

# Look Park AAR

On the weekend of 3-4 August 2013

The 1<sup>st</sup> Company, Richmond Howitzers participated in their Fourth event of the season.

## **Weather:**

Day time temps were in the mid/ high 80's with bright sun and a nice breeze. Night time temps were in the mid 50's/ low 60's and perfect for sleeping. We had brief periods of light rain Fri evening & Sun afternoon.

## **Friday 2 August 2013**

By late afternoon, Wayne, Mike, and Dan where at the Park and had three A-frames setup. We had a GREAT location under two large Oak trees for shade and next to the Suttlers, Pizza tent, the Town of Unit and most important – the large field for demos and battle. The Union camp was in our front up on a hill and the Confederate camp was in our rear up on another hill. The US Navy and USMC were across and on the other side of the field in the tree line.

At 1930 we conducted a night-time firing consisting of firing 1 primer and then firing 2 rounds. This was all done for a local TV station. Captain Wayne was also interviewed and later quoted in the paper. By 2000 we were enjoying pizza from the local vender. Due to timing of our arrival, the night firing and dinner we decided to put up the fly in the morning. Unfortunately, we did not plan for a passing rain shower the drover us all into our tents and early to bed by 2130.

## **Saturday 3 August 2013**

Breakfast was simple and an easy way to start the day.

We setup up our displays of ammo and plaques on a nearby bench next to our fly.

We had on the scheduled four firings demos that consisted of a walk through of the “Drill of the Piece” and the firing of a primer. We then proceed to do two live firings while answering questions in between each firing. These Artillery Demos took place at 0900, 1100, 1300, and 1500. At the 0900 firing; Dan did #1 & #2, Mike did #3 & #4, and Wayne was the Gunner & #5.

Randy, Joyce and Vinnie arrived on station at 1030 and we setup their tent and the Company fly.

Randy relieved Dan of the #2 position duties for the next three demos. During the last two demos, Captain Wayne acting as the Gunner had a young man from the crowd standing next to him when it was time to give the command to fire the last round. When all was set, Captain Wayne, who instructed these men prior, told the young man to raise his hand and when told, to bring down his hand and give the command “Fire!” Both the young man and their families and the crowd gathered were very appreciative of this opportunity.

When not involved with Artillery demos we participated in living history discussions about camp-life of an Artilleryman, various aspects of our cannon and displays and the Civil War in general.

Dinner was once again kept very simple consisting of hotdogs, fruit salad and snacks. Most of the food was provided by the Freeloze family and much appreciated.

The rest of the evening found us having lively conversation as we sat by the fire. By 2230 after a busy day – one found our members in their tents preparing for bed.

## **Sunday 4 August 2013**

The day began as it did Saturday with breakfast short and simple.

The only major activity scheduled for us this day was the battle at 1430. This left us to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and weather. It also gave us a chance to visit other unit's displays and visit the Park's other offerings. (Zoo, Train ride, ice cream shop, ect.)

### **BATTLE**

The Union forces held the top of the battlefield with a skirmish line. We rolled out our cannon to the bottom of the battlefield and fired a few rounds to convince them to depart. Our forces, though outnumbered, came up on our right to support us while more Union infantry poured out of the woods in our front. The Union artillery position on a hill top supported their infantry.

Our forces, with our support fire, were gaining ground when reinforcements in the form of US Navy sailors and Marines appeared in our front. Initially we fought them off, but there was just too many of them and our cannon was soon overrun and we were forced to surrender. As we were taken prisoners, I looked upon the battlefield and saw all our brave infantry lying dead on the field. Only the Engineering Officer, though wounded, hobbled off the field and escaped with our National Colors.

In this battle we fired 7 rounds.

The event closed at 1600 and we were allowed to bring in our wagons at that time and by 1630 we were saying our goodbyes and heading home.

In total for the weekend we fired 16 rounds.

– **NICE job** to all who attended and thanks for coming out.

### **NEXT EVENT:**

Woodbury, CT: 24-25 August 2013 – Look for more information about this event in future emails.

### **\* \* \* Comments \* \* \***

#### **(1) -- Worcester, MA event --**

At Look Park, we discussed the Worcester, MA [Green Hill Park] event in October and what seems like a nice fit, considering people's situations and the "cool weather," is that we do ONLY a Company-wide Day-trip (Saturday 12 October) spend the day under the fly and maybe a tent or two to change and hide our stuff. And after the event say our "thanks and goodbyes for the season" and possibly go out for a simple bite to eat before we head home.

**Your thoughts and feedback appreciated?**

**(2) -- Waterford, CT (2014) RH "HOST" --**

Marc Baso, State of CT's reenactors' coordinator for 150<sup>th</sup> events, was at Look Park on Sunday and talked to me about an event in May 2014 at Waterford, CT. The town is stepping up and will help pay for the event as part of the CT 150th celebration. Marc asked if we would be interested in being the "Host and Face of the event" -- not sure what that means, but he said he would send me the information. It sounds like a lot of PR with our name and picture on flyers, but it also sounds like we will get a nice pay check out of it too. More to follow once I see the stuff Marc sends me.

**(3) -- BOUNTY --**

I did receive \$100 from Look Park event coordinator.

**PICTURES of Look Park by Wayne, Joyce and a reporter are on our RHs' Website**

<http://1stcorichmondhowitzers.com/photo-gallery/?album=1&gallery=17>

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne".

Yours in services and respectfully submitted

Captain Wayne