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History 217

Re: Outline for Battlefield and Home Front

I. The Military Turning Points of the War

[The "New Military History" (The interconnectedness of the battlefield and the home front). Short explanation.]

A. Antietam

The importance of the Emancipation Proclamation on Europe. With the changing of the North's war aims from a limited police action to a moral crusade to end chattel slavery Europe, especially England's, entertainment of recognition of Confederacy was greatly reduced.

B. Gettysburg/ Vicksburg Summer of 1863. This was the last Southern counteroffensive in the war.

Why Lee came North in 1863. {urpose was to smash one more time Lincoln's Army of the Potomac. To drive home the lesson he had taught the Union at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville in 1862.

C. Fall of Atlanta(Sept. 1864) and Re-election of Lincoln

Realistically the South was defeated. Should have sued for peace. It was only a question of time before Old Dixie would be brought down.

Lincoln's re-election promised four more years of remorseless war as long as it took. There would be no peace without Union victory--restoration of the Union and the end of slavery.

The only option for the South was to resort to guerilla warfare. And bitter end operations like the abduction of Lincoln; holding him for ransom until the North released all Confederate POWs.

(Might explain the end of the parole system at the end of 1863. How this added an additional hardship for soldiers on both sides.

Mention the death camp at Anderson Station, Ga., the infamous Andersonville as it came to be called. Where 41,000 Union POWs were held captive in an area ni\o larger than 16 acres. Gave each man a space of about 20 square feet(the size of a grave). In 7 months about 15,000 Union prisoners died).

History 217

Page two

Re: Outline Lecture on Battlefield and Home Front

II. "Angels" and "Mothers"

A. Women on the Home Front

By 1861 women in North and South were largely relegated to the traditional male-defined domestic sphere. The war would change all this. It would call upon women to use their talents and skills in management and doctoring (they were the "experts" in these areas in the American family) on a grand scale.

With the early mobilization of the Blue and Gray armies there would be some 300,000 men at arms before the war was very old.

Camp conditions in this war were primitive. Actually, camp conditions for men under arms had not improved much in the history of warfare since Caesar's invasion of Gaul.

Camp diseases would take more lives on both sides of this struggle than bullets and shells. When the war started medical mobilization went by the book. (Understand that command officers on both sides were in many cases trained at West Point) and so they brought with them the same education of this point and the shared experience of the Mexican War.

One surgeon and one surgeon's assistant was assigned to each regiment (at full strength a regiment is about 1,000 men).

Imagine when a regiment in a given battle sustained 40 to 70% casualties there was one surgeon and his assistant to take care of the wounded. Clearly it was an impossible task. In the opening stages of the Civil War the general attitude toward wounded or the sick was to let them fend for themselves. They had to find their way back to the medical centers behind the lines.

As a result of these disastrous circumstances women in both the North and South pestered the men in charge to allow them to bring some order and care-giving to the sick and wounded. The example that was most prominent in their appeal was Florence Nightingale ministrations to the British Army in the Crimea War of the 1850s.

In the North women pressured the war government to establish the U. S. Sanitary Commission. The leading advocate here was Dr. Eliz. Blackwell. The Sanitary Commission raised funds for medical care for soldiers in the million of dollars. Women moved

History 217

Page three

Re: Outline w/ Battlefield and Home Front

into the army camps and insisted that commanders adhere to sanitary conditions. To improve the soldiers' diet.

Soldiers' fare: Union troops were fed hardtack, beans, salted meat, and dried vegetables.

Confederates the fare was worse: cornmeal fried in grease (called "cush"), salted meat, and bacon when they could get it. Everything that was distributed by the commissary was fried--it was "daeth by frying pan."⁴

III. Leadership

A. Lincoln's Gettysburg 'Remarks'

The meaning of the war