

A SESQUICENTENNIAL ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ MOMENT

OCT. 27 - NOV. 2, 1861

MAJOR BELL... being slightly intoxicated, mounted his bugler behind him and sounded a charge. . . . He lost two men and some five or six wounded, for which attempt he is now under arrest.

Members of the Second (West) Virginia Regiment included those words in a late October update published in the *Wheeling Intelligencer*.

Earlier in the month, concerns about intoxicated soldiers prompted the state government to request that Wheeling city officials ban the sale of alcohol to military personnel. As much as the Union soldiers' presence was necessary for the formation of West Virginia, their unruly behavior was seen as a potential threat to the statehood movement and to citizens living in protected zones.

To encourage trust for the Union cause in the capital of the Restored Government of Virginia and the future capital of West Virginia, city leaders said soldiers stationed in Wheeling were expected to conduct themselves in the public's best interests.



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

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