



The Dispatch

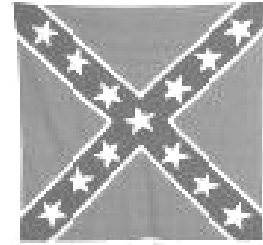
Newsletter of the

9th Texas Infantry Regiment

March, 2005

Volume 3, Issue 3

Fred Yokubaitis, Editor



From the Colonel

Gentlemen,

You should be receiving this edition of the newsletter before we leave for Port Hudson. Everyone is encouraged to attend this event. It promises to be a good time, and different from the past. If you've never been to the park, it's beautifully preserved and has a wonder museum. The whole experience is worth the trip.

Everyone is reminded that we are heavily focusing our efforts this year on recruiting. It is the duty of each 9th TX member to support the recruiting efforts by volunteering to help at recruiting events. Please keep an eye out for announcements of these opportunities and communicate your availability to your company commander. As is only fair, companies that put forth no recruiting effort will receive no new members. If you discover a recruiting opportunity that we are not attending, please bring it to the attention of the staff. By the way, the next opportunity is May 21-22 at Grapevine Main Street Days.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you of some new projects underway in the battalion. I'm happy to announce that we will have a new, improved, and updated 9th Texas website in the very near future. Besides being updated, the site will allow more space, greater bandwidth, no pop-ups, and a personal 9th Texas e-mail address for each dues paid member. Like the message board, this e-mail address will be very useful in disseminating information to all members at once. Look for more information on this in the near future.

In addition to the website, the 9th Texas Handbook is getting a much needed revamping. When finished, it will be available in electronic format online, and will be distributed in hard copy format to all new recruits.

I hope everyone is in the process of preparing for the 143rd Battle of Corinth. By this I mean procuring any new uniform pieces or accouterments you may want for the event. This is not to say we are requiring people to buy anything, but to serve as a reminder for those who are; the event will be upon us sooner than you think.

I remain, your most obedient servant,

Col. Fred Yokubaitis

Upcoming Events

(See inside for detailed information)

April 2-3, 2005 – Port Hudson, LA

April 29 – May 1, 2005 – Jefferson, TX

May 21, 2005 (9:00 A.M.) – Drill at Old City Park

May 21-22, 2005 – Grapevine Main Street Days

June 4-5, 2005 – Texas Scottish Fest & Highland Games

June 11-12, 2005 – Tribbey, OK

June 25-26, 2005 (9:00 A.M.) – Drill at Old City Park

July 4, 2005 – 4th of July at Old City Park

July 23, 2005 (9:00 A.M.) – Drill at Old City Park

August 13, 2005 (9:00 A.M.) – Drill at Old City Park

September 10-11, 2005 – Fall Battalion Muster

October 1-2, 2005 – Corinth, MS

October 22-23, 2005 – Texian Market Days

November 5-7, 2005 – Old Washington, AR (Proposed)

November 19-20, 2005 – Plantation Liendo

December 10, 2005 (9:00 A.M.) – Drill at Old City Park

**** Important Reminders ****

9th Texas Infantry Year 2005 Membership IDs:

9th Texas Infantry Year 2005 Membership IDs are currently being distributed. Please replace you old 2004 ID with the new one and have it with you at all events.

143rd Battle of Corinth Registration:

Registration for the 143rd Battle of Corinth is now open. Registration deadline is September 15, 2005. Please see the *Announcements* section of this edition for more information.

Remember to check

the

Battalion's Web Page:

www.9thtexas.tripod.com

For the latest Battalion news, event information,
and message board.

Recent Event Attendance

January 15, 2005 – Drill: 51 people

February 12, 2005 – Twiggs: 27 people

2005 Event Information

Siege of Port Hudson Reenactment

April 2-3, 2005

Port Hudson, LA

(Battalion Maximum Effort!)

This event will be hosted by the Mississippi Valley Brigade. We will portray The 165th NY Zouaves. The MVB will be in a full garrison camp for the weekend: including commissary, medical corps, and quartermaster department. See the event flier in the February issue of The Dispatch for more information.

Jefferson Reenactment / Living History

April 29-May 1, 2005

Jefferson, TX

(Battalion Effort)

This event will be hosted by The Mississippi Valley Brigade. Our impression will be Western Confederate. More information forthcoming.

Battalion Drill

May 21, 2005

Old City Park, Dallas, TX

The park schoolhouse will be open starting at 4:00 P.M. for those wishing to stay out Friday night (bedding recommended). There will be an Office & NCO meeting in the schoolhouse at 8:00 A.M. Drill to start promptly at 9:00 A.M. Light marching order for drill.

Grapevine Main Street Days

May 21-22, 2005

Grapevine, TX

(Recruiting Event)

We will need volunteers to help recruit for the weekend. More information forthcoming.

Texas Scottish Fest & Highland Games

June 4-5, 2005

UT Arlington Stadium, Arlington, TX

(Recruiting Event)

We will need volunteers to help recruit for the weekend. More information forthcoming.

Tribbey Reenactment, OK

June 11-12, 2005

Tribbey, OK

We will portray Western Confederates. Those gearing up Trans-Mississippi impressions for Corinth are highly suggested to use it. The land provides for a great event and the snow cone vender can't be beat. More information forthcoming.

Battalion Drill

June 25, 2005

Old City Park, Dallas, TX

The park schoolhouse will be open starting at 4:00 P.M. for those wishing to stay out Friday night (bedding recommended). There will be an Office & NCO meeting in the schoolhouse at 8:00 AM. Drill to start promptly at 9:00 A.M. Light marching order for drill.

4th of July at Old City Park

July 4, 2005

Old City Park, Dallas, TX

(Living History / Recruiting Event)

More information forthcoming.

Battalion Drill

July 23, 2005

Old City Park, Dallas, TX

More information forthcoming.

Battalion Fall Muster

September 10-11, 2005

Ft. Parker / Groesbeck, TX

(BATTALION MAXIMUM EFFORT!)

Our Fall Muster will be held at Ft. Parker. Muster will be dedicate to finalizing our preparation for the 143rd Battle of Corinth Reenactment. More information forthcoming.

143rd Battle of Corinth Reenactment

October 2-4, 2005

Corinth, MS

(BATTALION MAXIMUM EFFORT!)

This is the big Division event for the year. We will portray The 2nd Texas Infantry. More information forthcoming.

Texian Market Days

October 22-23, 2005

Richmond, TX

This event is hosted by our battalion members The Texas Rifles. More information forthcoming.

Port Jefferson Campaign

Jefferson, Texas

April 29 – May 1, 2005

Schedule of Events

Friday, April 29, 2005

Living History open to the public
Arrival and setup

Saturday, April 30, 2005

10:00 A.M. Military Parade through town
3:00 Battle
Evening dinner, dance, and music

Sunday, May 1, 2005

Church services in the morning
2:00 P.M. Battle

General Information:

The Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce and the Mississippi Valley Brigade are sponsoring the Port Jefferson Campaign reenactment. This year's reenactment promises to be far different from those in the recent past and perhaps one of the most memorable.

This will be a semi-campaign event. There will be about a three mile total march covering several hours on Saturday, and will be broken up into several segments.

The impression for the Red River Battalion at this event will be as much of a late-war Trans-Mississippi impression as possible by the battalion members. If you do not have a Trans-Mississippi impression, your standard mid-war Army of Tennessee impression will be fine.

Scenario:

It's May 1864. The struggle for Southern independence has been raging for three years, yet Texas has remained relatively untouched by the ravages of war that have destroyed so many Confederate homes and cities back east - Untouched until now.

Lincoln wants to thrust the dagger of defeat into the heart of the Confederacy, and thus end the bloody affair once and for all. To accomplish this he has ordered an operation, known as the Red River Campaign, to capture Shreveport, setting up an advance into the Lone Star State.

The fertile soils of East Texas continue to create excellent cash crops of cotton that are shipped through the Union's blockade. This allows the South to purchase much needed goods from European companies eager to capitalize on the American war of brother against brother. Jefferson Texas is a major player in that process with her inland port giving access to the gulf. Additionally, she offers major powder works and production warehouses that serve the Southern war effort.

The Union forces of Gen. Nathaniel Banks have fought a vigorous two month campaign up the Red River beating the Confederates at Mansfield and then later taking Shreveport by Assault. The Confederate Trans-Mississippi Commander Gen. Kirby Smith has retreated into East Texas to rally his forces. Perhaps they can turn the tide before all is lost!

Gen. Banks wants to crush his foe but first he wishes to take away his fighting resources so he has launched a campaign to capture Port Jefferson. From there he will press the attack to Marshall and Tyler.

The worn, battle hardened Confederate's of Gen. Gray's Louisiana Brigade realize they are no match for the overwhelming numbers of advancing federals. Thus they are compelled to evacuate the City and leave it to Union hands. Yet another bitter loss in a series of humiliating defeats for these hardened veterans.

The South's only hope is to lure the Federals into the open field and strike a blow that might cause the collapse of their advanced column. In doing so they just might keep the young Confederacy alive!

The event opens with the chaos of a City about to be overtaken by the enemy. Watch the Southern army march through the streets of Jefferson as they make for the retreat. Watch as the Forward Federal units enter the city and engage the rear guard of the Confederate forces. Witness the Southerners as they try desperately to defend Jefferson's streets, her citizens, and the important warehouses holding food, ammunition and other vitals supplies. Experience the sound of distant artillery and the rush of men frantically loading wagons to avoid capture. Observe the skillful attack by Union Veterans bent on ending the hope of independence for the Southern nation.

Most of the people of Jefferson are deeply saddened by the loss. Others are openly glad to be brought back to the United States. Either way, you will know what it feels like to be occupied. You will witness the actions before, the battles between and the grime after math of this grand event.

Battles:

There will be at least three battles that will follow the chronological time line of this hypothetical scenario. One of these battles will occur in the Historic downtown area of Jefferson, along their original bricked streets. Efforts are being made to de-farb that section of town as much as practical.

The other actions will take place on the outskirts of the city. Full details on the battles will be withheld so that the “surprise of action” is not lost.

Civilian Activities:

This event will be a city and surrounding countryside scenario. Civilians will play a very prominent role, including extensive interaction with both armies. The event’s goal is to get the authentic civilians right into the heart of the scenario.

A dance will be held in downtown Jefferson, directly in front of the historic Excelsior hotel. This is a very charming setting that should give the gala a unique feel.

Registration:

Registration for all dues paid military members of the Red River Battalion has been submitted by the battalion adjutant. All civilian reenactors will need to register individually and directly with the event. Please register civilians online at <http://www.jefferson-texas.com/battle.htm> and indicate the 9th Texas as your affiliation. The registration deadline is April 15, 2005.

Event Guidelines, Safety & Authenticity:

1. Bayonets and ramrods may be carried onto the field of battle, but at no time are they to be drawn or used. NO EXCEPTIONS!
2. The minimum age for carrying of arms into battle is 16 years old and the minimum age for a participant is 14 years old.
3. The overall commander for either side shall govern the activities of their respective armies both in camp and on the battlefield. Participating units are expected to explicitly follow their orders with respect to all military matters. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of participation privileges.
4. Display of colors by units on either side will be strictly governed. Children will not be allowed to carry Colors. Colors displayed must be made of the appropriate materials and of the proper pattern for this era of history. Only one National standard will be allowed for each organized battalion. Likewise, each battery may have one standard only. The same holds for each organized cavalry battalion. Colors in camp are to flown at Regimental and Brigade HQs.
5. All cartridges are to be made up prior to the event. Paper is not to be loaded into the muzzle of weapons. Maximum musket or rifle charges will be 70 grams of FF or FFF powder. All cartridges will be carried in cartridge boxes only. This does not include haversacks. Officers are encouraged to make use of ammunition chests to re-supply their men during the day’s skirmishing and battle.
6. There is to be no hand-to-hand combat unless specifically staged by the overall commanders. Capture of an opponent’s Colors is not an objective of this event and due to the sensitivity of capturing one another’s Colors, this activity will not be tolerated. **No suicidal charges will be permitted!**
7. All reenactor’s vehicles are to be parked in a designated area. **All vehicles will be removed from the camping area by 8:00 a.m. on Saturday (this includes artillery and sutlers!) and not allowed to return until after Sunday’s battle. This rule will be very strictly enforced!** All equipment packed into or out of the Confederate or Federal campsite will have to be done by hand from 8:00 a.m. on Saturday until 3:00p.m. Vehicle access to the camp from 8 a.m. Sat. until 3 p.m. Sun. will NOT be allowed. This is and should be a very basic rule of reenacting and will be enforced here.
8. No modern anachronisms shall be in view in camp. Please help us with this! Just as modern things take away from our feeling of authenticity; it makes a farce out of our efforts to the public.
9. Officers and NCOs are responsible for the conduct and honorable behavior of their men. Event rules are expected to be enforced by the same.
10. Only muzzle loading, full-scale artillery will be allowed onto the field and will be subjected to the inspection of the artillery coordinator.
11. All unit commanders are required to attend officer’s call! Scenarios will be discussed details that are relevant to the safety of all. Attendance in Battalion drill if held by Army commanders is required for participation in the battle reenactments.

Uniform and Equipment:

This is a late war Trans-Mississippi Scenario based upon alternative history assuming that the Red River Campaign has been successful. The impression for the Red River Battalion at this event will be as much of a late-war Trans-Mississippi impression as possible by the battalion members. If you do not have a Trans-Mississippi impression, your standard mid-war Army of Tennessee impression will be fine.

Generally speaking, the Confederate troops should be physically worn from several weeks of marching, fighting and retreating. Their appearance should be tattered looking and drab or dirty from the elements. The overall morale should be low. The men still have fight in them but they are not exactly optimistic about the future.

Jackets: Houston Depot items, Penitentiary jackets, imported Tait jackets or shell jackets made from imported English cloth, Columbus Depot jackets, civilian sack coat/frock coat, commutation or other plain jean-wool shell jackets.

Trousers: Jean-wool CS issue (un-dyed or dyed) or Civilian pattern / material.

Headgear: Civilian style slouch hat, jean-wool kepi, or Captured Federal kepis (very limited quantity).

Shoes: Jefferson Brogans. Officers and Cavalry could substitute with riding boots.

Shirts: Appropriate mid 19th century pattern.

Weapons: All infantry should carry three band Enfield or Springfield rifles. No pistols for line infantry. No repeating rifles except for Federal troops.

Accoutrements: Correct leather or painted canvas items are acceptable. Buff leather should be used in limited quantity. Haversacks should be primarily plain canvas. Painted Federal haversacks are a secondary choice.

Canteens: Historical accurate tin or wooden pattern canteens are fine. Sky blue canteen covers should be avoided.

CAMPING:

Consider this a semi-campaign style event. There will be accommodations for both those who like to use tents and those who do not. For Confederate troops, tent-flies and shelter-halves will be strongly encouraged.

The first half of the event scenarios takes place in downtown Historic Jefferson. Friday night, there will be a Confederate and Federal camp set up in Downtown Jefferson to avoid having to move troops into town early Saturday morning. Both of these camps are located in historic settings and well separated from one another. A shuttle system will be set up for moving troops from the main event area to Jefferson Friday evening and Saturday morning. It is very highly recommended that troops plan to spend Friday night in town. However, this is optional for all units. These areas will be campaign style as there are no arrangements set up for tents in these areas.

No women/civilians will be allowed to camp in the military camping areas. Units wishing to camp with their wives and families must do so in the civilian camping area only.

Tentage:

The Red River Battalion will have a static camp at the reenactment site. A-frames, tent flies, and shelter halves are all acceptable forms of shelter for the weekend. Please try to keep up the impression of a campaign camp, and an army on the move, as much as possible (i.e. little to no furniture and heavy baggage). As always, all modern items should be kept out of site; concealed in your shelter, stored in your vehicle, or left at home. Please refrain from bringing any unnecessary items.

Rations:

Some food items will be issued to the Confederate troops and the event sponsors will provide a free meal Saturday night. Please plan on bringing your own rations for all other meals. Since we will be on the move Saturday morning and afternoon, plan on bringing campaign food for meals during this time.

Amenities:

Water, Port-a Johns, firewood, and hay are available on site. The event will provide a dinner Saturday night. There will be sutlers on site and will be set up convenient to both camps.

Additional Information:

There will be a 3 mile march from town to the event site in preparation for the afternoon action. In addition to the fact that it is logistically necessary and part of the scenario, the march is promoted as a salute to our soldiers past and present who have given their lives in combat. The event will make shuttle preparations for those who physically can not make that march.

There are several historic bed & Breakfast homes in Jefferson for lodging as well as hotels/motels located a few miles away in Marshal for anyone no wishing to camp.

Please be prepared for warm weather and the typical bugs of late Spring.

Directions:

Jefferson is located approximately 20 miles north of Marshal, Texas, on US 59, just somewhat across the border from Shreveport, LA. Marshal is located on I-20 between Tyler and Shreveport

Directions from Dallas:

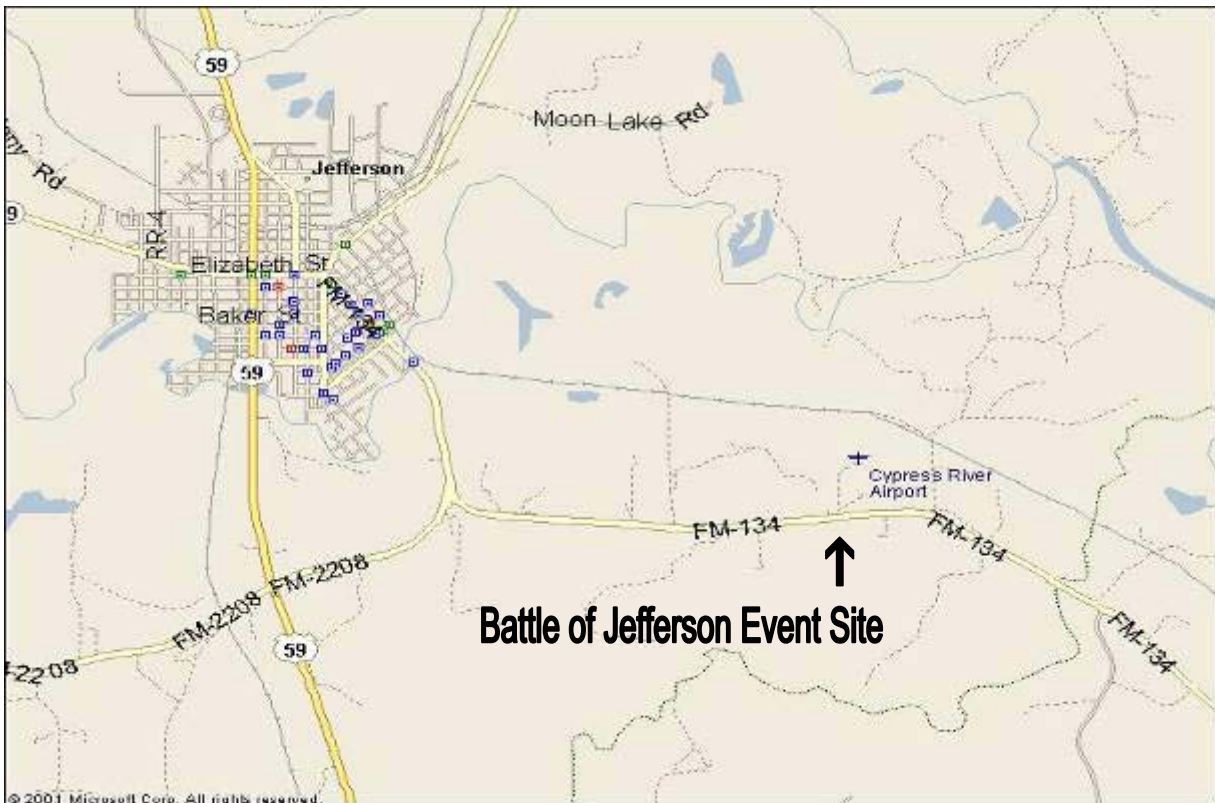
Take I-20 toward Shreveport, LA. In Marshall, turn north on US 59 and go toward Jefferson. Turn east on FM-2208. A couple of miles further you will turn right on FM-134. Approximately 2 miles down and on the right you will find the event site entrance, directly across from the Cypress River Airport.

Directions from Houston:

Take US-59 north toward Jefferson. Turn east on FM-2208. A couple of miles further you will turn right on FM-134. Approximately 2 miles down and on the right you will find the event site entrance, directly across from the Cypress River Airport.

Directions from Waco:

Take Hwy 31/ Hwy 84 east to Tyler. Go north from Tyler to I-20. Take I-20 toward Shreveport, LA. In Marshall, turn north on US 59 and go toward Jefferson. Turn east on FM-2208. A couple of miles further you will turn right on FM-134. Approximately 2 miles down and on the right you will find the event site entrance, directly across from the Cypress River Airport.



Announcements

Red River Battalion Event Automatic Registration Process

In an attempt to expedite and simplify the registration of the battalion for events that DO NOT REQUIRE A REGISTRATION FEE, the battalion adjutant will from this point on automatically register the battalion for all aforementioned type events. The Red River Battalion Roster current at that time will be used for this process, and therefore only dues paid battalion members will be eligible for automatic event registration. Paid registration events (i.e. National events) will be handled per the required event registration policy. The battalion adjutant will submit this registration at earliest possible registration date. It is the job of the battalion adjutant to inform the battalion staff and company commanders when he is submitting the event registration. After that time, the company commanders will be responsible for informing the adjutant of any subsequent registrants (i.e. new recruits), and, if so required, a follow-up registration will be submitted by the event registration deadline.

In an effort to assist civilian registration, a list of affiliated civilians of the Red River Battalion will be included as an addendum to the Red River Battalion Roster. An affiliated civilian is one who has an immediate family member serving in a military role with the Red River Battalion. This list will only be used for automatic registration for the aforementioned type events. As it is not the policy of the Red River Battalion to dictate the on-goings of its affiliated civilians, this list will serve no other purpose in regard to civilian activities. Inclusion on this list is strictly voluntary and it is the responsibility of the eligible civilian to submit an information form to the battalion adjutant, and must be done on a yearly base. Only those who submit their form will be included in the automatic event registration process. All civilians wishing to be included in this automatic event registration procedure should complete the **CIVILIAN REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE RED RIVER BATTALION** found at the back of this issue. Please mail all registration submittals to:

Tom Corll
4302 Aspen Dr.
Killeen, TX 76542

It is goal of the battalion staff to start using this automatic event registration process for the upcoming June 11th event in Tribbey, Oklahoma. Those civilians wishing to take part in the registration procedure are asked to submit their form as soon as possible.

Volunteers needed for the Grapevine Main Street Days Recruiting Event

The next big recruiting event will be the weekend of May 21-22 at the Grapevine Main Street Days in Grapevine, TX. Volunteers from each company will be needed to help recruit for the weekend. We will be conducting a battalion drill that Saturday morning at Old City Park, but everyone is encouraged to go to Grapevine after drill. We will need some people to attend the event in lieu of drill. The impression for the weekend will be mid-war AOT. The battalion has traditionally received as much as \$1000.00 for our participation at this event, but this requires that we have the recruiting booth and display area manned for the duration of the weekend. More information will be provided in the April edition of The Dispatch. To volunteer, or for more immediate information, please contact your company commander. You may also contact Steve Monroe at scot9thtx@yahoo.com

Registration for the 143rd Battle of Corinth is now open

Registration for the 143rd Battle of Corinth is now open at the North-South Alliance website The Red River Battalion will not be automatically registering all battalion members for this event. Registration will be on an individual bases, but will only be processed through the battalion. This is per the required event registration policy. Registration forms for military and civilians, as well as the Event Rules and Regulations, will be published in the April edition of The Dispatch. Those wishing to get a jump on registration may go to the 2005 Battle of Corinth link on the North-South Alliance website (<http://www.nsalliance.org/corinth/>). Once there, click on the "Registration Regulations" link. This will take you to the "Event Rules and Regulations" section, which registrants must read and agree to before being allowed to precede to the registration forms. Once at the registration forms section you will need to print out your required number of copies of the form. Registration directly through the website is not available. Registration forms must be completely filled out. Incomplete forms will be returned to the registrant. If you do not have the requested information for a particular question, please respond with "NONE" or "N/A" in the blank. Registration is \$12.00 per person until August 1st. Between August 1 and September 15, 2005, registration fee is \$20. Make checks payable to: "The 1864 Tennessee Campaign, Inc.". There will be no walk-ons, no substitutions and no refunds allowed for this event. All completed forms and fees must be submitted to Battalion Adjutant Capt. Tom Corll (see address information above).

Articles

The 165th New York Regiment, Second Battalion Duryea's Zouaves; Smith's Zouaves Part 2: The 165th NY Zouaves at the Battle of Port Hudson

By 1st Sgt. Jeff Gibbs; Co. F, 9th Texas Infantry, RRB



Members of the 165th New York Zouaves wearing their distinctive uniforms.

Why Port Hudson?

When the Civil War started in April 1861, both armies made controlling the Mississippi River a major part of their strategy. The Confederacy wanted to continue using the river to transport supplies. The Union wanted full control of the river to split the Confederacy in two, as well as thwarting the South's goal of a transportation highway. The stretch of river between Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Port Hudson, Louisiana, was vitally important to the South because it's close proximity to the mouth of the Red River. This was the South's primary water route moving supplies East and West. In the spring of 1862, the Union took control of New Orleans, Louisiana, and Memphis, Tennessee. It then set its sights on both Vicksburg and Port Hudson. Major Gen. Ulysses S. Grant began operations against Vicksburg in May of 1863. At the same time, Major Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks moved his forces against Port Hudson, Louisiana.

Port Hudson is situated on the Mississippi River north of Baton Rouge. The fortifications are built upon an 80-foot bluff that is surrounded by ravines some 60 feet deep in areas. The area is heavily wooded with pine, oak, and magnolia, and many streams cut through its swampy area. Its major military advantage, as well as its geological and reason for being, is that the Mississippi River severely bends at this point, almost upon itself, making navigation slow and difficult, and defense very easy. Because of this military advantage the siege of Port Hudson lasted for 48 days.

The 165th NY Zouaves Role in the Assault

The 165th NY left Baton Rouge on the morning of May 21, 1863, along with the rest of the Union Army, under the command of Gen. Banks. Their orders were to move north and strike at Port Hudson. It was at this time they were ordered to leave knapsacks and surplus baggage. These items were to be brought up on a transport ship in a few days. Unfortunately for the Zouaves, this never happened. They would spend the next 50 days in the clothes they stood in; along with overcoats, rubber blankets, haversacks, and canteens, before they were re-supplied.

Late in the afternoon of May 21, the 165th had its first skirmish with Confederates at Plain Store. On May 24, the 165th occupied camps deserted by the enemy. They stayed 'down' in the trenches in the camp until the 27th, because Admiral Farragut's fleet was arcing shells and rockets over the 165th's heads, and into enemy fortifications. In these same trenches they were attacked by wood ticks, mosquitoes, spiders, ants, gnats and all sorts of biting insects.

At 9a.m. on the 27th, the 165th lead the brigade assault on the fortifications. Advancing, they came to a clearing that had trees toppled for hundreds of yards in all directions. The trees were toppled off their trunks, trunks cut low to the ground, and tops removed or burnt. They were ordered to discharge their pieces and advance through the fallen trees. As soon as the Zouaves got into the trees a horrible cannonade of grape and musket fire opened up. The men were mowed down. Hardly a man had a descent pair of trousers after going over all the trees. It was here that Colonel Abel Smith was wounded, and died on June 24th. Capt. Felix Agnus immediately took command. The 165th fell back as best they could; but were given no support from any other infantry. Later in the afternoon, the Confederates came out to take prisoners from the wounded, but 165th skirmishers kept them from occupying the whole field. The 165th had been repulsed with terrible slaughter. Their overcoats

and blankets had been left in the woods and they were unable to get back to them the first night. On May 28, a flag of truce was presented by the Zouaves in order to gather wounded and bury the dead. The regimental losses in their first action were killed and wounded seven officers and 85 enlisted. Another 12 unaccounted for presumed captured.



Confederate fortifications at Port Hudson. Union line is right behind, in the foreground.

On May 29, it rained hard and the men had still not found their overcoats or blankets. On May 31, sick and wounded were shipped to Baton Rough and New Orleans. The early part of June was spent on picket, guarding Negro workers as they lay trenches toward the enemy's works. On June 13, naval bombardment began again. At 2a.m. on June 14, the 165th left camp with canteens only, and ammo stuffed into pockets. They advanced from stump to stump on hands and knees. The assault proved a failure and they were pinned down with great loss of life and no water until the 15th. They went 32 hours without food or water. It was decided on the 15th to starve Port Hudson into submission.

The hot humid air and swampy still water made it difficult to obtain fresh drinking water. Water would be fetched up from the Mississippi when possible. Rations were available from with the navy just off in the river, but difficult to cook with the rain and rotted wet wood. Hardtack, beef, and salt pork were available, but not always able to be cooked. Dried apples and pickles were eaten often. Tobacco was the greatest delicacy and was in such demand people would pay gold for it. During the majority of the siege, with no comforts and being pinned down in trenches for their own fire overhead, they conducted "horse races." There was an abundance of all imaginable vermin and insect, and many a large wager was placed on an unsuspecting insect to take the blue ribbon in all manner of races and obstacle courses. Lice was the parasite of choice because the "owners" claimed their bug would win because it had his own blood flowing through its veins.

From June 19, to the June 25, they were on picket duty in the trenches. On the 25th, mines were placed at the end of the trenches to blow up the enemy works. On June 29, the 165th got so close to the works that they threw hand grenades into the works and water batteries, but were pinned down again and did not return to their lines until the 1st of July. On July 4th, the defenders of Vicksburg surrender to Grant. This news was relayed to the confederates at Port Hudson on the 6th, and on the 7th Port Hudson surrendered. On July 9th, the 165th is picked to march first into the fortifications of Port Hudson. The Confederates lay down their arms with no cheers from the Union soldiers, and the men mix together, swapping stories and food, as if they were brothers who had not seen each other in a long while.

On July 24, the 165th's knapsacks and baggage finally arrived from Baton Rough

Of the 561 men of the 165th NY that were possibly engaged at Port Hudson, 117 were either killed or wounded. Three were captured on the 27th of May, but dug out of their prison and returned in their undergarments on the 3rd of July. Up to 50% of this aggregate number was sick in hospital in Baton Rough and New Orleans.

Bibliography

Diary of Robert Welch, Co D 165th NY, compiled in 1903.

History of the Second Battalion; Duryea Zouaves, Register of US Army 1861-1865, written 27 May, 1905.

Diary of George H. Champlin, compiled in 1915

Port Hudson; article in Washington Tribune January 1, 1903, from the diary of Robert Welch, Co. D 165th NY

NY in Rebellion, 3d ed. Vol. V; pages 3920-3928

James R. Nichols
165th New York State Volunteers, Company C
Reprinted from the website at <http://www.longwood.k12.ny.us/history/civil/nichols.htm>

James Nichols was born September 29, 1844 to Martha (Ward) Nichols and James Nichols. His mother died from an illness when he was six, in 1850. He continued to live in Middle Island and grew up to be a farmer.

Nichols enlisted with Captain Stephenson and the 165th New York Volunteers on September 10, 1862, for three years. He was eighteen years old, stood five feet eight inches tall, had blue eyes and light hair.

The regiment left Camp Washington on Staten Island on December 15, 1862. From the foot of Canal Street in New York City, they embarked on the troop transport, Merrimac, destined for New Orleans, Louisiana. On December 20, an engine onboard the Merrimac broke and they were forced to put into Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, for repairs. They stayed at Hilton Head for several days while the boat was repaired. On December 28, they were underway again, and arrived at New Orleans on January 4, 1863.

Nichols was stationed at Camp Parapet in Louisiana for January and February of 1863. He was ill in Charity Hospital in New Orleans for most of March and April. He returned to his unit in May, but fell sick again and was sent to a hospital in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The 165th was part of a Union force attempting to capture key cities on the southern part of the Mississippi. This strategy was coordinated with General Grant, who was attempting to capture Vicksburg up north. If the Union controlled the Mississippi River, they would prevent supplies from reaching the Confederate forces, including much-needed cattle and grain from Texas.

Nichols was well enough to be with the regiment during the siege at Port Hudson, which was located on a key bend on the Mississippi River. His company made a series of attacks against Confederate rifle pits on June 29, losing one man. The city was under siege from May 25 until July 8, 1863, when Confederate General Gardner surrendered. Nichols and the 165th were doing picket duty near the rebel works when Gardner surrendered. On the morning of July 9, the 165th was among the forces that entered and took possession of Port Hudson. Although this was a triumphant event, the 165th had lost 117 men during the siege.

Nichols fell sick again, suffering from malarial fever. Many camps were positioned next to swamps where malaria-carrying mosquitoes bred in the stagnant water. The soldiers referred to malaria as "the shakes," because of the intense shaking caused when the high fever broke. Epidemics of malaria spread rapidly through the camps. More than a million men came down with malaria during the war.

Malaria put James Nichols in a hospital in Port Hudson in August. He remained there, with his condition continuing to deteriorate, until his death on September 27, 1863.

Attention 9th Texas – THE DISPATCH Needs Your Input!!!

The editor needs your help in creating the most informative newsletter possible.
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Remember, this is **your** newsletter!

CIVILIAN REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE RED RIVER BATTALION

Last: _____ First: _____ Middle: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home #: _____ Work #: _____ Cell #: _____

Email: _____

Military Relation: _____

Military Relation's Company: _____

The information provided herein will be used to assemble a list of affiliated civilians of the Red River Battalion and will be included as an addendum to the Red River Battalion Roster. An affiliated civilian is one who has an immediate family member serving in a military role with the Red River Battalion. The purpose of this list is to help expedite and simplify registration of battalion affiliated civilians for all events that DO NOT REQUIRE A REGISTRATION FEE. This list will ONLY be used for automatic registration for the aforementioned type events. As it is NOT the policy of the Red River Battalion to dictate the on-goings of its affiliated civilians, this list will serve NO other purpose in regard to civilian activities. Inclusion on this list is strictly voluntary and it is the responsibility of the eligible civilian to submit this form to the battalion adjutant on a yearly base. ONLY those who submit this form will be included in the automatic event registration process.

Name (print): _____

Name (sign): _____ Date: _____

Signature of parent/legal guardian required if civilian is less than 18 years of age.

Parent or Guardian (print): _____

Parent or Guardian (sign): _____ Date: _____

Please mail completed form to:

Tom Corll
4302 Aspen Dr.
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| <i>Columbus Depot Jacket</i> | <i>\$170</i> |
| <i>Grey jeans with blue cuff and collar</i> | |
| <i>Commutation Jacket</i> | <i>\$155</i> |
| <i>Plain jean or cassimere, no color trim</i> | |
| <i>Penitentiary Jacket</i> | <i>\$155</i> |
| <i>Plain jacket of undyed cotton jean</i> | |
| <i>Civilian Sack Coat</i> | <i>\$140</i> |
| <i>Sack coat of cassimere or sattinete</i> | |
| <i>Confederate Winter Overcoat</i> | <i>\$250</i> |
| <i>Shin-length winter coat of jean or corduroy</i> | |
| <i>Trousers</i> | <i>\$150</i> |
| <i>Civilian w/side seam pockets, constructed of jean wool or cotton jean</i> | |
| <i>Trousers</i> | <i>\$150</i> |
| <i>Military w/mule-ear pockets, constructed of jean wool or cotton jean</i> | |
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