

Special to the Adjutant's Call

Note: This was received the morning after I sent out the 4th Kentucky newsletter, but was too good not to share.

First Corporal's Report 147th Anniversary of the Battle of Perryville

The 4th Kentucky had the most soldiers for this max effort event in a long time. I counted 27 men during the weekend. No rain, windy, and a full moon.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Full moon both nights
- Hanging around the fire. Alex & Sam were the last down.
- Early morning battle on new part of the battlefield Saturday morning.
- Rations on Saturday morning with the adult beverage– thanks for cooking Sammy.
- Big insect landing on my nose during Saturday battle. The only time I was scared all weekend, Chad.
- Young Raymond doing so good as a soldier– Old “Bench Leg” AJ should be proud.
- Freddie's new uniform.
- Seeing all the old & new friends. Tom Kelly back in Kentucky, the Greensburg reenactors, the Wolfe family in the civilian camp, a new Judge in town. Thanks Mike & I love New York- “Ghost Rider.”
- Thanks to CH for good drill both days. We were the only company that did it & thanks to Hartwell on Saturday.
- Voting in new member– great job Bob Peeples.
- No beer from Fielding, but he is losing the carbs.
- “Greggie you are so cute!”
- Around the fire Saturday night– whiskey, beer, blackberry wine, and & hot dogs– Freddie you have started something. I got George's sausage hanging & Haytor going down twice.
- Big Oxen-Sam Turk– was that Kung Fu?
- Confederate Memorial Service– that's what the 4th is all about. Thanks, CH.
- Battle Sunday was fun, but short. What is the problem?
- To me, Perryville Battlefield is the home of the 4th KY. This is my 21st year.

Your Most Obedient Servant,
Acting 1st Corp. Lunk Smith

Check this out....

I just finished reading an interesting book called "The Liberty Hall Volunteers" written by W.G. Bean. The Liberty Hall Volunteers were all students from Washington & Lee University & enlisted in 1861 in the 5th Virginia Infantry. This book was written from the diary of W.G. Bean, who was a member of that unit. They fought the whole war as part of the Stonewall Brigade. Out of 150 men in the company, 5 came home at the end of the war. What I found interesting in this book is comments he had about knapsacks & greatcoats. We as reenactors often argue over whether they used them.

On page 114 of his book, in the chapter called "The Valley Campaign," he states *"The knapsack in which he carried them had been lost and, although later found, its contents were so wet as to be worthless. With the approaching summer an order had come from headquarters that all overcoats were to be sent back to Staunton, but blankets and clothes were to be carried by the soldiers."*

In the chapter "He Fell...Sword in Hand" (page 137) he says *"A piece of shell struck my knapsack, but was too spent to hurt me."*

In the chapter "Dirty, Ragged, & Barefooted" (page 156) he says *"This morning I took off the only suit I have and had it washed and...now I feel clean, a feeling I have been stranger to for a long time, but [since] the suit is white it soon becomes dirty and we seldom have a chance to wash, so I suppose I will be dirty until winter puts an end to the marching."*

In the chapter "Capture at the Bloody Angle" (page 181) he says *"We have all sent off our extra baggage and are now prepared to move along rapidly as we have only one blanket and change of clothing. I kept my overcoat, didn't like to trust it to Richmond. Will send it home by Mr. Middleton."*

Obviously, the Army of Northern Virginia issued knapsacks and Private Bean kept his for the whole war. They also issued greatcoats & took them up for the summer months & re-issued them in the Fall. I also thought it was interesting that he mentions his suit of clothes being white. This means the Army of Northern Virginia was issued un-dyed wool uniforms. Just thought you guys would enjoy this information.

Your Obedient Servant,

CH Johnston, Captain



A new low- farby hotdogs



Nelson overcooked his...



Dan Smith & the flag



**Confederate Memorial Service
at Perryville**