

Gettysburg Farewell

The Blue and the Gray
Light an Eternal Flame

Soldiers of the North and South have met at Gettysburg three times. They met 75 years ago in the bloodiest and most significant battle of the Civil War. Half a century later they met in reunion. Last week they met in farewell.

The old men came from every corner of the country at the Federal government's invitation for the last joint reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic and the United Confederate Veterans. In all, there were 2,000 of the nation's most aged men, almost all past 90. Most of them walked off the trains that took them to the Pennsylvania town whose chief industry is the tourist trade attracted by the battlefield and its sights. A few rode in wheel chairs. A stretcher bore one hardy Texan who had fallen out of his Pullman berth and fractured the shoulder that had stopped a Minie ball in '63. Taken to a hospital he startled attendants with a strange request: "I came all the way to Gettysburg to find a tree . . . I was wounded near that tree, and all I want in this world is to find it. When I do, then I'll be ready to die."

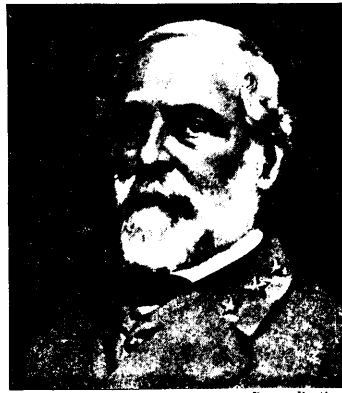
One unreconstructed rebel, who was served a vegetable luncheon designed to safeguard his health, complained: "I hadn't any idea these people would be so short of meat. If I'd thought they were as bad off as this, I'd have brought up some hogs from my smokehouse." A 112-year-old Negro, claimant for the title of oldest living veteran, gave his G.A.R. comrades his recipe for longevity: "I drink lots of gin."

Fewer than 50 of the campers had actually fought at Gettysburg, but most of the 2,000 joined in visiting the landmarks: Peach Orchard, Bloody Angle, Cemetery Ridge, Seminary Ridge—and particularly Spangler's Spring, where Northerners and Southerners alike were wont to convene after each day's fighting. One old man vividly recalled: "We'd gather round and drink water and swap yarns and soon as the sun came up, we'd start shooting at each other."

In formal observance of the reunion and anniversary, 18,000 spectators joined the veterans in the Gettysburg College stadium and heard speeches by Gov. George H. Earle of Pennsylvania, by Secretary of War Woodring, and by the national commanders of both veterans' organizations. The ceremonies were climaxed Sunday by President Roosevelt's address (see page 9). As soon as it was finished, two old cavalymen, one from each army, held a magnifying glass so that the sun's rays would focus on the igniting valve of the Eternal Light on the new Peace Memorial. After a few moments a 3-foot flame rose against the blue sky.



International



Brown Brothers

The rival generals: George Meade and Robert E. Lee



Wide World

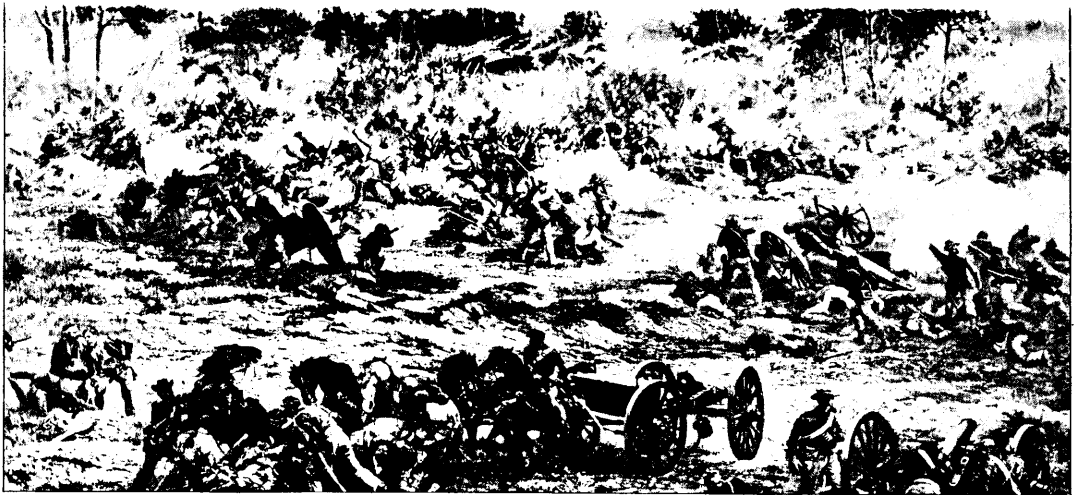
Confederate Chief Claypool, Secretary Woodring, G.A.R. Chief Mennet



PEACE MEMORIAL IN A NATION UNITED

Peace shrine dedicated by President Roosevelt

International



Pickett's charge: one of history's outstanding military episodes

Brown Brothers



Scene of Pickett's charge

Newsweek by Pat Terry



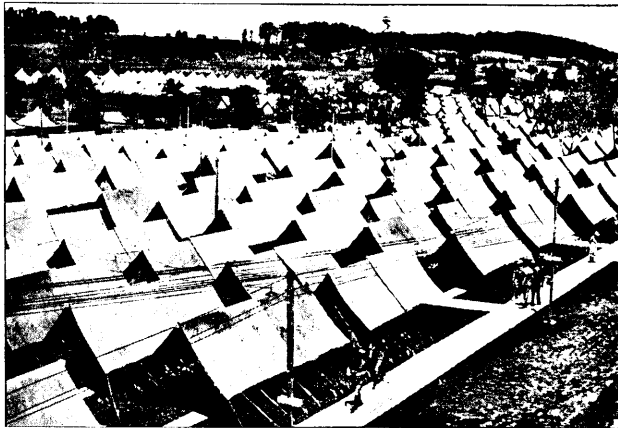
Landmark revisited

Newsweek by Pat Terry



Blue and Gray, 75 years afterward

International



The last encampment

Armo



Tribute to a fallen foe

International