

◆ THE MESSENGER ◆

The Newsletter of the Fifth Missouri Infantry (CSA), Inc.

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AUGUST 1996

DRILL FACTS

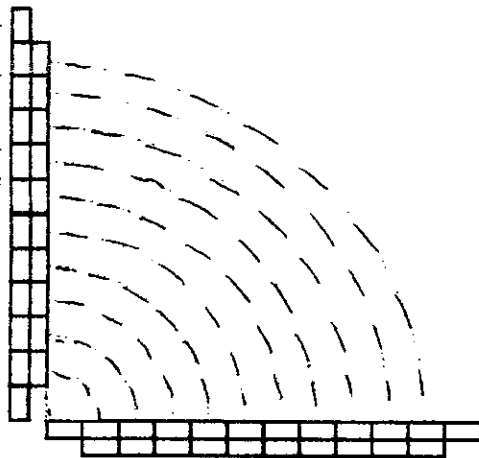
BY THE 1ST SERGEANT

WHEELS VS TURNS

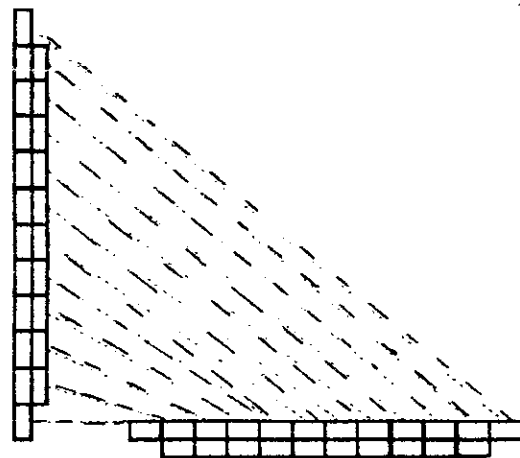
Two of the quickest ways of changing the front of a company line of battle are wheels and turns. They accomplish the same thing -- but in different ways and for different applications. I've occasionally heard a "turn" described as a "fast, sloppy wheel". This isn't exactly accurate.

The principles of wheeling were discussed at length in the October 1995 issue, so I won't recover that ground here except to say that the effect is that of a swinging gate. Each man maintains contact with the men next to him and follows an arc path. Wheels are necessarily more slow and deliberate than turns, although they can be done at the double-quick.

Turns, conversely, accomplish a more immediate change of front. In a left turn (illustrated) the left guide immediately faces to the left and steps out in that direction -- without slackening his pace. Each file to his right subsequently follows -- at the double quick -- taking the shortest (straight) path to arrive successively in line. The effect is more like that of "by company into line" than a wheel. In a left turn, you should simply follow closely on the heels (and slightly to the right) of the man immediately on your left. Do not get in front of him or swing out to the right. It's not a race. A right turn works the same way. The right guide (1st Sgt) steps off to his right, and is followed (at the double-quick) by each file of the line, which arrive successively into line marching the new direction. Again, to get there, each man follows closely on the heels (and slightly to the left) of the man immediately on his right in line.



Company - Left Wheel - March



Company - Left Turn - March

Once abreast of the guide, take the step and alignment from him and continue forward. The most common use you'll find for right and left turns (aside from the Captain's devilish delight in making the guides doublequick during drill) is during a battalion maneuver to get a column of companies into a single line of battle. The command "Left-half wheel -- march" allows our company to clear the company(s) to our front. Then when our right guide arrives at the left end of the previous company to come on line, the Captain gives the command "Right Turn into Line -- March." He has to take care not to be late with the command. The preparatory part should come a full four paces before the 1st Sgt arrives at the turning point. The turn is not a right-angle turn as described above, but rather a 45-degree turn, yet works precisely the same way. The difference is that you halt when you arrive on line, taking care to watch where your right and left guides are so you don't over-shoot the line.

In summary, a right or left turn is not a sloppy wheel, but a precision drill movement used to quickly change the front of the company. It works on the simple truth that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. Take the double-quick (and go to right shoulder shift), and get from here to there.

EVENT REPORT: COLE CAMP, MISSOURI

Sir: I am pleased to provide you with an after-action report on recent events near Cole Camp, Missouri, on 13-14 July. Turnout was somewhat smaller than one might expect for the first MCWRA Max Effort of the season (fewer than 500 came through registration), but federal numbers were nearly adequate thanks to a respectable turnout by Holmes Brigade.

As was the case five years ago, any resemblance of the reenactment of the June 1861 Battle of Cole Camp to actual events was purely coincidental. Among the most frustrating of miscues was the questionable deployment of the battalion, which put us in a position more suited to assaulting the spectator line than the Hessians. However, the spectacle was mercifully over in a short period of time, and the two generic actions of the weekend went quite well. Saturday afternoon's affair was relatively straightforward

as far as tactics go, with plenty of powder-burning action available. Large numbers of cavalry provided a good show for the spectators. There were rumors, however, of switched allegiances on the part of the southern cavalry, who at one point apparently captured Col. Beck. The disappointment was that a lack of medical participation scrapped plans for controlled casualties and after-battle medical scenerios.

Sunday morning's rain chased away some of the less hardy -- particularly the cavalry. That afternoon's fight found the 5th Missouri conscripted into federal service to balance numbers, and provided for some exciting action on the skirmish line. We were assigned the task of contesting the secessionist advance until Holmes Brigade could come to our aid. After initial confusion caused by the display of federal colors by the secesh, we engaged in a hot fire fight with the 3rd Mo. while fending off cavalry strikes at our flanks. At one point their main force shifted to their right, leaving only the depleted skirmish line of the 3rd Mo. in our front. Our company having been reformed in line of battle and outnumbering them, I urged the Captain to charge them, which he did. We caught them nearly all unloaded, and they scattered rather than submit to capture. Though we had regained all of the contested ground we had given earlier, we were ordered to withdraw and reform on the main line with the guns. The secessionists shortly sued for a ceasefire to collect their dead and wounded, and withdrew leaving us in possession of the field.

A couple of unfortunate incidents marred the weekend. First, despite urgings for a down-played emphasis on alcohol (e.g. a keg at registration and an on-site beer garden) it was very much in evidence and contributed to an altercation Saturday night. Complaints about the associated rowdiness and the loud modern music blaring into the wee hours were unavoidable.

Secondly, a civilian reenactor's tent caught fire Saturday night and another reenactor was injured fighting the flames. While that couldn't have been foreseen, it should remind us all to take serious precautions regarding the proximity of open fires to canvas, and keep adequate supplies of water nearby for emergencies.

The omni-present problem of vehicles in camp proved to be insurmountable again, further detracting from what could have been an exceptional event on an exceptional site. The sponsors did a tremendous job preparing a nearly anachronism-free location to stage a reenactment. Those who can't live for two days without immediate access to their horseless carriages ruin the experience for all.

Here's one suggestion borne of my all-nighter overseeing registration:

Some identification on the domiciles of those camping in the civilian camp might help prevent waking the entire camp at 4 a.m. in search of the next "volunteer." "Routh? You in there Routh? ... Max? Oops, sorry. Oh Max? Where are you?..."

Submitted for your approval this 28th Day of July
Your Humble Serv't &etc
1st Serg't Dennis Faught

EVENT REPORT: HONEY SPRINGS, INDIAN TERRITORIES

Sir: It pleases me to report that five members of Company A answered a call for reinforcements to contest a Federal presence in the Territories on 20-21 July. Present for duty were Sgt Dietzel, Cpl. Bowling, Pvts Fink & Hafley, and myself. Also traveling with Pvt Fink were his son and fiance. Pvt Hafley and I arrived shortly after midnight at Gen. Beck's camp on the Texas Road. We had unknowingly bypassed registration, which was off the pike and located outside the event site. In spite of little direction and a complete lack of signage, we were able to eventually find Bowling & Dietzel, asleep in their dog tents.

We rose in the morning to behold the camp situated on a windswept hill devoid of shade, save the tall telegraph structures which overshadowed it. Barely visible on a hill several hundred yards distant were suttlers tents, immediately adjacent to the shady grove where the federals made their camp. We were assigned to bolster the ranks of the third company in line, the 15th NW Arkansas, rumored to have 20 men present for duty, although only the Captain and 1st Sergeant appeared to be in camp. Eventually a few of their number arrived, but by Sunday the company would be composed also of elements of the 5th & 2nd Arkansas, and the 11th Missouri. While the Missouri boys were well-drilled veterans, the Arkansan privates appeared mostly to be fresh off the farm. The balance of the battalion was made up of the 9th Texas, 4th Missouri, and TransMississippi Rifles.

Saturday afternoon the 4th Battalion -- brigaded with the Red River Battalion -- was deployed across a peaceful creek which bisected the site. We watched as a respectable force of federals crossed the expansive open field. As they closed, musketry rose to a crescendo. Our muskets became unbearably hot -- as much from the near 100-degree heat as from the rate of fire. The federals disengaged and withdrew, leaving large numbers of dead and wounded -- especially in the vicinity of a large tree.

HONEY SPRINGS REPORT CONT.

We withdrew as well, to our improvised shade on the hill.

Saturday evening Sgt. Dietzel and I decided to attempt to locate an establishment near the federal camps known as "Miss Tula's", rumored to provide horizontal and liquid refreshments. We eventually found it, but not before Sgt. Dietzel insisted on probing the picket lines. We were stopped and arrested by a USCT corporal, who was accomodating enough not to shoot us. Apparently "Abe Lincoln" was not the proper countersign. Also falling on deaf ears were our protestations that we were members of Company C, 7th Wisc. Volunteers, on furlough from Virginia. The lieutenant serving as Officer of the Day was more interested in our jeancloth uniforms than in arresting us, so after taking our names he sent us on our way to Miss Tula's, where our hosts were amicable enough, in spite of the fact they were Irish.

Sunday morning began with drill. At this point it is incumbent upon me to suggest to the Captain that we adopt a form of drill peculiar to these Arkansas boys. We came to call it "drill without drilling". When preparing to fire, the captain gave the command "Load in Nine Times -- Without Loading -- Load!". It seems as though this principle could be applied to various drill maneuvers on hot weekends such as this -- i.e. "Forward -- Without Marching -- March!"

Drill also again proved the maxim that the surest way to guarantee a maneuver will not be used in the coming battle is to drill it during battalion drill. Commanding the battalion for the first time this season, Lt. Col. Huckabee repeatedly put us through the paces of changing front "by column of companies." Aside from the fact that the orders were never quite properly given, and the new Sgt. Major and others continually argued about alignment and guides -- the repeated drilling in the hot 90+ degree sun was particularly burdensome. Especially since the maneuver would not be used in the day's straight-forward standup fight & rout. Note to all drill-masters: Argue about how to do it BEFORE or AFTER drill -- not while the men stand in formation.

The afternoon's clash went essentially as scripted. I had decided to feign injury and drop out of ranks when casualties & file closing brought me adjacent to a particularly dangerous fresh fish on the rear rank. As we left the site, the weather report said "101 degrees with a heat index of 113." Amazingly, heat-related illness seemed a rarity. I saw only one person -- an elderly spectator -- being tended by emergency personnel. Copious amounts of free ice, and a nearly constant stiff breeze were godsend.

In spite of the arrival problems and the anachronistic new site, this was an exceptionally well-run event. Turnout was larger than (apparently double) our Max-Effort event the preceding weekend at Cole Camp. Hopefully the Oklahoma Historical Society will some day begin to work _with_ the MCWRA to avoid scheduling conflicts and allow this event to live up to its full potential.

Submitted for your approval on this 28th Day of July

Your Serv't &etc

1st Serg't Dennis Faught

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 ☆ **NEW RECRUIT & REENLISTMENTS** ☆

☆☆ Justin Gerke	☆☆ Richard Brown (renew)
☆☆ 4361 Bainbridge Ct.	☆☆ Box 294
☆☆ Columbia, Mo 65203	☆☆ Lamonte, Mo 65337
☆☆ 573-445-7756	☆☆ 816-668-3844
☆☆ 2nd Platoon #160	☆☆ 1st Platoon #136
☆☆ Sponsor: Alan Bowling	

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PRE-REGISTER EARLY -- SAVE \$\$

The 135th Anniversary Battle of Shiloh is set for April 4-6, 1997, on part of the original battlefield...just 3 miles from the Shiloh National Battlefield Park. The registration packet will be in the 1st Sergeant's hands by the time you read this. As an incentive for early registration, the sponsors are offering a reduced rate for those which are post-marked no later than September 30, 1996.

Here's the deal: Commit to attend & pay your fee NOW, and it's only \$4.00 per person (military & civilian, all ages). After October 1 it goes up to \$7.00, and then \$10.00 for walk-ons. Everyone in the unit who will get their \$4 to the 1st Sergeant by September 22 will be registered at the discounted rate. For late-comers, we can send in a subsequent registration at \$7/head. If you have any desire at all to go, I'd recommend you get your \$4 in now. Even if it turns out later that you can't make it, you're only out 4 bucks. You might even find a late-comer who'll sub for you rather than paying the walk-on rate.

Shiloh looks to be THE national event for next year. It's planned by the same reenactors who oversaw Murfreesboro & Nashville.

LIVING HISTORY/RECRUITING POSSIBILITY:

The community of High Point has inquired as to whether the 5th MO would be interested in putting on a small living history during their "homecoming" August 31. This is a one-day event, and would involve setting up a couple of tents, doing some drilling and/or firing demonstrations, and marching in their parade.

High Point is located in southern Moniteau County just off MO 87 on Route C, about midway between Jefferson City and Versailles. If you're interested, contact the 1st Sergeant. Six military and three civilians have committed. You need to be there at 9:00 AM if your comming.

**MINUTES OF COMPANY A MEETING
AND CORPORATE BOARD MEETING
COLE CAMP, MO
SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1996**

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. under the fly of the Captain's tent. It was determined that a quorum was present. Company A Vice President Larry Dietzel presided.

Jerry Lee moved/John Gilger 2nd that Rick Hall be granted Veteran status. Approved without opposition.

Corporate Secretary Dennis Faught outlined the remaining event schedule and took commitments from those present. An invitation was presented for the unit's attendance in federal impression the weekend of 20 July at Ft. Leavenworth, KS. There was no interest, as the Company had committed to attend Honey Springs.

Faught reported on the status of preservation donations authorized at the Regimental meeting. The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Park acknowledged our \$200 gift and have reached their matching funds goal for expansion of the visitors center. Historian Terry Winschell of Vicksburg National Military Park acknowledged our offer of \$200 for monument maintenance. The majority of those present preferred the option of cleaning and maintaining the two position markers of the 5th Missouri.

In unfinished business, the Company awaits a report from Ken McKee about possible use of a Warrensburg location for a live fire/company meeting, with fewer stipulations than a similar site in Jefferson City. McKee was not present, so the matter remains unresolved. Also pending is a report from ordnance officer Alan Bowling about possible sources for wholesale purchase of percussion caps in bulk.

In new business, Jerry Lee announced the donation of a new reproduction P1853 Enfield to the company by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. Dietzel reported that T-shirt sales had slackened, due to the lack of size 2X shirts. The Board is to take up the matter of purchasing additional shirts in its quarterly meeting.

In other business, Cindy Lee presented a letter of thanks from the Cole Camp branch of the Boonslick Regional Library for the program presented by the Fifth on July 5th.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:25pm, and was immediately followed by a meeting of the Board of Directors. President Jerry Lee presided, with all three board members present. The minutes of the March 31 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer Faught presented the financial report, showing \$2,645.19 in the corporate account. This included \$698 in 1996 5th Missouri dues. From this amount came \$268.84 in Newsletter, board, recruiting and postage expenses, leaving \$429.16 for these expenses for the balance of the year. \$474 is available in the revolving powder/caps fund. The company remains \$52 short of break-even on t-shirts.

In unfinished business, Faught moved/Lee 2nd that the remaining \$200 of the authorized preservation donation be sent to Vicksburg National Military Park, earmarked for the cyclical cleaning of the two 5th Missouri position markers. Passed unanimously.

In new business, there was some discussion of the

need for additional size 2X t-shirts. Since the company has yet to break even on the original purchase, members were unwilling to purchase any specific quantity of additional shirts without assurance they would be sold. Dietzel suggested an order form be placed in the Messenger, and only those shirts ordered in that manner would be purchased from the printer. Faught moved/Lee 2nd that this be done, with the price set at \$3 above cost per shirt, rounded up to the nearest dollar. Passed. Faught reported that some research had been done to determine what costs might be incurred in bringing the company drum (purchased earlier this year) up to authentic standards. Steven Fink was not present, so specifics were unavailable. Dietzel suggested that the most important improvement would be to replace the snare. Lee moved/Faught 2nd that additional investment be postponed until we see if the drum would be utilized more than it has been at recent events. Passed.

The next quarterly board meeting was set for the weekend of October 19-20 at the Warsaw Living History.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

★ **THANKS TO A MEMBER OF THE FIFTH MO** ★
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★
★
★ At the Cole Camp event, the 5th had an ★
★ anonymous donation of a New Enfield Musket with ★
★ a case. This was such a generous offer, we felt the ★
★ company should know who it was that made this ★
★ donation. A call was made and permission was ★
★ given. Thanks to Marcus Price the 5th now has 5 ★
★ muskets in its arsenal. Three cheers for Private ★
★ Marcus Price. On behalf of the 5th MO inf. we thank ★
★ you for your donation. ★
★
★ Jerry Lee, Captain ★
★
★

SUTLERS CORNER

If any one is looking for a kepi I have one for sale. It a mixed gray with a skyblue band, it has never been used. Ill let it go for \$15.00. I'm also taking offers on a CVA Kentucky Rifle .50 cal. Would like \$325 Larry Dietzel (573) 449-6443

Period footwear is now available from the Merchant that supplies Silver Dollar City. The cost is \$25.00+ shipping and handling. Call Deby Faulkner at (417) 863-7678

SOCIAL & WORK EVENT DATED

The company is in need of cartridges so a barbecue rolling party has been scheduled. Cpl Bowling has volunteered to host the party. The date will be Sunday August 25th at 1:00pm located at his home. Bring your self, a covered dish (with food in it.), a beverage you wish to drink if other than soda, and your Cartridge rolling equipment. Cpl Bowling's address is 1208 Chadwick Columbia, MO phone number (573)-442-9489.

Directions are as follows:

Take Stadium Blvd. exit. From I-70 go south or Hwy 63 go west. Continue untill you reach the Fourm Blvd "T" intersection. Turn on to Fourm Blvd you will be going south. Continue Untill you will pass Green meadows Rd then Nifong Blvd. Now start looking on your right for Chadwick and turn right. The house is on the Left (South) side of Chadwick.

5TH MO CLOTHING ITEMS

If you're intersted in purchasing an article of clothing with the 5th MO markings, here is your chance. I will be taking orders for T-shirts in the sizes we are out of. The following is the price list:

T-Shirt.....\$11.00
for sizes overXXL add \$1.00
T-Shirt Childrens sizes.....\$10.00
Sweat Pants 7oz.(only the Bugle on the front).....\$18.00
SweatShirt 7oz.(Like the T-Shirt).....\$18.00
for sizes over XXL add \$2.00
Ball Cap (only the Bugle on the front).....\$9.00
GolfStyle Cap (only the Bugle on the front).....\$10.00
Jackets several styles price range from \$55.00 to \$25.00

I will need 12 items minimum to order. I will need your money at the time of order. The deadline is October 1st 1996.

DETAILS OF 5TH MO UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sep 7-8** **FREDERICKTOWN (5TH MO MAXIMUM EFFORT) (Battalion Max Effort)** Near junction of US 67 & MO 72. Researched, scripted reenactment of 1861 battle of Fredericktown. Impression is trans-mississippi confederate or civilian. No rations provided. Other details unavailable from sponsors.
22 Military and 5 Civilians & Dependents committed.
- Sep 14-15 St. Charles. (Listed FYI only - Company not supporting)
Sep 21-22 Granbury, TX. (Listed FYI only - Company not supporting)
Sep 28-29 Pilot Knob Living History. (Listed FYI only- Company not supporting)
- Oct 12-13** **SHELBINA.** East of Macon on US 36. 200-acre site with lake north of town. Two generic battles plus historic 1862 action. Rations provided. Dance & period music. Sponsored by 2nd MO. **BE PREPARED TO GALVANIZE.** Pre-registration deadline is October 1.
9 Military and 2 Civilians & Dependents committed.
- Oct 18-20** **WARSAW HERITAGE DAYS.** Popular living history at rustic site near Truman Dam. Camp life and drill demonstratons plus skirmishing in the woods. Bring federal and confederate impressions. Corporate Board meeting Saturday evening. Company A meeting possible.
15 Military and 6 Civilians & Dependents committed.
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EVENTS CONTINUED

Nov 1-3 WESTERN TACTICAL -Muhlenberg County, KY. Roughly midway between Owensboro & Bowling Green, adjacent to Western Kentucky Parkway. Site is relatively flat with gently rolling hills -- well-suited for linear combat tactics. Entrance is just under a mile north of exit 53. Arrive on site by 5pm Friday for battalion organization. Campaign armies will march out at 8 a.m. Saturday. Garrison camps provided for those who for any reason can't live in the elements for the weekend. Garrison camps will provide supply to the mobile troops, and will be military objectives of the enemy. Outposts & grand guards will be established. Action to be monitored by Army officers from Ft. Knox, who will assess casualties based on tactics & firepower. Each man will carry only 40 rounds, and will be re-supplied by wagon. Those from the 5th attending will organize into two or three messes for rations. We'll be assigned to a company in one of the attending battalions. Those not going campaign style will be assigned to the garrison camp. Registration is \$6 if you don't need straw -- \$8 if you do. Get your fees to the 1st Sgt BY **SEPTEMBER 1ST. 9 Military committed.**

Dec 7-8, PRAIRIE GROVE ARK. (Battalion Max Effort) Site is on actual battlefield in state park. Southwest of Fayetteville in NW Arkansas on US 62. Weather has ranged from snow & sleet (in '91) to sunshine & 60's (in '94). No rations provided. Impression is transmississippi confederate. Commit to the 1st Sgt by October 20.
7 Military and 2 Civilians & Dependents committed.

THE MESSENGER

920 West Broadway
Columbia, Mo. 65203

