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Captain's Column

I can honestly say that I would rather be reenacting than going through this corona-19 pandemic. History has always been my favorite subject but I like past history where I know the outcome and don't have to experience it up close and personal.

That being said, I hope each of you and your family are healthy and safe, that your job is secure, and that you are dealing with this to the best of your ability. These are indeed historic times, This is unprecedented. We are in uncharted waters.

I could use this format to editorialize, politicize, and criticize but I will not. This is not the time and place for that. Let's wait till this is finally over. Right now, we need to pull together and cooperate with each other to bring this to a close as quickly as possible or as soon as possible would be a better way to put it.

This seems to be affecting every aspect of our lives. As far as this "social distancing" thing, I have been doing that seems like all my life. So, for me that is really nothing new. And maybe one good outcome of this whole thing is that I think it has made everyone slow down and concentrate more on the really important things in life, your family, your friends, drawing closer to God and depending more on him. For a control freak like myself that is sometimes hard to do but He will get us through this.

Now as far as reenacting is concerned, suffice it to say that for the time being there will be no reenacting. The Camp of Instruction has been postponed and certain Civil War events and reenactments have already been canceled and there may be more to come.

So, satisfy your Civil War fetish in other ways. Watch the Gettysburg movie again, listen to the soundtrack, It has an awesome version of "Dixie". Listen to "Banjos, Bones and Boatmen", awesome period Civil War music by Joe Ayers. Read a good Civil War book. Polish your uniform buttons. Shine our boots or brogans. Make the best of this down time. It will make us appreciate what we do all the more when we are finally able to get back together.

God bless you all and do take some time to talk to Him (not yell, but talk).

Sincerely and respectfully yours,
Captain Turley

P.S. On a personal note:

If there is anything I can do to help any of you during this time, please, please don't hesitate to ask. We do need to pull together and help each other as much as possible. Again, God bless!

1st Sergeant's Column

Well, not sure what I can say concerning the 2020 living history season other than it's not happening at this point as we all deal w/the on-going corona virus which has dramatically changed everyone's "free time", but also life in general as well in this country.

Fort Clean-Up Day (Sat, 7 March 2020- We had a good work crew in our preparations for the planned COI. Greg Hanson arrived earlier than everyone else as he had other family obligations that day, and got right to work w/his leaf blower clearing off the bridge and interior areas of the Fort. The rest of us arrived on or around 0900, our planned start time, w/plenty of hand tools as well as heavy duty weed whackers and proceeded on our task list as the weather was cooperative being sunny and reasonably warm. We took delivery of a half cord of good seasoned oak firewood as well as four bales of hay from our local source Arthur Scott. We got the firewood and hay moved into the Fort being nicely stacked and

covered w/a tarp. The clean-up of outhouse was Jack Alexander's particular project which included removal of dirt from door area for easy access as well as good cleaning job of the interior. Travis Clements went to work w/his weed whacker cutting down any excess growth inside the Fort; the lanyard to the flagpole was checked and found to be serviceable; and the entire area both inside the Fort and area in front of bridge was cleared of a quantity of downed tree limbs. Check of target frames found that we had four good service frames for our planned musket shooting.

Our work crew was joined by our newest recruit Chuck Arrington and his son Ben, both of whom were willing contributors to our work effort. Chuck joined us at the Richmond Civil War Collectors Show having wanted to participate in our hobby for a number of years and was now taking the plunge. Participants at the Fort Clean-Up Day included Jack Alexander, Travis Clements, Greg Hanson, Tony Turley and myself. We got all our work tasks completed by 1130 and then had a round of root beer supplied by Jack Alexander before proceeding home.

Postponement of the Camp of Instruction (Fri-Sun, 3-5 April 2020- The F Company Executive Committee made the decision approximately two and half weeks prior to the COI to postpone this planned F Co annual event due to the corona virus pandemic. This decision was reached unanimously by the Executive Committee both due to restrictions in the state of Virginia on group gatherings as well as in the interest of individual health concerns for all our F Co members who would be attending the COI. At this point we've got no idea as to when this event will be re-scheduled other than later in 2020.

Message from Pvt Kendall Chapman and Chris Marshall- Lastly I'd like to strike a positive note w/the news of both Kendall Chapman's re-enlistment in F Co and his message to Jack Alexander which we're sharing w/all of F Company as well as we've heard from Chris Marshall out in California too.

Michael L. Vice, 1st SGT
F Co, 21st VA Infantry

Message from Kendall Chapman

Jack,

I'm not surprised on 3 years in Guam. I was looking forward to transferring to a shore billet and getting some time off. Command and control of the Pacific comes with a lot of hard travel. For the most part everything is going well. We set up a new detachment on Yap, Tinian (where we loaded out the A bomb for WW2) and we are setting up another detachment on a remote island in Papua New Guinea. Think former cannibals, with painted faces and headdress. Yes, pretty native and I've been to the Amazon. We are keeping a close eye on the Arm Service Agreement with the Philippines. We may have to pullout again if the politicians can't work things out. COVID-19 has got us pretty locked down until mid-May. From the news it looks like you all are dealing with the same. I pray all is well with you and yours.

Guam is interesting right now to say the least. The island is on lockdown and we had our first death from COVID-19. It is the dry season so we are also dealing with jungle fires. There is an active fire down the street from my house. I was home the other night. You could see the glow from the fire as ash fell from the sky as everyone was quarantined due to the virus. I think it is a good time to start re-reading the Bible :)

Well at least Tom Brady left New England. Oh wait he is signing with Tampa (Saints fan here)?

Great...

Tell F Company to keep things going until I return (summer 2021). I should have two more recruits to help fill the ranks. Both my boys will be 14 and they want to join the hobby. I'm sorry to read in the monthly dispatch that participation is low. I hate to see ignorance and peer pressure cause people to give up their values and the activities that make them happy. If you ask me - being happy and content in the simple - is the meaning of life.

I'm not sure where the Navy will send me next. Knowing them probably California or Hawaii. I still haven't done my D.C. time at the Pentagon. Either way, my wants will be of little concern. I can always try retirement.

Tell Mike Vice that he cannot retire as 1st Sergeant. He can consider this an order - as a CDR, I do believe that I outrank him - and more importantly I didn't get a long enough chance to learn from him.

I don't believe in carrying regrets but I wish that I found F Company sooner in life.

Take care and tell the boys don't turn into a zombie from this virus. But if they do - eat the guys wearing the blue coats.

V/R,
Kendall

Message from Chris Marshall

Hey Tony,

Thanks for checking in on me, all is well and I hope all is well with you. Nothing overly exciting is going on in San Diego other than the nice weather, but it's hard to enjoy it while hunkered down. I figured the reenactment season would be would affected at least until late summer, hopefully everything clears up soon and we get back to smelling black powder.

Chris

Pictures From Fort Work Day 2020





Ode to Joe

