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Captain's Column

Gentlemen,

We have two events coming up in June. Both are very laid back, living history events. The first is Cold Harbor on May 30th and 31st. Normally, this weekend consists of two demonstrations on Saturday and one on Sunday. The demos usually require about five rounds each. I will leave the decision on the total number of rounds needed to the 1st Sgt. I would plan on a few extra just in case the yanks don't show up for their demos and we end up doing them. The rounds and caps will need to be brought in a bag with your name and unit info on it to be turned in at the beginning of the weekend. DO NOT have rounds or caps on your person during the weekend except when you are issued them for a demo. There will also be a candlelight tour on Saturday evening.

I am going to do my best to be there during the day on both days. I just brought my wife home from back surgery on Thursday, May 21st. She is in a great deal of pain and requires constant assistance with moving and pain management. If I can get someone to sit with her, I will be there.

Gaines' Mill will be later in the month of June. I will leave those details to the 1st Sgt. The event is similar to Cold Harbor but without the candlelight tour. Rounds and caps should be prepared in the same fashion.

I look forward to seeing everyone at these events.

Respectfully,

Captain Gammon

1st Sergeant's Column

Endview Plantation (2-3 May 2015)- I arrived at this event on Fri afternoon immediately following a heavy thunderstorm to find that Captain Gammon had selected a good camping spot in the woods along w/Chris Martin and his son Hunter, and they had gotten a campfire started. It proved to be cool night w/additional co. members arriving during the night and early next morning. We utilized the earth works that had been created at Endview for the morning scenario and during the afternoon phase initially. During the afternoon F Co. was sent out on the CS left flank, but took to the woods and throwing caution to the wind attacked the Federals head on! This proved to be the high point of our weekend event and was most enjoyable as the troops traded fire w/the Federals from behind trees and bushes. During the evening it seems a number of both Federal and Confederate participants departed so the next morning less than probably a hundred participants were available. Following church services and a good drill training session conducted by Pvt Johnathan Alexander, F Co provided right flank security for the main CS earthwork and resisted the Federals as we conducted a fighting withdrawl. The highlight of my drive home was getting BBQ sandwiches at Pierce's BBG on I-64 near Williamsburg, which is always a treat for me as its one of my favorite BBQ joints!

Cold Harbor (30-31 May 2015)- This event has already been covered in the May newsletter, but this is a reminder that it's an event well worth participating in whether you can make it one day or two. F Co is a key part of the Richmond Battlefield's living history program, so the full support of the company is very much needed for this event. Another opportunity to interpret and camp on an original CW site w/the full cooperation of the National Park Service! The following individuals are registered for this event: Alexander, Jack; Firth, both Gammons, Gunter, Kulikowski, Martin, Touart and Vice. We need everyone one there as its unlikely that the 4th NC Infantry will be providing any personnel for this event this year.

Cancellation of Point Lookout Prisoner Release (13-14 June 2015)- You can take this event off our official schedule. Despite the fact I'd been negotiating since January for our invitation to the event it just isn't going to happen. Point Lookout is a Maryland state park which uses its private support organization, the Friends of Point Lookout, to administer living history events. Unfortunately, the Friends of Point Lookout have proved to be disorganized and generally unresponsive to my request for participation in this event.

Gaines Mill (27-28 June 2015)- A reminder that this event will be at the end of June w/the same requirements as Cold Harbor as this is a Richmond National Battlefield sponsored event as well including bagging blank rounds and caps, and no more than 30 rounds being needed for the program. Another event taking place on the original battlefield site which we are allowed to participate in as a part of the NPS living history event. The same travel directions apply for this event as Cold Harbor.

Michael L. Vice
1st SGT, F Company

Endview Plantation battle report May 3-4 2015

F Company's orders were to prepare for a Yankee attack on the Yorktown middle peninsula. F Company assembled quickly Saturday morning and marched onto the battlefield. Our orders were to defend an earthen rampart surrounded by a water filled moat which had been under siege by General McClellan for nearly a month. F Company defended the ramparts against a constant artillery barrage and frontal attack by the Yankees. During the evening battle we took the fight to the Yankees and attacked them in the peach orchard where a hotly contested battle occurred. F Company conducted a charge over an open field against Yankees firing at us from a protected woodlot position. The Rebel Yell brought forth by F Company during the charge was frightful and the actions of all the members of F Company during the charge forced a withdrawal of the Yankees from the woodlot back to their earthen ramparts.

We all retired to camp in good spirits that evening.

It was determined that a strongly reinforced group of Yankees would be attacking us the next day. A reconnaissance party was formed during the evening of the first day's battle to scout out the Yankee encampment. Cpl Alexander, Jack Alexander, Mike Desimone, Chris, Hunter and Greg volunteered to conduct the reconnaissance mission. The mission was conducted at dusk and the volunteers plan was to sneak up stealthy on the Yankee encampment and take observations. The sneaking up part was conducted perfectly. However, we may have been more successful had Mike Disimones' sneaking abilities not been so funny which made it hard for the company to remain quiet. A brilliant plan was devised to divide into 2 groups for the final approach on the encampment. Cpl. Alex, Disimone, and Jack Alex were to flank from the left over an open field and Chris, Hunter and Greg were to approach from a woodlot adjacent the Yankee camp. An emergency Johnny on the spot visit delayed group number ones final approach. Meanwhile the remaining members of group number 2's attempt to surround the encampment were foiled by Greg Hanson's terrible Hooty Hoot owl call which alerted a group of females in the Yankee camp of our presence. We went into their camp to convince them to take it easy on us the next day with their artillery. The Yankees did not exactly agree to take it easy on us the next day but did agree to share some moonshine with us. A good time was had by all and a full moon helped the group find its way back to camp..

The reconnaissance plan may have worked out better than could be expected. The Yankees attack on our fortified positions the next day was not as lively as our attack on them the previous day. While we were forced to withdraw from the field the slow response of the Yankee attack on our position made an orderly withdrawal from the field possible.

Private Hanson

Ode to Joe

