



Vol. XII. September, 2013 Issue 6.

1st Lieutenant's Column

Gentlemen,

By the time you read this, the F Company muster will have taken place. I would like to thank Mike Vice in advance for all of his efforts in planning and leading the muster, with everything else he has had going on.

Speaking of Mr. Vice, the request for assistance in getting him moved is still out there. If anyone can help out with this, please contact Mike or myself. Mike is up against a time crunch and could really use your help. He has to get moved over the Labor Day weekend.

We have the event at Luray Caverns coming up on September 7th and 8th. We did this event two years ago and it was very laid back and enjoyable. I will be attempting to arrive on Friday afternoon, September 6th. I will leave the details to the 1st Sgt.

With the summer winding down, I thought the following article would be a fitting way to incorporate our devotional into the newsletter. All through the summer we must look out for ourselves and our pards as the summer heat and the wool take its toll on us at the hot events. We are always preaching the words HYDRATE, HYDRATE, HYDRATE!!!! It is not only our physical bodies that get thirsty, our souls can thirst as well. Enjoy the following article from the "Our Daily Bread" series.

Avoid Dehydration by : *Joe Stowell*

If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. —[John 7:37](#)

A couple of times in the past few years I've experienced dehydration and, believe me, it is not something I want to repeat. It happened once after I suffered a torn hamstring while cross-country skiing, and another time in the 115-degree heat of an Israeli desert. Both times I experienced dizziness, disorientation, loss of clear vision, and a host of other symptoms. I learned the hard way that water is vital to maintaining my well-being.

My experience with dehydration gives me a new appreciation for Jesus' invitation: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink" (John 7:37). His announcement was dramatic, particularly in terms of the timing. John notes that it was the last day of the "great feast"—the annual festival commemorating the wandering of the Jews in the wilderness—which climaxed with a ceremonial pouring of water down the temple steps to recall God's provision of water for the thirsty wanderers. At that point, Jesus rose and proclaimed that He is the water we all desperately need.

Living like we really need Jesus—talking to Him and depending on His wisdom—is vital to our spiritual well-being. So, stay connected to Jesus, for He alone can satisfy your thirsty soul!

Dear Lord, forgive me for thinking that I can do life without the water of Your presence, advice, counsel, comfort, and conviction. Thank You that You are indeed the living water that I so desperately need.

Come to Jesus for the refreshing power of His living water.

Respectfully,
1st Lt. Gammon

1st Sergeant's Report

Gents,

The next reenactment will be at Luray on September 7th-8th. The following list is registered for the event:

D. Gammon, M. Gammon, N. Pate, T. Clements, J. Butler, M. Guillen, D. Gunter, B. Kiser, M. Kulikowski, R. Ladd, T. Stafford, B. Ward, S. Wilson

This event will be pretty standard by comparison. There will be two battles for the weekend, one Saturday and one Sunday. My recommendation is to bring 70-80 rounds, I would rather you have too many, than potentially miss out on a great scenario.

Meals will be as usual. You are responsible for your own food. It has always been that most people snack throughout the day, and we venture out as a group on Saturday night in search of food. As of late, some have been bringing food to cook in camp. My recommendation, be prepared for both, or just make your decision ahead of time and be a trend setter. Lastly, I would assume there will be food vendors at this event, the operative word being "assume."

For those of you planning to go Friday evening, have a blast, try to be settled in before dark. For those coming Saturday morning, please try to be in camp by 800am. I have had difficulties finding a solid schedule, so that info may change.

***ATTN: Gents, there is an opening for Luray, unfortunately one of our members that was originally registered will not be able to make it. There is an opening for the first man to contact me with solid interest. Look forward to hearing from you guys, and look forward to seeing you all at Luray.

Respectfully submitted,
1st Sgt M. Gammon

Report on the 150th Battle of Gettysburg (27-30 June 13) or Service with EKG Vice submitted by Private Vice, a Really Old Soldier!!!

I felt that a fuller report was needed by the membership concerning F Co's. participation in the 150th Gettysburg especially since I was the soldier commanding the advance party going into the event and individual commanding as it came to an end.

I arrived w/members of the New England Contingent (NEC) on site early afternoon of Thu (27 Jun) after first checking in at registration. Finding the Longstreet's Corps site, we immediately saw a choice area along a wood line for a bivouac site. Unloading our vehicles including rations and mess gear for four days we set to work getting our shebangs up and livable as well as protection from the potential rain and elements. The shelter contrived by Pvt Gargone was a credit to the Roman Legions! We managed that evening to get our rations cooked despite lack of any real substantial firewood supply plus continuing rain showers. Since I was the ranking Acting Corporal I followed the guidance of 1LT Gammon, and made contact w/the 47th VA Infantry commander to solidify our participation in the upcoming Fri morning early AM battle w/the usual inherent confusion w/non-militaristic types, but nonetheless, secured our spot w/that command for the following morning. Getting up at the crack of dawn we got coffee and rations going and had our mess fed prior to marching off at 0730 to join Longstreet's Corps. After an unbelievable grueling approach march we were continually held in reserve for a good two hours and seeing no opportunity to be committed to battle, we made the decision to return to camp. I gave everyone an opportunity to rest and get plenty of fluids as temperatures were in the low 90's w/humidity to match and we all needed a good break and rest. Later in the morning Lt Gammon arrived on site and took command of the company. Later that evening we managed to get everyone in our mess, which included the Alexander's along w/Skip Tyler and Joe Pearson, fed a hot meal despite the nonexistent firewood supply as we scrounged around the bivouac site for all the dry firewood we could find. Then we were off for the evening Battle of Culp's Hill which had a good three mile approach march and very difficult, but highly authentic dusk action w/confused fighting all around us as we anchored the right of our battalion's line. It was an action not to be missed and truly recreated the action of the original Culp's Hill fight!

Friday PM and Saturday AM the Company having been joined by more members including 1st SGT Gammon, we marched to the Longstreet's Corps Saturday morning dress parade where once again we formed the right of our battalion line. Following a break we marched out in early afternoon for what proved to be a difficult, disorganized march w/huge amount of starting and stopping. In the ensuing engagement we did ourselves credit in continuing to hold our line and not charge headlong as did disorganized elements of Longstreet's Corps. Command and control was pretty bad and Lt Gammon had to extract our company from a safety issue w/what appeared to be a loaded artillery piece directly to our front. Fortunately, the weather was cooperative, but soon after our return to camp that went to hell again as Mark Riemer and I held a poncho over our fire to try to get it going for the evening mess! The only thing that saved us was Pvt Ladd having heard our call for firewood brought an excellent supply of seasoned oak which we managed to get going for a hot meal. I decided w/some other co. members to finally make the three mile walk to sutlers where I at least got some more fluids in me, but got exceptionally wet going back to camp as the skies opened up w/a driving cold rain, and me w/no poncho! We were certainly glad to see our little dry shebangs in the woods when we got back to our bivouac site, but a number of company members who decided they didn't want to set-up in the woods got "drowned out" and several departed for home.

As I arose on Sun morning to get the mess fire going for at least some bacon and coffee, I "discovered" that once again I was in command of the remaining 14 man company much to my surprise! Rising to the occasion I took along Executive Committee member Jack Alexander w/me to make contact w/our battalion commander and see if we could be folded into another company. Our command and control within F Co was excellent! As I departed camp Acting Corporal Johnathan Alexander had gone out w/a detail to get canteens filled when a runner from our

battalion showed up and said we had to get moving right away! Pvt Mark Riemer, being the disciplined German that he is, told everybody to get their equipment and muskets ready pending my return and be prepared to march out immediately. Upon my return to camp the troops were ready to move w/literally only five minutes previous notice, a testimonial to good discipline and sound leadership! To our surprise we were given a Lt Bohn from the staff, who proved to be competent and agreeable, and we functioned as a separate company, and once again we were the right of the line and leading the approach march of the battalion. LT Bohn advised me that the battalion commander wanted us as the separate, lead company because “we obeyed orders and maintained our position in the line” The march to the marshaling area for Pickett’s Charge proved to be better organized than previous actions and the speech by General Armistead to the troops was unbelievable emotional and historically correct. It really was impressive, and as most of you know I ain’t impressed by much! We stepped off in good order maintaining our alignment w/instructions that we were to get no closer than 50 feet to the wall before falling prey to the Federal musket volleys. The action was hot and heavy, but F Co performed extremely well and followed the outline of our scenario. As we fell back across the field we were met by a mounted General Lee w/his famous “It’s not your fault boys, It’s my fault” speech which was truly well done. Following this Pvt Riemer had a most interesting encounter w/General Pickett as we moved off the field. As the general rode by Pvt Riemer hailed him asking, “General Pickett, will you send us some tickets to the theater?”, and General Pickett responded, “No boys, I’m sending my tickets to Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln!” A fitting bit of history to close the event!

We managed to reach our vehicles in the parking lot prior to the main deluge and got our gear loaded quickly due to having a minimal amount of mess gear as well as having it packed and well organized. Arriving back at my house we got everything out for a good drying out and repacking as the NEC was leaving the next day for home, and I had to get organized to participate for three days in the Federal living history program at the Gettysburg National Park which was a whole other venture! We did dinner sumptuously that evening at the Dobbin House, the seat of fine dining in Gettysburg, plus got to sleep in a bed!

What is EKG Vice?- This stands for Ersatz Kampf Groupe Vice which takes its name from the improvised German military formations of WW II which were created in emergency military situations w/the name of the commander leading the formation.

Luray Caverns

GPS ADDRESS:

101 Cave Hill Road

Luray, VA. 22835

Luray Caverns is located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, just 90 minutes from Washington, DC, 10 minutes from the central entrance to Skyline Drive and Shenandoah National Park, and 15 minutes from I-81 at New Market, Virginia. This U.S. Natural Landmark is less than a day's drive from many east-coast cities and near the principal routes for Washington, DC; Williamsburg, VA; the Pennsylvania Dutch Region; and the Great Smoky Mountains.

FROM WASHINGTON, D.C. (89 miles):

I-66 West to Gainesville; US 29 South to Warrenton; US 211 West to Luray Caverns (45 minutes from Warrenton, 90 minutes from Capital Beltway

Ode to Joe

