



# Hurf's Battery

Alabama Light Artillery, ANV<sup>a</sup>.  
Re-enactors of the American Civil War



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8. September 2010

I have the honor to report on the recent action at Fort Stevens on the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> inst.

The Northwest Civil War Council sponsors this annual event over the Labor Day Weekend on the grounds of this former military installation at the mouth of the Columbia River on the Oregon side. Reenactors came from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California and British Columbia. There were some 150 to 200 Union troops, and some 100 to 130 Confederate soldiers counting the infantry and cavalry (mounted and dismounted) together. The artillery brigade added something like 50 more to those numbers.



There were at least as many civilian reenactors as there were military ones.



The civilian encampments were indeed impressive in both the numbers and the quality of the setups.

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### Guns on the field:

- 6 – 3” ordnance guns
- 1 – iron Napoleon
- 1 – 12 pdr howitzer
- 2 – mountain howitzers
- 1 – boat howitzer
- 1 – mortar



The camping areas stretched over a wide area and ran a wide range as to how isolated they were, how exposed to wind and weather, how near modern lampposts, etc. The Confederate artillery camp was convenient to all the other camps, the sutlers, etc. though it was right on a paved driveway and next to the handicapped parking and the firetrucks.

Hurt's Battery camped with the Rockbridge Artillery who proved to be fine hosts being welcoming and hospitable. Major John Leckie, commanding, went out of his way to make sure we felt both welcome and a part of what was going on. The ladies of the Rockbridge Artillery along with our own Mess Sgt. Linda Kalayjian saw to it that we were indeed well fed and happy cannoneers.



In camp and battle for Hurt's Battery, Alabama Light Artillery, were the following:

Capt. Ken Janson

Sgt. Tom Phinney

Pvt. Jeff Holtzclaw

Pvt. John Kalayjian

Pvt. Jerry Miller

Pvt. Jeff Kuhn

Mess Sgt. Linda Kalayjian



Pvt. Kuhn had been occasionally seconded to Hurt's Battery in previous seasons, but has now formally signed up as a full blown member of the unit. Capt. Janson, Sgt. Phinney and Pvts. Holtzclaw and Kuhn drove up to the event together in Jeff H's truck with our good Sophia Antoinette in tow. It was a merry troop of cannoneers on that ride and the fewer details left exposed to public comment the better. The Kalayjians traveled north to the event a day early and spent the night with John Frenzel, the event coordinator, and his family. Pvt. Miller also traveled up to the event on his own but hauled along his 5<sup>th</sup> wheel for his comfort in camping.

Friday's weather was very misty/damp but despite an expectation of showers both Saturday and Sunday's weather was as nice as it could be. Cool and comfortable temperatures with occasional clouds. Monday threatened to give us soggy canvass to pack up, but relented and in the end it did not rain.

The Cascade Civil War Society (CCWS) was represented by their 3" ordnance gun, its crew and some of its dismounted Maryland cavalry. On Saturday morning there was some trouble convincing the NCWC artillery brigade command that they were ready to take the field. They had something of a thrown together crew, but had they been given even a little time to drill, they would have been fine. The colonel decided, however, to stand down their gun for the morning battle on Saturday, though he allowed they might be permitted to participate in the afternoon battle if they could show him they were ready. At the CCWS's request Capt. Janson helped with their drill around midday and they were in fact ready to take the field for the afternoon battle.

The battle field right by the wide Columbia was of a goodly size with excellent sight lines for the public – and there were many spectators. For some of the battles, however, the artillery was placed very far from the grand stands and sometimes there was a dearth of targets to shoot at. The artillery was best displayed when it was positioned pointing



up and directly at the public. There was the common problem of many infantry troops not being aware of the the guns or their normal effect on troops and so ignoring them all together. Nonetheless, some did take hits from our guns.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry is a unit based in Washington State but with members in Idaho and British Columbia. Having noticed our Alabama Bonnie Blue Flag, their officers honored us with visit. The next day we reciprocated, visiting their camp which seemed a happy and contented bunch of Rebs. They and we were happy to have two Alabama units on the field. They are considering traveling south for an RACW event, perhaps Dog Island next spring.

After hours the NCWC Confederates have a reputation for engaging in *unusual* activities



and they did not disappoint. There was a pitched battle between the *Pirates* and the *Svens* including a peanut cannon that shelled the *Svens*, cutlasses and a trebuchet. Other evening activities included music in the camp of the 9<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry with Judy Arter, Loren, John, Capt. Janson and others making some very enjoyable music.

Lastly there was a Hurt's Battery Farkle game of extraordinary proportions:



a newbie threw five *ones* right near the start, there were Japanese chickens, and Sgt.

Phinney's great come from behind last turn wherein he threw five *fours* which seemed to promise him the win but then immediately farkled with five dice, which lost him the game.

Though a long way to go, especially for our cannoneers from California, the trip was well worth it. A good event, an interesting site, a chance to let Sophia Antoinette Barksdale spread the gospel.

Next event: Colusa, California, September 24-26. Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> will be a School Day. We will need help with that if you can be there by 8am Friday morning.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Janson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light grey background behind the text.

Capt. Ken Janson  
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