



The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2018 3rd Edition

ACWS Ltd PO Box 270 Washington, Tyne & Wear NE37 9BX



Spetchley Hall 2018

ACWS is a Member of

N·A·Re·S

Issue 189

A.C.W.S. CONTACTS - Directors & Army Commanders



Chairman
Mr. Michael
Smart



Secretary
Mrs. Linda Reed



Treasurer
Mr. Ian Morris



Events
Mr. Peter Holt



Membership
Miss Claire Morris



Health & Safety
Mr. Martin Cross



Communications
Mrs. Val Holt



Webmaster
Mr. Mike Bussey



Confederate
Commander
Mr. Glenn Gibson



Federal
Commander
Mr. Tim Davies



Without Portfolio
Mrs. Viv Corbishley

Editorial



I Stephen Griffin will be humbly editing the last 2 issues of 2018 Newsletters while Val recuperates. Get well soon Val form all in ACWS

Confederate Commanders Report



Well my fellow southerners! society and attending the weekends, we would not be the same.

It's been a strange season, lots of small events at the start of the year, with a big gap until Spetchley and that is where I am writing this.

As I say every time, lets move forward and continue to improve and enjoy our hobby. By the time you read this the season will be over, with Lincoln Castle and Culzean Castle the last venture out for troops before the AGM.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve you all as army commander and thank you for confidence in me. I hope to continue next season as Major.

I hope everyone has enjoyed the 2018 season. Lets see how next season develops with a new events team / person.

I hope that those who have come away, have seen the growth again within the ranks. Sergeant Stuart Wardley is creating a steady artillery crew. Sergeant Martyn Clarke is doing a good job of re-building the 2nd South Carolina regiment.

Please stay in touch with each other during close season to ensure everyone comes away again next season.

Live long and prosper, keep your powder dry and kit in good nick.

Everyone deserves recognition because without you joining the

Yours faithfully
Major Glenn Gibson

Secretary's Report



Hi Y'all,

Here we all are after another successful re-enacting season creating more

happy memories!

Time to pack all your kit away and prepare for those winter nights that

are drawing closer and closer..... in my case "cabin fever".

As I have previously mentioned Pete and Val Holt will be resigning at the end of this year, if anyone is interested in having a go at either events or communications please get in touch for a chat. Once again

thank you both for all the hard work you have put in over the years.

As Val has been really poorly i would also like to thank Griff for his work creating and editing this newsletter for us all to read, he has been somewhat of a lifesaver.

I would also like to thank Viv who stepped up as a director for the International last year but who will also be stepping down as a director "Thank you Viv".

Congratulations to my childhood babysitter Cpl Andrew Farnsworth who won the "Roger Zwarycz Trophy" for excellence, well and truly deserved. As I said then and will now say it again "Andy you won it because you are you, always

there for everyone.....even if it is a tin opener!"

Did you know that ACWS have a library?

The custodians of our library are Tim and Caz Davies and books are available to loan for any of our members thanks to the late Bill Davies.

Finally if anyone has any suggestions, ideas, criticisms or such like, the board do like to think of ourselves as approachable and after all it is your society! Please don't hesitate to contact us (even if it is for a good ole moan).

Take care Y'all
Linda
Company Secretary

Reminder

Just a polite reminder regarding "Regimental Events". Please let the treasurer know as soon as you have a date. Always tell the local police what you are up to, even if no gunpowder is involved.

Apply for a licence with the police 3 months prior (which is free up to 72 hours) for powder to be stored on site overnight.

Private land is NO exception.

If you are not sure just ask.

More information if you are considering holding a regimental event is available on our website at:

<https://acws.co.uk/regimentalevents>

Linda Reed (Company Secretary)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The American Civil War Society Ltd (a company limited by guarantee, number 2610962) hereby gives NOTICE that it's AGM will be held on Saturday 1st December 2018, starting at 1pm prompt at the Rubery & Rednal Royal British Legion, 64 New Road, Rubery, Birmingham, B45 9HY.

If you are a current member and have any nominations for posts of Directors or Army Commanders of the Society and/or you have any agenda items appropriate for the AGM, then put them in writing as soon as possible addressed to The Secretary ACWS Ltd, PO Box 270, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE37 9BX. These MUST be received at this location by NO LATER than Monday 1st October 2018.

Nominations for other than existing post holders have to be signed by the nominee and proposed by at least one other current member, who must also sign the nomination. The nominee may submit a short address for circulation to the membership to support their candidature.

The current directors standing for re-election as at the date of this notice are:

Chairman: Michael Smart

Secretary: Linda Reed

Treasurer: Ian Morris

Membership: Claire Morris

Webmaster: Mike Bussey

Health & Safety: Martin Cross

The current Army Commanders are standing for re-election as at the date of this notice as follows:-

Federal Commander: Tim Davies

Confederate Commander: Glenn Gibson

Peter Holt (Events), Val Holt (Communications) and Viv Corbishley (2017 International / No Portfolio) are all standing down.

The post for the 2017 International / No Portfolio is being retired therefore no nominations are being sought for this position.

The post of Marketing Director is to be reinstated. Nominations for this post will be welcomed as per above.

Once relevant inputs have been received, the AGM Agenda can be put together and the appropriate documentation sent to you before the AGM.

Please note, only current members of ACWS are entitled to vote at the AGM or to submit proxy forms. Members who wish to attend the meeting are asked to bring their membership cards to the AGM to help validation, admission and/or voting if necessary.

For and on behalf of the Board,

Linda Reed

Company Secretary

28th August 2018

NB:

Electronic delivery of Agenda and voting slips. We will seek to send all the AGM paperwork to all those of you who have e-mail addresses electronically by that means (to cut down on printing and postages) and post only to those who currently have no e-mail address or who have specifically opted-out of e-voting. PLEASE NOTE, your Webmaster has devised a secure way for you to deliver your Proxy Vote electronically. This will save everybody a lot of time & cost of postages. If you are coming to the AGM, you will NOT be voting electronically (or by post). However, you all need to make sure either Mike Bussey or Claire Morris have your correct, up-to-date e-mail address for this to happen. If you fail to do this then you will not get the AGM papers or proxy vote form, will you? Make sure we have the right information by NO LATER than Saturday 29th September 2018.

ACWS AT BLOXHAM

The ACWS travelled to the Bloxham Steam Rally on the weekend of 23rd and 24th June 2018. This was the 50th Anniversary of the Steam Rally and so it was an extremely popular and memorable event.



The gorgeous sunny weather of both days made for a cracking time had by all including both the re-enactors and the large amount of public who attended. The Bloxham Steam Rally is on a huge site so there were plenty of exhibits and stalls. The ACWS had a fine camping site for plenty of A Frames just above the Beer Tent and next to our very own car parking space so these were both very handy! The Rally consisted of numerous Steam Engines, Military Vehicles, Tractors, Vintage/Classic Cars, regular Helicopter rides and a Falconry display. The site also included many different food stalls, a large fairground, numerous displays and attractions including a small Gin Bar and a very large Beer Tent.

The ACWS was the main battle feature and took place in the early afternoon in the massive arena which was needed due to the fine turnout by both Union and Confederate Armies. Both days

were concluded by a Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. On the Saturday, it was a low flying Spitfire and on the Sunday, it was a low flying Lancaster Bomber. Both were awesome. The sights and sounds of the Rolls Royce Merlin Engines when close to the ground are a real privilege to hear and see when close up.

The ACWS were contracted to perform 2 displays on the Saturday and the Sunday. To their credit, both the Union and Confederate armies had commendable turnouts with the Union slightly outnumbering the Confederates. However, in addition, both the ACWS cavalry and artillery made an appearance on both days making the scenarios far more interesting and entertaining for both the huge crowd and the re-enactors taking part. Fortunately, the arena was extremely large and wide allowing all 3 arms to participate together and allow for lots of

flanking, cavalry charges and rapid artillery fire.

The scenario on the first day was the larger Union force having the artillery and the Confederates having a cavalry unit. On the first day, the Confederates pressed the Union and their artillery with their skirmishing tactics and then attacking in solid blocks. To their credit, the Union took early casualties, slowly backed off and formed on their artillery reserve. However, as the Confederates continued to press with the rebel cavalry attacking down both flanks and fighting the USS sharpshooters so did the Confederate casualties start mounting. And, not surprisingly, it was the Union artillery that did the damage when close range (but safe distance!) canister took out swathes of Confederate infantry leaving the

battlefield littered with rebel dead. Massive credit to both sides for taking casualties and moving around throughout the engagement. Both the organisers and the public were thoroughly entertained with excellent feedback.

On the second day, the Confederates had infantry as well as both artillery and cavalry. Again, the battle started off with both sides skirmishing and this began as a relatively equal contest between a Confederate company and the USS Sharpshooters. However, the Union then came on en masse and drove the rebel company back. At this stage, further Confederate reinforcements arrived on the battlefield including another Confederate company, a Confederate artillery unit and a Confederate cavalry unit and the



battle became a stand up slug fest with both sides refusing to give ground and firing and charging at each other. However, it was the sheer firepower of the Confederate artillery and fast moving flanking rebel infantry and cavalry that eventually took the day as the Union casualties started to mount. This was a fast moving cracking battle and credit to the Union who took heavy casualties particularly with the rebel artillery firing double canister towards the end. Again, the huge crowd were enthralled with the spectacle.

Much credit must go to Martin Clark, 2nd South Carolina, who took over as commentator at short notice and did a very fine job particularly with such a large crowd. It was also very pleasing to note how well everyone did with the firing displays at the end of both days including the artillery crews. As usual, both armies did their regular drill sessions which the public also enjoyed watching but full credit again to the ACWS re-enactors participating due to the extremely hot weather.

It was also particularly pleasing to meet and see some new recruits in both the Union and Confederate camps. As usual, both camps performed their living history duties throughout the weekend and both camps looked awesome with all their

superb flags. The Union Medical display, the Ask a Soldier Quiz and a Kids Artillery Drill session entertained some of the interested public and children.

There is always a highlight at every ACWS weekend and for many Union and Confederate re-enactors it was the big party night in the massive beer tent with Dr Busker and his friends, The Dorset Rats. The music was very much like the Wurzels with loads of sing a longs, conga dancing, lots of play acting and dressing up on stage and joyous carousing. Even a few Civil War re-enactors managed to join in on the stage with their instruments to the delight of the band. The atmosphere was really friendly throughout the night and everyone returned to their campfires for a few after show drinks and to socialise with others who came up the hill to join in. Overall, a cracking weekend and well worth the travelling.

The ACWS next travel to Gainsborough, Lincs on 30th June 2018 for a small society event, then Spetchley Multi Period on 11th and 12th August 2018 for a full society event and then Lincoln Castle on 18th and 19th August 2018 for a full society event.

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas, 43rd North Carolina

Bloxham Winners



They may not be allowed at all events but when they are they're all winners.

Bloxham handed out a deluge of well earned rosettes to ACWS canines's.



Monty



Bertie

Wade

Ozzie

Maisie

Thor

Rayne

The Confederate Sniper

At the start of the Civil War, John W. "Old Jack" Hickson was a peaceful farmer living in Tennessee who, although he owned slaves, was totally against secession. Although 1 of his sons initially joined the Confederate Army and another joined a local Confederate militia regiment, he himself was personally determined to remain neutral. However, following an incident in late 1862, this changed dramatically and he then became one of the most lethal Confederate snipers of the American Civil War with an estimated 137 kills to his name. This is the amazing story of John W. "Old Jack" Hickson, the Confederate sniper who became hell bent on revenge and remained uncaptured throughout the whole duration of the Civil War despite a concerted Union manhunt.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, John Hickson was a peace loving and prosperous family farmer with 10 children who lived in Dover, Stewart County on the Tennessee-Kentucky border. Despite many of his neighbours having both strong Union and Southern sympathies, he was determined to remain neutral for the safety of his large family throughout the War and in 1861 provided information and intelligence reports to both Union



Ulysses S. Grant

and Confederate forces operating in his local area. Indeed, he received a friendly visit to his plantation named Bubbling Springs from Union General U.S. Grant just after the Union General had taken Fort Donelson from Confederate forces. However, in late 1862, a traumatic incident occurred which was to have a dramatic impact on him and make him become one of the most lethal Confederate snipers of the Civil War.

This incident occurred when 2 of his teenage sons namely George Hinson aged 22 and his brother Jack

Hinson aged 17 went deer hunting in the nearby woods to shoot for game. However, they were captured by a passing Union patrol who did not believe their story and suspected them of being Confederate bushwhackers and thereby responsible for recent guerrilla attacks that were claiming the lives of many Union soldiers in the vicinity. As a result and without any trial whatsoever, a Union Lieutenant immediately ordered the 2 boys to be tied to a tree and shot. After this summary execution, the Union Officer dragged the bodies back to Dover and paraded them in the Courthouse square. He then ordered their heads to be chopped off and delivered to the Hinson family by impaling them on the gate posts of the entrance to the Hinson plantation.

The Union Lieutenant himself was desperate to further punish the whole Hinson family but was only persuaded not to due to hearing of the earlier visit of Union General US Grant and the fact that the General would not take kindly to any further mistreatment of the Hinson family.

Not surprisingly, John Hickson was devastated by what had occurred and turned his attention to reaping terrible vengeance. Deep in his Scottish heritage resided the impulse for blood and retribution. In

his eyes, the Federals had sown the wind and for the rest of the War they would reap the whirlwind. He subsequently retrieved his sons bodies and heads and buried them. He then cleared his whole plantation and sent both his family and slaves away to a safer area in Western Tennessee where he had relatives.

He then ordered a custom made Kentucky Long Rifle. Like the Whitworth, it fired hexagonal rounds through a rifled barrel. Unlike the Whitworth, it was unique as it weighed much more at 17 pounds, was much longer barrelled at 41 inches and fired larger .50 calibre rounds accurately to over half a mile away.

At the age of 57, John Hickson then started his career as a Confederate guerrilla fighter and partisan sniper against the Union. Not surprisingly, his first victim was the Union Lieutenant who ordered the execution of his 2 sons. He was shot whilst leading his column. The second victim was the Union Sergeant who appeared to take great delight in placing the heads of his 2 sons on the gate posts.

Following these, he then began searching out opportunities to strike at the Union forces and focused his attacks on the vital Union river trade that was taking place up and down

the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers and the region known as Between the River region. He specifically targeted Union Officers as he believed that they were responsible for what had occurred to his 2 sons rather than the actual privates who carried out the actions. In addition, he also targeted Union river pilots to ensure maximum disruption was caused.

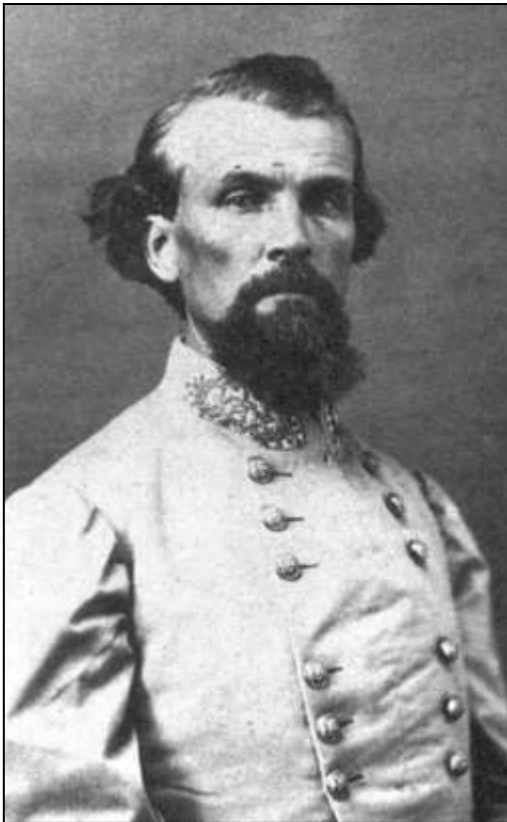
To carry out his missions, he lived in a cave located high up on a bluff overlooking the Tennessee River. This is now known as "Jacks Ridge" and overlooked a branch of the river called Towhead Chute. This was an ideal position for targeting his blue prey for as the Union boats ploughed up the river against the current, they became nearly stationary. From such a position, he shot all the Union officers, captains and pilots on board the riverboats which carried Union troops, supplies and cargoes up and down this main supply line.

As time went by and his killing reputation grew, he was hunted by both regular and militia Union forces and even a combined Federal Marine/Navy amphibious force was developed to capture and kill him. As such, he obviously had to move on occasions due to the desperate searches by these Union forces but he always carefully protected any

local citizens who had sheltered or provided him with supplies.

On one occasion, he crossed the Tennessee river and decided to visit his family. He subsequently learnt that 2 of his younger sons had contracted measles and died and then he also learnt that his eldest son had died in battle fighting for the Confederate army and his other son had died in a Confederate guerrilla raid. He directly blamed all 4 deaths on Union forces and his vengeance reached fever pitch.

On one amazing occasion, a captain of a Union gunboat loaded with armed Union troops actually hove to, struck his colours and surrendered to him in the belief that they were under fire from a much larger Confederate force. Obviously, John Hinson was unable to accept the surrender of the Union crew and soldiers as he was alone in the woods of Tennessee with a single rifle and quickly disappeared into the undergrowth. Author Lt Col Tom McKenney writes of this incident that "it was the only time in recorded history that a fully armed naval vessel with embarked combat troops ever surrendered to one man, and it was probably the shortest period of military confinement after being captured in combat".



General Nathan Bedford Forest

Although John Hinson never officially joined the Confederate army, he did actively assist them at times particularly during the latter stages of the War. Before the Battle of Johnsonville in November 4th and 5th 1864, he assisted Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forest on his 23 day raid through Western Tennessee in destroying numerous Union boats and millions of dollars of Union supplies stored at Johnsonville. He acted as both scout and guide for the Confederate forces

and was present throughout the 2 day battle.

By the end of the Civil War, John Hinson was being hunted by 4 separate Union regiments but survived. At the end of the Civil War, he retired back to private life and went to live in a farm on White Oak Swamp with his wife and 5 remaining sons. During this period, he later gifted his custom made Kentucky Long rifle to Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest.

The rifle itself had 36 circles cut in the barrel by him to signify the confirmed Union Officer kills. However, Official Union records blame him for well over 130 kills. John Hinson died on 28th April 1874 and lies buried in the family plot in Cane Creek Cemetery. He is commemorated in a roadside marker in Kentucky.

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas,
43rd North Carolina.

Sources: Wikipedia, Various Internet Sources. Most of what is known about John "Jack" Hinson was painstakingly researched by Marine Corps Lt Col. Tom C. McKenny who has written 2 books on him namely "Battlefield Sniper. Over 100 Civil War Kills" and "Jack Hinsons One-Man War, A Civil War Sniper".

TWO WED IN TENNESSEE

"HUGE CONGRATULATIONS" to two lovely couples who got married this season from us all, both from 1st Tennessee.

We wish you all the happiness for the future



Pvt Ric Evans & Pvt Hannah Salisbury



Pvt Glenn Pepper & Marie Hodgson

ACWS AT SEDGFIELD MULTI PERIOD EVENT

The ACWS travelled to the Frontline Multi Period Event at Sedgfield, County Durham on 16th and 17th June 2018. This was the third year of this multi period event organised by local re-enactors in an effort to establish a regular such event in the North East of England and is clearly become much more popular by the year.

This year the weather was mixed with a thunderous down pour on the Saturday late afternoon but a nice clear sunny day on the Sunday. Not surprisingly, there was a huge turnout from the public particularly on the Sunday which must bode well for the future of this excellent multi period.

The event itself was held in the stunning surroundings of Hardwick Hall Country Park. Hardwick Hall itself is on the English Heritage Register and was built in the 1700`s. The event itself was both a living history and battle re-enactment event depicting soldiers throughout history.

The groups attending included the Saxons, Vikings, Romans, Medieval Groups, Tudor, Napoleonic, American War of Independence, American Civil War, 1st World War and 2nd World War. In addition,

there was also a large vintage, veteran and military vehicle display. There were numerous stalls selling all things military and vintage, a craft fair, a fun fair and plenty of places to eat and drink.

As usual for the re-enactors, there was the 2nd World War Field Kitchen where you could get nice wholesome (ish!) food for very cheap prices as well as free cups of tea and coffee throughout the weekend.

The various military displays started at 10.00 am over the weekend and the ACWS were contracted by the organisers to perform a battle re-enactment in the main battle arena.

Both the Union Army had a commendable turnout including USS Sharpshooters and the Confederate Army also had a commendable turnout with good attendance from the 32nd Virginia and the 43rd North Carolina Regiments. But, of course, special credit must go to all the ACWS regulars who travelled their usual long distances both blue and grey.

Again, sadly, there was no artillery present which in my personal opinion would have really enhanced both the whole Event as well as our

display. Nevertheless both armies fielded enough personnel to have fast and loud skirmishes which they did. On the Saturday, the scenario involved the Union Army preceded by a skirmish line of the green jacketed USS being surprised by a sizeable Confederate force from the top of the battlefield. The action was deliberately fast, furious and loud with plenty of advancing, retreating and forming on the reserve with continuous heavy Union casualties resulting in a Confederate victory.

On the Sunday, the scenario was reversed with the Confederates being surprised and then flanked by the USS Sharpshooters followed by the main Union Army. The Confederates were forced to slowly retreat up the hill as their casualties mounted and by the end the whole field was littered with rebel dead as the Union volleys continually poured in. As usual, both armies took their appropriate casualties on both days which really does contrast with the total lack of them in all the other periods! Christian Sprakes was, as ever, excellent with his interesting historical commentary.

The ACWS finished both their displays on the exact allocated timings with a firing demonstration to the public. Special mention must go to Dan Lawrence, Union Commander for the weekend, who

not only took control of the whole firing display but got it spot on with both armies firing as one! At the end of the first day, the ACWS along with all the other societies including the Northern World War 2 Association were supposed to hold a 1 minute silence with the members of the public in remembrance of all those who have lost their lives in World Wars. Sadly, the sky really opened up with a real thunderous Southern Baptist downpour and all the public, Confederates and others got a thorough soaking and the Grand Parade had to be cancelled.

On the Sunday, it did go ahead and all the societies then fired volleys for the public which went down really well as did the Grand Parade of all the re-enactors. Throughout the weekend, the ACWS also took part in smaller living history displays including drill sessions for both Armies. Other displays in the main arena included the Romans, Saxon/Viking battle, Medieval, a Military Vehicle Parade and the final 2nd World War East and Western Front battle with armour present.

At the end of both days, the respective armies of the ACWS held their own socials/barbeques particularly revolving around drying out after the Saturday afternoon downpour and the sight of an 80 foot washing line along the whole

Confederate tent line really was something to behold especially the sudden sight of some Ladies bloomers flying from the flag pole! Unbelievably, the sun and wind immediately came out and everything quickly dried out! Overall, however, it was really nice to see both armies mixing and socialising with each other especially in the Beer Tent after the public had left and it is not surprising as is customary at this event that both camp fires with their banter and music attracted many other re-enactors.

Like last year, a few have now decided to join the ACWS. From a purely Confederate perspective, the excellent Tapas and Music night organised and provided by the 32nd Virginia was a long to be remembered Saturday evening.

Overall, this event was enjoyed by all those who attended and it really does have the potential of establishing itself as an excellent multi period event which is the intention of the organisers who are themselves re-enactors. It is a very spacious as well as secure site with both easy access from both the A1 and A19 as well as 24 hour security.

We continue to hope that if we do return, the ACWS will be able to perform an even larger skirmish or

battle which would hopefully include the artillery and cavalry in a larger area. Such a display would really enhance this event particularly as yet again there was no Russian T34 or British Artillery display this year. The ACWS camps are now located in a much larger and more accessible location than last year which encouraged far more people to come, visit and interact with the Civil War re-enactors.

The next ACWS Events are Bloxham Steam Fair, Banbury on 23rd and 24th June 2018, Gainsborough on 30th June and 1st July 2018 and then the Spetchley Multi Period on 11th and 12th August 2018.

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas, 43rd North Carolina



Gray on Grey 155th Gettysburg Tour 2018



Day One Wednesday 4th July

Myself, Peter and Ashley arrived at Manchester airport (a bit early as I got times wrong), after a long rest we met up with Andrew Farnsworth and Joe Campbell.

We boarded our plane and took off, next stop Philadelphia Airport.

I settled down and watched a movie and even managed a few pics out of the window while Ashley kept trying to sleep, not sure if he did or not, well after nearly 8 hours we landed and collected our bags, when went through customs (was strange to see the custom officers carrying hand guns).

We parted ways from Andrew and Joe as they were staying in Philadelphia while myself and ash were going on to Gettysburg. I collected the car and started my drive to Gettysburg, now this was an experience for me my first visit to USA and driving too, had to remember what side of the road to drive on.

Ashley was very helpful and kept playing with the sat nav zooming it in and out, well off we went a nice long drive and arrived at our hotel at 19.30 local time (00.30 UK time) We had a quick rest, a coffee then off we went to find an ale house and sampled the local ale. We sat chatting and having a quiet session, we got talking to two American

couples and they could not believe that we had travelled from England to take part in the 155th anniversary of Gettysburg.

As we chatted and drank beer I showed them some photos of the 32nd Virginians doing re-enactment at home, they were astonished that us Brits would do this, and as the night went on and ale was drunk some men entered in confederate uniform. Our newly made friends were very quick to tell them why



these two people had come to Gettysburg, I said we are going in with the 2nd Arkansas one of them replied "we are with the 2nd Arkansas" and we shook hands, then another one entered and was also informed why we were there he looked and said "Peter and Ash good to meet you I am Guy".

The night went on and when we left I finally went to sleep at 23.30, tomorrow is another day in this great holiday.

Day Two Thursday 5th July



This morning we had a lazy one, we packed our kit and left the hotel and went shopping, we then had lunch and drove to Wal-Mart for some items before going onto the site, once at the site we needed to register. We then drove onto the site to find the confederate camp, and meet some of the people in the 2nd Arkansas .

We sat chatting getting to know the people, we formed up and marched off to do some drill practice, after drill we headed back to camp and socialised before having an early night.

Day Three Friday 6th July

This morning we were woken at 06.00 for breakfast, once breakfast was over we started to get our kit together, it was still very humid at 08.15, formed up and at 09.00 then marched off to the battlefield. The union had skirmishers out waiting

but we sent out our skirmishers to drive them back, after a good few volleys the union started to move back, a company then marched out to join the battle and the union skirmishes withdrew, as I looked up the battle field on the top of the hill it was covered from left to right with them darn blue bellies, there was hundreds of them, there was cavalry and cannon.



Then the order was given for the 2nd Arkansas to join the battle and off we marched in good spirits, the colours flying high at the front, once in position we started to engage the enemy, exchanging a large amount of fire.

The order was given to advance with muskets loaded we advanced on the enemy driving them back up the hill firing as we moved. As we progressed pushing those blue bellies further up the field, we lost a few men to their musket fire, then enemy reinforcements arrived and forced us back. We needed to retire to a safe area.

Once rested we re-joined the battle coming towards the enemy from the right, we move up into the long grass, we fired a few rounds off then advanced up the hill pushing the enemy back. (At this point I needed to stop because of my knee injury). I asked Andrew what happened towards the end he informed me that we had completed our mission and drove the enemy back.

At 18.00 there was another battle however I did not take part I was resting my leg.

Saturday 7th July

Again an early start, breakfast was served and everyone started getting ready for the morning battle (which I was not taking part in as I was told to rest my knee), once ready everyone was relaxing around the camp drinking plenty of water as it was a hot morning.

Then it was first call, the troops started to get ready for battle, I was informed by a sergeant that I could follow the battle and take photographs, but once the battle started I had to stay behind the companies line for safety reasons.

The troops formed up on The road the muskets were inspected the order was given to march off. Hundreds of confederate soldiers



marched off to the battlefield, once on the field of battle the battalion formed line and waited for the order to advance, the enemy fired Canon towards us, the federal soldiers fired at us, the order was given for some companies to advance on the left and right flanks.

The fighting continued both sides taking casualties, the order was given for the 2nd Arkansas to advance we marched on in line opening fire as we moved forward,



each step was taken at a cost. Gunfire was exchanged the officers urging us forward then the order was given to move back and reform, once we had moved back and

reformed and taken on water and ice the company was ordered forward again.

Again we marched forward in line engaging the enemy, gunfire being exchanged as we slowly advanced towards those Yankees, fighting for each bit of ground as we moved forward. Cannon fire, gunfire, smoke all around the wounded and dying on the ground as the fighting continued and we advanced pushing them back. The enemy retreating some of them taken prisoner as they surrendered and the fighting ended the wounded was helped back to safety, the company then formed up and marched back to the shade of the camp.



On returning to camp everyone relaxed taking on water and food then everyone sat and cleaned their musket ready for the next battle later in the day.

At 4pm first call was given the troops started to ready themselves after approximately 10 minutes the order

was given to form up on the road. As I was told to rest my leg I stayed behind on camp, the battalion marched off from the camp the battle sounded fierce, as it continued the company returned to camp and emptied both cap and cartridge pouches. Then it was time for evening meal, once the meal was over we got transported by various vehicles to the national parks battle site where pickets charge took place.



We formed up once everyone had arrived and fixed bayonets, we then march off across the actual battlefield where so many had fought and died. Emotions were high from all that was present, the colours flying high at the front with a guard of honour (permission for this was given from the proper authorities) we marched from the confederate side across to the angle, we marched to the beat of the drum forward.

As we got close to the northern side the public that were visiting the battlefield spotted us marching towards them, photographs was taken as we moved forward, members of the public asked for photographs as we were relaxed taking in the atmosphere and looked at the monuments dedicated to the federal soldiers that took part.

Once finished we returned to camp and relaxed around the campfire, talking and drinking before going to bed.

Sunday 8th July

This morning was a late start for the company, we had breakfast then returned to do various tasks i.e. pack up personal belongings and ensure everything was ready for after the final battle of the event pickets charge.

At 1pm we formed up and marched off to the battlefield, once on the field it was unbelievable, thousands of confederate soldiers lined up with muskets stacked waiting for the command to advance up the hill towards the enemy. As the canons fired the sounds of the rebel yell was heard as everyone joined in, up the hill the Yankee skirmishers were out, lined up waiting to fire upon the advancing troops. It was a hot day for a battle as we rested we took on

water suddenly a chorus of Dixie went up along the line as everyone joined in.

The order was given and companies moved forward on the left and up the centre, gun shots exchanged as they moved up the hill, casualties taken on both sides the confederate taking the worse of it, we got the order to take arms then march forward up the hill towards the wall.



As we advanced we could see the devastation of it all but this did not stop us, we continued towards the wall taking casualties. As we moved forward the order came to halt and we fired a volley into the enemy, we were then ordered to move forward, brothers were dying, all around the battlefield was a heap of bodies, as we got closer to the wall the firing became more intense from those Yankees I was hit I stumbled and fell I breathed no more.

Last post was called and the dead was resurrected I walked up to the wall and shook hands with a good

number of my fellow re-enactors I then formed up with the rest of the 2nd Arkansas and we marched back to camp.



The four of us from The 32nd Virginian ACWS UK returned to our tent myself and Andrew Farnsworth got busy sorting out what was going back with us and what was staying. Ashley and Joe chatted to our newly made friends for a while then came to help drop the tent, once everything had been done and cars collected, our belongings went into our cars we then said our goodbyes, however the 2nd Arkansas had a surprise of their own and got everyone together and they represented us with something to take back.

I had a great time and met some wonderful people that made us most welcome these memories will last a life time thanks for everything 2nd Arkansas.

By Peter Gray 32nd Virginia

YOUR PRIVACY MATTERS

Dear ACWS Member,

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY – YOUR PRIVACY MATTERS TO US

A new data privacy law was introduced in the UK on 25 May 2018 called the “General Data Protection Regulation” (GDPR). Other organisations like your bank for example, may have also been in touch with you about this recently. As a result, The American Civil War Society Ltd has published a new Data Protection Policy to make it easier for you to understand how we use and protect your information within the company.

Our new Data Protection Policy will provide you with the detail regarding:

- Your increased rights in relation to the information we hold about you
- How we keep your information secure
- The types of information we hold about you and how we use it

Please be assured that the way we collect, store and use your information should not feel any different to you from what we already do now, and we only hold on to your information for as long as it is necessary.

Our new Data Protection Policy is available on our website at:

<https://acws.co.uk/privacy>

Alternatively, you can request a copy by contacting me by email:

secretary@acws.co.uk

or in writing to:

ACWS Ltd,
PO Box 270,
Washington,
NE37 9BX.

Yours Sincerely,

Linda Reed

Company Secretary

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Photos Page





EVENTS CALENDAR 2018



As the sun sets on another great season we have but one event left

ACWS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

December 1st

The 2018 ACWS Annual General Meeting is to be held at
The Rubery & Rednal Royal British Legion Club
64 New Road, Rubery, Birmingham, B45 9HY

Don't forget to vote!