**Intelligence in the Civil War – Tradecraft and Technology, Part I**

**Lecture 4: Cartographers, Contrabands, Cavalry, Irregular Units, Local Spies**

**A. Mapmakers – Critical to Military Tactical Units & Strategic Intelligence**

* Beginnings – Early Union advantage; Confederate use civilians
* Challenge: finding good talent
* Jedediah Hotchkiss
* Going into the field to gather intelligence
* Its Logistics
* Mapmaking process

**B. Black Dispatches – Union Intelligence Provided by Slaves**

* Contrabands – Term coined by Gen. Ben Butler – refused to return escaped slaves. Justified as “contraband” of war.
* John Scobell - worked with clandestine slave organization (“Legal League”) and Underground Railroad to collect intelligence
* W.H Ringgold – riverboat pilot, provided intelligence in support of McClellan’s Peninsula Campaign
* Mary Touvestre – copied plans for Confederate ironclad - Merrimac
* The Dabneys – husband/wife team
* Harriett Tubman – Escaped slave. Underground RR Conductor; multiple trips to bring out escaped slaves; Only woman to lead “Special Operations” raid into Confederate territory.

**C. Union Tactical Intelligence – Cavalry and Special Units**

* Cavalry Corpshad vital intelligence and counterintelligence roles, in addition to its combat mission. Early advantage went to the Confederates.
* Couriers, guides and escorts performed information-gathering responsibilities.
* Berdan’s Sharpshooters main function in combat was to serve as skirmishers forming a defense line in front of the army while reconnoitering enemy positions.
* Loudoun Rangers served as scouts and guides for regular Army units and worked against Confederate raiding parties in the Northern Virginia area.
* Jessie Scouts – Begun by Gen. Fremont. Worked in great danger – in Confederate uniform and behind enemy lines
* Rebecca Wrights & Thomas Laws – Quaker woman & slave cooperate to help Union capture Winchester

**D. Confederate Tactical Intelligence: Scouts, Rangers & Cavalry**

* J.E.B. Stuart’s Cavalry was the most productive source of tactical intelligence information to Lee’s army.
* Stuart background, leadership
* Mosby’s Rangers (43rd Battalion VA Cavalry) was a hit-and-run cavalry force designed to harass Federal units and supply lines and to gather intelligence.

**E. Local Spy Stories (expand)**

* Laura Ratcliffe – local woman, lived between Herndon and Chantilly. She was credited with saving Mosby by warning him of ambush. She provided intelligence to both JEB Stuart and John Mosby. Post-war home, Merrybrook, is on Centreville Rd.
* Antonia Ford – lived in Fairfax and spied for Mosby. Arrested by Baker and sent to Old Capitol Prison. Both Ratcliffe and Ford married Union army officers.
* Rev. Read (Pastor of Falls Church Baptist Church) was executed as a Union spy by Mosby Rangers in 1864.