



Follow the Flag Story



Courage is a subjective thing. Rancid pork, beans, and hard tack you can put up with, but a Minnie Ball in some part of you body is another thing. Recruiters only wave the flag. They don't tell you about the other things – being cold, wet, and always tired. Fear of death is a constant companion. But the recruiters did come to New Jersey. New Jersey units formed part of the Army of the Potomac, and there were no States that provided more loyal and heroic soldiers and citizens.

The year is 1863 and the Paymaster of the First New Jersey Artillery (Major Silas P. Guildersleeve) had just been up to the First New Jersey Brigade Headquarters late yesterday afternoon. Payday was to be today, but when Captain Hexamer got to the Paymaster's tent at 7:07 AM, he found Major Guildersleeve stabbed to death, the money gone, and the guard outside the tent asleep.

This means trouble. Big trouble! The troops haven't been paid for last month yet! Major Guildersleeve lost last month's payroll when he was transporting it in a carriage from Brigade Headquarter to the troops. Forging a large stream/small river, the carriage tipped over and the payroll was swept away. Major Guildersleeve was upset, but it is suspected he was most upset about the loss of his new pair of boots that were in the carriage.

The Unit was regrouping from a battle near Possum' Creek, West Virginia. They were fighting as Infantry because the wheels on the cannons were being replaced at the time. They had fought for two days and four nights against the Mt. Wilberford Military Academy (203 soldiers aged nine to 16 years). The Artillerymen suffered minimal casualties (two killed and eleven wounded) and routed the enemy after expending 14,030 rounds of rifle balls. They also lost 41 Bayonets, 210 canteens, and 63 hats.

Now, lacking pay (and with rumors that those killed since the last pay will have their money given back to the government) there is a very good possibility of mass desertions. Someone better solve this mystery or you will be moved to Captain Hexamer's squad!

You are all here because in one way or another, you have been in contact with Major Guildersleeve in the last few days. When money is involved, even the most seemingly innocent should be under suspicion.

Remember to look for motive,
opportunity, method and if you can
catch someone in a lie.