

The Swamp Hog Gazette

Volume '22 Issue 4

May & June, 2002

Captain's Corner Captain Greg Walz

The first two MAX events have taken place. At Ft. Wayne 20 members endured some tough weather. It was cold, rained off an on, and the wind didn't help. In spite of the poor weather we accomplished a good deal and everyone I talked to was glad they came.

Our new officers and NCOs performed well and the Company looked good.

The Lawrenceburg event was special in several ways. First it was not open to any unit that wished to attend. Other than the 32nd Indiana, which was the host unit, we were the only other Federal infantry company invited. Our musicians (Ryan Connors, Aaron Hemmick, Dave Lesley, and Nick Walz) were praised and appreciated by everyone. Words cannot express the pride I have in our musicians. Secondly, based upon the vote of the membership and a specific list of names that pledged to attend this event at the January meeting I signed my name to a contract that we would bring a Company of 15 or more along with our musicians to Lawrenceburg, In.

I also sent a special letter, at my expense, to each member asking for support of this undertaking. A total of 18 stood tall and helped honor my word and that of Company A including the 4 musicians and the rest of our roster did not. We were to have received \$1,000 if we kept our part of the bargain (\$500 for 15 or more soldiers and \$500 for our musicians). On behalf of Company A I was presented with a check for \$1,500 for the outstanding effort that we made towards the success of the Lawrenceburg event. I had mixed

emotions when I was handed that check. Great pride in the men that surrounded me but I also knew a bunch of people I trusted let us down. Company A exists and stands as one of the very best Federal reenactor units because of those that give of themselves and not always give to themselves. The following men joined me at Lawrenceburg and I thank them from the bottom of my heart:

Lt. Dave Wilcoxon
1st. Sgt. Jon Fraley
2nd Sgt. Ken Callaway
Q'Master Sgt. Jim DuMond
Cpl. Mark Coutts
Cpl. Bill Hemmick
Brevet Cpl. Tom South
Brevet Cpl. Jerry Smith
Pvt. Steve Bouldin
Pvt. Lee Dunn
Pvt. Ron Cole
Pvt. Lee Siler
Pvt. Jim Williamson
Mus. Dave Lesley
Mus. Ryan Connors
Mus. Nick Walz
Mus. Aaron Hemmick

Attention Company ! by 1st Sgt. Jon Fraley

A new season is upon us and now is the time to prepare for the many enjoyable days on the Battle Field and around the camp fire. Roll those cartridges, sew on those loose or missing buttons,

clean the inside of the canteen and let it air dry, and put neets foot oil on all the leather accouterments. Gentlemen look to the schedule for May and observe two important events.

1. Lawrenceburg ,Indiana 3,4&5 Friday is education day, Sat.& Sunday are celebrations of the towns 150th birthday. Company "A" will be rewarded \$1000 IF we have 15 soldiers or more for their festivities that week-end. Gentlemen your Company is calling for your participation in this event. This is your chance to really do something important for your Company.

2. Indianapolis, Indiana 10&11 May 2002 at the largest Civil War Monument in the world. This will be an education day on the 10th with camping down town and re-dedication ceremony on 11 May. Gentlemen this is extremely important --- the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Our very own 1st Lt. Wilcoxon has caused \$10,000 to be contributed by 2 well known Industries within this State. This is an opportunity that seldom appears on the horizon, let us in large numbers sieze the day, that we might truly honor and respect the gallant and brave sons of Indiana !

Quartermaster's Report By Qms. Sgt. Jim DuMond

The season is getting into full swing now and I must inform you all before we get to far into it of some of my policies regarding loaner equipment. If you have any needs from loaner equipment to rides you must make it known at least 3 days prior to the start of an event. This is to allow us enough time to get you fixed up. A last minute call will gain you nothing. I will handle all equipment requests and other needs can be communicated to either myself or other members of your elected leadership within the company. We'd be happy to help you out but we need time.

I have placed the last order of gaitors for the year. Scott Wallick will be jacking up the price quite a bit to discourage orders during the summer. There will be 2 pair (medium size) that will be made available for sale payable to the company. There were two other orders made to me (you know who you are, one of whom I've already received payment) that will arrive with these extra gaitors.

That is all for now,

Civil War Song of the Month by Cpl. Mark Coutts

"Home, Sweet Home"

Words by Julia Ward Howe Music: "John Brown's Body"

At the time of the Civil War "Home, Sweet Home", was still one of the most popular American songs. It was a natural favorite of soldiers on both sides of the conflict who, away from home and lonely in a bloody, brutal war, could sigh and say, "Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home." It was only proper and appropriate that this musical unity between armies should be achieved with one of the most popular songs ever written. The lyrics were by John Howard Payne, an American, who had written it in collaboration with the English composer, Sir Henry Bishop as part of the libretto of an opera, "Clari," or "The Maid of Milan". The Opera was first produced in London in 1823. Because of the widespread popularity and commercial success, which it enjoyed in the United States, "Home, Sweet Home" quickly became the first genuine American "hit" despite its British composer.

On a clear, starlit night along the banks of the Potomac River, while two mighty armies faced

each other from opposite banks of the river, the loneliness, homesickness, and heartaches of fighting men at war overflowed into song. A nineteenth century "battle of the bands" began with martial, patriotic, and sentimental songs coming first from one side of the river and then the other. One of the armies took up the yearning refrain of "Home, Sweet Home," and suddenly the sweet strains of the melody familiar to all Americans came drifting through the air from both sides of the Potomac. The two armies, locked in mortal combat for months had stopped their killing for the length of a song to share a common emotion.

'Mid pleasures and palaces though I may roam,
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home;
A charm from the sky seems to hallow us there,
Which seek thro' the world, is ne'er met with
elsewhere.

(chorus)

An exile from home, splendor dazzles in vain,
Oh, give me my lowly thatched cottage again;
The birds singing gaily, that come at my call;
Give me them, with that peace of mind, dearer
than all.

(chorus)

To thee, I'll return, overburdened with care,
The heart's dearest solace will smile on me there.
No more from that cottage again will I roam,
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.

(Chorus)

Chorus

Home! Home! Sweet, sweet home!
There's no place like home, There's no place like
home.

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