



The Irish Volunteer

*Official newsletter for the
116th Pennsylvania
4th California and
54th Massachusetts Infantry*

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Published by Mary L. Miller



CAPTAIN'S REPORT

The captain is on furlough at the time of this publication. His report will be filed upon his return and appear in the next newsletter!

LT. BATY'S REPORT

150th Anniversary of Ft. Hoskins

Gentlemen,
I have the honor to report that 150th Anniversary of Ft. Hoskins was a rousing success. The 4th California was present to oversee the festivities and was reinforced by the 4th US, as well as the 71st Pennsylvania, the 19th Indiana and the 2nd US Sharpshooters. We also had support from the Artillery, who did an outstanding job with their firing demonstration. When the gun went off it echoed off all of the

surrounding hills for some time, very impressive.

The 2nd US Sharpshooters also did an excellent demonstration for the public. All of the infantry units combined to give an infantry demonstration of firing and maneuvering on the battlefield.

We were also treated to a visit by Lt. Phil Sheridan. Dr. David Brauner gave a talk about the history of the fort and some of the on going archeological work at the fort. A brass band played a selection of popular period tunes.

There was a bagpipe demonstration by the piper for the 79th New York.

Good weather, good company, historic surrounding, musket and artillery fire, and a picnic lunch. What more could one ask for. Those of us who were present had a great time. Those who weren't, will have to join

us next year for the Ft. Hoskins event, to find out.

Dave Baty

1st Lieutenant of
Volunteers

FT. STEVENS INFO

Setup for the Fort Stevens reenactment will begin Friday, September 1. The quartermaster wagon will arrive in the early afternoon. Union camp is located inside the earthworks. Vehicles may **only** enter through the southeast corner by the mine casement- not through the concrete sallyport. Space is extremely limited inside the fort, so if you do not have much gear to unload, please park outside and we will help you pack it in. Civilian camp is just outside the fort. See the Ft. Stevens page on the NCWC site for detailed maps (www.nwcwc.org).

QUARTER- MASTER'S REPORT

Background

In the Union army, enlisted men were issued their equipment by the quartermaster. There was, of course, a chain of command starting with the quartermaster of the army, all the way down to the company QM. The men were each assigned a company number, 1 through 100, for items such as canteens, packs and haversacks. The men were responsible for their equipment and billed for lost or broken equipment.

In the reenactor ranks, the 116th owns a limited number of items, numbered 80 through 100, for loan to new members during their first year. The elected quartermaster cares for this equipment. For every hour of reenacting time, there are between two and four man-hours of work to maintain, repair, clean and pack the equipment.

Borrowing Equipment

If you need to use quartermaster equipment at an event, please contact Mark Stevens *at least* 2 days before the event (even if you have borrowed before). There is usually equipment available at an event but those who call early are given priority.

When you arrive at the event, please come early to help set up! There are many company tents, the kitchen and headquarters to set up before gear can be issued. Gear may **only** be issued by the quartermaster or one of his designated assistants (in the recent past, random people have unwittingly been issuing personal equipment!) Recruits will fill out an equipment form listing all borrowed equipment.

During the course of the event, members should treat issued gear as their own, or better! Any equipment problems should be brought to the quartermaster for repair. Muskets must be cleaned nightly under the direct supervision of the quartermaster or designated NCO.

During the last day of the event, non battle-related equipment should be checked back before the last battle. After the last battle, please return all remaining items and stay around to help break camp and pack the quartermaster wagon.

Buying Equipment

There are many sutlers, both at the events and online, who sell items of varying quality and prices. Mark would be happy to discuss various sutlers with you. There is a prioritized

list for purchasing items on the company website. This list emphasizes things that are harder to borrow from the company. When you begin to buy equipment, sign up for a personal number with the quartermaster, who will also paint your number on your equipment if desired.

Contact Mark at:

503-302-3030

CoBCorp@aol.com

REENACTOR'S SURVIVAL GUIDE

A guide for new recruits

By Mark Stevens and

Mary Miller

Civil War reenacting is a rewarding and enjoyable hobby that can be come very personal and expressive. Getting started, however, can be overwhelming due to the many different skills, the new "time set", the language and the huge number of choices a new member has to make to develop a persona. This article attempts to help new members deal with some of these issues.

The first challenge for a new reenactor is to identify and manage "farb". "Farby" refers to things that were not in existence or in the common culture of the Civil War era (shortened from "far be it from authentic" and the

modern brand “farberware”.) Some farb, such as medications, hygiene and public interaction, is unavoidable but should be hidden. Other farb is completely avoidable through proper equipment purchases, historical research and preparation for the event. The golden rule of farb is to follow the common practice of the people of the era, not to assume things without documentation. The words “always” and “never” should be avoided, because there are usually documented exceptions. Personal farb must stay in a closed tent and never be where the public can see it. Reenactors and their units fall into three basic groups: hardcore, progressive/mainstream and farbcore. A hardcore reenactor carries nothing, does nothing, says nothing other than what the common soldier did. They sometimes get stuck in the “always/never” mindset, however, and can get extremely caught up in minute details such as thread counts and hand-sewn buttonholes. A progressive or mainstream unit strives for accurate representation but is not exclusive and allows for some adaptation for the public’s presence.

Farbcore is exemplified by the visible ice chest, non-stick cookware and corndog approach. The 116th fits best into the progressive category. We continually try to improve our impressions without excluding people for a little bit of hidden farb.

As a new reenactor you have to choose what impression you want. If you have a bad back and an air mattress would keep you on your feet for the weekend, we would rather have you use the mattress but keep your tent closed to the public. On the other hand, a hardcore reenactor who sleeps in an open dog tent is a great teaching tool for the public.

In your first few events, you may rely heavily on company equipment and have more farb than later when you have your own equipment. There are some things to bring to make yourself more comfortable, healthy and happy. Ibuprofen, sunscreen and modern toothpaste are perfectly acceptable (yet hidden) farb. Personal preferences such as an early morning muffin or lemonade mix for your canteen are also things that will not affect the company’s persona. Wet wipes, or baby wipes, can also be helpful for personal hygiene and comfort. Don’t

forget things such as several pairs of wool socks that are not provided by the quartermaster. Since we are infantry, socks can make the difference between comfort and agony. Shoes are hard to supply in all sizes so a cheap pair of black Brahma work boots can get you by until you can purchase correct brogans. Especially at Fort Stevens, you may want to bring an extra wool blanket or sleeping bag to ensure that you are warm enough during cooler nights. Flashlights and cell phones are nice for emergencies but should be avoided because they destroy the mood for others.

Eating at an event is also a personal choice. Period correct food can be prepared on the company street and a valuable part of the public’s and your own experience, but there are vendor booths for quick meals or a soda. Modern food items, again, may not be brought back to eat openly in camp. Granola bars, trail mix, etc., are good hidden farb for quick energy or to supplement a skipped meal. Company mess is often available as a co-op between messmates. If interested, contact the quartermaster.

The company's schedule takes up a large portion of the day. Reveille is at about 6:30 am, and need to be ready for living history at about 8. Our personas need to continue until about 5 pm when the public leaves. Those who are able should stay in camp to maintain a military presence even if you do not feel comfortable teaching the public. Though you may not actually speak to the public, your actions (sewing on a button, cooking or tending the fire) are interesting to the public. Even after hours, please keep modern disruptions to a minimum, as there are many people who prefer to stay in the period for the whole weekend.

Your expenses for the weekend should be fairly low with the exception of equipment purchases. Fuel for the round trip, food for the weekend, and ammunition costs should be most of your expenses. Expect to spend about \$12 per day on powder and caps if you go through the quartermaster. Period-correct food is the least expensive route- you may spend only about \$10 or \$15 for the whole weekend, and even less in the company mess co-op.

Please keep in mind that veteran reenactors love to help new people develop their personas. Hopefully this article answers some basic questions and will be helpful for the upcoming events.

4TH CVI IN THE NEWS!

Civil action (excerpt)

**By THERESA HOGUE
Corvallis Gazette-Times**

As clouds moved slowly across the morning sky over Fort Hoskins, the only sounds were the laughter of children running through a field where the barracks used to sit, the sharp percussion of a lady's fan and the gentle rumble of conversation between soldiers.

That is, until cannon fire ripped through the air and caught everyone's attention. After all, this was no Sunday picnic. This was the Civil War, and though far from the actual battlefield, these were highly trained soldiers eager for combat.

While no building actually stands on the fort grounds, it is easy to see, through the eyes of the re-enactors, a bustling, active place, full of soldiers and cannons, officers and their wives. The Civil War re-enactment took place Saturday, celebrating the

150th anniversary of the fort.

The fort was originally created as a barrier between white settlers and the Indian reservation that ran along the coast. But when the Civil War began, the trained soldiers stationed at the fort were needed to fight on the front, so they were replaced by volunteers, all of whom had signed up thinking they were being sent to fight the Confederates, but ended up stationed far from the action.

"This duty was both good and bad," said David Baty, 1st Lt. for the 4th California Volunteer Infantry. "They volunteered expecting to fight the Civil War and they came out here and got bored to death."

Baty has been a Civil War re-enactor for 12 years. He was lured to the battlefield by the sound of cannons.

Literally.

A group of local Civil War re-enactors were staging a battle at Bryant Park in Albany when the sound of their cannons caught the Albany man's attention.

He wandered down to the park to see what was going on, and the history buff in him perked up.

"I immediately got hooked," he said.

Baty and his wife now participate in a number of Civil War re-enactments a year, which take place everywhere from Estacada to Astoria.

Investing in period-replica costumes, accessories and weapons is just the beginning. They also spend time learning their roles so that, as representatives of the era, they can explain to visitors as much as they can about the lives of the people they represent.

ORIGIN OF MILITARY TERMS: PART II

By Mark Stevens

From Major Mark M. Boatner III's Military Customs and Traditions. New York, David McKay Company, Inc. 1956.

Part I of this article was published in the July 2006 edition of the Irish Volunteer and covered basic army terms with interesting origins. Part II shows the origins of rank names as well as a few interesting

Recruit: From Latin *recrescere* "to grow again"

Soldier: Latin *solidus* was the name of a Roman coin with which the men were paid.

Private: Used from the 16th Century. Came into use after the elimination of the feudal system, meaning

that an individual could make a private choice to enter the military instead of being forced to serve a master.

Corporal: From Italian *capo di squadra*: "squad leader"

Sergeant: From Latin *servire* "to serve"

Adjutant: Latin "to assist". Introduced into the English army in 1660.

Lieutenant: French *lieu* "place" and *tenant* "holding". Lieutenant Colonels (placeholder Colonels) were often figurehead civilians appointed to help.

Major: originally Sergeant-Major. Simply means "greater". Meant "greater servant"

Major General: Was originally Sergeant-Major General

Colonel: Italian *colonello* "a little column".

Captain: Latin *caput* "head". Long-associated with commanding a unit of 100-200 men.

Brevet: Latin *brevis* "brief". Starting in 1600, meant a short order giving an officer temporary rank.

Chevron: Fr. "rafter".

A Note on Generals: Cromwell's 1645 "new army" was commanded by a Captain General. The cavalry, which was the elite service then, was commanded by the second in command, a Lieutenant

General- therefore a placeholder and would move up to command the entire army. The infantry commander was third in line and was the Sergeant Major General. Later the "captain" was dropped and the "sergeant" was dropped, but the command structure remained. Therefore the top command was General, then Lieutenant General and then Major General. At the time of the Revolutionary War, Brigadier Generals were added below Major General. George Washington was commander of all forces as a Lieutenant General. The Civil War was the first time full generals were appointed in the U.S. Army: Grant, Sherman and Sheridan attained that rank. (Note: Stars were used to designate the ranks of generals in the U.S. Army beginning with George Washington. The 5-star General/General of the Army was not created until World War II.)

Origin of the Salute: Soldiers used to show their respect by taking their hats off to officers. When more cumbersome headgear was issued, such as shakos and bearskins, they were ordered to just grab the brim and bow as the officer passed.