

MESSENGER

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 3 CO A 5TH MO INFTRY

MARCH 1, 1998

Attention - COMPANY

A Drill Column by the First Sergeant *On the left, by file into line – MARCH.*

Ok, so we get to portray the Missouri Brigade and reenact their counter attack at Champion Hill in the Battle of Baker's Creek. That's no guarantee that the scenerio will be constructed in such a way as to allow us to deploy in the same way it happened. But in case it is, how about a refresher?

During the battle on May 16, 1863, the Brigade was deployed facing southeast, to the south and west of the crossroads of the Jackson, Middle, and Ratliff (Plantation) Roads, with a couple of companies advanced as skirmishers. When the Federal assault shattered the Confederate left, Cockrell's Brigade was pulled out of line and double-quickd to their left -- first northwest, then east -- to reclaim the strategic crossroads. To get into battleline in preparation for the assault, Lt. Col. Bevier, in his book, describes how the brigade deployed "*on the left, by file into line*" -- a maneuver, he acknowledges, that is difficult even under the best of conditions.

Marching and deploying by the left flank -- we tend to call it "inverted" -- is something that was probably more common than we think. Reenactors have a propensity to be habitually "right"-minded, but there is evidence to suggest that troops moved by either flank with equal frequency.

First, the basics: At the command *Left – FACE*, number "twos" face to their left, and number "ones" double -- i.e. they face left then step up to the *LEFT* of the man in front of them. It's crucial to remember that the battalion "front" is to your *right* now. The 2nd Sergeant moves to what is now the head of the company, leading the file of front rank number "twos". The Captain takes his position on the 2nd Sergeant's right.

The 1st Sergeant remainat his post on the right of the company (now the rear of the company column).

Deploying the column "*on the left, by file into line*" works, mechanically, the same as on the *right* by file into line. As the name implies, you're turning to your *left* instead of your right to "unspool" the line. But because the "short" end is leading, the battle line will begin forming at the "short" end (where the 2nd Sergeant is posted) instead of the "tall" end (where the 1st Sergeant is). In both cases, the rear rank must mark time briefly, to allow the first couple of files of the front rank to wheel into the new line. As soon as they do, their rear file mates follow them. Each pair of men in each rank make a ninety-degree wheel at their turning point, and march forward abreast. Two paces before coming on line, the "number one" man crosses behind his "number two" partner, and moves up on the "two's" right. (This is precisely the opposite of "*on the right* by file..")

A couple of cautions which apply to operating by either flank: Don't "swing out". The column should continue straight forward, as each file peels off. To facilitate this, the guides should place the new line far enough to the left of the line of march (*six paces beyond the rank of file closers, SOC149*). And speaking of guides, *look* for them as you come on line. The Right Battalion Guide should have hauled ass from the rear of the column in order to give us a reference point for alignment on our new right.

In summary, points to remember: On a *Left – FACE*, the number "one's" double, stepping up to the *LEFT* of their "number two". The front is to your *right*, now. Remember what rank you're in. That doesn't change. If you were a rear rank man when in line of battle, you are a rear rank man when marching by the flank -- either flank. At the command "**MARCH**", the doubled rear rank marks time. (There is *no* "Rear Rank Mark Time" command, however). Make your two-man wheel into line crisp and sharp (don't cut corners) and get between the guides when you come on line.

One final point: This maneuver is NOT done at the double quick, UNLESS the column was at the double

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quick to begin with. The Missouri Brigade? They did it at a run. See you on the drill field.

1st Sergeant

WHAT'S FOR SUPPER?

Over the next few months, we'll print some period receipts (yeah, that's the 19th-century way of saying "recipe") that can be prepared for a company. These are serialized from Veile's Hand Book of Active Service as printed in the SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY [ATLANTA, GA] June 1, 1861:

Soldier's Soup for 25 Men.

Take 15 quarts of water to 25 pounds of meat, 2 small tablespoonsful of salt, half a one of pepper; about 2 pounds of rice, put in while boiling, and what vegetables, fresh or preserved, that can be procured--say three pounds.

Pork Soup for 25 Men.

In 6 gallons of cold water put 12 pounds of pork, 3 quarts of beans, 2 pounds of rice, season to suit; let boil one hour and a half; soak the beans overnight.

Irish Stew for 25 Men.

Take 25 pounds mutton, veal, beef, or pork, cut into pieces six inches square, 4 pounds of onions, 8 pounds of potatoes, 4 tablespoonsful of salt, 1 of pepper, 8 quarts of water; cook it from 1 to 2 hours, slowly, thicken the gravy with flour mixed into smooth paste with water or potatoes mashed fine.

FROM THE 1ST LIEUTENANT

With the end of winter a new campaign season is about to begin . I hope you will attend every 5th MO event, however I know that sometimes our 20th century lives demand time we had planned to devote to reenacting. If you have signed up to attend an event and find for whatever reason you cannot attend **PLEASE** let us know! This effects what we report to Battalion Staff if a larger event and also how much food John and Jeannie Gilger buy for the Company Cookhouse when it will be in effect for an event. I know you don't want the Gilger's to absorb monitary losses on your account! Call the First Sergeant, First Lieutenant, or Captain ASAP. This also applies if you have not indicated you will attend an event and decide to come. We would like to know at least three days prior but if this isn't possible **please come!**

Since I have moved I no longer have the company trailer. This is now in the charge of Cpl Mike White. I still have company powder and caps and the company muskets, leathers, and uniforms. For anything else (tents etc.) you need to get in touch with Cpl. White and make arrangements to get this gear. A company roster is included later in this issue with phone numbers. **SEE YOU AT ROLL CALL!**

Alan Bowling

WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR IMPRESSION

Here are some ways you can improve your soldier's impression. Some require an investment. Most will cost you nothing.

1. Wear your canteen, haversack, and other accoutments high. Generally on or above the hip. Veterans learned this on long marches, and you'll find that they bounce around less that way.
2. Lose the "hillbilly" style hat (drooping, shapeless wool felt). It was period fashion to wear brims curled up, not floppy. Most hats had ribbon trim, edge binding, sweatbands and interior linings. If you wear a kepi or forage cap, note that soldiers at the time also often wore the bills on these caps flipped up.
3. Lose the hat brass and feathers. Period images show most hats were unadorned, although occasionally -- generally early in the war -- you might see a number, letter (on caps), or hat cord (on hats). Missouri Brigade soldiers do not appear to have been issued brass insignia.
4. Don't stand out in appearance. Veteran soldiers tried to blend in. Army of Tennessee and other western veterans seemed to even shun NCO rank insignia.
5. Unblouse your socks. Period images show this to be a relatively rare practice, although it was done. Reenactors do it too much, mainly because they don't wear proper period drawers. These would perform the same function if worn (i.e. to keep dirt and bugs from getting on your legs).
6. Try to wear a checked or natural shirt rather than the stark white ones sold by so many sutlers. Shirts with pockets were very popular at the time.
7. Only carry food in your haversack. Put personal items in your knapsack, blanket roll, or in your pockets.
8. Refinish the stock of your Enfield, if it's covered with that glossy polyuerothane. Stocks of the time were simply hand-rubbed with linseed oil.
9. Hand-work your buttonholes. No machines were widely available to sew buttonholes at the time. Some of the finer garments may LOOK machine-sewn, but they are not.
10. Invest in a quality, accurately-researched and constructed uniform. Your 1st Sergeant and Lieutenant can supply you with a number of good sources.

SIGHTS TO SEE IN MISSISSIPPI

For those making the trip to Mississippi in May, there is much to see relating to the Fifth Missouri Infantry. Over the next three issues are a few suggestions if you're able to arrive a little early for sightseeing.

Though ignored by the Raymond organizers, the Battles of Port Gibson and Grand Gulf played an important part in the campaign, and were very significant to the Missouri Brigade. They're also just down the road from the site.

The town of Port Gibson is about 45 miles from Raymond on MS Hwy 18. Turn left on U.S. 61 into town, then turn right at the first stop light (Orange St.). Turn left on Main St. at the Confederate Monument and Clairborne Co. Courthouse (1845), and follow it through the historic business district. The Missouri Brigade probably rushed down this street lined with cheering citizens on their way to the battlefield. Pass through three traffic lights to Carroll St, and turn right. The road soon makes a 45-degree swing to the left and becomes the historic Rodney Road. The Brigade proceeded down this road for 1.2 miles to the "Y" intersection. Here the 6th Missouri was sent to the right (the Bruinsburg Road) to reinforce a brigade of Alabamians, and the 3rd and 5th went to the left (the Rodney Road) to support a brigade of Louisiana and Mississippi troops.

Take the left fork, and in about a mile the Old Rodney Road turns right as a gravel road. Follow it to a low water crossing and look to your left. Here, Col. Cockrell led the 5th and 3rd Missouri Regiments south through the woods along Irwin's Branch, in an effort to get around the Federal right flank. The place where

VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

5th MO. IMPRESSION: VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN

The 5th Missouri Infantry Regiment was a pretty motley bunch in the fall and winter of 1862 -- wearing an assortment of ragged civilian, pre-war militia, and captured Federal clothing. But by the end of January, 1863, they had been issued new Confederate uniforms and accouterments.

The uniforms, according to Lt. George Warren of Co. E, were "Grey Pants, grey Jackets & grey Caps. The collars & cuffs of the Jackets are trimmed with light blue." Warren's use of the term "light" blue here may have been relative. I'm guessing lighter, for example, than federal blue. Chances are these jackets were what we've come to call "Columbus Depot" pattern, in a light grey or "drab" jeans with indigo collar and cuffs. Indeed, a surviving jacket, worn by Pvt. Michael J. Jones of the 1st Missouri (in the same brigade) at Champion Hill is a variation of this style. There were, in the brigade, also at least some of the untrimmed, undyed, "unloved" so-called white uniforms being worn -- although by this time they would by no means still be white.

Quartermaster records show at least a couple of subsequent issues of pants in the months prior to Champion Hill, but no subsequent issues of jackets. In other words, we should be relatively uniformly attired in our "Columbus Depot" jackets, but pants will vary in hue. "Captured" Federal trousers would be rare, as there was no opportunity for soldiers in the 5th Missouri to obtain them.

New accouterments were issued around the same time as the uniforms. They are described by one modern author as having "CS" buckles. A year earlier, the state of Missouri is known to have purchased 16,000 sets of accouterments from the firm of MaGee & George of New Orleans. Until the fall of New Orleans, this firm was quite prolific in supplying equipment in this theater. Buckles on some surviving examples look very much like the standard oval CS plate sold my most sutlers. Over half of the accouterment sets bought by the state included knapsacks.

At the fall of Vicksburg, the Missouri Brigade surrendered almost 2,000 muskets. The vast majority -- over 1,500 -- were Enfields. The next largest group -- 265 -- were .69 cal. muskets.

In summary, a good impression for this event would be your light-colored "Columbus Depot" jacket, matching or off-matching pants (preferably not federal), a gray kepi, MaGee & George accouterments, and an Enfield. I'll have a few comments about knapsacks and blanket rolls next month. In the meantime, if you don't have a "Columbus Depot" jacket for this event, PLEASE BORROW ONE from someone not going. A good hat may be substituted for the kepi. If your accouterments are Federal, remove the breast plate, and replace the box & belt plates with CS plates.

We are priveledged to portray Cockrell's Missouri Brigade at Baker's Creek. These are the men we seek to emulate. Let's look the part!

RATIONS ON THE MARCH

Regulations for the Army of the Confederate States (1863) prescribed that a soldier's daily ration on campaign was to be: ...a pound of fresh or salt beef OR a half-pound of Bacon or Pork; plus one pound of hard bread OR up to a pound and a half of Flour or Corn Meal. This was issued per individual. The rest of the food was issued in bulk per 100 rations, and included ...eight quarts of beans OR ten pounds of rice, ten pounds of coffee OR one and a half pounds of tea, and two quarts of salt. In lieu of the beans or rice, desiccated potatoes and mixed vegetables might be substituted twice a week. To get the individual soldier's ration, you need to divide those amounts by 100.

SIGHTS TO SEE(continued)

they struck as many as three Federal brigades and 24 artillery pieces was inaccessible to the public when I visited the area. Continuing to follow the Rodney Road to the southwest will take you to the Schaiffer house, where the battle began. Beyond that, the route becomes quite eerie as the road is extremely sunken with steep sides -- several yards high in some places. The area has changed little since the war.

As a side trip, if you'll instead follow the Bruinsburg Road (the right fork, Hwy 552) for about nine and a half miles, you'll find the ruins of Windsor, one of the most magnificent homes in the antebellum south. Only columns remain. (They were the setting for a scene in the Elizabeth Taylor/Montgomery Clift movie "Raintree County".)

Return to Port Gibson and U.S. 61 (Church St.). Turn right and proceed to Greenwood, where you'll turn left and travel six blocks to Wintergreen Cemetery. Here, in "Soldier's Row", are most of the Missourians killed in the battle, including Captain Royal Stokely of Company A, 5th Missouri. The VA headstones were erected in 1986. Also nearby (a block farther on Church St. then left on Horton) is the home of General Earl Van Dorn. Return to U.S. 61, and follow it north out of town toward Grand Gulf and Vicksburg. (Next Month)

-Dennis Faught

VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN(continued)

Of course, even a cursory reading of soldier's diaries will tell you they were rarely feted so well on the march. Indeed, if you were to carry three days rations (a common amount) as above, you might have, roughly, a pound and a half of salt pork, over four pounds of corn meal, over a quarter pound each of rice and coffee, and about an ounce and a half of salt. Over six and one half pounds of food in your bulging haversack. No wonder they often "ate the whole business at once" as it was easier to carry that way!

For the Vicksburg Campaign at Raymond, sponsors are promising hot plate food available near each of the three battle/bivouac sites. Saturday night, we'll also be in close proximity to the civilian camp. However, it is very possible to carry, prepare, and eat authentic period rations (without refrigeration) out of your haversack for the three days of this event, or any other event. For the record, there has never been a documented case of a reenactor starving to death at an event.

Many period items are commonly available at your local supermarket, including salt pork; "country" (or smoke cured) ham or bacon, fresh beef; soft bread (homebaked style loaves, not pre-sliced "Wonder bread"), rice, beans ("white" or "Navy"), corn meal, potatoes (small, red potatoes), onions, salt, coffee (either ground or bean is fine), tea (loose - not tea bags!), sugar ("Turberino", brown, or raw sugar is best), vinegar, and molasses (in lieu of sugar).

You'll also find "foraged" items in the store, like unshucked corn on the cob (not in season for May; but good at summer events), apples (available year-round from cellars -- get the small kind, NOT Red Delicious), eggs (will keep a week without refrigeration), gherkins, jams, preserves, and mustard. You can also bake biscuits at home and put them in your haversack.

And don't forget goober peas and parched corn. Look for "roasted corn" in your Hispanic foods section, or make your own. "Corn Nuts" brand snacks will work, too. Jerked beef was very popular among western and Trans Mississippi Confederates, as well.

For packaging, NEVER use plastic. Use SIZE=3 P TSIZE=10 muslin "poke" bags for dry items and salt pork. Brown waxed paper is great, also. Small glass containers with corks are good for seasonings.

If you want to substitute "hard bread" for your corn meal or flour ration (or "find" some in a fed haver

VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN(continued)

sack), you can buy it pre-made from a couple of sources: Mechanical Baking Company, Box 513, Perkins, IL 61555-0513, telephone (309)353-2414. Another is the pilot bread made by G.H. Bent & Co., 7 Pleasant St., Milton, MA, 02186 - telephone (617) 698-5945. Order "Civil War Crackers". Homemade hardtack never really looks or tastes quite right (you need commercial cracker flour), but if you want to go that route, here's a simple recipe:

5 Cups Flour

2 Cups Water

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

Sift flour and baking powder together. Mix/knead in water to make a thick, non-sticky dough. Roll out with rolling pin to 3/8 inch thick. Cut into three-inch squares and punch 16 holes in each. Place in oven at low heat and bake slowly until hard. Makes about sixteen crackers. A hardtack cutter is available from Village Tinsmith Box 539, Hamptonville, NC 27020; 910-468-1190. (I have one it works. AB)

MOVIE UPDATES

The rumor mill continues to turn on the filming of Jeff Shaara's "Gods and Generals" (the prequel to "The Killer Angels") At the very least, it could be experiencing the kind of delays that plagued "Gettysburg" before it was finally made in 1992. At this point, the only definite news is that filming will not begin before the spring of 1999. There is, however, news of another -- somewhat smaller -- reenactor-driven project, that could be in theaters as early as Christmas 1999.

Kevin R. Hershberger is an 11-year veteran reenactor who also happens to be a screenwriter. One of his scripts "Angel of Marye's Heights", based on the life of Sgt. Richard Kirkland of the 2nd S.C., is in pre-production with Marye's Heights Productions, Inc. He and another reenactor, Bill Bishop, are producing the film with a \$3 Million budget and sharing directing credit.

The film will be shot on location in Virginia and South Carolina. Filming begins September 7th of this year, with 24 shooting days in September and 10 days in December. The cast will be made up entirely of reenactors. He is inviting anyone interested in auditioning for a role or working as an extra to send their photos, resumes, info, etc, to the below address.

Kevin R. Hershberger

Marye's Heights Productions, Inc.

1461 Tarleton Road

Gloucester Point, VA 23062-2005

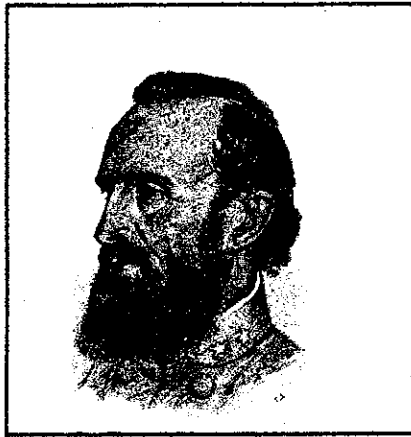
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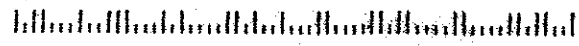
Hershberger calls this "the first real movie to tell the story of the Civil War exclusively from a Confederate viewpoint." However, he says "even though this movie is told from a Southern perspective, there will be no politics involved or discussed. This film isn't a platform to say 'the south was right' or 'Slavery, what's that?' This movie will tell it like it was, warts and all, and tell the war from a lowly South Carolina sergeant's perspective and viewpoint." Kirkland, by the way, is memorialized for risking his life to provide water to wounded men -- North and South -- during the Battle of Fredericksburg. He was killed in action at Chickamauga.

MESSENGER

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MESSENGER

UPCOMING EVENTS

- MARCH 7** MCWRA Ball, Columbia, MO, Holiday Inn Select. Sponsored by the CLO.
- MARCH 14-15** Battalion Officer's/NCO's School. Wyandotte County (Kansas) Museum.
Directions will be sent to A Company Officers and NCOs.
- MARCH 21-22** Company A Spring Drill. Cole Camp, MO., located off MO Highway 52, mid-way between Stover and Cole Camp. (5.7 miles east of Cole Camp, 5.8 miles west of Stover) Take County (gravel) Road 841 south. You will come to an old wooden bridge. Cross over and take the first right. Site is behind Ron Foraker home. Follow the signs (and close the gate behind you). The Company Cookhouse will not be in operation so bring your own food. Three of Todd Conner's Cav troop will drill with us in preparation for G-Burg, if you have extra leathers or musket please bring them.
- APRIL 4-5** Wichita, KS., To be held at the historic Maple Grove Cemetery. Proceeds to help restore and preserve the cemetery.