



Hurf's Battery

Alabama Light Artillery, ANV^a.
Re-enactors of the American Civil War



27. September 2011

Cannoneers,

I have the honor to report on the recent engagement at Colusa, California on the 23rd through the 25th inst.

Friday was a School Day that was very well attended, there being some 800 students filing through the various stations. As was the case last year, the youngsters were very well behaved indeed and showed a high level of interest. As the Union artillery was tasked with presenting the artillery demonstration, our Battery undertook to present a station explaining the principal flags of the period, their origin and uses. In an effort to be as inclusive as possible we asked to borrow the flags of the 72nd NYV but as they use them in their own presentation we were unable to display them with the others. We presented and explained the Federal 34 star national standard and the Federal cavalry guidon. On the Confederate side we had the plain bonny blue, the Alabama bonnie blue, the 1st and 2nd national and the battle flag. We also displayed and discussed a signal flag. Helping in the presentation were:

Cap't. Ken Janson
1st Sgt. Tom Phinney
Pvt. Jeff Kuhn
Miss Carrie Rardon

The early battle on Saturday saw the Union troops under the leadership of Lt. Col. Mark Richardson. This was his last battle as Union commander as that position was passing to Byran Duncan. Col. Richardson asked if he might be granted a victory in this last engagement and all concerned were pleased to grant this request. The Federals flanked our position taking our gun with all the cannoneers either escaping or falling before their



onslaught.

Throughout the event the Union troops greatly outnumbered the Rebel foot soldiers, so in considering how to arrange a Confederate victory in the afternoon, it was decided to have Hurt's Battery even the odds by decimating the invading Yankee hordes. This we were only too happy to do. It was immensely impressive how the 72nd NY took multiple hits from our glorious Sophia Antoinette.

It is worth mentioning that I have never been involved in as friendly and constructive officers' planning sessions as took place this year at the Colusa event. I cannot think that it is a coincidence that the battles were among the best in which our Battery has participated with nearly all participants adhering as closely as one can to the scenario established at the Officers' Call.



One cannot review this past weekend's events without some reference to the weather. Friday's air was more closely related to the inside of an oven than to an outdoor event. Saturday was only a bit better. Saturday evening saw an (at first) lively Farkle game in our camp but as the night sky closed in on us the exhaustion caused by two days of efforts in the oppressive heat started to take its toll, and by the end all were happy to see Pvt. Jerry Miller win the game allowing all and sundry to scurry off to our tents. Later on the air decided to imitate a wind tunnel and blew all night. Come the dawn the skies were solid gray (I wish I could have seen that as a positive omen) and by mid-morning the rain began. It rained constantly with no sign of let up. The 11 AM battle went on in the wet, and it was despite all and like its predecessors an excellent skirmish. After the battle, since the rain and the clouds showed no sign of abating, it was decided by the event coordinator and the local sponsoring organization to cancel the second battle. Of course, when the hour of the canceled battle rolled around, it had stopped raining and had dried up considerably. But as many had already pulled up stakes, literally and figuratively, there was no help for it and there was no second battle on Sunday.

Participating on the gun crew this past weekend were:

- Cap't Ken Janson
- 1st Sgt. Tom Phinney
- Pvt. Bill Duncan (on Sat.)
- Pvt. Jeff Kuhn

Pvt. Jerry Miller

Pvt. Debbie Grace

Cpl. Jeff Holtzclaw (present but excused from duty at the surgeon's request)

In conclusion, it can be said that the weather was foul being either oppressively hot or steadily raining. Nonetheless, because of a thorough spirit of friendship and cooperation that pervaded the entire weekend – normal within our Battery but less so of late in the club – Colusa 2011 was in the opinion of this writer one of the best reenactment weekends in which our Battery has yet participated.

I remain you most humble and obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ken Janson". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Capt. Ken Janson

Commanding

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