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History of the Eighty-Third Ohio Volunteer Infantry: The Greyhound Regiment (Classic Reprint)

T. B. Marshall

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Excerpt from History of the Eighty-Third Ohio Volunteer Infantry: The Greyhound Regiment

Fifty years have passed since the Eighty-Third regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, was organized. Fifty years have passed since those one thousand men entered the service of their Country and marched with deadly weapons to meet other thousands equally armed. Why? It seems no more than right and proper that some words should be said in answer to this query. Was the reason a good one, why these should leave their occupations of production and enter on one of destruction? Let a few comparisons be made the better to understand this reason.

About twenty-five centuries ago, when Greece was at the height of her glory, travelers had carried the knowledge of her attainments in the arts, sciences, and especially literature, into all the then known world. Xerxes, the Persian king, no doubt had heard so much about Grecian superiority that he resented it and at last said "he would buy no more figs of Greece but would go over and take the country and have figs of his own." The attempt was made and, from his temporary throne on the mountain side, he watched the struggle at Thermopylae and chafed at his inability to overcome the resolute bravery of the Greeks. He finally broke through, but the morale of the Persian forces was broken while Sparta gave the world an object lesson that has been a patriotic stimulus to all ages.

Four different times did this lower civilization of Persia attempt to destroy the higher civilization of Greece and always failed. Had Persia succeeded, Europe would have been invaded, the effete manners and customs of Persia been planted, and the civilization that we know would have been delayed a thousand years.

Again, in the sixteenth century the sword of Mahomet with its blighting influences was dominating the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and the higher Christian civilization was put in great jeopardy. Every effort that had been made to check disasters had failed. At last, in sheer desperation, the combined fleets of Spain, Italy and Venice sought the Turkish fleet, determined either to destroy it or be destroyed. The battle was fought in the placid Bay of Lepanto, and when night came the small remnant of the Turkish fleet escaped in the darkness. The maratime power of Turkey was broken and remains so to this day. Christian civilization held its place and no longer feared the evil influences of Mohammedanism.

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