

'Rebels' return to Carlisle Barracks: Visitors tour new Civil War Exhibit at AHEC, Civil War sites

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Carlisle Barracks, Pa. – Carlisle Barracks and the town of Carlisle again suffered the wrath of insurgents on Monday, July 1. The Army War College and Historic Carlisle, Inc. teamed to provide presentations about the burning of Carlisle Barracks and the shelling of Carlisle 150 years ago.



The rebels shelling the New York Militia in the main street of Carlisle Pennsylvania. Photo from July 25, 1863 edition of Harper's Weekly, provided by the Army Heritage and Education Center.

More than 150 visitors started a tour of the Carlisle Barracks portion of local Civil War events at noon at the Army Heritage and Education Center where they toured a new exhibit, "A Great Civil War: 1863 Battles that Define a Nation".

The afternoon started with **Steve Knott**, Army War College, leading a discussion in a multi-purpose room at AHEC about how and why Confederate Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart ended up in Carlisle while the rest of the Confederates were converging on Gettysburg.

Strategically, **Robert E. Lee** wants to destroy the Army of the Potomac, said Knott. "Harrisburg is bait," he said. Lee wanted to concentrate his forces near the capitol and he expected the Union army to arrive piecemeal so Lee could destroy each part individually, said Knott.

After Knott's discussion, guests boarded a bus to enter historic Carlisle Barracks for a presentation by senior AHEC historian **Dr. Dick Sommers** on Confederate **Lt. Gen. Richard Ewell's** occupation of Carlisle Barracks and why **Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart** decided to burn the post.

The invasion of Pennsylvania very much involved Carlisle Barracks, said Sommers. "One-hundred and fifty years ago today, July 1, 1863, while heavy fighting raged at Gettysburg other troops reached Carlisle to fight our own little battle right here," he said.

Dr. Sommers' presentation started at Wheelock Bandstand on the historic parade field and finished at the Hessian Museum. Guests returned

to AHEC afterwards.

Visit <http://youtu.be/AaAE77oOhdM> to see Steve Knott's discussion or http://youtu.be/o_jOsDv0qgo to see Dr. Sommers' discussion.

There are almost a dozen other local events commemorating the Civil War in the coming weeks. Visit <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/banner/article.cfm?id=3056> for additional information.

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