

ZOUAVE!

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Since 2007

Newspaper of the 62nd New York State Veteran Volunteers Company F
(Re-enactment and Research Group)

RESEARCHER EXPANDS KNOWLEDGE OF CO. F VETERAN



Anderson Zouave researcher and Co. F member, Mr John Tierney, has contributed the newspaper obituary of 62nd New York veteran, Albert Mazel.

Up until this point in time, little has been uncovered concerning Albert Mazel, beyond his scant personal data on the General Index Cards held at the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS) website.

It is interesting to speculate on The Standard's obituary writer's timeline for Albert's arrival in the US and his service in the 62nd, particularly the writer's claim that Albert marched with Sherman to the sea! – Ed.

Obituary. Albert Mazel.
The Standard (Ogden, Utah)
Wednesday, July 29, 1891

Mr. Albert Mazel was born in Vienna, Austria, February 22, 1842, being 49 years, 5 months and 3 days old when he died. He came to this country December 23, 1864, during the great civil war, and immediately enlisted as a private soldier in the Sixty-second regiment New York Volunteers, Company F, March 22d, 1865, and served to the close of the war, at which time he received an honorable discharge. Most of his time was spent with General Sherman, and he was with him in his

march to the sea. On account of a bullet wound in his knee a pension had been recently granted him, but he did not live long to enjoy it

April 20, 1885, he became a naturalized citizen of the United States, receiving his certificate at Chicago, Cook Co., Ills.

He was married to Miss Mary Angell February 12, 1867, or twenty-four years ago, at Chicago, and moved later to Elgin, Ills, then to Denver, Colo., and came to Utah September 1882. His parents belonged to the Catholic church, and he was baptized in that faith, but not accepting their doctrines he never clung to the church or united with any other.

Before his death he expressed a desire to have all his debts paid and all claims against him settled by his friends. He then asked for a New Testament, by this act manifesting a desire and some anxiety concerning his future welfare. Delirium soon followed and but little time was left for such preparation.

He had been ailing somewhat for several months, and was taken sick a week ago last Wednesday and died Saturday at 6.45 p. m. He leaves a wife and six children to mourn his death. All the children born to him still survive. The family speak of him as being a true husband, a kind father and a good citizen.

The funeral took place from his home Monday [July 27, 1891] at 10 a.m., Rev. Geo. E. Jayne officiating.

THE 'ZOUAVE RIFLE'



62nd New York Anderson Zouaves member, Dr Stephen Gapps posted this piece on the 'Zouave Rifle' on the Aussie ACW Forum list and has given me permission include it in this month's ZOUAVE!

- Ed.



The Camp Chase Gazette for September has a couple of interesting articles, one in particular about the 'Zouave Rifle'. Sorry to those who may have one, but apparently NONE were used in anger during the War.

The 'Zouave Rifle' is the 1862 Remington Contract, which were similar in appearance to the Belgian or French muskets favoured by Zouave units at the start of the war, as these 'European' weapons had sword bayonets – and were indeed desirable to compliment the Zouave image. The 'Zouave Rifle' itself had a sabre bayonet, but it was never called a Zouave Rifle by Remington - they called it a Harpers Ferry. A mere 12,000 were made and then stockpiled and not used because 500,000 Springfields were coming through. The Remingtons went straight to storage.

Apparently in 1963 there were still quite a few of these unused and lying around black powder enthusiasts homes and they were bought out for the Centennial re-enactments. The then (Italian) repro manufacturers decided they must be originals and wanted by CW enthusiasts and hence they rolled off the presses. Someone told them it was called a Zouave Rifle.

The rest is re-enactment history...



ORIGINAL 'ZOUAVE RIFLE' AT AUCTION



Online Auction House *Ulbricht and Associates* are selling, what they describe as an...

“1863 Remington Zouave contract rifle (Harpers Ferry pattern) one of 12,501 manufactured. .58 caliber percussion very, very nice condition with all historic (2) cartouches and military proof marks with rare bayonet. No Serial numbers”.

They expect the rifle to fetch between US\$5000 to US\$6000 on average. So if you want a look or you want to make a bid, you will find their website at:

www.ulbrichtandassociates.com/id2.html

Pictured below is Lot 14, 1863 Remington Zouave contract rifle (Harpers Ferry pattern).

- Ed.



C.S. GREENE'S "THRILLING STORIES OF THE GREAT REBELLION". (1866)



This book contains a short story about Private Henry Oehl's escape from a group of rebels.

Oehl was 18 years old when he was enlisted by Captain Albert V. Meeks on July 16, 1861 (another document records a date of July 18) at New York City as a Private. He is said to have been mustered in to Company "G" on August

15 which, was before he enlisted, so clearly Oehl's records are messed up. He mustered out at Petersburg, VA on June 30, 1864. There is no mention in Oehl's records of him ever being wounded so the wounding in the following story must have gone unrecorded or was not as serious as it sounds. While the following event is undated it most likely happened in late June 1862 (perhaps the 26th or 27th) when the Anderson Zouaves were in the vicinity of White Oak Swamp during the change of base to the James River and the Seven Days Battles.

THE CHASE WAS A KEEN ONE.

An incident of adventure characteristic of the Anderson Zouaves, and of rigorous barbarism characteristic of the blood-earnest warfare of these rebels.

One day, Henry Oehl, of company G, Anderson Zouaves, with a comrade went forward to a distant farm house, to get information and enlarge his topographical knowledge of Virginia. The farmer came into the yard, and a conversation sprang up between the three.

"Suddenly," said Oehl, "twenty rebel soldiers rose like ghosts from the edge of the woods just beyond the house, and rushed towards us, calling to us to surrender. Not being much in that line of business, we raised our pieces and let fly at them." They returned the fire. A ball struck Oehl's right hand, knocked his musket out of it, and entered the abdomen at the centre, and went out at the left side. To run had now become a duty. Oehl doubled the corner of the house, and made for the nearest recesses of the White Oak Swamp, via a corn-field, and the bushy covers of a line of old rail-fence. The chase was a keen one...

Embosomed in the swamp, he watched his own hurt, and plugged the wound through his abdomen with his fingers.

Soon he saw his pursuers return to the house, talk a moment with the farmer, and gesticulate forcibly to the doomed man. Some seized him, and some entered his house. The hidden Zouave was near enough to the building to catch the sounds within of the shrieking of children. Immediately these rushed out of the door, followed by a smoke, and soon by a flame. The ruffians burned the Virginian's house over his head, for the crime of talking with Northern soldiers who entered his yard.

Source: Greene, C. S. (1866). Thrilling stories of the great rebellion, p. 164.

- John Tierney

CONTACT INFORMATION



62nd NYSVV Co. F Re-enactment and Research Group website
<http://andersonzouaves.tripod.com/>

62nd NYSVV Co. F group email address
62NYSVV_CoyF@yahoo.com

5th North Carolina State Troops Re-enactment Group (our Rebel impression)
http://meat_possum.tripod.com/5thnci/

62nd NYSVV Co. F., HQ
c/- Mr. William Lincoln
P.O. Box 227., St. Peters. NSW 2044
Email: 62NYSVV_CoyF@yahoo.com

Editorial Desk
c/- Dave Sanders
Email: blakstara@yahoo.com.au

Living History Resource Group
<http://historyresourcegroup.tripod.com/>

