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From the Archives: A Concise, Logical Model of Military Writing

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From the Archives

A Concise, Logical Model of Military Writing

In this age of verbal maelstroms, Pentagonese, and writing that confuses more than it clarifies, permit us to offer a concise, logical model of military writing from the far simpler era of the American Civil War.

To Major General Early:

General: General Jackson desires to know why he saw so many of your stragglers in the rear of your division today?

Signed: A.S. Pendleton, A.A.G.

Dear General Jackson:

In answer to your note I would state that I think it is probable that the reason you saw so many of my stragglers on the march today is due to the fact that you rode in the rear of my division.

Respectfully,

Jubal Early
Major General

Source: Richard J. Sommers, ed., *Vignettes of Military History, Volume I* (Carlisle Barracks, Pa.: US Army Military History Research Collection, now the US Army Military History Institute [USAMHI], October 1976), Vignette No. 3, contributed by Dr. B. F. Cooling, drawn from *The Adjutant's Call*, Official Publication of the Louisville (Ky.) Civil War Round Table, #67, September 1974, files MHRC.