

The Messenger

The Newsletter of the 5th Missouri Infantry (CSA) Inc.

Volume X, No. 10

December 1999

Bragg lays siege to Chattanooga

EVENT REPORT
By DENNIS FAUGHT

On Nov. 5, 1863, the 5th Texas Infantry Regiment was pulled from the chain of sentinels along Lookout Creek, at the base of Lookout Mountain, Tenn. Replacing them were men of the 27th Mississippi. Across the creek was the 60th New York, part of the relief column that had recently broken the siege of Chattanooga via the Cracker Line.

"While here the two picket lines at many places were not more than 40 yards apart," wrote Private Robert A. Jarman of Company K, 27th Mississippi. "We could see and hear them relieving their pickets, and they could see us. We even met halfway in the creek, where it was shallow and shoally, to swap newspapers, canteens and tobacco for coffee. And I have seen some swap hats and shoes, and talk for half and hour at a time. But this was only when no officer was present on either side."

On Nov. 5, 1999, we met on a north Georgia farm to recreate these events. Rifle pits and breastworks had been constructed along a meandering, spring-fed creek. Looming in the distance was a ridge that bore a striking resemblance to Lookout Mountain. Following is my letter home:

Dear family,

I take pen in hand to relay some of what has happened to me since the battle at Chickamauga. On the 5th, the Reg't was assigned a portion of the picket line at the base of Lookout Mtn. at Chattanooga. Justin G. was among an advance party sent to prepare the works for us. I followed with the Capt. and the balance of Co. K the next morning. When we arrived, 3rd section was

detailed to dig sinks. I was in 2nd section, and on firewood detail. It seemed as though I did little but gather wood the rest of the day, but the stocks were welcome as the temperature dropped.

My first hours on picket were uneventful. I and a young new recruit were assigned the left-most rifle pit on our front. The Lieut. said Company I was to our left, but I saw no one there all day. About midday we formed a storming party and rushed across the creek to nab a Yank prisoner. My section provided covering fire from our side of the creek. We lost no one in the fracas, and got our prisoner. (He was later traded back to them for 20 pounds of food).

Later that day a truce was arranged. Turns out these yanks were from New York, but wouldn't say what Reg't. With the officers absent, a good deal of trading took place along the creek, which was just ankle-deep at the ford. Justin was able to procure a good supply of coffee beans in exchange for a burleigh twist. At mail call Justin received a letter from his cousin. I received none, and wonder why you haven't written.

About this time a group of refugee women were escorted across the creek, having come through the yankee lines from Chattanooga with only the clothes on their back and a small cart of belongings. My heart aches for these poor women, and I pray you are not in similar straits yourself in Mississippi.

Our first night on outpost, 2nd section was given the midnight to 6 detail, so we settled around a fire in the works soon after darkness fell, hoping to get some sleep. The Lieut. waked us at midnight,

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FROM THE EDITOR...

Since there have been no 5th Mo. events since the last issue and no member submissions, I thought I'd throw in a report on the Lookout Mountain "outpost" event in north Georgia. I hope you find it interesting, and at least a little illuminating on the potential of small, first-person "immersion" events. Justin Gerke and I took part in this scenerio Nov. 5-7, and both pronounced it among the best we've ever attended.

Beyond that, there's little to offer in the final issue of '99 except an attendance tally for the foregoing season. Check it to see what your voting status will be for the January 2000 meeting.

—DF

CONTACTING THE FIFTH

The new corporate address for the Fifth Missouri Infantry (CSA) Inc. is:

920 W. Broadway
Columbia MO 65203

Also, the company has an e-mail address. If you have anyone looking to join or have a question for me about the Fifth, send it to CoA5thMO@aol.com, not my personal address.

—Larry Dietzel
Interim Secretary-Treasurer

Co. A, 5th Mo. Attendance - 1999

This roster tracks attendance during the 1999 season. Figures are based on observation and event reports.

Discrepancies should be addressed at the January meeting.

The end-of-season tally shows 40 adult members, including 18 Veteran Reserves [VR], each with the right to vote for organizational directors,

pending payment of 2000 dues.

The unit has 11 Veterans (based on full participation at three scheduled events during the season), each eligible to vote on field staff and all other issues, pending payment of dues.

The meeting is scheduled for Jan. 8, 2000 in California. Details in the next issue of The Messenger.

1999	1ST PLATOON	Meeting	Muster	BTLR	ROLLA	Boon	ARK	Parade	ATH	CHICK	Ottvii	War	ATTENDANCE
VR	BIGGS, Tracy	1						1					2
VR	BRUEGGER, Randy									1	1		2
✓ PVT	BRUEGGER, T.J.	1	1								1		3
CPL	FINK, Steve	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	10
VR	FINK, Steven												0
VR	GILGER, John							1				1	2
✓ VR	HAMILTON, Mike											1	1
VR	KOFFMAN, Bob												0
PVT	LEE, Jerry	1	1		1	1							4
VR	LOESCH, Justin												0
VR	ROUSH, Loren		1									1	2
VR	THOMAS, Chuck												0
Recruit	VAN LOENEN, Ethan							1					1
✓ VR	WAYNE, Bill			1									1
✓ SGT	WHITE, Mike	1	1		1	1	1				1		6
	2ND PLATOON	Meeting	Muster	BTLR	ROLLA	Boon	ARK	Parade	ATH	CHICK	Ottvii	War	
VR	BLOCK, Neil								1				1
VR	BOWLING, Alan	1											1
✓ STAFF	DIETZEL, Larry	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	10
VR	DURRILL, John												0
PVT	FAUGHT, Dennis	1	1		1	1	1	1			1		7
CPL	GERKE, Justin		1		1		1						3
PVT	HAFLEY, Greg				1	1			1			1	4
✓ PVT	HAFLEY, Joe	1	1		1		1		1				5
✓ PVT	HAFLEY, Sam				1	1	1		1			1	5
VR	HEIDGERKEN, Jerry												0
VR	McKEE, Randy	1											1
PVT	MEOLI, Mike			1			1				1		3
Recruit	MEOLI, Marcus												0
VR	MOELLER, Mark												0
VR	PICKERING, David		1										1
✓ Recruit	REED, Don				1	1			1				3
✓ Recruit	TACKETT, Travis				1		1		1			1	4
VR	YOAKUM, Steve												0
	OTHERS												
Assoc	CONNER, Todd												0
Assoc	MEOLI, Nick			1			1				1		3
Assoc	MASSEY, Mike												0
	TOTAL MILITARY	10	10	5	11	7	10	6	7	3	8	8	
	NONCOMBATANTS	Meeting	Muster	BTLR	ROLLA	Boon	ARK	Parade	ATH	CHICK	Ottvii	War	
CIV	BIGGS, Amanda	1						1					
CIV	BOWLING, Ann												
CIV	DIETZEL, Nora	1										1	
CIV	FINK, Becki	1							1		1	1	
CIV	GILGER, Jeannie	1						1					
CIV	HAMILTON, Denise												
CIV	LEE, Cindy	1			1	1							
	TOTAL PRESENT	15	10	5	12	8	10	8	8	3	9	10	

★ Chattanooga

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and placed Justin, Dean B. and I at Post number 11.

The hours passed fitfully, the silence occasionally broken by a shot at some perceived intruder. The night was inky black, with no moon, and nerves were raw. Dean and I passed much of the time swapping rumors about the war and wishing we were back home in Monroe County.

Justin shouted across the creek — "Hey Yank, tell us a bedtime story!" To which a voice in the darkness replied, "Once upon a time there was a town called Vicksburg. Then we burned it. The end." We immediately sent a minnie ball his way for the impertinence.

The yanks got into Post number 12 at

one point, trying to take a prisoner, but were repulsed. Twice before dawn their cavalry splashed across the ford and briefly got in our rear. No one was lost, although I'm sure I unhorsed one of them as they passed in front of our post.

Once the sun rose, a most curious thing happened: Dean and Justin were having quite a laugh at two yanks bobbing their heads above the works as if they were turkey gobblers, when, without so much as a "find a hole, Johnny," a bluebelly from another post sent a shot buzzing past our ears. We answered with several more shots, and a few choice words. Then Dean tossed a tater in their direction. It struck just in front of their headlog, causing the offending yank to pop his head up to see what had landed. Justin put a ball in his forehead at 40 yards.

That morning we had designs on making a general assault across the creek. A handfull of us were left in the pits to

decoy the yanks, while the rest of the company formed for the assault on our right. But Dean saw that the yanks were up to something as well. They were relieving their posts, but not dropping off new pickets in them. We sounded the alarm, and about that time they made a dash across the ford, routing post number 12 to our left, flanking our position. I got off one shot, grabbed my knapsack and ran for the Grand Guard trenches, where I found more yanks coming up the hill from that side. Justin and Sergt. Smotherman dropped their empty muskets and tackled a couple of them. I dashed for the safety of the trees. But they were all around us by now. I got one more of them from behind a tree before feeling a sharp pain in my hip.

My wound is healing slowly. They are sending us to Point Lookout prison in Maryland, I'm told. Please write me soon as I fear sometimes I will never hear from you again.

★ Next Meeting: Saturday, Jan. 8, 2000, at California ★

(Tear off and return with dues)

👉 DUES NOTICE 👈

Annual Membership Dues are due JANUARY 1, 2000.

Complete and return to:
5th Missouri Infantry (CSA) Inc.
920 W. Broadway
Columbia, MO 65203

Check one:

Individual: \$22* (\$12 5th Mo. + \$10 MCWRA)

*[plus \$10 for each additional adult family member desiring MCWRA vote]

Associate: \$9 (non-voting)

Make checks payable to "5th Missouri Infantry (CSA), Inc"

If you paid your MCWRA dues through another unit, please indicate the unit:

PLANNING AHEAD

CAMPAIGN 2000 - MISSOURI 1861

The Trans-Mississippi Brigade has announced the 2000 schedule of events. The brigade will be portraying the Missouri State Guard for much of the season:

- ▶ February 5-6 Brigade School of Instruction - Springfield MO.
- ▶ March 17 -19 "The Last Surrender" (Raymond campaign-type event) Movement by train, civilian participation - Fort Towson, OK.
- ▶ April 8-9 - Battle of Cassville - Cassville, MO.
- ▶ May 13-14 - Battle of Carthage - Carthage, MO.
- ▶ June 16-18 - Battle of Wilson's Creek - National Event - Springfield, MO.
- ▶ July 15 - Brigade Grand Ball - Fayetteville, AR.
- ▶ September 16-17 - Battle of Lexington - Lexington, MO.
- ▶ October 14-15 - Battle of Boonville - Boonville, MO.
- ▶ November 4-5 - Battle of Middle Boggy - Atoka, OK.
- ▶ December 2-3 - Battle of Prairie Grove - Prairie Grove,

AR.

Proposed 2001 Calendar of Events

- ▶ February - 1st Missouri - 2nd Trans-Mississippi - 1st Louisiana - Battalion School of Instruction - Locations to be announced
 - ▶ February - Battle of Round Mountain
 - ▶ March - Brigade Grand Ball
 - ▶ March - Bentonville or Pea Ridge AR.
 - ▶ April - Battle of Marshall - Marshall, MO.
 - ▶ May - Vicksburg II - Jackson, MS (Raymond campaign-type event)
 - ▶ June - Grand Island - Grand Island NE.
 - ▶ July - Brigade Grand Ball
 - ▶ September - Battle Maysville II, Wichita, KS.
 - ▶ October - Battle of Humansville - Humansville, MO.
 - ▶ November - Battle of Cabin Creek - Cabin Creek, OK.
 - ▶ TBA Fair Grove, MO.
 - ▶ TBA Davisville, MO.
- (2001 Events subject to change)

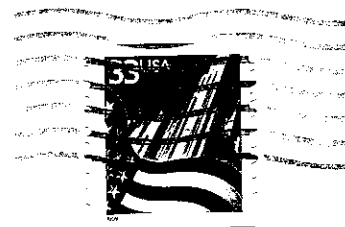


Happy Holidays



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