

# MESSENGER

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DECEMBER 1, 1997

Sirs: It is my honor to report on my recent detached service with the Army of Tennessee, moving on the works at Nashville this 26-27 October instant.

## *The Fight for Nashville*

I arrived in the bivouac area just south of Spring Hill shortly after midnight Saturday morning. I camped in my conveyance until first light, and after a short search, located our battalion and attached myself to 2nd Company, under the command of Capt. Mark White. Having heard word of an engagement with the enemy the previous evening, I was told that the federals had been "soundly whipped", but more action was anticipated before the sun set today.

Temperatures climbed into the 60s as a bright sun shone over the lush fall foliage of Middle Tennessee. 'Tis no wonder the boys fight so dearly to reclaim these fields.

Although I was serving in the ranks for this campaign, the Captain requested that I help instruct the company in skirmish drill, he being aware of the 5th Missouri's prowess in that area. I humbly accepted, and was pleased to see how well this consolidated company of nearly 40 men accomplished deployment by platoons and by company. Rumors were circulating that our battalion would be the first into action today, and that our company might be deployed in the advance.

During the middle part of the day I was detailed to stand guard for an hour at General Gatlin's tent at Division Headquarters. It was an honor, but an onerous duty, indeed, being limited to the positions of



*parade rest, shoulder arms, support arms* for such a lengthy time. I also had an opportunity to visit the merchants who had established a large tent city adjacent to the camps. Though

## *Drill Facts by the First Sergeant*

### **Attention -- COMPANY** **A Drill Column by the 1st Sergeant**

#### **Commands**

This month I would like to briefly address the manner in which commands are given. Or to be more specific, the correct voice inflection to be used when giving a command.

To begin with, it is important that an officer or N.C.O. deliver commands with authority. Not "yelling" so much as projecting his voice from the diaphragm. This is critical because the men must be able to hear and understand the com-

mands. The drill manuals give us a specific formula for achieving this result.

Both Hardees Tactics and U.S. Infantry and Rifle Tactics describe three kinds of commands:

62. The command of *caution*, which is *attention*.

63. The *preparatory command*, which indicates the movement which is to be executed.

64. The command of *execution*, such as *march* or *halt*, or, in the manual of arms, the part of command which

## Fight for Nashville continued

hours. Temperatures were very comfortable. The site -- arguably the best in the nation for a mega event --

I strolled the grassy streets for nearly an hour, I could find nothing with which I could not live without.

The afternoon was a pleasant one, and found us marching to the sound of guns. Scores of cavalry had passed earlier, and were now engaged to our front, driving the enemy toward prepared works. We broke through the trees into a clearing to see a spectacular sight. Three Confederate battalions were already hotly engaged with large numbers of Federal cavalry -- mounted and dismounted. Artillery boomed from across and artillery. As our turn came, I went down with my third wound of the day, and could only watch as our boys were cut to ribbons like the rest. The volume of musket fire was horrific. After an hour and a half of carnage, the tattered remnants of our army limped back to camp.

Yr. Obed. Servt, Pvt. Dennis Faught, Co. B, Beck's Bttn.

With the exception of the "bright sunshine", every word is true. I could lie and say the weather was magnificent. I seriously considered doing so, and Major Koffman said he'd back me up -- but anyone who watched the Weather Channel would know different. Yeah, of *course* it rained. It was Tennessee, wasn't it? But this was NOT a repeat of Shiloh. With the exception of one moderate shower as we formed for Sunday's action, the rain was light, and confined almost entirely to the overnight

was in superb condition. It was sad, indeed, that so many reenactors chose to pass up this event. Turnout was respectable -- in the thousands (at least on Saturday) -- but a far cry from the 9000+ of 1995. Sadder, still, that fewer will ever return thanks to this latest damp experience.

Some other interesting things to note: Col. Beck apparently wields no small amount of influence at brigade level. Our battalion was only 75 strong on Saturday. And that was after consolidation with Louisiana and Palmetto Bttn troops. We had just two 35+ man companies, but were still not absorbed by another battalion, even though Division requires well over 100 muskets to stand alone as a command. Sunday we were even smaller, after non-galvanizers and fair weather soldiers bugged out. Conversely, our small size put us low on the battlefield food chain. We got few choice assignments, and conflicting orders from Division and Brigade made much of Sunday's action (as Federals) extremely confusing and disjointed.

On my personal gripe list: Too many kids on the field (the age requirements were routinely ignored). Too many obvious women on the field (especially on horseback). Too many galvanized yanks in shirtsleeves for a DECEMBER battle (*borrow* a blue sack for crying out loud!) And too many inaccurate flags. Our battalion was chief among the offenders on this last point, with a square battleflag as Confederates (should have been a rectangular Army of Tennessee or at least a blue and white Hardee pattern) and a small modern-looking job as Federals.

This event had a lot of potential. I'm glad I went, (I had almost made a last-minute decision not to) and if nothing else, I have some nice memories and brought back some more Tennessee real estate to add to my collection. See 'yall next year.

Report submitted by Dennis Faught

## Drill Facts continued

*ution* in CAPITALS. So for the purposes of this article, read words in ALL CAPS as being

causes an execution.

It goes on to say that commands should be given in a distinct voice, with loudness in proportion to the number of men being addressed, and in an "ascending progression in the tone of command ... in such a manner that the tone of **execution** may be more energetic and elevated." In other words, you start low and work up to the command of **execution**, which is pronounced firmly, briefly, and loudest. The text in both manuals reinforces this by placing commands of exe-

**LOUDER** than those in lower case. Those in **BOLDFACE** are **LOUDER STILL**.

Often, you will hear reenactor commands given the following way: "**uh-TEN-tion**, Company. **RIGHT**, Face." or "Right shoulder **SHIFT**, Arms."

As we've seen, the command of execution should be higher in volume and pitch, and "staccato"-like. No part of the *preparatory* should be more elevated than the *execution*. The cautionary command *attention* is supposed to be pronounced at the top of the voice and dwelling on the last syllable. So, the previous commands cited should look like this:

Atten-TCHUUUNNN ... **COMPANY!** Right .... **FACE!**  
Right shoulder **SHIFT** ... **ARMS!**

# Gettysburg 1998

## DIVISION TO SUPPORT 135TH GETTYSBURG

General Bill Smart, infantry commander of the 1st Confederate Division, has confirmed that the infantry, artillery and cavalry branches of the Division, under the command of Gen. Al Gatlin will be asked to support Gettysburg as a maximum effort event next year.

At this time there are two competing sponsors planning events the weekend of July 3-5, 1998, but most reenacting organizations, including the 1st Div., appear to be leaning toward one planned for Bushy Farm. This site is on Pumping Station Road, near where "Gettysburg" was filmed in 1992, but reportedly much larger and topographically superior to that site. The competing event slated for Herr's Ridge, on part of the original battlefield, has been criticized for its small size and anachronistic surroundings. The Bushy Farm event has earned the support of APCWS, sponsor of September's massively successful Antietam event.

Early plans promise an event of heretofore unequalled proportions. Highlights include a nearly full-scale recreation of Picketts Charge involving over 10,000 men. There is also talk of conducting the event in "real time". In other words, action over the course of the three-day event would take place chronologically as it did during the three day battle in 1863, encompassing the fighting north of "town" on Friday; Culps Hill, Little Round Top, the Peach Orchard and a twilight fight for Cemetery Hill on Saturday, building to the aforemen-

tioned grand assault on Sunday.

More details will be published as available.

Minutes Quarterly Board Meeting Saturday 18 October, 1997  
Co A 5th MO Infantry

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Lee at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Co. A Vice President Nora Dietzel, Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Faught, and several members and families of Company A.

The minutes of the last board meeting were approved as printed in the August Messenger. Treasurer Faught reported a balance of \$1,641.30 in the corporate treasury. He reported newsletter expenses of \$247.84, with costs for two published issues still unpaid, and two issues yet to be published. Board and recruitment expenses stood at \$72.30 for the calendar year, with trailer license renewal and some anticipated pamphlet printing costs being the only outstanding expenses. Other net income included \$152.34 for powder &

## Drill Facts (continued)

It may help the reader to sound out the commands. The difference is dramatic when the commands are given in the correct inflection.

See you on the drill field!

## New Memberships

On behalf of the 5th Missouri I want to extend a welcome to new members:

**Rusty and Jamie Cash #168**  
PO Box 403  
Fulton, MO 65251

573-676-5912

Platoon: 2nd Sponsor: Mike White

## *Update Vicksburg*

Gentlemen of the 5th:

We have an event deadline looming at the end of December.

You know about the Vicksburg Campaign at Raymond, Mississippi May 6-8. Registration packets have been late in distribution (I have yet to receive ours) but Gen. Smart has extended the early registration deadline to Dec. 31, 1997. The fee is \$5 for those who register by that date -- \$8 thereafter. Please remit your preregistration fee with your dues check prior to Dec. 31 to take advantage of reduced fee.

Thank you.  
Dennis Faught

## *January Membership Meeting*

Just a reminder the 5th MO membership meeting will be held in the chambers of Judge Koffman in the Courthouse at Sedalia, MO., on Jan 18, 1998, at 2:30pm. Please plan to bring chairs as there will not be enough available otherwise. I hope you will all attend as this is your time to have a voice in electing officers and staff and setting the 5th's schedule of events for 1998. The Courthouse is located in the business district. Take Hwy 50 to Ohio St. turn north on Ohio about three blocks and you will see the square with the Courthouse on it. I am told that there are signs on Hwy 50 pointing to the business district.

See you There!  
Alan

## *Clothing Items for Sale*

I have the following items of clothing for sale:

One Columbus Depot jeancloth jacket size 42. This jacket was made by R&K and has handsown button holes. Light grey jeans with "french blue" collar and cuffs. Good condition. Asking \$40.

One pair of light grey jeancloth trousers from Fall Creek. These are in "OK" condition, should last for a couple of seasons anyway. One small scorched place near the cuff of right leg from the "Artic" western Tactical. Waist 34, inseam about 30/31. Asking \$20.

As Ann and I are selling our home and moving into a smaller one in anticipation of my retirement from federal service I may be hard to contact for 2 or 3 weeks but my phone is 573-442-9489, E-Mail [Acbcsa@aol.com](mailto:Acbcsa@aol.com). Thanks, Alan Bowling

# ☞ DUES NOTICE ☞

**ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE BY JANUARY 1, 1998. PLEASE COMPLETE  
AND**

**RETURN TO:**

**5th Missouri Infantry (CSA) Inc.  
PO Box 1265  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1265**

Check one:

Individual: \$20 (\$10 5th Mo. + \$10 MCWRA) \_\_\_\_\_  
Family: \$26 (\$16 5th Mo. + \$10 MCWRA ) \_\_\_\_\_  
*(plus \$10 for each additional adult family member desiring MCWRA vote)*  
Associate: \$8 (non-voting) \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to "5th Missouri Infantry (CSA), Inc"**  
If you paid your MCWRA dues through another unit, please indicate the unit:

\_\_\_\_\_

## *Board Minutes (continued)*

caps, \$60.25 for 5th Mo. ballcaps, and \$10.00 for MCWRA sticker resale. The financial report was approved.

In other business there was some discussion of the need for new tires for the trailer. No action was taken. There was an extensive discussion of event attendance from two perspectives:

A) Poor attendance by veterans has resulted in a lack of a quorum at the last two scheduled Company A meetings. In the discussion that followed, a number of ideas resurfaced, including asking inactive veterans voluntarily reduce their memberships to associate level, re-defining a quorum or re-defining voter eligibility. No action was taken.

B) Inaccurate commitment counts cause a financial strain on our "cookhouse" arrangement with the Gilgers. If 25 commit to come to an event, supplies are purchased for 25. When only 15 show up, the cookhouse eats the cost, so to speak. Members committing to come and then not showing up (and not calling to cancel) has been an on-going problem, and no workable solution was evident. The board asked that another plea for common courtesy in this matter be published in the Messenger.

There being no further business to discuss, the Board set the next meeting to follow the Regimental elections in January -- date, time and location to be announced in the Messenger -- and adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Corporate Secretary Dennis Faught

## *Late Update Gettysburg*

Organizers of the two competing Gettysburg events have agreed to consolidate their efforts. There will be only one event July 3-5, 1998, drawing more than 15,000 reenactors to the Bushy Farm site. 1st Confederate Division command has directed all battalion commanders to forward expected attendance numbers before Dec. 31. Therefore, members of the 5th Missouri who hope to go should notify the 1st Sergeant of this intent ASAP, so he can get numbers to Col. Beck. You may call, e-mail, or include your intentions with your dues check/Vicksburg registration before Dec. 31. Registration fees and additional information will come later. What we need now is a head count of those in the 5th Missouri who intend to support this event in Gettysburg.

1st Sergt. Faught