMA on OCS drill weekends. There were no laundry or canteen facilities at Camp Robinson at that time, so the staff bought snacks to sell and had the candidates' laundry taken care of, if necessary.

In 1958, thirty-one out of the forty-six candidates graduated and were commissioned Second Lieutenants. In the early 1960's funds became available for a new administration building, classrooms, barracks, and mess hall for the academy. By 1966, more funds became available for the academy to use. By 1968, ninety-four percent of the funds provided for the academy came from the federal government.

Starting in 1967, the U.S. Army Reserve was allowed to place students in the Officer Candidate School at the AMA. Twenty-two men entered the program, but only eleven of them received commissions. The academy was started in 1957 because Arkansas did not have enough officers for its guard units, but by 1968 the Arkansas Guard had too many. So, efforts were made to reduce the number of students allowed to enter

the academy. Since 1963 the number of candidates averaged sixty-two men entering the program. In 1968 only thirty-six were allowed in, and by 1969 the number dwindled to twenty-seven.

By 1969 the Vietnam war was in full swing. As a result, there was quite a large influx of new recruits into the National Guard. During this time period there were no changes to the curriculum of the OCS program at the academy due to the war. Also, that same year the staff taught more than just the OCS program. A comprehensive course in the control of civil disturbances was presented to officers, senior enlisted personnel, and state policemen. This was probably due to the civil disturbances happening all around the U.S. at this time. On 21 November 1970, the Arkansas Military Academy received an award from the U.S. Army Infantry School for attaining the highest academics average of all state OCS programs in the Fourth U.S. Army area.

In 1973 the first women entered service in the Arkansas National Guard. Women had been part of the army since 1943, but they were segregated from their male counterparts. It was not until

September 1956 that the National Guard Bureau integrated women into the guard, but only as nurses. In 1967 a bill passed authorizing the career restriction places on women be removed. It also authorized women to be enlisted and commissioned into the Army National Guard in fields other than the medical corps. Because the National Guard was so slow to develop a plan to integrate women into the guard, it was 1971 before the first women entered into service. In September 1972 women were allowed to participate in the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at colleges and universities. The Arkansas Military Academy in 1973 admitted into their OCS program the first women. M. Nancy Wilkes was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant into the 25th Troop Command, Arkansas Army National Guard in 1974.

Most of the requirements needed to enter the academy and to receive a commission were the same for males and females, with the exception of the age and education requirement. Males had to be eighteen years of age, versus twenty-one years when the academy started in 1957, while females had to be

at least twenty years old. Women had to have a high school diploma or a G.E.D. and were required to have completed at least fifty hours of college credit. Men only had to have a high school diploma or a G.E.D. to meet the requirements.

In October 1978 the academy began to expand. The Arkansas Military Academy officially opened the Noncommissioned Officers School. The school's main function was to develop enlisted personnel to become leaders in their units.

The first official post-WW II NCO academy was established by the regular army in Sonthofen, Germany in 1947 by General I.D. White of the U.S. Constabulary Force. The academy was closed in July 1948 because of congressional budget restraints. During the late 1960's and early 1970's, it was clear that the regular army needed to re-establish some kind of education program for NCOs going to Vietnam. Because of the attrition rate in combat and the tours of one year in Vietnam, there were not enough qualified NCOs to serve in the combat units in southeast Asia. The course established was named the Noncommissioned Officers Candidate

Course for NCOs in the combat arms. As a follow-up measure in 1972, the regular army began to develop NCO educational development programs to enhance the leadership abilities of all NCOs, not just those in combat arms. The idea to educate NCOs began to filter into the National Guard as well.

Every summer, from 1973 up to 1978, the Arkansas Military Academy helped senior enlisted personnel conduct NCO courses using available funds. These courses were held at Camp Robinson. The Primary Noncommissioned Officer Course and the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer course were two courses taught to students. The Primary NCO Course was open to enlisted soldiers in the ranks of Private First Class through Sergeant. The Advanced Course served the ranks Staff Sergeant through Sergeant Major.

The units around the state placed very little emphasis on attending these courses. It was not until 1981 that attending at least one NCO school became mandatory for promotion. Before 1981, NCOs attended these courses because they wanted to improve their leadership skills. Before the NCO

school was established, turnout at the course being taught was disappointingly low. Students attended these courses in lieu of drill with their home unit. Students were not reimbursed for their expenses accrued during travel to the school. This helped discourage attendance, especially from soldiers located far from Camp Robinson.

The State Sergeant Major, Command Sergeant Major Stanley Hicks, in 1975, was highly instrumental in developing the NCO course during his first term as State Sergeant Major (1975-1979). The early NCO courses had no standardized program of instruction (POI). The instructors developed their own lesson plans for each class taught.

In 1977, the National Guard Bureau (NGB) began to examine NCO schools across the United States. The NGB realized there was no standardization among any of the guard academies. A standardized curriculum for the Noncommissioned Officer Academy was needed, but the National Guard Bureau wanted the program of instruction to be flexible enough for each state to train its NCOs to meet its needs.

In 1978, the National Guard Bureau called for a nationwide conference that was held at the Professional Education Center, Camp Robinson. The conference was attended by commandants from all of the military academies. The establishment of a NCO school at the Arkansas Military Academy resulted from this conference. Colonel Billy R. Godwin, Commandant of the AMA, appointed Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Stanley Hicks as Commandant of the NCO school when the school was formed.

For the first time, positions at the AMA were advertised throughout the state's various units. Potential enlisted instructors for the new school were subjected to an intense screening process. The applicants were required to present a block of instruction to personnel from the Professional Education Center who evaluated them. They were also required to conduct personal interviews. Finally, twelve of the best applicants were chosen to be Tactical Noncommissioned Officers (TAC NCO). Sergeant Major (SGM) Debbie Collins was one of the two female TAC NCOs, the other was

Specialist-5 Stephens. Collins was the first female Sergeant at the academy and the first woman to obtain the rank of Command Sergeant Major in the Arkansas Army National Guard. According to Collins, one of the biggest challenges for the new Noncommissioned Officer School was to develop a program of instruction for the classes being taught. Each of the twelve instructors were assigned various classes according to their skills. The classes include map reading, Nuclear-Biological and Chemical instruction, leadership, history of the National Guard, weapons training and other military subjects.

There were three courses taught for NCOs when the school opened. The courses consisted of the basic course designed for soldiers in the ranks of Specialist and Sergeant, the advanced course for Sergeant and Staff Sergeant, and the senior course for Sergeant First Class, Master Sergeant/First Sergeant, and Sergeant Major/ Command Sergeant Major.

NCOs were still not required to attend leadership development schools in 1978. As an incentive to attend, promotion points were given to soldiers

who successfully completed one of the Noncommissioned Officer course. To be eligible for promotion, soldiers had to have a certain number of promotion points as a result of various activities since these leadership schools were still not mandatory.

One of Hicks' objectives when the Noncommissioned Officer School began was to conduct mini NCO courses on weekend drills at guard units around the state. These courses were usually conducted in one weekend. The goals of the mini-course were the same as the academy's goals, to show NCOs exactly what their jobs were while serving to enhance leadership skills.

One such course was performed at Company D, 212th Signal Battalion, at Fisher Armory in North Little Rock. The course consisted of thirty-six hours of instruction, which constituted more than just a weekend. This course would be conducted during three consecutive weekend drills, and on Tuesday and Thursday session for two weeks. The classes conducted during the week were done on the soldier's individual time, and they were not paid for attending these session. The course was organized by

Company D First Sergeant, First Sergeant Clifford F. McPherson, CSM Hicks, and other AMA staff. Now retired, First Sergeant McPherson said "the purpose of the unit course was to give formal instruction to junior NCOs to better prepare them to move up to the senior Noncommissioned Officer levels. Also, it would help the NCOs to better understand their current duties and their importance as leaders in the company."

Resources from Professional Education Center, as well as AMA, were made available for Company D's NCO course. Instructors from the Arkansas Military Academy taught most of the general military classes, then instructors from Delta Company taught the special skill classes. Some of the special areas covered included supply, administration, maintenance, and tactical communications.

The next major event to have an impact on the Noncommissioned Officer School was in 1981, when the Arkansas Army National Guard made it mandatory that before any enlisted person could be promoted to the rank of SFC or above they must have completed one of the Noncommissioned Officer courses. This

caused a greater number of NCOs to attend the school.

Another milestone for the NCO school took place in 1983. The Arkansas Military Academy NCO School was the first National Guard school in the nation to have the First Sergeant's course validated, along with six instructors qualified to teach the course. Five of the six instructors were from Arkansas. The Noncommissioned Officer School also validates the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Battle Staff Course.

Around 1985 several course changes occurred. The old Primary Noncommissioned Officer Course (PNCOC) was replaced with the Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC). The course was still geared toward the instruction of junior leaders. Several improvements were made to this new course. The focus of PLDC was more on the administrative details required of an NCO. The Basic and Advanced Noncommissioned Officer courses remained part of the school's curriculum.

In 1986, another new course was established at the NCO school. A

program for non-prior service personnel entering the National Guard known as pre-basic. The program gave new recruits a fast look at what basic training would be like. Instructors took on the role of a drill sergeant during this time. New recruits were exposed to the basics of drill and ceremony (D&C), M-16 rifle functions, as well as map reading barracks maintenance and general military subjects.

The pre-basic program basically had two objectives: one is to prepare the new recruits for what lay ahead of him at basic training, and two, that less than proficient recruits who would be likely candidates to quit basic training be identified. These people are weeded out before being sent off and costing the state and the army thousands of dollars. In 1991, eight hundred thirteen new recruits graduated from the pre-basic program.

In 1989 another new course was added to the school's roster of classes, the Instructor Training Course (ITC). This course was offered to enlisted and officer personnel. The purpose of ITC was simply to train the trainers. The instruction at the Arkansas Military

Academy taught soldiers how to develop an outline of instruction and how to instruct class both in the field and in a classroom environment. After graduation from the course, some soldiers returned to AMA as guest instructors for other classes.

In 1992 the Arkansas Military Academy moved from its original location to an updated state-of-the-art educational complex. The administration building, classroom, mess hall, and barracks were all within a short walking distance. At about this same time OCS began to train jointly with academies from other states. Early in 1994 AMA began to go through a lot of changes due to budget constraints which necessitated further changes due to decrease funding of the military. All of the State Military Academies across the nation struggled to keep adequate funding levels. Some states began to host Military Occupation Skills (MOS) courses. The Primary Leadership Development Course was held at least three times during the summer up to this time period. The AMA was forced to hire scores of support workers and guest instructors to augment staff to instruct and support

these classes. In mid 1994, AMA stopped hosting PLDC altogether. To save money, the National Guard set up regional schools to host the Primary Leadership Development Course.

Once it was established that Battle Skills and AMA would consolidate, a new name was needed. In 1994 a name was chosen, The Arkansas Military Training Brigade. Though never officially approved it was used into late 1995. By 1996 a new name was finally approved. The Arkansas Regional Training Institute, comprised of the old AMA and the Battle Skills school. The objective of the new training institute is still the same objective established upon its inception in 1957, to train soldiers to be better leaders.

The current program of instruction at the institute are lesson plans that are standardized for all of the NCO and OCS programs around the country. The course material either originates at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia, or the Sergeant Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas. The material is basically the same as taught by the regular army, only condensed to

accommodate the time requirements of the National Guard.

In March 1957 work began on the Arkansas Military Academy, by June 1957 the first OCS class began. A small group of dedicated professionals who volunteered their time started what would become, years down the road, the model unit for the Arkansas Army National Guard. National Guard units around the state would send their soldiers to what has simply become known as the academy, to enhance their leadership and to instill a sense of pride and professionalism into each individual who walks through the doors of the academy.

BIBLIOGRAPHY UPON REQUEST