

The Haversack

Newsletter of the 7th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve



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Commander's Comments

Greetings,

We are now entering the busy season for the SVR and I trust that all our companies are planning a busy campaign season. To that end we are coming to the end of the reporting period for the SVR. Please remember that your annual strength report should arrive on my desk by April 1, 2018. The annual strength report should be accompanied by your company check for dues payable to TAG-SVR. Also attach a copy of your current roster. This is very important so that District and National HQ can have an accurate count of manpower within the organization.

I encourage unit commanders to familiarize themselves with the awards available to members of the SVR who distinguish themselves in various ways. Typically, we think about this annually as Remembrance Day approaches. This often can lead to the contribution of a particular soldier being overlooked as memories fade during a busy year. I suggest that we recommend soldiers for awards when they are merited. This will help ensure that the soldier is recognized timely. A timely award often has more impact than one that is received later. I will pledge to support these award recommendations as they come in.

On that theme of timeliness, I encourage you all to submit articles to the Haversack editor as events occur. This is your newsletter. Get the word out about the good work of your unit or matters of interest to our Civil War community. This will also help Lieutenant Huttick publish the Haversack on time.

Good luck in the future events and continue to spread the word about the stories of our Union soldiers!

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Major Eric Peterson
 7th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve
 Commanding



Union Fleet Saved By Maine Lumbermen

One of the many dramas of the Civil War involves the unbelievable but true story of how a Union flotilla stranded in the upper rapids of the Red River in the spring of 1864 was rescued with the help of Maine lumbermen.

The Red River Campaign of 1864 was proposed by General in Chief Henry Halleck. The objectives of the expedition were to capture cotton stores, to give aid to the “free state” cause in Louisiana, and to seize the Confederate capital of Shreveport, which was the key to the control of the Red River.

General Nathaniel Banks was put in charge of the combined operation of land and naval forces. The campaign was doomed to fail for a number of reasons, one of which was an imposing time limit. The waters of the Red River remained high enough for navigation only during a short time in the spring.

The joint expedition began when 10,000 men under Major General A.J. Smith and a flotilla of gunboats and transports under Rear-Admiral David Porter moved up the river to Alexandria on March 16, 1864. Joined by General Banks’ army, they continued north upriver to Shreveport.

Simultaneously, another force under General Frederick Steele began a march southward from Arkansas towards Shreveport. The plan was to crush the Confederate forces there under Generals Kirby Smith and Richard Taylor and to meet up at Shreveport.

After an initial victory over Taylor’s forces at Mansfield on April 8th, Banks’ forces were repulsed with heavy losses the very next day at Pleasant Hill. The Union generals made the decision to retreat, a simple enough task for the land forces. The Union navy flotilla, however, had to return down a river whose water level was falling rapidly.

As the flotilla approached Alexandria, it became all too apparent that the river was dangerously low. Transports and gunboats struck bottom again and again, and one boat, the Easport, ran hard aground and had to be burned by her crew. Admiral Porter’s remaining command of ten gunboats and two tugs were trapped, with the Confederate army soon to retreat southward.

Lt. Col. Joseph Bailey, a former Wisconsin lumberman turned army engineer, proposed that a series of dams be built to raise the water level and float the boats over the falls. To carry out his incredulous plan, Bailey enlisted the Down East lumbermen of the 29th and 30th Maine Regiments. Other regiments and men were involved in the project, but as one Maine Colonel offered, “Such dams were in common use in the Pine Tree State.”

The men from Maine worked for eight days and nights along with the others and almost 300 mule teams. The men felled trees and moved stone, brick, and lumber, often working up to their necks in water. The river rose, and on the eighth day, May 3rd, the dam was nearly complete.

On the morning of May 9th, with the water nearing the necessary level, the ships were readied for the trip down the falls, when tragedy struck. The immense pressure of the rising waters opened a breach in the lower dam, as the Maine men looked on in dismay.

Admiral Porter was not to be denied, however. He ordered the Lexington to proceed downstream at full speed through the sluiceway of the breach. The ship made it through successfully. Porter reported, “She entered the gap with a full head of steam on, pitched down the roaring torrent, made two or three spasmodic rolls, hung for a moment on the rocks below, was swept into deep water by the current and rounded to, safely into the bank.” Three ships followed, each making the drop safely.

These successes spurred Bailey and his Maine soldiers to redouble their efforts to repair and modify the dams so that the remaining gunboats could be saved. The job was accomplished in three days, and on May 11th, the gunboats and tugs began maneuvering down through the dams.

By the afternoon of May 13th, all the boats, having been coaled and reloaded, steamed down the Red River with a convoy of transports. The lower waters of the river were navigated without incident and the fleet returned safely to the Mississippi.

General Banks called this operation one of the most remarkable achievements of the war, and Admiral Porter called it “the best engineering feat ever performed.” Lt. Col. Bailey and the lumbermen from Maine had saved a fleet valued over \$2,000,000.

In his report of the campaign, Admiral Porter concluded with this remark: “I trust some future historian will treat this matter as it deserves to be treated, because it is a subject in which the whole country should feel an interest, and the noble who succeeded so admirably in this arduous task should not lose one atom of credit so justly due them.”

Historical Regulations ...

FROM CASEY'S INFANTRY TACTICS

Article II

PART SECOND

LESSON II.

MANUAL OF ARMS.

REST.

158. At this command, the recruits will not be required to preserve silence or steadiness.

159. When the instructor may wish the recruits to pass from this position to that of silence and steadiness, he will command:

1. Attention. 2. SQUAD.

160. At the second word, the recruits will resume the position of order arms.

Shoulder—ARMS.

One time and two motions.

161. (First motion.) Raise the piece vertically with the right hand to the height of the right breast, and opposite the shoulder, the elbow close to the body; seize the piece with the left hand below the right, and drop quickly the right hand to grasp the piece at the swell of the stock, the thumb and fore-finger embracing the guard; press the piece against the shoulder with the left hand, the right arm nearly straight.

162. (Second motion.) Drop the left hand quickly by the side.

LOAD IN NINE TIMES.

1. LOAD.

One time and one motion.



163. Grasp the piece with the left hand as high as the right elbow, and bring it vertically opposite the middle of the body, shift the right hand to the upper band, place the butt between the feet, the barrel to the front; seize it with the left hand near the muzzle, which should be three inches from the body; carry the right hand to the cartridge-box. If the rifle musket is used the right hand will be shifted to just below the upper band. The muzzle will be eight inches from the body.

2. Handle—CARTRIDGE.

One time and one motion.

164. Seize the cartridge with the thumb and next two fingers, and place it between the teeth.

Historical Regulations ...

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Article II

PART SECOND

LESSON II.

MANUAL OF ARMS.

164. Seize the cartridge with the thumb and next two fingers, and place it between the teeth.

3. Tear—CARTRIDGE.

One time and one motion.

165. Tear the paper to the powder, hold the cartridge upright between the thumb and first two fingers, near the top; in this position place it in front of and near the muzzle – the back of the hand to the front.

4. Charge—CARTRIDGE.

One time and one motion.

166. Empty the powder into the barrel: disengage the ball from the paper with the right hand and the thumb and first two fingers of the left; insert it into the bore, the pointed end uppermost, and press it down with the right thumb; seize the head of the rammer with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand, the other fingers closed, the elbows near the body.

5. Draw—RAMMER.

One time and three motions.

167. (First motion.) Half draw the rammer by extending the right arm; steady it in this position with the left thumb; grasp the rammer near the muzzle with the right hand, the little finger uppermost, the nails to the front, the thumb extended along the rammer.

168. (Second motion.) Clear the rammer from the pipes by again extending the arm; the rammer in the prolongation of the pipes.

169. (Third motion.) Turn the rammer, the little end of the rammer passing near the left shoulder; place the head of the rammer on the ball, the back of the hand to the front.

6. Ram—CARTRIDGE.

One time and one motion.

170. Insert the rammer as far as the right, and steady it in this position with the thumb of the left hand; seize the rammer at the small end with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand, the back of the hand to the front; press the ball home, the elbows near the body.

7. Return—RAMMER.

One time and three motions.

171. (First motion.) Draw the rammer half-way out, and steady it in this position with the left thumb; grasp it near the muzzle with the right hand, the little finger uppermost, the nails to the front, the thumb along the rammer: clear the rammer from the bore by extending the arm, the nails to the front, the rammer in the prolongation of the bore.

172. (Second motion.) Turn the rammer, the head of the rammer passing near the left shoulder, and insert it in the pipes until the right hand reaches the muzzle, the nails to the front.

173. (Third motion.) Force the rammer home by placing the little finger of the right hand on the head of the rammer; pass the left hand down the barrel to the extent of the arm, without depressing the shoulder.

8. PRIME.

One time and two motions.



Historical Regulations ...

FROM CASEY'S INFANTRY TACTICS

Article II

PART SECOND

LESSON II.

MANUAL OF ARMS.

174. (First motion.) With the left hand raise the piece till the band is as high as the eye, grasp the small of the stock with the right hand; half face to the right; place, at the same time, the right foot behind and at right angles with the left; the hollow of the right foot against the left heel. Slip the left hand down to the lower band, the thumb along the stock, the left elbow against the body; bring the piece to the right side the butt below the right fore-arm – the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast, the barrel upwards, the muzzle on a level with the eye.

175. (Second motion.) Half cock with the thumb of the right hand, the fingers supported against the guard and the small of the stock remove the old cap with one of the fingers of the right hand, and with the thumb and forefinger of the same hand, take a cap from the pouch, place it on the nipple, and press it down with the thumb; seize the small of the stock with the right hand.

9. Shoulder—ARMS.

One time and two motions.

176. (First motion.) Bring the piece to the right shoulder and support it there with the left band, face to the front; bring the right heel to the side of and on a line with the left; grasp the piece with the right hand as indicated in the position of shoulder arms.

177. (Second motion.) Drop the left hand quickly by the side.

READY.

One time and three motions.

178. (First motion.) Raise the piece slightly with the right hand, making a half face to the right on the left heel; carry the right foot to the rear, and place it at right angles to the left, the hollow of it opposite to and against the left heel; grasp the piece with the left hand at the lower band and detach it slightly from the shoulder.

179. (Second motion.) Bring down the piece with both hands, the barrel upward, the left thumb extended along the stock, the butt below the right fore-arm the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast, the muzzle as high as the eye, the left elbow against the side; place at the same time the right thumb on the head of the cock the other fingers wider and against the guard.

180. (Third motion.) Cock, and seize the piece at the small of the stock without deranging the position of the butt.

AIM.

One time and one motion.

181. Raise the piece with both hands, and support the butt against the right shoulder; the left, elbow down, the right as high as the shoulder; incline the head upon the butt, so that the right eye may perceive quickly the notch of the hausse, the front sight, and the object aimed at, the left eye closed, the right thumb extended along the stock, the fore-finger on the trigger.

182. When recruits are formed in two ranks to execute the firings, the front-rank men will raise it, little less the right elbow, in order to facilitate the aim of the rear-rank men.

183. The rear-rank men, in aiming, will each carry the right foot about eight inches to the right, and towards the left heel of the man next it the right, inclining the upper part of the body forward.

FIRE.

One time and one motion.

184. Press the fore-finger against the trigger, fire, without lowering or turning the head, and remain in this position.

Historical Regulations ...

FROM CASEY'S INFANTRY TACTICS

Article II

PART SECOND

LESSON II.

MANUAL OF ARMS.

185. Instructors will be careful to observe when the men fire, that they aim at some distinct object, and that the barrel be so directed that the line of fire and the line of sight be in the same vertical plane. They will often cause the firing to be executed on ground of different inclinations, in order to accustom the men to fire at objects either above or below them.

LOAD.

One time and one motion.

186. Bring down the piece with both hands at the same time face to the front and take the position of load as indicated, No. 163. Each rear-rank man will bring his right foot by the side of the left.

187. The men being in this position, the instructor will cause the loading to be continued by the commands and means prescribed, No. 163, and following.

188. If, after firing, the instructor should not wish the recruits to reload, he will command:

Shoulder—ARMS.

One time and one motion.

189. Throw up the piece briskly with the left hand and resume the position of shoulder arms, at the same time face to the front, turning on the left heel, and bring the right heel on a line with the left.

190. To accustom the recruits to wait for the command fire, the instructor, when they are in the position of aim, will command:

Recover—ARMS.

One time and one motion.

191. At the first part of the command, withdraw the finger from the trigger; at the command arms, retake the position of the third motion of ready.

192. The recruits being in the position of the third motion of ready, if the instructor should wish to bring them to a shoulder, he will command:

Shoulder—ARMS.

One time and one motion.

193. At the command shoulder, place the thumb upon the cock, the fore-finger on the trigger, half cock, and seize the small of the stock with the right hand. At the command arms, bring up the piece briskly to the right shoulder, and retake the position of shoulder arms.



SVR Regulations

Article X

Awards, Decorations, Devices and Insignia

8. Letters of Appreciation and Commendation: The following awards may be awarded by District Commanders and Commanding Officers of SVR Units for those individuals that do not meet the criteria for the Meritorious Service Medal or the Distinguished Service Medal who promote the principles of the SUVCW and SVR and who demonstrate sustained superior performance in their duties: A. Commanding Officers of SVR units: Letter of Appreciation. B. District Commanders: District Commander Letter of Appreciation and Letter of Commendation. C. Commanding Officer, SVR: Letter of Appreciation and Letter of Commendation.

9. A commissioned officer or enlisted SVR Member may request through his Commanding Officer to be discharged from the SVR after serving one (1) year at his current rank. Requests shall be made in writing through the Unit Commander to the District Commander of which his unit reports. The District Commander shall cause to be issued an Honorable Discharge certificate to the member.

10. A commissioned or enlisted SVR member may be retired at his request after an accredited service of ten (10) years of active service in the SVR. Requests shall be made (through channels) in writing to the Commanding Officer, SVR. The Commanding Officer, SVR shall cause to be issued a Certificate of Retirement in such cases.

11. Provision is hereby made for the SVR collar devices and SUVCW membership badge SVR devices. 16

12. Provision is hereby made for the following insignia: (new SVR logo):

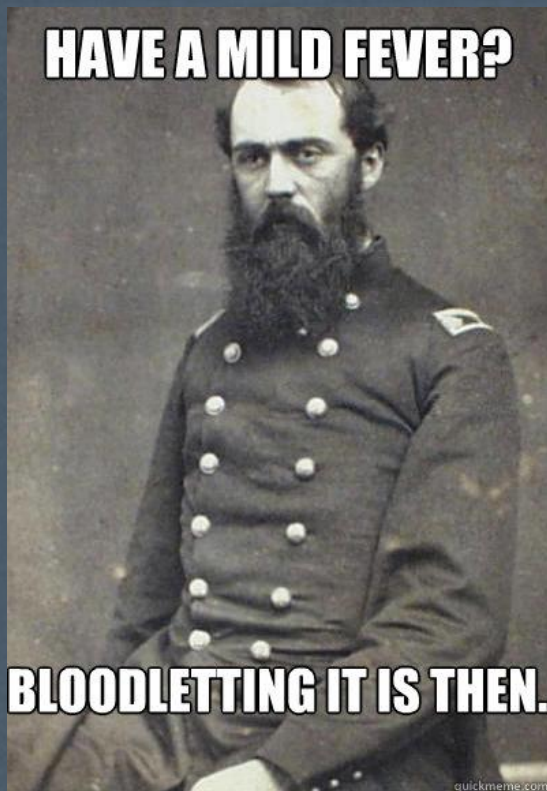


Notes from the Editor

The Regulations of the Sons of Veterans Reserve was updated 18 Jan 2018. As we have been slowly publishing these for your edification and because we are Article 10 (of 12), the intent is to finish the series with the final articles in the newest version. Instead of making everyone re-read the whole regulation – we will continue by highlighting what has changed.

Casey's Infantry Tactics was extended this issue! Mainly because it was a section that really shouldn't be broken up, and because there hasn't been a lot of unit activity to report. Apologies for the shortage of pictures – I'm looking forward to more for the next edition.

George Andrew Huttick, 2nd Lieutenant, Public Information Officer, Sons of Veterans Reserve - 7th Military District



The Haversack is published quarterly as the newsletter of the 7th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve.

The Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) is the ceremonial uniformed military component of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).

The 7th Military District consists of the states of Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and South Carolina.

Any letters, articles, etc., published in The Haversack do not necessarily represent the views and/or opinions of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, officers, membership, guests, or the editor/publisher.

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Departments in our District

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Camps in our District

- [Gen. John A. Logan #4 \(NC\)](#)
- [Gen. James B. Mcpherson #1 \(GA\)](#)
- [Elias Moon #2 \(GA\)](#)
- [Kennesaw Mountain #3 \(GA\)](#)
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Click the link, and “Like” them!

(you’ll get lots of updates of what is going on!)

We want articles (with pictures!)

Thanks to all the contributors of this edition!

So... What's needed...?

Articles for the next Edition of the Haversack!

- Unit Activities
- Biographical Sketches
- Research methods
- Civil War era jokes / cartoons

Some editing may be done to long articles to fit in the space available

Email updates and articles (with pictures!) to [GAHuttick@netscape.net!](mailto:GAHuttick@netscape.net)

NEXT ISSUE JUNE 2018