

# GALLANT DEEDS OF TWO GREAT WAR CAPTAINS

By EDWARD B. CLARK  
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**W**ASHINGTON.—Lieut. Gen. Nelson A. Miles comes to Washington at intervals to visit his son, Lieut. Sherman Miles, who is stationed at Fort Myer, just across the Potomac. Gen. Miles does not show his years. He was in the capital when Mr. Roosevelt made his 100-mile ride and he was deeply interested in the performance.

Just before Lieut. Gen. Nelson Appletton Miles retired from active service he rode a horse 90 miles in nine hours. It is more than barely possible that Gen. Miles did this thing in order to show that at 64 he was still fit to do something which would have put many a younger man on the sick report for a month. It was rather a spectacular feat, Miles' friends admit that he is a little fond of the spectacular. It is a weakness, a minor weakness, of a strong man and of one of the finest soldiers that America ever produced.

There is no parallel—no exact parallel at any rate—to the career of this Massachusetts soldier. In 1861, when he was 21 years old he was a clerk in a Washington street store, Boston. He knew absolutely nothing about military affairs save what he had learned from taking a few "drill lessons" from an old French soldier named Calligane. Miles' father, a fairly prosperous farmer, had given him \$1,000 in cash. The boy promptly spent it in the work of raising a company of men whose services he intended to offer to the government. He raised his company and was made its captain, as he should have been. Promptly the governor of Massachusetts told Miles he was too young to command a company and that he must give way to another man and take the place of first lieutenant.

As some one else has put it, Miles concluded that he was in the military business for the purpose of fighting confederate soldiers and not for the purpose of



GENERAL NELSON A. MILES

They were holding off an apparently overwhelming force, when a bullet struck the major—that was Young's rank at the time—in the elbow, shattering the bone. He kept on fighting, but finally the surgeons made him submit to first-aid-to-the-injured treatment.

While they were at it, the horses of the squadron, the men being dismounted, stamped and went through the line, doing much damage with their heels. Wounded as he was, Maj. Young succeeded in keeping up the heart of his troopers, who now had no means of escape from the tremendous force at their front, except their own legs, and he succeeded in holding them to their duty until they were enabled to draw off in something like order. If one wishes to get an idea of the hell of war let him know that on that day the losses of Maj. Young's command were 80 per cent. of the men engaged.

A writer in the Washington Herald some time ago told a story of Gen. Young at the time that he was in Germany, on assignment from the war department, to watch the maneuvers of Kaiser William's army. It seems that the general on his way to Berlin had stopped for a day at Dresden, and while there he was told that it would not do to let Emperor William know that he had made a visit to any town in Germany before paying his respects to the kaiser at the capital. The general met the emperor, and as the newspaper writer has it, the first question the emperor put was: "Is this the first place in Germany you have visited?"

The general was startled by the suddenness of the attack and he blurted: "Oh, no, your majesty!"

"Indeed," said the emperor, surprised. "What other German towns have you visited?"



## STORY OF CONFEDERATE FLAG

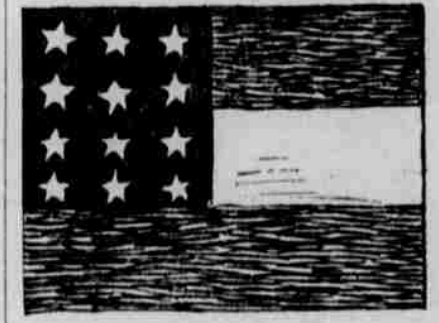
Gen. Cabell of Texas Tells How Stars and Bars Were Designed and Made at Richmond.

Gen. W. L. Cabell of Dallas, Tex., commander of the transmission department of the United Confederate Veterans, wrote recently the following history of the confederate flag:

When the confederate army, commanded by Gen. Beauregard, and the federal army confronted each other at Manassas it was seen that the confederate flag and the stars and stripes looked at a distance so much alike that it was hard to distinguish one from the other.

Gen. Beauregard, after the battle of July 18, at Blackburn ford, ordered that a small red badge should be worn on the left shoulder by our troops, and, as I was chief quartermaster, ordered me to purchase a large quantity of red flannel and to distribute it to each regiment.

During the battle of Bull Run it was plain to be seen that a large number of federal soldiers wore a similar red badge. Gen. Johnston and Gen. Beauregard met at Fairfax courthouse in the latter part of August or early September and determined to have a



The Stars and Bars.

battle flag for every regiment or detached command.

Gen. Johnston's flag was in the shape of an ellipse—a red flag with blue St. Andrew's cross and stars on the cross (white) to represent the different southern states. (No white border of any kind was attached to the cross.) Gen. Beauregard's was a rectangle, red, with St. Andrew's cross and white stars, similar to Gen. Johnston's.

"After we had discussed fully the two styles, taking into consideration the cost of material and the care of making the same, it was decided the elliptical flag would be harder to make; that it would take more cloth, and it could not be seen so plainly at a distance; that the rectangular flag, drawn by and suggested by Gen. Beauregard, should be adopted. Gen. Johnston yielded at once.

"No one else was present, but we three. No one knew about this flag but we three until an order was issued adopting the Beauregard flag, as it was called, and directing me, as chief quartermaster, to have the flag done as soon as it could be done.

"I immediately issued an address to the good ladies of the south to give me their red and blue silk dresses, and to send them to Capt. Colin McRae Selph, quartermaster at Richmond, Va. (Capt. Selph is now living in New Orleans), where he was assisted by two young ladies, the Misses Carey from Baltimore, and Mrs. Henningsen of Savannah and Mrs. Hopkins of Alabama.

The Misses Carey made battle flags for Gen. Beauregard and Gen. Van Dorn and I think for Gen. J. E. Johnston. They made Gen. Beauregard's out of their own silk dresses. This flag is now in Memorial hall, New Orleans, with a statement of that fact from Gen. Beauregard. Gen. Van Dorn's flag was made of heavier material, but very pretty.

The statement going around that this flag was first designed by federal prisoners is false.

Gen. Beauregard's battle flag is in Memorial hall at New Orleans. The Washington artillery battle flag can be seen at the Washington artillery hall—Chattanooga Times.

### To Improve Artillery Fire.

The war department has adopted for the coast artillery service a range board, the invention of Maj. E. W. Hubbard, commandant at Fort McHenry, Md. The board is a mechanical device for automatically computing the working range or elevation which must be given a heavy gun to reach a given target. In artillery the range, or distance to the target, is the prime factor in hitting. The range finder gives this distance regularly every 15 seconds. The device corrects the observed range every 15 seconds, giving a fictitious or corrected range, to which the gun is elevated.

"The good old days of the smooth bore, when at target practice, about a shot an hour was fired, and then only after careful computations, have passed away," said Maj. Hubbard. "The modern 12-inch gun can be fired, with all allowances made, once a minute, with an even chance of hitting a moving target at long range. This improvement has been due not only to improved guns, powder and cartridges, but to the constant and devoted work of our artillery officers extending over a period of years. As far as can be ascertained the coast defense service in this country has not its equal anywhere."



GENERAL YOUNG '68

fighting the governor of Massachusetts. So he relinquished his commission as captain, took his place as first lieutenant and went to the front. In four years he was a major general and one of the best known soldiers of the world. What became of the captain the histories at hand do not relate.

During the war of secession Gen. Miles was shot four times. He never speaks of his wounds. Not one person in a hundred knows that he ever received a scratch, yet one of the bullets that reached him nearly ended his soldier life. It was at Chancellorsville that Miles received the wound that the surgeon said would kill him. He fooled the surgeons, got well and received a medal of honor from congress for conspicuous gallantry on the field of battle, and with the medal came a commission which gave him the right to wear a star in his shoulder knot.

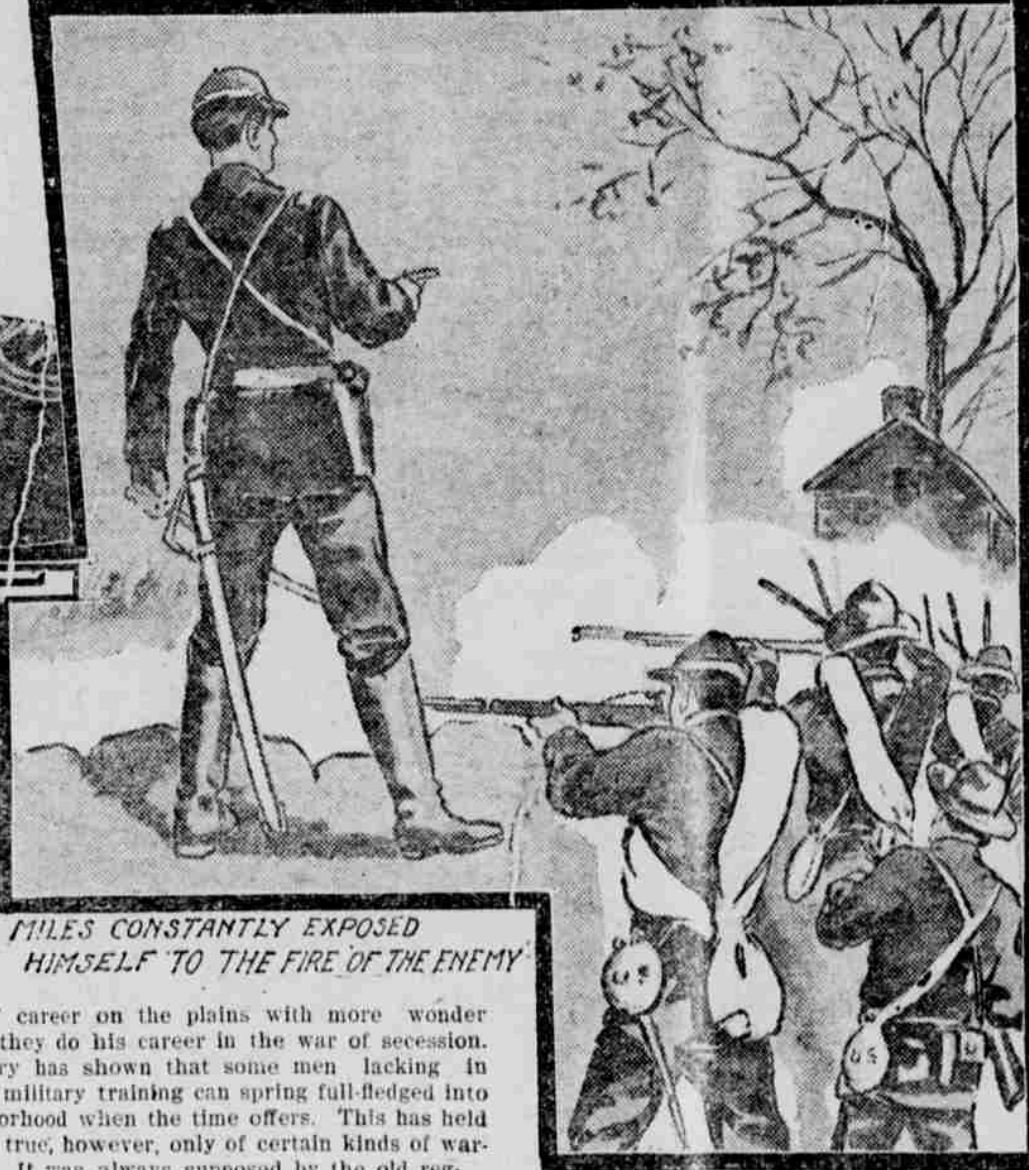
On that day at Chancellorsville, Miles was holding a line of abatis and rifle pits against a tremendous force of the enemy. He was in command of the skirmish line in front of the first division of the Second Army corps. In order to hearten his men Miles constantly exposed himself to the fire of the enemy. He stood upright in the open, courting bullets and possible death. The confederates couldn't hit him for a long time. The inspiration of his conduct enabled his men to hold their ground long after it seemed certain that the enemy would drive them back. Finally a bullet found its mark, and Miles went down with a wound that ranged downward through his body into his thigh, producing an injury that made the surgeons say "death," but nevertheless, death did not come.

At the battle of Fredericksburg, Miles was shot in the throat. It was a jagged wound that bled profusely and caused great pain. He was ordered to go to the rear. The order came from a superior, and so, soldierlike, Miles obeyed, though he didn't want to go. At the time of the Fredericksburg fight Miles already had won considerable fame as a soldier. He was known to all the generals of the service. While on his way to the hospital he came up with Gen. Hancock.

Miles put his hand to his throat so that Hancock wouldn't know he was wounded. At the front was a stone wall, behind which a force of the enemy was located. This force was doing great damage to the unionists. Miles pointed to the wall and told Hancock that a well-directed charge would take it, and then he said: "General, I want to lead the charge."

Hancock knew courage when he saw it, but he also knew a wounded man when he saw one. He made Miles go to the rear, because of his condition, but he took good care that his courage was made a matter of mention.

It is probable that military men regard Gen.



MILES CONSTANTLY EXPOSED HIMSELF TO THE FIRE OF THE ENEMY

Miles' career on the plains with more wonder than they do his career in the war of secession. History has shown that some men lacking in early military training can spring full-fledged into warriorhood when the time offers. This has held to be true, however, only of certain kinds of warfare. It was always supposed by the old regulars that no soldier could make a successful Indian fighter until he had been for years on the plains and had learned the ways of the savage. Miles went through six great Indian campaigns, and carried every one of them to success. He was one of the greatest Indian fighters of American history.

Not many years after the civil war the Cheyennes, the Arapahoes, the Kiowas and the Comanches formed a league and raided the frontier. Miles went after them. It was his first great Indian engagement. He completely smashed the reds in a hard, driving, fighting campaign. He did that which was prophesied he could not do, and he did it so effectively that these warlike plains Indians never again took the warpath.

Later, Gen. Miles took up the trail of Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, with the Fifth infantry, and a few companies of the Twenty-second infantry. Crook and Terry had accomplished comparatively nothing against the bands of these chiefs, but Miles followed them relentlessly with his handful of men, fought them victoriously time after time, and finally captured 2,000 of them and sent them into the agencies.

It was Gen. Miles who overcame the greatest Indian general who ever fought west of the Mississippi river—Chief Joseph of the Nez Percés. It was Miles who broke the power of the Apaches, and it was Miles who made the Hannocks and the Minneconjous sue for peace. This clerk who became a soldier, battled for peace on the frontier, and won his battle.

Lieut. Gen. Miles loves gold braid and the shiniest of shiny gold buttons. Again, it is the one weakness of a great American soldier.

### Gen. Young's Great Record.

Another retired lieutenant general, Samuel Baldwin Marks Young, has a name long enough, but not nearly so long as his army rec-

ord. Gen. Young has served in every rank known to the military organization, barring only that of general, a rank which stands by itself and which stands in the American service by only a few men. When he was a boy Lieut. Gen. Young was a private of volunteers. He was as proud when he was made a corporal as he was on that day five years ago, when his commission as lieutenant general of the army of the United States was signed by Theodore Roosevelt who had fought on the Cuban battlefields under the eye of the man he was commissioning.

It took Gen. Young only six months to reach the grade of captain. He was given the command of a troop of the Fourth Pennsylvania cavalry, and his liking for the mounted service was such that he stayed in the saddle all through his career as a regular. The general served four years with the Pennsylvania volunteer cavalry, and before he left its ranks he had led it in battle as its commanding officer. In every fight from that at Mechanicsville to the skirmish which preceded the surrender at Appomattox, the Pennsylvania soldier had a part.

Only one or two officers in the United States service received more brevet commissions for gallantry in action than did Gen. Young. The list is a long one, and it includes recognition for gallant and meritorious services at the Battle of Sulphur Springs, Amelia Spring, Sallers Creek and a final brevet as brigadier general "for gallant and meritorious service during the campaign terminating with the surrender of the insurgent army under Gen. Robert E. Lee."

At the battle of Gaines Mills, Young's squadron of the Fourth cavalry was cut off from the rest of the command by a large force of the enemy. He ordered his men to dismount and to fight on foot.



THE HORSES STAMPEDED '68