



The Irish Volunteer

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

July, 2006

Published by Mary L. Miller



CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Field Commanders Report
July 11, 2006
Headquarters Tent

Dear Members of the
116th,

It is my pleasure to submit a very successful campaign report for Willamette Mission this past week. We had over 20 soldiers take the field on what I must describe as almost a magical event. First I wish to thank the members for honoring Lt. Baty, Sgts Burton and Miller, Corporal Little, Capt-Sgt-Corp Stevens and myself in the officer positions for this great company.

The performance of the men, many of whom were new, was outstanding. The soldiers' volleys were crisp, the attention to orders in confusing situations on the battlefield was excellent, the interaction with the public

was awesome and all expressed to me how much they enjoyed having a learning and relaxing time. Other items worthy of note: The recently acquired field piece worked wonders on getting the public to the end of our street, the bayonet dummies led to a young man extremely interested in joining the 54th Mass., the Civilian ladies honored us all with a sumptuous feast and the delight of their company, and all the Officers and NCOs were given leadership opportunities and performed very well, and we had the pleasure of a member who moved away to California, Tony Campbell, falling in with us for a day and a half and bring back his true Irish cheer.

During our elections last year the membership expressed a desire to focus on the enjoyment of our

hobby through mutual respect and getting to know each other by building on our friendship. Those in attendance provided the great attitudes to make that happen at Willamette Mission. The instance that made me more proud of this Company was after an afternoon battle resting in the shade with the 20th Maine. I approached Capt. Yoakum to see if he would want to march his men with us since we as the Color Company had the Color Guard with us. When he polled his men they were reluctant (as we were all exhausted) so he respectfully declined. I then walked over to all of you and reminded us all of the responsibilities and the position of Honor we have been given this year. Without one whisper of dissent, all of you mustered the energy to form up behind that

wonderful flag. I must have been overheard because almost instantly the great boys of the 20th Maine were formed and ready. We marched home right down the public lane in unison! Thank-you, Gentlemen, for that honor you paid to our flag that day!

When we work together, when we have pride in our unit, when we openly engage the public (they pay good money to come visit, so don't they deserve some of our attention?), and when we impart how much fun we are having, it is contagious. After this 4-day event we had no fewer than 10 serious prospective new soldiers. As of the date of this writing, I have the honor of welcoming Philip Hofmann, Patrick Chamberlain, Paul Watts, and Eric Nicolarsen into the ranks. I am meeting with 2 more recruits tomorrow night, I am awaiting one more soldier's paperwork in the mail, I am talking with three families interested from a school presentation, Mark Stevens is following up on the 54th candidate, and Lt. Baty is following up on another soldier. I can't wait for our next reenactment at Dorris Ranch where, as a Company, we can continue

to build our formula for success.

I will remain your most Ob't servant,

John Baker, Captain
116th Pennsylvania Vol.
Infantry Co. B

FORT HOSKINS LIVING HISTORY

This year's Fort Hoskins event will be held on July 29th, in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of the fort. We will have an opportunity for company drill and firing demonstrations in addition to the scheduled fort activities. The schedule is still being finalized so look for more information soon!

EQUIPMENT REPORT

The 116th is the proud new owner of a replica cannon! It is a 3/4 scale Parrot in great condition. The club will use it for training purposes and for living histories at Fort Hoskins because the 4th California had a mountain howitzer attached to the company. The carriage, though small for a parrot gun, is the correct size for a mountain howitzer. The barrel will be scoped to check for rust and tested per NCWC regulations. At Willamette Mission's company picnic we voted

to name the piece "Sweet Maggie" after Captain Baker's mother, who passed away 15 years ago. Many thanks to John for his role in acquiring this great find!

The 116th also received a donation from one of the 116th's founding members, Harry Berkeimer. He donated his A-tent with poles and a few great pieces of cookware. Thank you, Harry!

As some of you may have noticed, we have a new Enfield Rifle as well. The board approved several Quartermaster purchases at the February meeting. Among them was the 1853 Enfield musket to serve as a 54th Massachusetts company musket. The musket was purchased from Milk Creek Mercantile. Upon picking it up from Teresa, Armi Sport # E16581 joined the three 1842 Springfields in our unit's arsenal.

When removed from its box for inspection, the first thing that caught the eye was its beautiful stock. The wood finish was glossy, flawless, and had a distinctive red tint; it was striking piece of Italian wood craftsmanship.

Impossible for non-reenactors to understand was the next duty. After carefully and lovingly disassembling our new

musket down to just wood and admiring the gorgeous stock once more, the first coat of stripper was applied. The stripper worked rapidly on the finish and it began to dissolve, then literally rolled off the stock onto my drip cloth. What was surprising was the bright red color of the removed finish. Repeating two more applications of stripper left a dull wood stock, light walnut in color. The impressive red tone was merely custom farb.

What followed was the first coat of linseed oil, then rubbing down with a soft cloth. Many more coats followed and after developing an oil finish, a rub down was done with 0000 steel wool.

The finished stock is medium honey gold, with the satin sheen of oiled wood replacing the mirror-like Italian finish. Although less impressive than the delivery condition, #16581 is much more likely to be allowed to take hits now.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 29: Fort Hoskins Living History and 150th Anniversary Celebration

Aug. 4-6: Dorris Ranch Reenactment: Springfield

Sept. 2-4: Ft. Stevens S.P. Reenactment: Astoria

September 23-24: McIver State Park Reenactment: Estacada

October 14: NCWC Ball

ARTICLE REPRINT

"Enthusiasts have field day with recreating 1863 battle"

Statesman Journal

July 2, 2006

By Andrea Rivera

Chivalry wasn't dead Saturday.

At least not among the Union and Confederate soldiers re-enacting Civil War battles at Willamette Mission State Park.

"A guy on the street doesn't just say something or tip his hat," re-enactor Brianna Spragg said. "The tipping the hat is a great one. It makes you feel important."

For Spragg and hundreds of re-enactors with the Northwest Civil War Council, the Fourth of July weekend is more about 1863 than 2006.

The group is re-enacting portions of the Battle of Gettysburg, complete with cannons, muskets and horses. The battles continue through Tuesday at the park north of Keizer.

"You don't take yourself seriously, but you take what you're doing seriously," re-enactor Steve Betschart of Dallas said. "We just do what we

can do and try to do it as authentically as we can."

And part of that authenticity is offering up a chair or kind gesture for a lady.

Wearing evening dresses and silk gloves and carrying sachets and parasols, Spragg and friend Erika Juengling could have blended in easily with the women of Virginia in 1863.

In the real world, the two are high school students from Salem.

"We like it because it's just something different to do during the summer," Juengling said. "It's just a lot of fun."

Juengling and her mother, Holly Juengling, sew their own dresses at about \$100 apiece, she said.

Holly Juengling's husband, Fritz, and sons Gerrit and Kurt fight under the Confederate flag.

And when the men are out dodging clouds of black powder on the battlefield, the women wait patiently from a distance for them to return from battle with fake rifle wounds.

"We stand around saying 'my, my,'" Holly Juengling said.

Unless, of course, you are Jill Little.

It is not known how many women served as soldiers in the Civil War, but it did happen.

"I feel like the women who fought in the war should be represented," Little said. "They should have a voice."

As a re-enactor, Little, of the Clackamas area, serves as a Union soldier in the 116th Pennsylvania unit as a corporal.

Each individual re-enactor determines his or her alliance to either the Union or Confederacy.

"I had great-grandfathers in the Union and I'm Irish," Little said. "I couldn't go against my nature."

Little's friend, Eric Nicolarsen of Oregon City, said he was recruited by Little to be a Union soldier.

Saturday's event was the first time he re-enacted a battle.

"I didn't actually ever fire my rifle," Nicolarsen said. "I am looking forward to the next battle when I will actually get to fire a cap."

For many of Saturday's participants, re-enacting a battle is just part of the reason why they do what they do.

"My philosophy in life is try everything at least twice," Nicolarsen said. "Except for drugs."

ORIGINS OF MILITARY TERMS: PART I

By Mark Stevens

Source: Major Mark M.

Boatner III's *Military*

Customs and Traditions.

New York, David McKay
Company, Inc., 1956.

Many military terms used today have an old and interesting history. This article attempts to show the origins of some of our more common terms with interesting roots. Part I covers basic terms and Part II will cover rank systems.

Army: From Latin *armare*, "to arm".

Artillery: French *artiller* "to equip". Originally referred to all military equipment. In 16th century it referred to the guns and 18th century it referred to the branch of service.

Battalion: Italian *battaglione*, "little battle"

Bivouac: German *bewachen*, "to watch".

Brigade: French word from Spanish and Italian words meaning "to brawl".

Cavalry: Latin *caballus* "horse".

Company: Latin *cum* meaning "with" and *pane* meaning "bread"- means "messmates".

Infantry: from the root word "infant". Italian *infante*, meaning "child servant" or "foot soldier",

which came from the Latin *in* "not" and *fari* "to speak".

Mess: Latin *mensa* "table", and in France it was the amount of meat served to four people.

Platoon: Latin *pila*, "ball" and French *pelot*, "small bundle".

Regiment: Latin "to rule"

Squad: Italian *squadra*, "square" or "four men"

Strategy: Greek *strategos*, "a general"

Tactics: Greek *taktike*, "to arrange"

Tattoo: Dutch *t a p* "tap/faucet" and *toe* "off".

The officer of the day, with a sergeant and drummer, would march through the town, telling tavern owners to shut down (keg taps off) so the soldiers would return to their posts.

War: Tunic *werre*.

Present Arms with musket: Token of submitting weapon to the person honored. Traced to the return of King Charles II to England in 1660 to claim the throne. Companies loyal to the King, brought their muskets straight up in front of them to show that there was no powder in the pan, and therefore not loaded. They then laid their arms on the ground before him. He ordered them to retake their arms in service to the king, and kept the motion as a sign of respect.