



The Tyrants' Foe

Newsletter of the Texas Rifles



Volume XXIV, Number 1 ***** May 1, 2010



2010 Schedule of Events

This schedule is published for the benefit of our members and recruits, so that they can make arrangements to attend the following events.

Date	Event	Location	Type	Texas Rifles Rating	Impression
January 23-24th, 2010	Texas Rifles Annual Meeting	Henkel Square, Round Top, TX	Texas Rifles Event	MAX EFFORT	Confederate
February 13th 2010	Jesse Jones Skirmish	Houston, TX	Recruiting Event	Optional	Confederate
February 13th 2010	Twiggs Surrender	San Antonio, TX		Optional	Federal
March 19-21th, 2010	Battle for Long Creek	Livingston, TX	Civilian Event	Optional	?
March 27-28th, 2010	Siege of Port Hudson	Jackson, LA	Attending with RRB & 1st Texas	MAX EFFORT	Federal
April 17-18th, 2010	1885 Civil War Reunion at Henkel Square	Round Top, TX		MAX EFFORT	Federal or Confederate
May 1-2nd, 2010	Port Jefferson	Port Jefferson, TX	Attending with 1st Texas	Optional	Federal
May 29-30th, 2010	Fort McKavett Garrison	Fort McKavett, TX	Texas Rifles Event	Optional	Post War Federal
September TBD, 2010	Red River Battalion Muster for Fort Donelson	TBD	Red River Battalion Event	Optional	Federal
October 9-10th, 2010	Henkel Square	Round Top, TX	Texas Rifles Civilian Event	MAX EFFORT	Confederate
October 23rd, 2010	Texian Market Days	Richmond, TX	Recruiting Event	Optional	?
November 11-14th, 2010	Fort Donelson	Fort Donelson, TN	National Event	MAX EFFORT	Federal
November 20-21st, 2010	Liendo Plantation Reenactment	Hempstead, TX	Recruiting Event	Optional	Federal

Captain's Dispatch



Few people have accused me of being a man of few words. Even fewer have suggested that I have no strong opinions. Indeed, I am much more readily known as someone who shares his views with happy abandon—particularly if I've had a few (or more) drinks under my belt. So, with that said, it's strange to admit that I actually found myself scratching my head over what I was going to write in this article. I mean, what hasn't already been stated in previous editions of "The Captain's Dispatch" by previous commanders of the Texas Rifles? It's all been said before, right? Well, that was my initial thought, fleeting though it was.

Then, it occurred to me. I do have something to say of consequence, and it touches on a somewhat sensitive issue: attendance (and a hush falls over the crowd—murmur, murmur, murmur). Yes, there is no easy way to address this thorny matter, but address it, I must.

As an organization, we are in a difficult—perhaps even a perilous—situation. Collectively, we are graying. Recruitment is at a near standstill. Health and financial concerns beset our membership from every side. And, employment-related tasks interrupt and interfere on an almost continuous basis. As a result, the Texas Rifles has, for several years, been hard-pressed to field a full-sized company at most events.

Cold comfort though it is, the Rifles are not in a unique position in this regard. Our brothers in the Red River Battalion and 1st Texas have been ailing from the very same persistent maladies. To be sure, the hobby itself is sputtering—even as we prepare for the Civil War Sesquicentennial!

Given this state of affairs, where do we go from here? I do not claim to have easy answers. My first thought is to reiterate the vital importance of choosing and voting on a very small slate of "maximum effort" events each year and making them our organizational priority. Port Hudson was one such event. We registered well over twenty officers and men with battalion for that event in early March. When all was said and done, however, the company had a total of eight members in attendance. I'll be honest with all of you. I am at a complete loss over how we can deal effectively with the attendance issue. In a very real sense, lack of consistent attendance at "maximum effort" events is hamstringing our organization's endeavors in the field. Therefore, I am inviting each of you to offer up suggestions, to brainstorm with me in an effort to resolve our problems. This is, after all, your organization.

On a lighter note, in late May (Memorial Day Weekend), we are hosting a

very promising post-war living history event at Fort McKavett. It will be the Texas Rifles' final event before the annual "summer lull." Let's enter that months-long period of inactivity on a first-person high: break out your federal gear, blacken your leather, shine your brass, and come join your comrades for a wonderful weekend at a lovely Texas frontier post! Lodging in original barracks, gorgeous sunsets, excellent meals courtesy of Boz and Rob Garner, and plenty of the camaraderie for which the Rifles is so well known—who could ask for more?!? I hope to see all of you there.

Warmest regards,
Phil Sozansky
Captain of the Texas Rifles

Lieutenant's Inkwell



On Campaign: Articles to follow in the future.

Because the Sergeant Says So!



Drill Bits – By Company Into line

The purpose of this command is to change the line of battle from the original line before the company faced to the right or left to the direction of march. When the movement is completed, the company will be marching in company front instead of faced by the right or left.

In the first example, the company is faced by the right. Thus, the captain and first sergeant are at the head of the company when the command is given. The first sergeant continues on the line of march at shoulder arms. The captain extends to the left, and faces back toward the company to supervise the execution of the movement. The guide is to the right, as each first sergeant in the regiment will still be on the route of march (original line of battle) before the command to change is given. The remainder of the company (including file closers) execute a half left face (left oblique), assume the position of right shoulder shift arms, and move at the double quick. This moves the entire company as a mass toward the new line of battle, and soldiers will arrive in their positions in two ranks after the required number of steps at the double quick. Thus, the 1st corporal, being the first man in the front rank arrives in position after two steps at the double quick, where he then faces to the front (having arrived next to the first sergeant), holds his musket at shoulder arms, and then guides on the first sergeant. The second man in the front rank, and first man in the rear rank will arrive in position after four steps at the double quick, and so on, until the last man in the last rank in a full strength 100 man company will arrive in position after taking 102 paces at the double quick.

Next, is the company faced by the left. This works by the same principle, substituting right for left and the second sergeant for the first sergeant. Thus, the company bases off of the second sergeant, builds toward the right, with the guide to the left, and the first sergeant and rear rank number one man being the last two to arrive in position.

If the movement is executed as part of a battalion, typically, the battalion will form a new line of battle by bring the companies abreast of each other and positioning the right and left general guides.

Civil War Reunion Photos April 17, 2010











