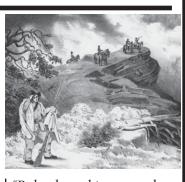


APRIL 13-19, 1863

War is hell, but add snow, hail, sleet and rain to West Virginia's mountainous terrain and it gives new meaning to the word "misery."

Union and Confederate soldiers endured that and more while skirmishing in Pocahontas and Highland counties in mid-April of 1863. The snow on Cheat Mountain in Randolph County alone was two feet deep as a group of soldiers marched 13 miles after midnight to Uniontown.

A storm of snow, hail and rain penetrated "every nook and corner that a soldier could find, so you may judge that we had a rough night of it," said one observer who wrote an April 16 letter to the *Wheeling Intelligencer* that was signed "West Virginia."



"By hard marching we made Greenbrier for dinner," he wrote. After crossing the Greenbrier River, a group of Kelly Lancers and Bushwhackers exchanged fire with several injuries reported.

Ultimately, the letter writer concluded: "A storm of the Alleghenies is not to be sneezed at without a prime article of Scotch snuff."

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.

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