

THE FUGELMAN

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND
WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY ASSOCIATION**

The Black Hats

The Iron Brigade

Volume I7

Issue 7

July, 2008



PASS IN REVIEW

THE FOLLOWING IS A message I sent to the officers of the Second and I think it would do well to repeat it here in the Fugelman.

Pack your gear in a duffle bag or something similar and label it. Include in your duffle a shaving kit and change of civilian clothes to wear on our return trip. Carry with you some form of I.D. and keep your cash with you at all times.

There are a few things we need to be aware of and prepared for. This is a list that I have come up with:

Battle times. Friday 1330 & 1800, Saturday 1100 & 1700, Sunday 1100 & 1500

Ammunition. Each man will need a minimum of 40 rounds per battle. The math is simple, 2 battles per day X three days = 240 rounds. Per man.

Meals. We will be arriving on the site after we have had a meal on Friday. Using the schedule of battles adjust your meals accordingly. You should plan on at least 2 meals per day and possibly a small meal/snack about mid-day to keep you going. I would suggest easy-to-prepare meals such as oatmeal for breakfast, jerky, hardtack and an apple for mid-day and a larger evening meal using foodstuffs from your haversack i.e. potatoes, carrots, onion, rice, canned meat and

other foods. (Hint 1: try out your meals over a fire at home Hint 2: consider forming a mess and combine your efforts)

Water. Your canteen must be filled throughout the day. Do not be afraid to drink water continuously. Water details will be frequent. If you have two canteens bring them.

Camp. We will be camping campaign style. This means that company streets will be very loose but will remain in close proximity of the other companies. Your knapsack or bed roll should include: Blanket, gum blanket or poncho, shelter half with poles & pegs and a length of rope. You should also have 2 shirts, 2 pair socks, change of under drawers, soap, wash cloth, and a small towel.

Modern intrusions. All your food should be placed in period cloth tote bags. Medicine should also be kept in period bag. Cell phones will not be allowed in camp. Turn them off. Hide them. If you must use cell phone remove yourself to the sinks and use it there.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in the field.

**Your Obd't Servant
Col. Pete Seielstad**



THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE JULY ISSUE OF THE FUGELMAN:

John Dudkiewicz
Lyle Laufenberg
Patricia Lynch
Bob Mann
Gary Van Kauwenbergh

CAPTAIN MICKELSON HAS SOME LAST MINUTE

DIRECTIONS FOR TRIP TO NATIONAL EVENT

How to enhance the event and your pleasure on the way to Gettysburg

The time is at hand! The march to Gettysburg will commence soon and we must be ready for the challenges ahead. The Gazette wants to take this opportunity to wish all a safe, meaningful and pleasurable event. One need say no more than the name Gettysburg to evoke a deep emotional responses in those with a passion for the history of the Civil War. And Heaven knows that the Iron Brigade and the Second Wisconsin's record there was both tragic and glorious!

The following dispatch from Captain Craig Mickelson is important and very helpful in making your trip to Gettysburg a great experience. Please read this carefully if you are taking the bus out to the National event.

Hi All:

. Here are our departure times and locations. Be early, don't show up AT the departure time

Thursday, July 2, 2008
Departures:

Green Bay 2:30PM, Dave

Dresang's house.

Fond du Lac 3:45PM, Holiday Inn, 625 W. Rolling Meadows Dr, Hwys 41 & 151

Madison, 5:15PM, Dutch Mill Park & Ride, Corner of Hwy 51 & Hwys 12 & 18

NOTES:

For your health & convenience:

Since we will not be leaving from a motel to go to the reenactment site, fill your canteens [take on the bus], elsewhere or ahead of time so you will have water when we get off the bus at the reenactment site. It'd be a good idea to bring a few bottles of water on the bus for this purpose for yourself.

- . Pack your uniform in small carryon bag [we'll change somewhere before the reenactment site] unless you want to wear that uniform for 5 days, July 2-6.
- . BYOB, soda, water, etc. for the trip out. Since we are at **56 riders on a 56 passenger bus**, coolers will have to go under the bus with our gear [we can open up storage at stops to stock up].
- . I will bring a cooler; if Co.s B&E can each bring a cooler that should do it.
- . Trip home we'll have the bus driver pickup some brews & soda for us.
- . We will make a fast food supper stop in Rockford ILL. 6:30-7:30PM, July 2. Or bring a sack dinner from home and eat on bus.
- . The bus has 3 monitors and

war DVDs and videos will be playing.

As always, ask if you have a question.

Craig S. Mickelson,
Capt.
President, Co K

**WAUCONDA
REENACTMENT SET
FOR JULY 12-13, 2008**

**A Good Event Looms In Lake
County, Illinois**

A popular event will take place on July 14th and 15th in Lake County, Illinois. The Wauconda Civil War Weekend is a premier event. The schedule of events can be found below.

**2008 WADE HOUSE CIVIL WAR
WEEKEND**

**RE-ENACTMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETINGS #5 & #6**

**APRIL 5 & 26, 2008
WADE HOUSE HISTORIC SITE**

A walking tour of the battlefield area with the overall commanders was conducted on April 26. The viewing line for the event was set, as were locations for artillery, cavalry, and infantry. The scenarios discussed may require some additional work to take down fencing and put a short gap in the existing stone wall on the battlefield, which will be defended by the

Confederates. The general direction of the battles was also set.

The location for the supply depot [if it is to be built] was set.

The detailed Boy Scout proposal of working with re-enactors to immerse the Scouts in the Civil War period was dismissed as too time-consuming. However, the prevailing opinion was that this type of activity might be better suited for the Spring Muster or another Boy Scout immersion event at the site at a later date.

All other items of interest have been discussed or set at a previous meeting. The event is still in need of additional civilian programs and of civilians who might wish to help out the site by doing scheduled tours of the camp areas during the day. Anybody who is interested should please contact Jeff Murray by phone [920] 526-3271 or e-mail.

**A NEW ORGANIZATION
DEVOTED TO SERVING
THE INTERESTS OF
VETERANS IN
MILWAUKEE**

**The War is over for me now
But it will always be there**

Patricia Lynch from the West Side Soldiers' Aid Society sent the following information about a new organization devoted to the interests of veteran in the Milwaukee area. Their mission statement is set out below:

Dryhootch.org is a nonprofit enterprise whose goal is to provide a social healing place for veterans, their families, and friends.

A social place where one can come and meet old buddies, share stories, remember those a million miles away who spent a lifetime one day with you.

Where a great cup of Java and good friends bring back the good memories, great stories, and salute the those who couldn't make it.

Enjoy some jazz, poetry, or a good movie. It's a great time to reflect and laugh again.

A healing place, where the troubles, fears, and worries of service and sacrifice can be addressed. Skills on how to cope, how to deal with the memories that won't go away.

Groups on addictions, PTSD, family involvement, are available in a warm atmosphere that promotes healing and reflection.

Information by vets, for vets, on what government programs are available to help you, your family, or a friend.

Dryhootch is looking for help in creating their vision. They need contributions of money, talent and equipment to get up and running.

Rather than go into great detail about their needs the newsletter suggests that the readers go to the website for the group and make your own evaluation or determine to assist in meeting the needs of the group.

<http://www.dryhootch.org/A55B32/dryhootch.nsf/home?Openpage>

INDEPENDENCE DAY

**WE
REMEMBER
THE DATE OUR
NATION WAS
BORN AND THE
FREEDOM THE
FOUNDERS
ANNOUNCED**

Independence Day, the editor's preferred way to refer to this special holiday, should be so much more than a day of picnics and frivolity. Not that the day shouldn't be considered a joyous commemoration. As the heirs of the Revolution we do have reason to celebrate the anniversary of the small handful of men acting for the common good declared the colonies independent from England, but even more astounding, they fashioned an American creed!

They declared the freedom of a new nation, but they were determined to make that freedom mean more than mere political independence from England, but a guarantee of freedom to all men who were created equal and endowed, not by politicians, but by their Creator with basic human liberties. This small group of men risked all and they wanted an outcome that was worth the personal risk they had faced.

It would take generations to fill out the true meaning of that promise. But the Founding Fathers left the job incomplete. Maybe they understood that at some point it would be necessary for those who followed to broaden the definitions of human beings and citizens. Or maybe they were narrowly focused on the concept of citizenship as it was defined in their own time, white, male property owners!

The July 4th celebrations that followed always featured speeches on the meaning of the Declaration of Independence and that those goals needed to be

passed on the newer generation before them, to inspire them to hold fast to the ideals of the Revolutionary generation.

Abraham Lincoln would give voice to an inclusive definition of the Declaration of Independence. Douglas Wilson in his book Lincoln's Sword: The Presidency and the Power of Words writes: "Fehrenbacher is here pointing to the fact that Americans have for a long time turned to Lincoln's words not only for inspiration but to understand their own history. To ask the question 'What are American values and ideals?'" Lincoln argued that the Declaration of Independence intended to grant certain rights to African Americans. This view of the Declaration of Independence as the great American ideal would become a central theme in the War of the Rebellion.

It is as important today that we, inheritors of the Founders and the Civil War generation who fought to expand the definition of freedom, hear the message and see the goal, that we hold fast to the dual promises of freedom and equality.

Your regimental and company officers hope your holiday is a special time of reflection and celebration! May your Independence Day be one of celebration and commemoration. Be safe, enjoy the holiday, and above all be grateful for the gift the Founders have passed down to us!



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The Wisconsin Veterans's Museum is hosting another series of programs showcasing

artifacts from their collection. Two of the series are Civil War related. All programs begin at noon in their second floor Education Center room in their building on the Capital Square in Madison.

July 1 - Charles King, five active campaigns, 1861-1918
[Russ Horton]

July 8 - Cassius Fairchild, 16th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, Civil War [Jeff Kollath]

For additional information on these and the other five programs, go to:

http://museum.dva.state.wi.us/MNews_calendarofevents.asp

Also, the museums current issue of their newsletter "The Bugle" features articles on a sword from COL Harrison Hobart of the 21st Wisconsin and tintypes of soldiers from the 2nd and 8th Infantry, and 2nd Wisconsin Cavalry regiments

Yr. Obt. Srvt.,
Gary Van Kauwenbergh

REGIMENTAL DISPATCHES



Those who are attending the 145th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg over the July 4th weekend should review the following two dispatches. The Second Wisconsin contingent are assigned to the Third Division, Second Brigade.

It might be a good idea to let someone know your assignment in the event an emergency arises back home and someone needs to locate you. Everything will go through the Division headquarters and they will be the only ones who will know where we are located during the campaign.

GETTYSBURG SPECIAL ORDER ¶ 10: THIRD DIVISION GUARD DUTY

**. WILL EICHLER, COLONEL 1ST
BRIGADE**

**CRAIG DECRANE, COLONEL 2ND
BRIGADE**

**MARK ANTHONY DEMBSKI,
CAPTAIN, 1ST MICHIGAN
ENGINEERS & MECHANICS**

Sirs:

1. Each Brigade will issue orders for Brigade Guard Duty per the following schedule:

Thursday: 2 PM - Midnight

Friday: 7 AM - Midnight

Saturday: 7 AM - Midnight

Sunday: 7 AM - Noon

2. Each brigade shall provide 2 guards for Division Headquarters per the following schedule:

1st Brigade: Thursday 2 PM - Midnight

Friday 7 AM - 10 PM

2nd Brigade: Friday 10 PM - Midnight

Saturday 7 AM - Midnight

Sunday 7 AM - Noon

3. The 1st Michigan Engineers & Mechanics shall furnish their own guards and shall follow the same general time schedule as established for 1st and 2nd Brigades in item 1 above.

4. During the skirmish on Friday, the battles on Saturday, and any action that may take place before noon on Sunday, Division Headquarters will have limited mobility. Consequently, the Brigade responsible for providing Division Headquarters Guards during these times may substitute their scheduled guards with individuals who may have moderately limited physical capabilities and cannot fully contend with the rigors of movement and fighting in the ranks [Brigade Commanders shall use their judgment in these assignments].

5. Also, during the skirmish on Friday, and the battles on Saturday and Sunday, each brigade shall provide at least one individual to watch over all the camps within the Division. These guards should be individuals who absolutely cannot participate due to health concerns.

By Order of:

General Dave Shackelford

Commanding General, Third Division

Major Keith Harrison

AAG, Third Division

GETTYSBURG SPECIAL ORDER ¶ 11:

THIRD DIVISION CAMPING

. WILL EICHLER, COLONEL 1ST BRIGADE

CRAIG DECRANE, COLONEL 2ND BRIGADE

**THIRD DIVISION STAFF OFFICERS
SIRS:**

The designated camping area at Gettysburg for the Third Division is a flat and grassy area with woods on two sides.

1. Each Brigade Commander shall issue orders informing their respective Battalion and Company Commanders of the following:

A. The Third Division will be camping "campaign" style at Gettysburg. Each

Company will have an area within each Battalion within each Brigade.

B. All Camps are to be in the open in order to save the woods so the men can get

out of the sun during the day.

2. Division Headquarters will be established in the woods line along the creek side of the camp.

By Order of:

General Dave Shackelford

Commanding General, Third Division

Major Keith Harrison

AAG, Third Division

COMPANY NEWS AND VIEWS

Company B provided the accompanying photos from their Memorial Day commemoration at Oak Grove Cemetery. As you can see they are well done and suggest the solemnity of the occasion. Good job fellas!

John Dudkiewicz has requested that the newsletter post the Company B website for our members. The newsletter is happy to do so. The editor went to the site and found it a well executed site worth a look by all our members. It is a way to keep informed on the activities and history of one of the companies that make up our Association. Thank you, John, for the suggestion and the photos.

www.lacrosselightguard.com



Figure 16 Line up area for the LaCrosse Memorial Day parade



Figure 15 GAR lot at Oak Grove Cemetery, LaCrosse, Wisconsin



Figure 17 Company B at Oak Grove Cemetery



CLIMAX ON SEMINARY RIDGE, JULY 1, 1863

by James H. Dumke
Part 3 of 3 parts

Throughout the morning and into the afternoon of July 1st, the Union forces struggled to maintain their position on McPherson's Ridge in the face of rising pressure from increasing numbers of Confederate troops and artillery battalions. The outmanned and outgunned Union troops were being driven back from the positions held by the I Corps since around 10:00 a.m., and the XI Corps from around 11:00 a.m.

The XI Corps line began to collapse after being flanked by Ewell's Corps as the rebel army swept down from the north of Gettysburg. Early's Division launched its final attack on Howard's line between 3:00 or 3:30 p.m., with terrible effect. Col. Dawes and his 6th Wisconsin, still detached from the remainder of the Iron Brigade, was still providing support for Stewart's 4th U. S., Battery B as they had been doing since the battery was

deployed astride the railroad cut on eastern Seminary Ridge.

The battery's first true test came about 4:00 p.m., when Pender's fresh troops took over the advance from Heth's tired regiments. "This line stretched from the railroad grading across the Cashtown Pike and through the fields south of it halfway to the Fairfield Road nearly a mile in length." (Martin, p. 431) Battery B poured shot, shell and shrapnel into the rebel ranks with great effect, however, as they advanced!

The regiments of rebel infantry, nevertheless, continued to press their attack south of the Cashtown Pike. In the face of such a threat Lieutenant Davison, who had suffered two serious wounds by this point,

. . . saw a perfect occasion to cause even more havoc upon the enemy, and ordered the left half of the battery to swing to the left in order to pour a raking fire on the rest of Scales' brigade [of Pender's command-Ed.]. His exact order was "to form to the left half battery, action left, by wheeling on the left gun as a pivot so as to bring the half-battery on a line with the Cashtown Pike, muzzles facing south." The maneuver succeeded admirably: Davison's fire so swept his new front that "from our second round on a gray squirrel could not have crossed the road alive." (Martin, p. 431)

Even though the battery's fire was very effective, the battery had maneuvered itself into a situation that left their flank open to rebel infantry fire. The fighting over the next few minutes would be desperate and deadly!

However, this successful change in front brought on a new problem--it exposed the men of the left section to a flank fire themselves, from the Confederates of the 38th North Carolina, who seized the opportunity at that moment to renew their advance: "Then for seven or eight minutes ensued probably the most desperate fight ever waged between artillery and infantry at close range without a particle of cover for either side. They gave us volley after volley in front and flank, and we gave them double canister as fast as we could load." In addition the battery's infantry supports (primarily from Dawes' 6th Wisconsin of the Iron Brigade) "climbed up over the bank of the cut or behind the rail fence in rear of Stewart's caissons and joined their musketry to our canister."

The men of Battery B poured a devastating fire on the approaching rebel infantry. The cannons were loaded and fired as fast as the men of the battery could operate. The author was unable to find a description of the actual processes used by the battery on the field that July 1st afternoon. There were techniques available to battery members to increase their rate of fire. It could not be determined if any of these techniques were actually

employed by Battery B, but given the numbers facing them and the need to maintain a rapid rate of fire, it would not be beyond the realm of possibility that they employed some of these methods.

Veteran artillerymen gradually acquired a number of tricks that would speed up loading and firing, as well as avoid some common problems. As soon as the gunner saw the flash at the vent, he would spring forward and hold the wheels of the undercarriage. By doing this, he was usually able to reduce the recoil about 50%. Not only did this reduce the amount of time relaying and sighting the gun before the next shot could be fired; it also reduced the amount of wear and tear on the ground below and the strain on the carriage's wheels and axles. Minimizing the impact of the artillery piece on the ground was not very important during brief engagements or when the artillery was positioned on firm ground. However, it often to be an important precaution when on soft or loose earth, as was frequently found after rainstorms. Then the repeated recoiling of the piece would have to be moved to firmer ground, as happened to some of Jackson's artillery during the Battle of Port Republic (on the upper reaches of the Shenandoah, June 9, 1862).

The need to fire quickly was probably greatest when the battery found itself the target of a frontal attack. The battery's position imperiled, the men would be urged to load and fire as quickly as possible and to aim where the enemy's troops were thickest. If the situation was desperate enough, the men might be instructed to forgo sponging the barrel to achieve a higher rate of fire. (Nosworthy, p. 427)

One thing is clear, however. The efforts of the battery were initially successful and they were manfully holding their own against superior odds.

Stewart's three guns posted north of the railroad cut also did their part to help repulse Scales' assault. Colonel Rufus Dawes, whose 6th Wisconsin was supporting Stewart at this time, was a witness to the magnificent scene: "For a mile up and down the open fields in front, the splendid lines of the veterans of the Army of Northern Virginia swept down upon us. Their bearing was magnificent. They maintained their alignment with great precision. In many cases, the colors of the regiments were advanced several paces in front of the line. Stewart fired shell until they appeared on the ridge east of Willoughby Run; when on this ridge they came forward with a rush. The musketry burst forth from Seminary Ridge, every shot fired with care, and Stewart's men, with the regularity of a machine, worked their guns upon the enemy. The rebels came

halfway down the opposite slope, wavered, began to fire, then to scatter and then to run, and how our men did yell, 'come on Johnny, come on ' (Martin, pps. 431-32)

Brent Nosworthy argues that it was rare a frontal assault by infantry against a line of artillery could be successful due to the devastating impact of shot, shell and canister. First, the need for support by the infantry was necessary. The men servicing the guns were unable to respond or defend themselves while engaged in firing their pieces. This was especially true when the battery's position was flanked by enemy troops. The one assault that a battery could not withstand was a flanking movement on the battery's position. The men of the battery were focused on firing the guns and had no cover, generally, for the minie balls flying in and among the artillerymen. As the early afternoon progressed two events finally resulted in the withdrawal of Stewart's battery. The first was the impact of Daniel's troops advancing from the north and the second was the eventual overlapping of the I Corps lines on Seminary Ridge resulting in both the infantry and artillery being outflanked. David G. Martin describes these events as follows:

While Davison's guns were facing Scales' troops, Stewart's half battery was fairing less successfully against Daniel's Confederate troops who were now advancing north of the Pike. The regiments advancing straight towards the Union guns (32nd and 45th North Carolina, and 2nd North Carolina Battalion} were kept at a respectful distance by repeated blasts of canister. But farther to the north, Daniel's 43rd and 53rd North Carolina, aided by O'Neal's 3rd Alabama, entered the woods on Stewart's right and began driving back the few Union troops posted there.

It remains unclear which troops were deployed to support Stewart's battery at this juncture of the fight. The only troops that can be positively identified as providing support to the right of Battery B was the 97th New York of Baxter's brigade. Cutler's battle report claims that his brigade was posted on eastern Seminary Ridge and that he sent the 14th Brooklyn and the 76th and 147th New York to provide assistance to Stewart's battery. What is clear is that Col. Dawes' 6th Wisconsin was standing firm with the battery as support. At around 2:30 p.m. Dawes had been forced to withdraw his brigade through the railroad cut to a strip of woods behind Stewart's battery on Seminary Ridge.

. . . Dawes went down to stand among Stewart's guns as they began to fire on the advancing Confederate line. He witnessed the repulse

of Scales' brigade, as already described, but then saw Daniel's men advance directly in his front. These Confederates advanced cautiously, and from the start poured forth a steady fire of deadly musketry. "This killed Stewart's men and horses in great numbers, but did not seem to check his fire."

Dawes was still with Stewart's guns when he saw Lieutenant Clayton E. Rogers of Wadsworth's staff ride up rapidly. He bore an astonishing message "The orders, Colonel, are to retreat beyond the town. Hold your men together." Dawes did not understand the purpose of the order, and since Stewart's line was holding handsomely, until he looked to his right and rear and saw the XI Corps in full retreat. (Martin, p. 434}

The supporting infantry began to melt away after Wadsworth sent the general order for the I Corps troops to retreat through Gettysburg to the ridge east of the town. Dawes' 6th Wisconsin fell back and shortly afterward the Baxter's command also began retreating towards Gettysburg. The withdrawal of the infantry, especially the support for Stewart's battery, made the position held astride the Chambersburg Pike untenable.

Stewart's battery barely managed to escape as all its supporting infantry began to melt away to the rear. Stewart was still holding his own with his three guns on the north side of the eastern railroad cut when an aide from General Robinson rode quickly up. He said that the general had forgotten that the battery had been posted on his left flank, and now ordered Stewart "to fall back to the town as rapidly as possible." Upon inquiry, Stewart was amazed to learn that Robinson's troops were "about a half mile" away, and that the 6th Wisconsin had been ordered back. (Martin, p. 442)

Thus the section of the battery under Stewart's command began the process of limbering up their guns. Sergeant Mitchell, who was in command of the left half battery, had not received the orders to withdraw the battery, but when he observed Stewart's men limber up he followed suit and prepared to withdraw. Sgt. Mitchell's half battery was closest to the Chambersburg Pike and therefore was the first unit of Battery B to form up on the Pike. From this point on the author will let David G. Martin describe the action as it took place.

The battery's historian tells of the narrow escape of Mitchell's guns: "The rebels could have captured or destroyed our left half-battery--and perhaps Stewart's too--if they had made a sharp rush on both sides of the pike as we were limbering up, because as our last gun (the right gun of the left half-battery) moved off their leading men south of the pike were within 50 yards of us! But they

contented themselves with file-firing, and did not come on with the cold steel. However, as soon as they saw the limbers coming up the Rebels redoubled their fire both in front and on our left flank, their object apparently to cripple our teams so we would have to abandon the guns. They hit several horses, three or four of the drivers and two or three more of the remaining cannoneers while we were limbering up. During all this wreck and carnage Serg't Mitchell was perfectly cool, and all the men, following his example, were steady. The driver of our swing team being hit as they wheeled the limber to 'hook on,' Mitchell ordered me to mount his team. Just then the off leader was shot and went down all in a heap. But Mitchell and Thorpe had cut him out of the traces sooner that it can be told, and off we went down the pike toward the town, the nearest houses of which were about a third of a mile off."

Meanwhile Stewart was attempting to bring his three guns to safety. The Lieutenant stated that he "moved down through the timber, running a short distance parallel with the railroad cut, and then attempted to cross." He was especially sorry to have to leave his wounded behind, whose beseeching looks quite unnerved him. He was greatly surprised to learn that the cut was full of large rocks, which made it exceedingly difficult for the guns and limbers to pass over the cut. Even so, his men managed to get the first two guns over safely.

The third gun was not so fortunate. Its pintle hook broke, and the tail fell to the ground. To make matters worse, some rebels at that moment came running out of the woods and shouted "Halt that piece!" Stewart was totally taken by surprise, but one of his men boldly made the Confederates stop to think when he shouted back "Don't you see that the piece is halted?" This brief delay enabled Stewart to set up his two lead pieces on the road. They at once opened on the Confederate detachment, "who took cover very quickly."

. . . . When the pintle hook broke, I felt that we would never be able to get the gun out of the cut, as it took us a long time to disengage the prolonge from the trail; then we had to get the limber out of the cut, then the gun; then we had to tie the trail to the rear of the limber; and during all this time the enemy were firing upon us not more than one hundred yards; and just as we got the gun out of the cut, the enemy made a dash, this time getting within fifty or sixty yards, killing one driver (the driver of the swing team), and seriously wounding the wheel driver and two horses, which again caused delay. But the two pieces kept firing at them all the time, and I will say right here if ever men stayed by their guns, it certainly was then."
(Martin, pps. 443-44)

Stewart went back, once his guns were on the road through the town, to determine if Davidson's battery had also withdrawn, since he wasn't sure the order to withdraw had been transmitted to the battery. Stewart went as far as the Thompson house, where the left of the Mitchell guns had been located [where Lee would later make his headquarters during the remainder of the battle] but the battery was gone. The area was in rebel hands and Stewart very nearly was captured. After his surrender had been demanded, Stewart wheeled his horse and set off as fast as he could go. The rebels fired a couple of volleys in his direction, but Stewart wasn't hit. He was indeed lucky to escape! Stewart was forced to travel across the fields towards town and where he hoped to rejoin his battery because the area was now full of rebel troops. Lieutenant Stewart did stop long enough to assist with the destruction of ammunition from a disabled caisson to deprive the rebels of the use of the ammunition, despite the constant risk of capture!

The day's struggle didn't end with the withdrawal from Seminary Ridge. When Stewart caught up with his battery in the town of Gettysburg the Union forces were fleeing towards Cemetery Hill and dealing with rebel forces pursuing closely behind them.

Stewart reached the rest of his battery just inside the town. By then the guns had caught up to Dawes' 6th Wisconsin, which had formed across the street. The regiment opened its line to let the guns pass. One of the men noted that Dawes had an assortment of remnants from other units rallied on his line, and also saw the 6th's adjutant (Brooks) loading and firing a musket with the troops.

Mitchell's lead gun proceeded farther into town, and its men were surprised to see Colonel Lucius Fairchild of the 6th [sic] Wisconsin sitting on the porch of a house next to the road. His left arm had just been amputated, but he still had the energy to cry out "stick to 'em boys! Stay with 'em You'll fetch 'em finally!" Sergeant Mitchell was reluctant to leave the Colonel behind to be captured, so he "prolongued" his rear gun in the street and prepared to load. But just then Johnny Cook of the battery, came riding up with the news that Lieutenant Stewart would be up with the rest of the battery as soon as he finished destroying the abandoned caisson.

Mitchell rehitched his gun, and continued on down the street. At the next cross roads he found one gun of the 2nd Maine battery drawn up with fixed prolongue. The gun started firing as soon as the 6th Wisconsin passed by and cleared its front. Meanwhile Lieutenant Stewart, riding at the rear of his command, passed by the house where Fairchild was (the colonel was still waving his hat, though well aware he would soon be captured) and caught up to the rest of the battery at the town square. The unit then proceeded calmly to Cemetery Hill, having lost during the day's action two men killed, two

mortally wounded, thirteen men badly wounded, and a large number of horses. Its losses in equipment were two guns disabled, three caissons broken down and abandoned in the town, and one caisson destroyed. It would have lost an additional caisson that had broken a wheel unless a few of its men "coolly stopped and in the face of fierce fire jacked up the caisson and replaced the wheel, resuming their march without the loss of a man. (Martin, pps. 445-46)

As Stewart's command was moving their guns towards Cemetery Hill by way of the Baltimore Pike after turning east from the railroad cut through the town the battery was met by Major General Winfield S. Hancock, who had been placed in command of the troops at Gettysburg by none other than General Meade. Hancock had just sent Stevens' battery to the far right of the Union defensive line. Hancock was concerned about Stevens' exposed position there and ordered Doubleday to send supporting infantry from the I Corps. Since the Iron Brigade had sustained such significant losses during the day's fight Doubleday sent the entire brigade to the right on Culp's Hill to support Stevens.

When Stewart was confronted by Hancock, at the cemetery gate, he was asked how many serviceable guns he had.

Stewart replied that he had four. Hancock told him to place three guns on the pike to sweep the approach from the town, and the other at a right angle to them. He then directed Stewart, "I want you to remain in this position until I relieve you in person." After calling up his aide, Captain Mitchell, Hancock "told him to listen to what he was going to say to me: 'I am of the opinion that the enemy will mass in town and make an effort to take this position, but I want you to remain until you are relieved by me or by my written order and take orders from no one.'" (Martin, p. 489)

It had been a long, hard day! The men of the battery were smoke begrimed, hungry, fatigued and in shock from the violence of the day's struggle and retreat through Gettysburg to the heights east of town. And the effort trying the limits of their strength continued once they reassembled on Cemetery Hill. There they redeployed and readied for the real possibility that the fight might continue! The battery made ready per the orders of General Hancock. The rebels did not renew their attack that evening, but the battery would play a role in repulsing General Ewell's diversion turned full scale attack on July 2nd.

Their service during the day of July 1st probably saved the survivors of the I Corps as it retreated first to the line on Seminary Ridge and later as they were driven from that line into the town. Their rapid fire and dedication to duty made the retreat possible for the infantry troops fighting on those ridges west of Gettysburg.

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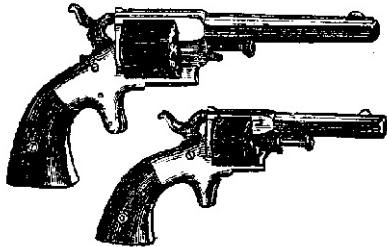
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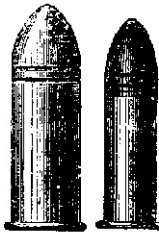


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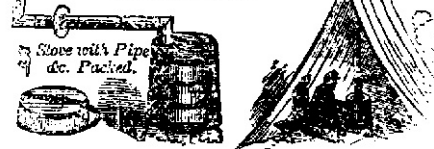
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