



The Haversack

Newsletter of the 7th Military District Spring 2011



Supporting Fort Negley

Members of Fort Donelson Camp 62 and the 10th Tennessee Infantry, SVR, participated in several events in Support of Fort Negley, located in Nashville, Tennessee. Fort Negley was the largest fortification built by the occupying Union Army in Nashville, and the largest inland stone fort constructed during the Civil War. After six decades of neglect and having been closed to the public the fort reopened in December 2004. The \$1,000,000 Visitors Center was opened in 2007, on the 143rd anniversary of the Battle of Nashville, commemorating what is believed to have been the location of the opening salvo of shots in one of the Civil War's most important battles, the December, 1864, Battle of Nashville. Union troops commanded by the 'Rock of Chickamauga,' Major General George H. Thomas, routed Lt. General John Bell Hood's CS Army of Tennessee, eliminating it as an effective fighting force and ending any further threat to federal operations in Tennessee.



1st Sgt Dave DuBrucq and Cpl Bill Heard prepare to do a firing demonstration at Fort Negley



1st Sgt Dave DuBrucq, Cpl Bill Heard and Pvt Bill Heyd answer visitor questions at Fort Negley



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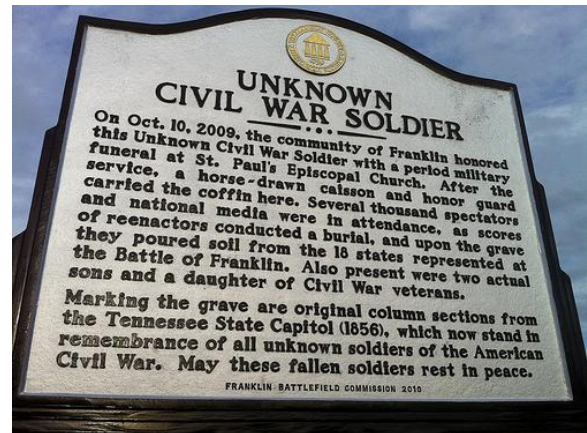


Battle of Franklin Unknown Soldier Honored with Marker

The Battle of Franklin unknown soldier was honored with the dedication of an historical marker funded by private donations from 70 people from several states and one foreign country. The marker was dedicated on April 12, 2011. Historian and Civil War author Professor Thomas Flagel of Columbia College was the keynote speaker at the event. The dedication was also attended by local dignitaries. The Sons of Union Veterans and the Sons of Veterans Reserve who played a major role in the reinterment of the Franklin unknown were represented by Department of Tennessee & Alabama PDC and SVR Pvt Sam Gant, 10th Tennessee Infantry, SVR, Commander 1st Sgt and DSVC David DuBrucq, Pvts Bill Heyd and Chip Huffman, 10th Tennessee Infantry, all members of Fort Donelson Camp 62, SUVCW.

The unknown soldier was discovered by a construction crew in Franklin, Tennessee in April of 2009 and was reinterred with full Civil War period military honors in Rest Haven Cemetery after lying in state at historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church from October 8th to the 10th, 2009. St Paul's was used as a Hospital

during the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, November 30th, 1864. The Battle of Franklin was one of the Western Theaters most brutal and bloody hand to hand battles. The CS Army of Tennessee lost six generals, including the famous "Stonewall of the West" Major General Pat Cleburne during the fierce late afternoon battle.



The Civil War Sesquicentennial Begins

One hundred and fifty years ago, on April 12, 1861, at 4:30 a.m., secessionist batteries surrounding Fort Sumter began their artillery bombardment of Union forces. The Civil War had begun.



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The attack on Fort Sumter is seen as the official opening of the American Civil War

After withstanding 34 hours of bombardment, Major Robert Anderson, commanding the fort, negotiated the surrender of the fort and the evacuation of his troops to Fort Warren in Boston Harbor

Where was that?

The Battle of Hoover's Gap

By 1st Lieutenant Dave DuBrucq

The Battle of Hoover's Gap, one of those lesser known but important conflicts in the Western Theater of war was fought after Confederate General Braxton Bragg withdrew the Army of Tennessee from Murfreesboro following his

near miss loss at the Battle of Stone's River. The Battle of Hoover's Gap occurred in Bedford and Rutherford counties in Tennessee, June 24-26, 1863. After Stones River, Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans and the Army of the Cumberland remained in the Murfreesboro area for about five and one-half months. To counter the Federal threat, Gen. Braxton Bragg established a fortified line along the Duck River from Shelbyville to Wartrace. On the Confederate right, infantry and artillery detachments guarded the Liberty, Hoover's, and Bell Buckle gaps through the mountains. Very much concerned that Bragg might detach troops from his Army of Tennessee to help CS General John Pemberton break the Siege of Vicksburg, Rosecrans' superiors instructed him to attack the Confederates. On June 23, 1863, he demonstrated against Shelbyville, Tennessee, but massed against Bragg's right. His troops struck out toward the gaps, Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas's men, on the 24th, forced Hoover's Gap. The Confederate Cavalry Regiment, under Col. J.R. Butler, held Hoover's Gap, but the Federals easily pushed it aside. Wilder's brigade was successful in racing toward Hoover's Gap and capturing it on the first day of battle which led to his unit's subsequent nickname, the Lightning Brigade. Their opponents, the 1st Kentucky Cavalry, skirmished briefly and withdrew under pressure, but were unable to reach the gap before the better-fed horses of the Lightning Brigade. The Kentuckians fell apart as a unit



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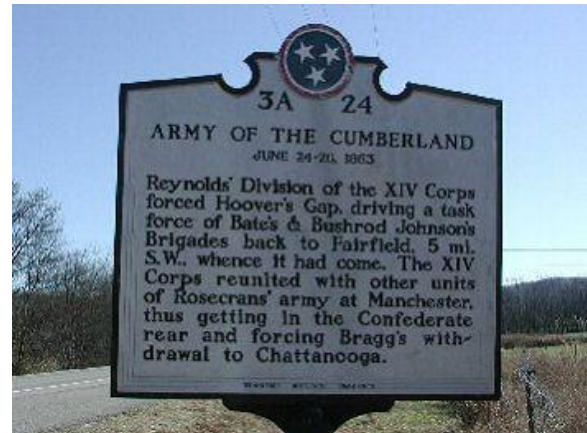
and, unluckily for the Confederates, failed in their cavalry mission to provide intelligence of the Union movement to their higher headquarters. Although Wilder's main infantry support was well behind his mounted brigade, he determined to continue pushing through the

Gap and hold it before the Confederate reinforcements could arrive. As the CS cavalry fell back, it ran into Brig. Gen. Bushrod R. Johnson's and Brig. Gen. William B. Bate's Brigades, Stewart's Division, Hardee's Corps, Army of Tennessee, which marched off to meet Thomas and his men. Fighting continued at the gap until just before noon on the 26th, when

Maj. Gen. Alexander P. Stewart, the Confederate division commander, sent a message to Johnson and Bate stating that he was pulling back and they should also. Wet weather slowed the advance, but Union troops persisted forcing Bragg to give up his defensive line and fall back to Tullahoma. Rosecrans sent

a 'flying column' (Wilder's Spencer-armed Lightning Brigade, the same that had spearheaded the thrust through Hoover's Gap on the 24th) ahead to smash the railroad in Bragg's rear. Arriving too late to destroy the Elk River railroad bridge, Wilder's Federals instead tore up the tracks around Decherd, Tennessee.

Bragg was forced to evacuate Middle Tennessee.



A marker placed by the State of Tennessee indicates the site of the relatively unknown but important engagement at Hoovers Gap.

Ft Sumter 150th Anniversary

**14th Corps HQ Guard and CPL
John Mackie Marine
Detachment Represented**

By Captain Eric Peterson

The Sesquicentennial of the Civil War opened in Charleston Harbor on April 12th, 2011. The Department of Georgia and South Carolina performed a rededication ceremony of the monument to the U.S. Garrison on April 16th.

The weather was threatening all morning with a gale warning that threatened to stop all boats from going out to Ft Sumter. Members of the Department along with representatives of our



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SVR units; the 14th Corps HQ Guard and CPL John Mackie USMC Detachment were not to be deterred. 2LT Ted Golab (also Dept Commander) was not to be deterred. Said Golab, "Major Anderson and his men weathered a storm of iron for 34 hours so I guess we can weather this one ; it's all for them."

The boat with the troops and SUVCW members along with ladies from The Auxiliary and DUVCW left the dock at Patriot Point at 1:30pm. As they boarded the boat the clouds parted and the party was treated to a resplendent day of sunshine. The wind was brisk but not threatening. Captain Eric Peterson turned to Patti Golab of the Auxiliary and said, "See, I told you. God is on our side." He smiled at the NPS Service Ranger who did not seem to appreciate the remark as he passed.

The party assembled at the monument to the garrison and performed the 1917 monument rededication service. NPS Historian Rick Hatcher turned over command of the Fort to 2LT Golab for the service. Lieutenant Golab said he was humble to take temporary command of the Fort where our ancestors so nobly defended the Fort from an unwarranted attack that started the Civil War in America.

The ceremony was conducted with all the requisite pomp and ceremony. Since a confederate re-enactment was taking place at the fort a mixed honor guard of Union and

Confederate re-enactors fired the rifle salute. The Dept of GA & SC laid a wreath and the ladies organizations and camps within the department laid roses at the monument. Bugler Bill Miller of the 14th Corps Guard sounded the Star Spangled Banner and Taps at the ceremony.

Captain Peterson, 7th MD Chief of Staff read the names of the fallen; Privates Hough and Galloway. Hough was killed during the salute when the cannon he was manning exploded. Galloway was severely wounded in the accident and would later die in a Charleston hospital.

At the end of the Ceremony 2LT Golab presented each of the SUVCW / SVR participants with the SUVCW Sesquicentennial Signature event medal. Captain Peterson (PDC of the Dept of GA & SC) received the first of the first such medals to be awarded by the SUVCW to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

About 50 other spectators who had purchased tour tickets and arrived on the boat with the SVR and allied orders of the SUVCW were treated to observe the ceremony and learn about the defenders of Ft Sumter.

After 2LT Golab turned command of the fort back to Rick Hatcher he presented Mr. Hatcher with the Department of Georgia and South Carolina Sesquicentennial Commemorative Coin. Mather is a member of the Dept of



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Missouri, SUVCW. Also present was Brother Gary Dow of the Dept of Maine, SUVCW. Dow carried the National Colors.

This was a fitting tribute to Major Anderson and his men who stood to their guns in a difficult and almost hopeless situation until it was evident that no help would arrive and further resistance only exposed his men to unwarranted slaughter. It is also a fitting tribute to the Corps of Engineers that the rebels were unable to kill or injure any of the Union soldiers defending Fort Sumter; the only U.S. casualties occurring during a freak accident during a salute volley at the surrender ceremony.



Captain Peterson reads the biography of the two U.S. Soldiers who died as a result of the Cannon accident while Dept Sr. Vice-Commander Brian Pierson and 2LT Golab stand at attention.



Members of the Dept of GA & SC and SVR Officers 2LT Golab and Capt Peterson after the ceremony pose at Patriot's Point.



2LT Golab prepares to present the Sesquicentennial Medal to brothers of the SUVCW / SVR

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Commander's Comments

After all the preparation for the long awaited kickoff, the 150th anniversary of the Civil War has finally arrived. These next four years are going to be a once in a lifetime experience and I encourage all of you to take part in the festivities any way you can. I would like to personally thank Captain Peterson and 2nd Lt Golab for representing the 7th Military District at the recent Fort Sumter event. From the information and pictures I have received it looks like it was a resounding success. I would like to also welcome our new Public Information Officer, 1st Lt Dave DuBrucq, also Commander of the 10th Tennessee U.S.V.I., SVR, who has been a tireless supporter of the SVR and 7th Military District in general. A recipient of the SVR's Distinguished Service Medal he has been an active and visible part of our order in the Tennessee area and was instrumental in the unknown Civil War soldier burial that was covered nationally in 2009. I look forward to his experience and input and am excited about this, his first issue, of the Haversack. I would like to

remind all of you that the 7th Military District is a large District, covering the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee and Florida. With such a big area to cover it is imperative that all of you submit information to 1st Lt DuBrucq that can be published in our newsletter, so that everyone can see just what the activities are that are occurring in and around our area. The Haversack Newsletter is a way for all of us to share the events that are supported by the SVR and build camaraderie between units and individuals. This is your newsletter; please use it to your advantage. Finally I want to tell each of you that I am proud to be the Commander of such a great District and will work tirelessly to support and build on your success and will do all in my power to further the aims of our great order. Let's all strive for a successful and productive Sesquicentennial.

HUZZAH FOR THE UNION!

Major Early

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