

The Bayonet

First Quarter 2010



Volume I No.1

The Inaugural edition of the New River Rifles Newsletter

We have come to a new beginning in our reenacting; it was not an easy decision to leave what we have been comfortable with, but we have cast the die and things are looking up. The worst is over, we bit the heck out of that bullet and have moved on; but do not rest on your laurels now! We have the task of proving our convictions, facing new obstacles and problems; I feel that each new test will only strengthen our resolve to ourselves and each other. We have a unique regiment, it is not who we portray or the events we attend; it is the fact that we have a desire to make the best decisions for the regiment not just our own personal glory. We of course will falter, but like the soldiers we portray we pick each other up and carry on. It is many the deep honors which has been bestowed upon your humble scribe, and I hope that I can live up to the expectations.

Your humble and occasionally irascible servant,
Duffy Bowers



After Action Report – Ft. Fisher -



145th Anniversary – 16 January
2010

Where: Fort Fisher, Kure Beach N.C.

When: January 16-17, 2010

Uniform/Impression: 83rd Pa.

Event: 145th Anniversary of the fall
of Fort Fisher to Union Forces

I have the honor to report the following events and activities that transpired on the weekend of January 16-17, 2010 at Fort Fisher a N.C. National Historic Landmark. At least 12 members of the 83rd Pa. arrived at the historic grounds on Friday afternoon of the 15th and setup camp in the woods just northeast of Sheppard's Battery. The weather that afternoon was crisp and clear but the forecast called for heavy rain and high winds on Saturday. Some members of the 83rd Pa had already secured a rental house at Kure Beach and would prove to be a haven from the bad weather that ensued on Saturday evening.

On Saturday the 16th we fell in with The Carolina Legion and were under the command of Bradd Craver for a total compliment of 24 men. We proceeded to the old WW II airstrip and parade grounds and drilled from 10: 00 a.m.till noon. We learned a new method of stacking arms. After the drill we proceeded to the Battle Acre monument on the beach and posed for pictures and spoke with tourist on the beach.



On the afternoon of the same day our unit along with other Federal forces gathered in the woods near the remnants of the Wartime River Road to Wilmington and awaited orders to begin the attack on the Confederates who were positioned on the earthworks of Sheppard's Battery. Our wait was a little long while our counterparts began the attack on the south side of Sheppard's Battery. When the command finally came to march and attack we advanced across the River Road Sally Port Bridge and engaged the enemy on the north side of the battery. The fighting was intense but short lived. By the time the battle was over and we had defeated the enemy perhaps only thirty minutes had passed. The battle could have lasted longer or we should have been ordered to advance sooner.

On the evening of the same day the weather turned for the worse and it began to rain as the forecast had predicted. Those of us who had secured the rental house at Kure Beach were already appreciating the modern comforts and engaged in a game of low stakes poker while enjoying a fine meal. Some members of our unit who had been at camp decided to join us to relieve themselves of the foul weather. The rental house was now overfilled and the additional members slept in the living room or joined us at the poker table as the evening progressed. . As the poker game continued some members seemed to do better than others at winning hands. The weather continued to get worse and the winds picked up.



By Sunday morning the 17th the storm had passed and the sky was clearing up. But the battle was canceled due to the sad fact that the historic earthworks and fields at Fort Fisher were to wet and saturated from the storm. Recreating the battle that day would have done considerable damage to the historic site.

I have the honor the be,
Private, very respectfully, your most
obedient servant,

Allan Baehm
Pvt. - New River Rifles

Roster

- Cpt Bradd Craver
- 1st Sgt Dallas Edwards
- Cpl Brain Kiser
- Cpl Duffy Bowers
- Pvt Allan Baehm
- Pvt Allen Gross
- Pvt Gary Parks
- Pvt Warren Davis
- Pvt Jeff Montgomery
- Pvt Nick Kleinert
- Pvt Brain Beard
- Pvt Shannon Joyce
- Pvt Justin Edwards
- Pvt Kevin Sutherland
- Pvt Frank Moseley
- Civ Andrew Craver



After Action Report – Rockford, NC -



In compliance with orders from regimental headquarters, I have the honor to report the operations of this company during the battle near Rockford NC.

March the 7th

The Company under the command of Cpt Bradd Craver was dispatched to the small village of Rockford NC. We approached the village from a Southwesterly direction. After some careful scouting the company discovered that the rail lines ran just to the western side of the village. The company then marched up the rail line and moved in to position of the heights on the Western side of the village. Discovering the 6th NC cavalry had dismounted and was heavily engaged, with a Federal forces just North of the Village, the company marched down the slope of the heights, placing the company just Northwest of the village and behind the Federal line in a clearing, with woods on the left

flank and urban development on the right.

The company then advanced on the Federal position forcing the Federal unit to abandon a part of there breastworks, the company captured the first row of breast works. With the company in a hot battle, Federal cavalry moved up on the right flank of the unit. Under the command of First Sgt Dallas Edwards, the first platoon forced the cavalry to re position; at that time the 6th NC cavalry dismounted moved up and pushed them out of the right flank. Around the same time frame a group of skirmishers came out of the woods on the right flank and threatened the right.

Cpt Craver quickly refused the flank and pushed the skirmishers up the field and to there own breastworks. First Sgt Edwards re positioned first platoon back alongside the company and it was at this time First Sgt Edwards was wounded severely in the buttocks. Surgeons later said that that First Sgt's buttocks wound was complicated by the amount of thorns they had to pull out the buttocks cheeks! With casualties on the rise and ammunition running short, Cpt Craver orders the advance. The company went over the breastworks and meet the enemy with a rebel yell and completely destroyed the Federal force at Rockford NC.

The part here done by the company saved the day and gained a strategic victory for completely destroying the Federal army in this part of North

Carolina. The company's performance was outstanding, and it was clear that the New River Rifles was heard from!

Very respectfully,

Pvt Kevin M. Sutherland

Roster

Cpt Bradd Craver
1st Sgt Dallas Edwards
Cpl Gary Parks
Pvt Frank Moseley
Pvt Roger Scott
Pvt Kevin Sutherland
Pvt Paulie Moore
Pvt Justin Edwards
Pvt Allan Baehm
Civ Andrew Craver

Up Coming Events

April 6-11 March to Destiny
Saylor's Creek – Appomattox

April 23-25 Buchanan VA
83rd Pennsylvania

May 21-23 Spotsylvania, VA
New River Rifles
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May 14-16 Waxhaws NC
New River Rifles

June 18-20 Foster Falls, VA
New River Rifles (Bring Blue)

July 2-4 Gettysburg, PA
New River Rifles

After Action Report – Bentonville, NC -



Report on recent engagement near
Bentonville, North Carolina

Unit members arrived at the site in random order on the evening of Friday, March 19. Camp was established along a dirt road and in the woods behind the Confederate camps. Unit strength for the event consisted of one commissioned officer, five NCOs and sixteen privates. The unit was designated as Second Company of the Second Battalion under Major Washburn. The Brigade commander was Col. Lance Dawson. Saturday morning consisted of a brief company and brigade drill.

After lunch the unit moved to the battlefield and took a position on the extreme left. There appeared to be thousands of spectators and the approximate strength of the two armies was estimated at 1200 Confederate and 1000 Federal. Once in position the Federal Army was ordered on the defensive and to dig entrenchments, which was facilitated by the soft, sandy soil.



After about an hour rebel forces appeared to the front and began a series of probing attacks by skirmishers and light companies.

The battle began in earnest with heavy attacks by massed Confederate infantry. Although pressed hard by the assaults, the Federal lines, backed by 6-8 artillery pieces, held and the Confederates withdrew leaving their dead scattered in front of the trenches. The 83rd Pa. did suffer one major casualty, a private overcome by dehydration and heat had to be evacuated from the field. Following a post battle inquiry as to the well being of its casualty and assurance that all was well the unit traveled into the town of Newton Grove and a Bar-B-Que and Seafood buffet at a local eatery. Although the quality of the food left a little to be desired the amounts were sufficient to fill even the most empty of stomachs. After the meal, members gathered at a few empty tables in the back of the restaurant and held a brief meeting to discuss finances, future events and bylaws.

On Sunday the unit moved with the army on a short mile march to an adjacent battlefield and again was ordered to dig in, this time on the extreme right. The wait was short

as Confederate forces again appeared to the front and began a series of harassing attacks. At the height of the battle the Federal Army found itself hard pressed from the front, the rear and the left flank.

The troops fought desperately, shifting troops from the front to the rear to meet multiple threats with lines spread to one rank to cover the entire front. Bolstered by a company armed with Henry repeaters, the 83rd and the army held its position.



The 83rd suffered its heaviest casualties when the union right, leaving the safety of its trenches attempted to follow up the last Confederate repulse with a counterattack, although repulsed with heavy loses the Confederate forces were still very dangerous and easily repelled the Federal counterattack.

Remaining on the battlefield briefly for visit from Mr. Brady, the unit returned to camp at a leisurely pace and packed for the trip home.

Before hitting the main road the unit did pause at Smithfield's Bar-B-Que for a very tasty last meal together. Following the traditional unit toast, the unit broke bread and then followed up with a brief discussion of future plans for the unit. Most members agreed that this inaugural battle of the New River Rifles was one of the best and

although some issues still needed to be addressed the future is bright, the New River Rifles has been warmly welcomed and embraced by the reenacting community both north and south and the opportunities for the unit are boundless.

Respectfully submitted
Capt. Frank R. Moseley
83rd Pa. Vol. Infy.

Roster

Cpt	Frank Moseley
1 st Sgt	Dallas Edwards
Cpl	Gary Parks
Cpl	Josh Lindamood
Cpl	Duffy Bowers
Cpl	Brain Kiser
Pvt	Brian Beard
Pvt	Kevin Sutherland
Pvt	Paulie Moore
Pvt	Keith Tesh
Pvt	Nelson Tesh
Pvt	T.J. Cox
Pvt	Nick Kleinert
Pvt	Warren Davis
Pvt	Bradd Craver
Pvt	Roger Scott
Pvt	Allan Baehm
Pvt	Allen Gross
Rct	Forrest
Rct	Larkin
Rct	Rick
Civ	Luke Gross
Civ	Andrew Craver
Civ	Austin Craver
Civ	Bethany Davis

If you would like to submit an AAR or other article please send it to :
jdbowers@radford.edu

The length and style is up to the author, and photos are always welcome.
-editor

Other Items:

I intend to make a print copy for the future, however without a complete roster this is not an option at this time. So send you information to Frank who is now compiling the Roster.

Remember, when someone asks what is going on in the
New River Rifles;
By god man, give them
The Bayonet!