

ARTIE GREENGROIN, PFC, AUS, CONDUCTS A CLASS IN THE HISTORY OF WAR- FARE. LET THE BODIES FALL WHERE THEY WILL

WAR is a very popular pass-time of humane beings. It is fought by men, on sides, with the popular intentions of killing people of the other side. The more people get killed the more you win. That is war. Historically, war has been fought for a long time and several people have won them. Some people have been Alexander, Julius Caesar and some other people.

In the olden days when they didnt have any automobiles they fought wars on their feet or maybe on horseback if they had horses. Everybody didnt always have horses so they fought on their feet. A man had to be very brave in them days because it is one thing to lay on your gut behind a log and take a pot at a guy 1 thousand yards a way and it is another thing to go after another guy who has a sword just as big or maybe bigger than the one you got and is just waiting to get in a poke at you.

If a general used to be especially well off he would get himself a elephant or maybe half a dozen elephants and throw them in with everything else but elephants is touchy beasts and inclined to run the wrong way so they give them up and went back to horses which they should of used in the first place. Hannibal for instant used elephants and where is



WAACs is nothing new.

Here are some ancient ones mixing it up with the boys.

he now? Nowheres. If he had stuck to horses he might be in better shape today.

Napoleon was a artilleryman which is different from the cavalry. Any body can get on a horse and ride the horse but if you want to be a artilleryman you got to know arithmetic and subtraction and long division. Napoleon had to be a smart guy but he wasnt because he got licked. The reason he got licked was because he bit off more than he could chew and I dont mean tobacco. He was a very modern artilleryman for his days.

When wars first started men used to fight each other with clubs and lousy swords and spears but the metal they used wasnt no good and their swords was only good for a couple of clouts before they got broke and the spears used to chip all to hell. So they finely invented iron and that fixed things up a little better but not much because they couldnt get up any fire power. Any body that reads books can find out these things.

They used to fight just in a common herd with no close order or nothing like that which made the wars pretty noisy and uncomfortable. You was always bumping into the squad corporal or something like that because you didnt have no close order. So the olden Greeks they figured out a close order which they called the *phlanks* which is where our word *flanks* comes from. It means *on the edge*. This Greek *phlanks* was a body of men who was drilled and they would come in on the edges of the enemy and push him together so he couldnt breathe and then chop him up. This *phlanks* was a very successful maneuver for a number of years.

Along come the Romans and they licked the *phlanks* because the Romans was really hot on close order and no one ever bumped into a squad corporal



This is the way some guys feels after the 3rd beer

in them days. Wars was very bloody because a sword makes a very large hole and they didnt have nothing to stuff the hole with. You got stuck with a sword in them days you probably bled to death before you hit the base hospital.

THE Romans really got around and they licked practically every body but they went to seed and the barbarians come in and captured Rome. The barbarians was nuts about cavalry so cavalry started to be a very fashionable thing and you had to have a horse to be any body. If you didnt have a horse you was dirt. Practicly every body was dirt in them days.

The big boy then was King Arthur a Englishman. The King had a lot of knights on horseback who were a bunch of clean-living guys and who got around a lot. They won a lot of battles just by using their brain and staying on their horses which they had to do because they was wearing so much armor that once they fell off on the ground they couldnt get up again for nothing and they had to lay down with their legs up in the air till some body come along and put a knife in their giblets.

Meanwhile some smart guy had invented gunpowder which changed a lot of things. Guys used to be able to sit back in their castles and thum their nose at every body but when gunpowder was invented all you had to do was shoot off a cannon and then they was no more castle to thumb your nose out of. So they had to change wars a little and they discovered rifles.

They have had rifles ever since and ever since they have been making them more fancy and more fancy and today we got some very fancy rifles indeed. We also got machineguns which can shoot 6 hundred shells a minute and maybe more. And we got cannon as big as the side of a house. These days you dont have to be able to see a guy to take a shot at him. All you got to do is lob a shell down on his head and put the score down on the blackboard. Us romantics kind of miss the olden days when you may of got a bigger hole in you but at least you could see the guy that put the hole in you. Wars is too impersonal these days.

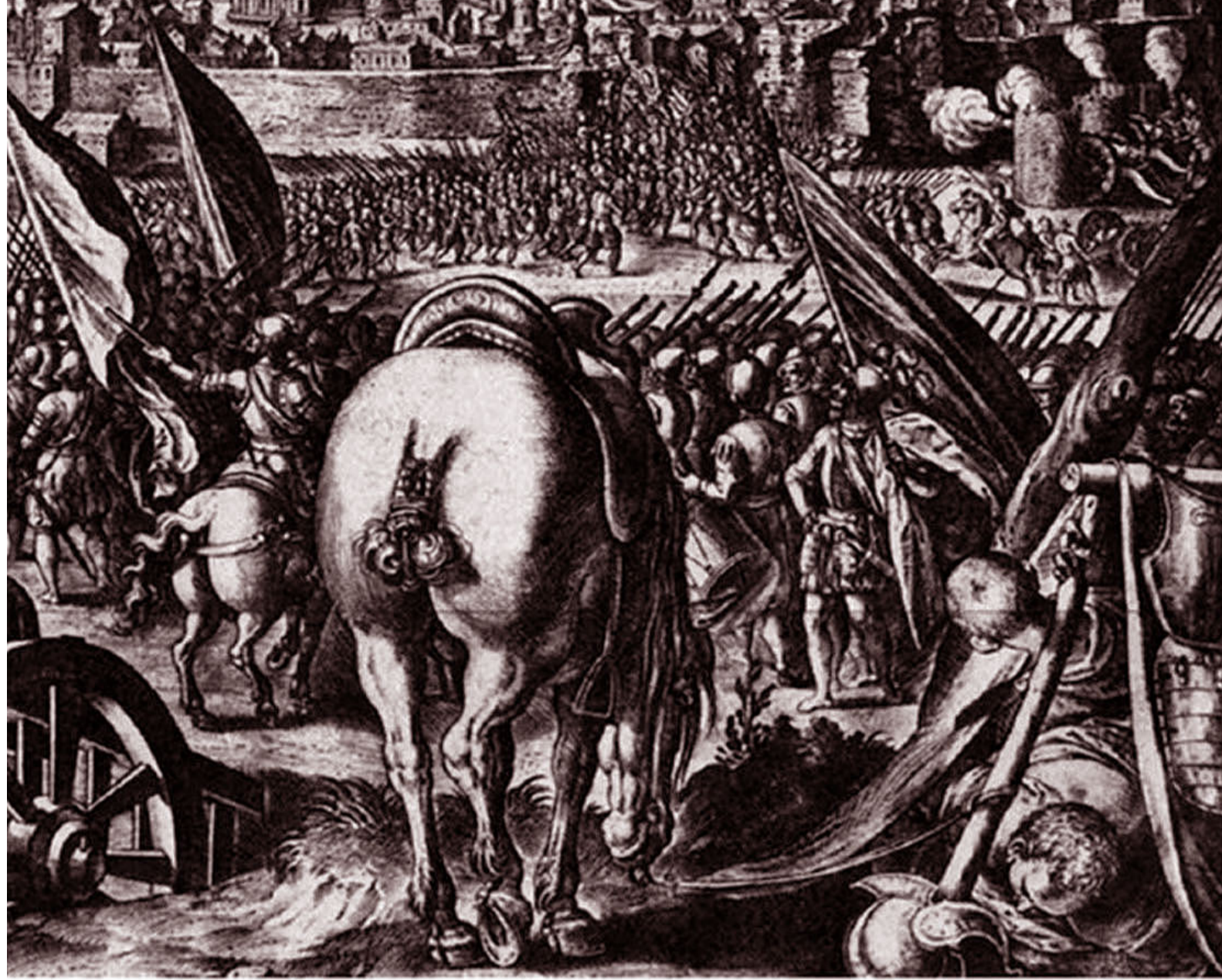
Tactics has always been a very popular thing where wars is concerned. If you was a good general you could out-tactic the other guy and if you was a bad general you got out tacticed your self. Tactics is the principal of beating the enemy before he beats you. If you can get around him and hole him up thats tactics. Good tactics I mean. You got to use tactics on the battlefield or you dont get no-where. Any body can fight a war but it takes a general to fight a war with tactics. They comes natural because plenty of generals who could hardly write nor read was red hot on tactics.

Another thing that is very important in war is strategy. Strategy means to plan out a whole campaign so that you know you can lick the other guy no matter what he does. Strategy is more than just fighting a couple of battles because it means that you got to take into consideration the QMC and other fine organizations. There is more to winning a battle than just shooting off a couple of rifles. If you got to get supplies up to the front you got to use strategy and thats where the QMC comes in. The QMC is a fine organization and every body should pump for his own outfit.

THAT is war. Historically speaking war is important and you cant toss it off lightly. A little essay of this size is hardly enough to cover such a important phrase of life but when you only got a little space you got to make the most of it. The war we are fighting today is different from every other war because we got more things to fight it with including airplanes and we got more things to fight it for. You never used to hear much about B-17s in the olden days but now the newspapers is

full of them and you never used to hear much about freedom but thats what it all adds up to.

Now we got this war to win, and all we got to do to win it is to remember that strategy and tactics is very important and that 30 centuries is looking down upon us. To win this war we got to be quite unromantic and take the bull by the tail. Theres no use in not facing the truth and as long as we got strategy and tactics we will win the war. Right now our strategy and tactics is very good and we got no reason to be ashamed at all. Just keep in mind that war goes on all the time and read History and books and things will turn out all right I guess.



*A bird's eye view of a battle in the olden days.
The general's horse unfortunately got in the way.*

YANK

APRIL 25, 1943: p. 11

OldMagazineArticles.com