



Hardaway's Alabama Battery

COL. JACK EAVES, COMMANDER
MAJ. BILL ANDERSON

CAPT. KEN JANSON, ADJUTANT
2ND LT. BILL KOHSE

Cannoneers,

I have the honor to report on the recent engagement which took place the 16th, 17th and 18th inst. in the vicinity of Happy Valley, California. This was an RACW event. The event coordinators were Pappy and Donna Walton.

Friday, October 16th was a school day with a large number of students bussed to the site where a variety of stations presented differing aspects of the War and life in mid-19th century America. Though it had rained just the day before, the weather held back for the school day and indeed for most all of the event. The Battery was represented by Capt. Ken Janson as part of the Thrown Together Band and who along with Miss Carrie Rardon discussed the importance of the music of the period and presented several songs to the many groups of students.

Friday evening saw the arrival of the rest of the Battery and we soon had a most respectable artillery camp laid out at right angles to the Confederate infantry encampment. Mrs. Linda Kalayjian once again rendered great service in establishing a Battery Mess that in addition to seeing to the gastronomical needs of our unit, helped give the camp a heart and a center. All were most grateful.



Battery Formation



By Saturday morning both the Confederate and the Union camps were fully established and a sight to see. There were also a good many sutlers on hand. At the entry to the site a good many vendors having nothing to do with the period we represent were on hand. This was, perhaps, a necessary evil. The Lion's Club, a sponsor of the event seemed to see the weekend a more of a carnival than an historic presentation. At any rate they saw it differently than did we, the reenactors. That minor irritant aside,

the location was lovely and the field of good size and easy to make use of if one avoided the stones that seemed a most fruitful crop.

Our Artillery Line was under the command of Capt. Ken Janson on Saturday, and of Sgt. Maj. Mark Price on Sunday. The following guns were on the field:

Sophia Antoinette Barksdale 3" ordnance gun
Capt. Ken Janson, chief of piece (Sunday)
Sgt. Tom Phinney, chief of piece (Saturday)
Sgt. Maj. Mark Price (Saturday)



Sgt. Jeff Holtzclaw
Cpl. John Kalayjian
Cpl. James Kemp
Pvt. Jerry Foster (seconded from the Richmond
Fayette Artillery)

6 pdr. Whitworth

Maj. Bill Anderson, chief of piece
Sgt. Bill Duncan
Pvt. Mary Anderson



Capt. Jack 3 pdr. Whitworth

Sgt. Brett Zurawski, chief of piece
Sgt. George Schlegel
Pvt. Philip Graves (seconded from the Richmond
Fayette Artillery)



Miss Izzy 3 pdr. Whitworth

Sgt. Izabella Eaves, chief of piece
Pvt. Chris Laughlin

The Saturday battles also saw the participation of the Richmond Fayette Artillery's coehorn mortar under the command of Capt. Paul Vancas and two of the RFA's cannoneers.



Our artillery line performed exceedingly well and rendered impressive service. The Yankees opposed us with three guns, a Napoleon, a 3" ordnance gun and a 10 pdr. Parrott. These, especially on Saturday, seemed reluctant to fire with any rapidity either upon us or our infantry. Some conjectured that this was caused by Maj. Laporta's knowledge that we would not be fully reimbursed for our expenditures, and indeed, this turned out to be the case. The Battery will not be fully reimbursed by the RACW under the agreement that set up the event. Capt. Janson has spoken to members of the RACW board and it is hoped that this arrangement will be corrected in the future. All agree that RACW events would be greatly impaired should the artillery, for financial reasons, not be able render the service that it has had the honor to render heretofore.

The battle scenarios on both days went fairly well. The single most limiting factor was that the Federals fielded only half as



many men as did the Confederacy. The Rebels foot soldiers were admirably commanded by Col. Michael Rodrigues. On



Sunday one of the freight wagons that had presented during the school day participated in the battle with four mounted troopers and the Berdans as escort. During these

battles Sgt. Schlegel went forward as a signalman to wig-wag back the orders for the Battery to open upon the enemy.



*Nor Yank, nor horse, nor wagon will
keep him from his rest*



Hardaway's Thunder

The last battle of the weekend saw the Berdan Sharpshooters arrange with us to be wiped out to the man by a blast of cannister from Sophia Antoinette – a most impressive sight. Our compliments to the U.S. Sharpshooters.

It seemed from a distance that the weekend was fairly well attended by the public. At night the evening campfires, the stories, the music, the stars all contributed their share so that the event was a fitting finale to the RACW reenacting season.

Respectfully submitted,

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