



The Hancock Rebel



THE SHIELDSBORO RIFLES CAMP #2263 NEWSLETTER

BAY ST. LOUIS, MS

ISSUE #4

November 2015

Don Green – Camp Commander
dgreen_1865@yahoo.com
601-270-5316

Brad Johnson – 1st Lt. Commander
brad.johnson@usa.com
228-216-8680

Dorty Necaize – 2nd Lt. Commander
djnecaize@icloud.com
228-493-7504

Beau Ladner – Camp Adjutant
ironhorse366@yahoo.com
228-216-0050

The Charge

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish.

Given at New Orleans, LA in a speech on April 25, 1906 to the SCV National Convention by Lt. Gen. Stephen D Lee.

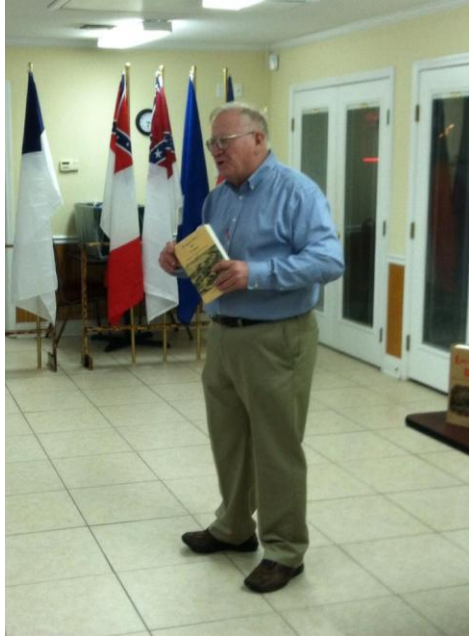
From the Commander's Desk

By: Camp Commander Don Green

Hello everyone,

Hallow's Eve is past us and Thanksgiving is right around the corner. It makes one wonder where 2015 went to; how fast it has flown by. At any rate, we are moving our normal meeting day up a week so we can avoid Thanksgiving week. It will be held on Tuesday November 17 at the American Legion in Bay St. Louis at 6pm. Our speaker will be Terry "Beetle" Bailey, a close friend of ours. He will present on Capt. Henry Wirz who was blamed by the Yankee Government & hanged for the atrocities at Andersonville Prison. Also, we will decide

whether to elect officers as our annual date to do that is upon us, or whether we want to table it until later. We will also talk more about the Brigade Meeting in Dixie that we will be hosting on December 4, 2015. We will also discuss the Lee-Jackson Banquet that is in the works for January. If anyone wishes to address another meeting place, put something in the newsletter, ect. Just let us know. This is your Camp also. There are good events coming up to finish out the year, so feel free to jump in & participate.



Compatriot Grady Howell presents on his book at the Oct. Camp Meeting.



The State Flag of Mississippi now flies at the Annex of Hancock County.

Upcoming Events

November 13-15 – Wirt Adams Raid Reenactment; Historic Jefferson College; Washington, MS.

December 12 – McCoud’s Mill Reenactment; Leakesville, MS. Hosted by Camp #2215.

Novemeber 20-22 – Camp Moore Reenactment; Historic Camp Moore; Tangipahoa, LA.

January 9, 2016 – Battle of the Bulge WWII Event at Beauvoir; 9am Program; 2pm Battle.

November 28 – Landrum’s Country Landrum’s Homestead; Laurel, MS.

January 19, 2016 – High Noon Rally, Capital Building; Jackson, MS. 12PM. ALL SCV Needed.

December 4 – 5th Brigade Meeting; Camp #2263 are the hosts; Hattiesburg, MS.

January 23, 2016 – Potential Lee-Jackson Banquet; American legion; Bay St. Louis, MS.

Media Pages Update

We have a Camp website up and running for recruiting purposes and to pass on information to others on the World Wide Web. 1st Lt. Brad Johnson was instrumental in constructing this site & serves as its webmaster for the Camp. He has added more tabs and information to our site & it looks very good. It can be found at: www.shieldsborrifles.org. Beauvoir is in the process of merging its two websites into one site. More to come here. Other pertinent sites can be found below:

Camp Website: www.shieldsborrifles.org

Brigade Website: www.dgreen1865.wix.com/5th-brig-ms-div-scv

Division Website: www.mississippiscv.org

Beauvoir Website: www.visitbeauvoir.org ; www.beauvoir.org

National Website: www.scv.org

Beauvoir Trunk or Treat

Beauvoir held a Trunk or Treat for kids on Halloween October 31, 2015. Though the rain prevented many from coming, a couple of hundred people showed up and the kids were thrilled. There was trick or treating inside the JDPL as well as a haunted dungeon. I was able to dress out as a Confederate Ghost & scare people with a chainsaw from a wagon. Yea, I know it was a little hokey, but the guests, young & old, enjoyed it very much. This should be an annual event for Beauvoir.



Camp Commander Don Green

Attack on Pass Christian, April 4, 1862

The following is an account that happened on the Mississippi Gulf Coast that not too many people are aware of. Confederate troops abandoned Ship Island on Sept. 16, 1861. On December 4, 1861, the USS Constitution, a huge troop transport, entered Ship Island harbor and landed two regiments as the vanguard of 18,000 Union Soldiers headed for the island under Major General Benjamin Franklin “Beast” Butler for the impending assault on New Orleans. One of these regiments, the 26th Massachusetts, promptly set to work upon the fort already unofficially christened for their home state by the crew of Melancton Smith’s USS Massachusetts.

In view of the massive buildup of forces on Ship Island, the 3rd Mississippi Regiment composed of ten companys of Confederate Infantry (5 of which were made up of men from the Mississippi Gulf Coast), were returned to the area from Columbus, Kentucky, whence the unit had been sent a few weeks earlier. The 3rd Mississippi Regiment Commander Colonel John Deason, angered by unopposed landings on the Coast by small parties of Federal Troops, posted 7 companies of the 3rd Mississippi at Handsboro, located 5 miles west of Biloxi, and 3 companies at Pass Christian.

On March 20, 1862, General Butler himself arrived aboard a flagship leading a convoy of several thousand more troops for disembarkation at Ship Island. Three days later the general went ashore to witness a grand review of the massed regiments of the island, which, together with the ships and men of Admiral David Farragut’s armada, constituted one of the greatest amphibious assault forces of the 19th Century.

As Butler and Farragut planned their grand strategy for the capture of New Orleans, an incident regarding a child focused the general attention on Biloxi. Four-year-old Alma Peniston of New Orleans, one of the survivors rescued from a storm-smashed vessel in the Gulf, had been brought to Ship Island by a blockader. Butler, supposing her parents to have perished, ordered his Chief of Staff, Major George Strong, to deliver the child to the Biloxi town authorities for transshipment to relatives in New Orleans.

Major Strong arrived off Biloxi in a schooner flying a flag of truce on April 1 and duly delivered the child. In preparation for his return, the major unfortunately ran aground on Deer Isalnd. While he was in this predicament, persons from the shore fired on him twice and then sailed out to demand his surrender. His refusal, together with his commands shouted to a non-existent company of soldiers below decks, frightened his antagonists away. Back at the island Strong reported the ugly incident. An incensed Butler ordered the New London and two other gunboats to stand by while a section of artillery and the entire compliment of approximately 1,000 men belonging to the 9th Connecticut Infantry Regiment boarded a transport. Known as the Irish Regiment because so many of its members were natives of Ireland, the 9th Connecticut was charged by Butler with securing written apologies for “cowardly conduct” from both the mayor of Biloxi and the Commander of the 3rd Mississippi Regiment.

This task force arrived at Biloxi at sundown on April 2. The men disembarked, surrounded the town, and demanded to see mayor James Fewell. When Fewell did not appear, the Yankees held his daughter hostage until he did. Satisfied with the mayor's explanation and written apology, they looted a store belonging to one of the culprits suspected of firing on Major Strong, cut the telegraph line, and invited all slaves who wished to accompany them to board the boats. Prior to embarkation, the Yankess informed Fewell that another such outrage as has occurred against the flag of truce would result in the destruction of Biloxi. The Union contingent evacuated Biloxi at 4:30pm on April 3.

The Yankee flotilla then sailed to Mississippi City to await the dawn wuth the intention of seeking a truce talk with Colonel Deason of the 3rd Mississippi Regiment regarding the Strong incident. The Yankees had intelligence that part of the 3rd Mississippi was at Handsboro one mile inland behind Mississippi City and that at least three companies of the third were encamped two miles inland north of Pass Christian. At 4:30am on April 4 the Oregon and two other blacked-out Confederate Gunboats, Carondelet and Pamlico, muffled their engines, crept along the Union vessels, and opened fire. Tom Hall, a Confederate soldier observing from the shore near the James Brown home (later to be named Beauvoir), pronounced it "a sublimely beautiful battle in which flashes of the great guns glistened over the quiet waters for a distance of 11 miles like flashes of wicked vivid lightning, while the roaring of the guns rolled leisurely east and west clear along the Coast and awakened the inhabitants of the pretty towns from Pascagoula to Bay St. Louis."

In the two-hour engagement the Federals suffered only one man slightly injured, while the Rebels may have suffered as many as five dead plus considerable damage to all three of their gunboats. As the secesh boats broke off and fled westward at dawn, some of the Yankee steamers stayed in hot pursuit to Lake Borgne, where the Rebel steamers escaped into the shoal water. The ships containing the 9TH Connecticut halted at Pass Christian and landed the regiment to do battle with the elements of the 3rd Mississippi known to be there. At the sight of Federal warships in the Sound, Confederate troops at Pass Christian ignited bales of hay on the wharves to destroy them & prevent a landing. The Union gunners, mistaking the smoke from the bales for cannon puffs, opened up first on the wharves, and then on the town. Miraculously, as the populace fled the exploding buildings and ran for the woods, not one person sustained an injury.

The Yanks ceased firing and landed the thousand men of the 9th Connecticut Regiment on the wharves and on the beach. The soldiers searched the town for military supplies under strict orders to respect private property and persons. Finding no military stores, they formed a column and headed up Red Creek Road (Menge Avenue) and bound for the 3rd Mississippi encampment 2 miles away at Tuggsville. At the head of the column was the 9th Connecticut Colonel Thomas W. Cahill and beside him was General Butler's Chief of Staff Major George Strong. It is not surprising that Strong would wish to be in the forefront since this skirmish had resulted from Strong's flag of truce being fired on by soldiers of the 3rd Mississippi. Half the distance to the camp the column drew artillery and musket fire. The Yanks then formed a skirmish line & drove the 300 Rebel soldiers back. When Lt. Col. Thomas A. Mellon, the commander of the Pass Christian Confederate contonment, realized he was heavily

outnumbered and could expect no aid from the seven Rebel companies then at Handsboro, he ordered a retreat, which turned into a rout. His only casualties were two men who were taken prisoner and several men who drowned attempting to swim Wolf River in full battle gear. The Yanks suffered one casualty-Private John Leonard was shot in the arm.

The 9th Connecticut plundered and burned the Confederate camp, shot all of the horses there, and took the stand of colors left behind in front of a tent. That flag belonged to the Dahlgren Guards which was Company H of the 3RD Mississippi. As the victorious troops returned to Pass Christian flaunting the white silk ensign bearing a star and magnolia leaves, one woman, who had helped make this first banner captured in the Coast Campaign, wept openly in the street. According to a Federal officer present at the scene, the woman "said she didn't think the Southern soldiers were cowards but she couldn't see how they could allow that flag to be taken." The Yankee officers apologized for mistakingly shelling the town, cutting the telegraph line, and departed. This concluded the action in Pass Christian as Federal troops continued to build up on Ship Island. Eventually, those troops left the island and went up the Mississippi River and captured New Orleans. The 3rd Mississippi was eventually sent over to the Eastern Theater.

(Courtesy of Beauvoir: The Last Home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis; Katrina Plus Ten-The Saga of Beauvoir, The Friendship Flag, and the Connecticut Sergeant's Sword by Charles L. Sullivan)
