

AAR for Rutland, MA

This past weekend (1-2 October) saw: Darwin, Lisa, Mike, Michelle, Andy, Ellie, Dan, and Wayne participated in the reenactment event “Windy Knoll” at Rutland, MA.

Weather both Saturday and Sunday was wet, wet and more wet and foggy. This year this weather pattern has been very common at many of our events. Next year has to be better. One would hope.

SATURDAY: The Brady’s, Dan and Wayne arrived 0715 followed shortly by Darwin & Lisa. The fly and two A-frame tents were setup, one for the Company gear and one for our personal gear. Our camp was setup with Dement’s Battery and Morton’s Battery to our immediate front and Infantry and Cav down the hill in the opposite direction. Michelle brought “Ginger” and “played” with the Cav. Note: due to the field conditions and the safety of the horsed the Cav did not participate in Saturday’s battle.

We tried to stay dry under the fly and at 1230 we loaded our cannon on Dement’s trailer and were towed by a tractor to the battlefield. The field was very soggy.

Darwin was #1, Mike was #2, Lisa was #3, Diane (Cav) #4, Dan was ammo box and #5, and Wayne was the Gunner. We were position on the left center of the field with Dement’s to our right and Morton’s to the right of Dement’s. We fired 8 rounds.

We got towed back to camp, put the cannon under the fly and around 1600 Darwin, Lisa, Dan and Wayne departed for drier and warmer places and went to dinner next to the hotel where we spent the night. The Brady’s and Ginger proceeded to their quarters.

James, a friend of Andy, was our guest and spent the day on sight.

SUNDAY: All hands returned from Quarters and were back in camp by 0830.

And what to our wondering eye did NOT appear – our cannon. In its place was a small toy cannon.

It seems that our thoughtful friends at the Cav took the initiative to place our cannon inside one of our tents to keep it dry from the rain and left the toy cannon as a present. How sweet of them. That is my story and I am sticking to it. I am sure if you ask the Cav they might have a different story to tell and hopefully some picture will be posted online to show their deed in action.

Randy, his wife Joyce and his step-son arrived in camp and at 1000 we fell in for Dress Parade.

After parade we held a gun-drill where we trained Randy as #1 and Michelle as #4, Darwin moved to #2 and Mike took over as Gunner. Wayne helped with the safety and instructions. We did fire a couple of primers and one round for practice.

After drill we held an abbreviated RHs Activity where Michelle led a discussion based on three articles having to do with photography in the Civil War.

Due to weather conditions no handouts were given, but Wayne will make packages so for those who have missed past RHs Activity can pick them up at our Annual Meeting in January.

The battle was to begin at 1330 and we had 1 of 3 cannon taken to the battlefield when at 1245 we got the word that due to field and weather conditions the event was being cancelled.

By 1300 we had our wagons on site and proceeded to break camp. By 1400 we said our good byes and headed home.

NOTES and THANKS

1. Well done to our veteran crew who carried out their duties in their traditional fine fashion.
2. Rounds fired 9
3. Thanks to Michelle for her presentations at our RHs Activity time.
4. We also got some people who were interested to have their son try reenactment with us.
Only time will tell how far this goes. Recruit – Recruit – Recruit
5. Remember to dry and properly stow your equipment, canvas and uniforms for the winter.

I am sure I am forgetting someone or something special, but not intentionally.

Overall this was a WET event. As always the **BEST** part of these events is spending the time with some special people – 1st Co., Richmond Howitzers (and even maybe the Cav and other LGs too.)

Next up is:

(1) There will be an End-of-Year Liberty Greys meeting on **Sunday, 6 Nov.** I will attend and have asked the NCOs and the Company Inc. officer to attend if their schedule permits.

(2) Our **Annual Richmond Howitzers' meeting** is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, 21 January 2012**, with a backup date of Saturday, 28 January 2012. This meeting will most likely be held at my Mom & Dad home in North Stonington, CT with a start time around 1130. More information will be provided as we get closer to this date.

(3) Some dates to “fence” (save) for next year’s campaign season (**2012**)

28-29 April CMD, Lincoln, RI

19-20 May Templeton, MA

(4) The repair-job we are going to try to accomplish this winter is the replacement of the axel and wheels on the trailer and also buy a spare tire. Mike volunteered to look into the cost and time involved for this repair.

Respectfully submitted

Captain Wayne

Commanding Officer

1st Co., Richmond Howitzers