

# A SESQUICENTENNIAL MOMENT

APRIL 20 - 26, 1862

From Buckhannon.

HEAD QUARTERS COMPANY D, 10TH VA. REG'T.  
BUCKHANNON, UPSHUR CO., VA.  
April 23, 1862.

*Editors Intelligencer:*

By inserting the following in your valu-

Several hundred Union soldiers began marching toward Braxton, Webster and Upshur counties on April 17, 1862, to try to break up bands of bushwhackers who controlled the region. Maj. Ebenezer Andrews said in an April 22, 1862, dispatch that roughly 220 men had been sent to "scour thoroughly the infested Holly region."

Although his men did not find any armed rebels along their route, others did. Skirmishes between Union and Rebel forces helped to persuade Rebel leaders to surrender and Confederate soldiers to desert "in large numbers, swearing Unionism and returning home."

At Andrews' request troops also destroyed a nearby salt works operation.

Andrews learned about the mine owned by a Virginia lawmaker from a muster roll of the guerrilla company Webster Dare Devils. Salt was a valuable commodity during the Civil War because it was used to preserve food and cure leather.

Ultimately, Andrews declared the entire effort a success. "The bushwhackers have also been taught a lesson by their losses of life and property which they will not soon forget," he wrote to his superior officers.

*This sesquicentennial moment is brought to you by the West Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Archives and History Section.*

For more information, visit [www.wvculture.org](http://www.wvculture.org)