

FORWARD! FORWARD!

The Union Eagle

The Official Newsletter of the U.S Frontier Brigade

Winter 2012

“The Union Eagle”
Is under new management!

Greetings! My name is Jim Scheidel and I'm your newly appointed Brigade Adjutant. For those of you who don't know me I've been a member of Co. A Eighth Kansas for the past 13 years and have served in a variety of company positions. As your Adjutant since part of my duties are to "Superintend the machinery and workings of the Brigade" (1), I have taken up responsibility for our newsletter. First, I'd like to thank the pervious "Editor-in-Chief" Cal Kinzer for all his hard work over the past few years with "*The Union Eagle*". I have some very large shoes to fill and I will try my utmost to make it happen. Secondly, I intend to publish 4 issues a year; Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall. To make this a reality I need your help, I'd like to solicit individuals of the Brigade to submit articles for publication. This is your newsletter, if you have information, ideas, observations or research to share please feel free to submit an article to me via email at 8thksfusilier@cox.net

SHILOH!
By Jim Scheidel

The next brigade event is the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh on March 29-1 Apr. There is quite the buzz about this event as it will take place on the original Fallen Timbers battlefield. As many on you may be aware the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) has kick off a campaign to purchase 267 acres of the battle field and plan to eventually donate the land to the Shiloh National Military Park. More information from the CWPT can found here: <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/shiloh/shiloh-fallen-timbers-2011/a-message-from-jim-lighthizer.html> This is a great accomplishment for the preservation of one of our nation's most important Civil War Battlefields and will ensure access to the site for future "generations that know us not and that we know not of, heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them" (2). This will be a unique event and the last opportunity to participate on the actual ground which our ancestors

fought so valiantly. I would encourage you all to register as soon as possible as the **registration deadline is March 12, 2012.** You can register on line at

<http://www.cleburnes-division.com/shiloh.aspx>.

Keep an eye on the Bureau of Military Information Page (BMI) on the brigade website for the latest information on the 150th Shiloh Event. I look forward to seeing you on the field!

Encampment & Shelter by Jim Butler, Salt River Rifles

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The subject of encampment is one rarely broached for a mainstream reenactor as it is old-hat? You know to bring an A-frame, shebang, Sibley, Wall tent, dog tent, or nothing at all regardless of the campaign or encampment portrayed. But to a progressive, the options may require more ingenuity in face of inclement weather and limited gear carried. This article will discuss the types of inclement weather faced and what type of shelter to build. We will also then touch on some encampment guidelines. Note that garrison impressions are not discussed in this article. This article is primarily focused on a field-craft, subject matter.

SHELTER

Shelter should usually only go up when the weather dictates you expend the energy a soldier needs to do so. Here are the most common elements you may need shelter for in the field on campaign. **HEAT:** You need only put up shelter if the extreme exposure to the sun is a factor. I know many fella's who like to put up at least 1-4 shebangs for a large company to serve as rest posts to get out of the sun. Shebangs, lean-toos, simple, Gum-blanket shelters are all suitable. **STAY HYDRATED!** Have a water detail; plan (see

Encampment Guidelines below). I'll take heat most any day over rain or cold! **RAIN:** Your main motivation is obviously to stay dry. If trees are in abundance then you have several options for a shebang with two, shelter halves or 1-2 gum blankets or a simple, gum blanket shelter if no Pard is to be found. Be sure you have a slope for your shebang appropriate to drain off the rain. Stay clear of the area under the drain-off point and keep gear out of this area. If no trees are available, then you must rely on your gum blankets. I suggest layering three gum blankets for three men, especially if it is cold as well. Lay fetal, wrap your blanket and/or greatcoat about you, and then lay the gums over top (see figure 3 & 4). Keep your gear close to your chest. Carry hemp cord and a pocketknife in your pocket for quick options to raise shelter. Carry extra, dry, pair of socks! Note, that you can always seek obvious alternate shelter, if presented (barns, period buildings, artillery pieces if their commander allows it, etc). In the cases of obvious, dangerous, extreme weather (tornado, hurricane, flooding) seek hard shelter immediately.

COLD: A fire should be built for each mess (4-6 men). Gather wood before dark if possible per mess (see Encampment Guidelines below). The Three blanket-Three man layering is my best suggestion. Lay two gum-blankets down (One if raining) three men lay down, three blankets layered over them, one-gum blanket (two if raining) on top (see figure 3) In dry weather, layer on any additional shelter, halves available, spoon in extreme cold to preserve heat. Add fellas onto the line of men for continued layers. Trenches are warmer if you prepare a fire step ahead of time (stay below the level of the fire to be out of the

smoke if possible). Buy a quality greatcoat, as it will come in handy for many events! (Shop wisely!)

WIND: I once campaigned at Lexington on the side of a grassy, depression on the side of a rocky outcropping. This served as an extraordinary windbreak and a bit of a rain break. In any case, find any type of windbreak you can, especially if it is cold. At Bentonville, some 2-3 foot thick brush served as the only, but usable windbreak available on that farm. (See COLD above) and apply for cold temperatures as well. Wind isn't too troublesome in mild or warm weather, in my opinion

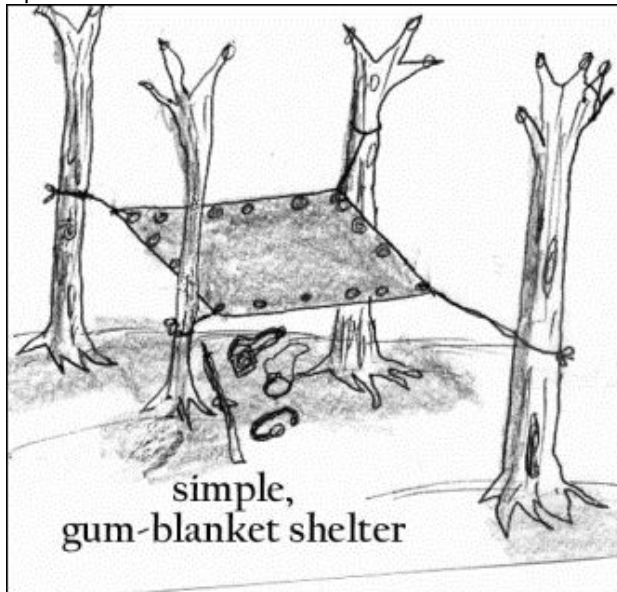


Figure 1

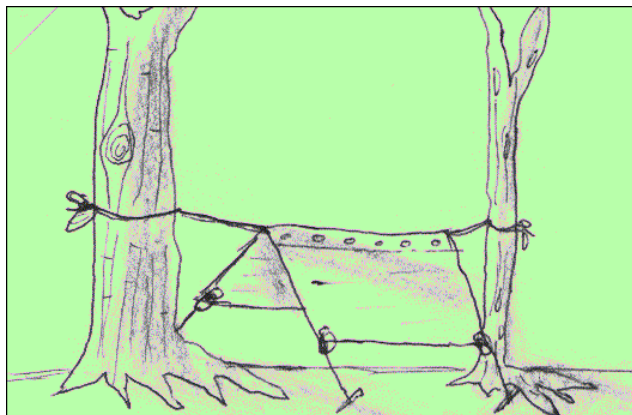


Figure 2

Shebang (one of many types) Shelter comes in several types and varies on the type of gear carried, terrain, number of trees, etc. Here are few detailed below.

Simple, gum-blanket shelter (see figure 1) This is the quickest and easiest to throw up. Use hemp cord to tie the corners of a gum blanket up on to nearby trees. Be sure to put it up with a slope for rain drainage. A poncho will work if you quickly pin the opening shut with a pin from your housewife and keep the overlap facing down-slope. Keep a pocketknife and hemp cord handy.

Shebang (see figure 2.) There are countless possible ways to put up a shebang. A few are mentioned here and one pictured. One way is with two, shelter halves or two, gum blankets. Button two halves together or overlap two gum blankets. Tie a line of hemp cord between two trees. Throw the halves or gums over the line. Be sure that the seam is slightly offset the rope and not right on top. Use stakes or guide ropes to attach corners to the ground or trees. Be sure your shelter half has a loop of hemp rope thru the corner grommets. Progress to hand-stitching your shelter-half, grommets or purchasing them this way many vendors now offer this service. When under canvas, be sure NOT to touch or have anything in contact with the canvas as a leak can begin. You can also button more halves together and/or use branches for poles. I have seen countless configurations.

Lean-to (figure 5) Again, there are many variations of this technique. Branches, pine boughs, boulders, fence rails, etc can all be used to build a Lean-to. This can be an option if no trees are present. You can fix bayonets and invert your weapon and stick the bayonets in the ground for instant poles (be careful, as most repro, bayonets bend easily). Stake down one side of a gum blanket and attach the other end

to somewhere on the rifles trigger guard, etc to get the right angle of the blanket.

Open Ground Techniques

(figures 3 and 4) In the open, you only need cover in the rain and cold. Read Rain and Cold above for the Sleeping fetal under a gum-blanket technique. Clearly, there are few problems with this if the weather is temperate and clear. **Alternatives:** If you are fortunate enough to have a nearby barn, artillery piece or caisson, period house, trench, depression, rocky outcropping, windbreaks, etc, try to take advantage of these options.

Sleeping Arrangement:

Carefully lay out your gear as soon as you can when you stop to make camp (preferably in daylight.) Find a soft, flat grassy spot if you can. Follow any steps above for shelter from inclement weather first. Remove any rocks or branches from your sleeping area. If the ground is hard, you can use a shovel or bayonet to try and break the ground up some. This will soften and level the ground somewhat. Lay down your gum blanket (rubber side down) and this will insulate you from the ground's moisture. Lay out your blanket open. Lay inside the blanket long-ways, using just one side of the blanket. Then wrap the other side of the blanket over you (like you are the filling inside a taco). If you have any other means (shelter half or extra gum blanket), layer them over the top. If you have a great coat, be sure to wear it in cold weather and pull the cape over your head and this will provide additional warmth to your head. There is no definitive solution to creating shelter. Your messes ingenuity and creativity is the key to keeping warm and dry.

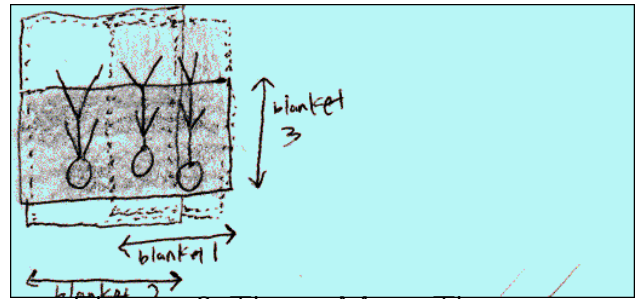


Figure 3 Three Man, Three Blanket Set-up

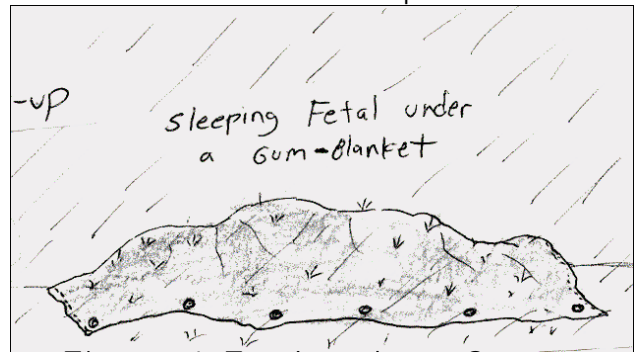


Figure 4 Fetal under a Gum Blanket



Figure 5 Lean-too (sketch from Cpl Si Klegg and his Pard by Wilbur Hinman)

ENCAMPMENT GUIDELINES

I have compiled some Encampment guidelines I feel might be of generic use in the field. They are in no particular order, but hopefully you will find them a useful checklist (especially to the NCOs).

1. Have your 1st Sgt assign details to corporals as soon as

camp is reached. Wood, Fire, Mess, Water, Sink, Guard are some of the most logical details.

2. Wood detail corporals should be aware of the possible need to stockpile wood for a cold evening ahead. Gather wood before dark if possible.

3. Have a plan to get water (especially in hot weather). The water detail should really be on the ball. Assign a responsible corporal to this in hot weather. It is critical the men remain hydrated!

4. Run details simultaneously to get things done quicker. Rotate details to avoid monotony or fatigue.

5. Each unit, group, regiment, mess should have an ax or hatchet. A shovel is also useful.

6. Deploy guard details if needed as soon as stopping to make camp. Assign a corporal of the guard and set a rotation schedule. Decide if it is a police guard or a picket guard.

7. NCOs should be sure the men have cleaned their weapons before nightfall if possible.

8. Cook food the night before if an early march or activity is required the next day.

9. Quickly prepare camp and shelter in the case of expecting inclement weather.

10. Assign a detail to fill in all sinks prior to leaving camp.

11. The corporal of the fire detail should be sure there is no risk of spreading fires. He is also responsible to see that all fires are out prior to departing camp.

12. Set-up your gear so you can find your things in the dark or under candlelight.

13. If it is a warm day, have your blanket layed out so you can get at it as the temperatures drop in the night.

14. Bring a flannel, nightcap. You can easily make one or have one made. They are invaluable on cold nights. Get one big enough to pull down over your ears. An extra pair of dry socks is also a must.

15. Secure your rifle under or rolled in the edge of your gum blanket (this helps keep the rust off so you can pass morning inspection).

16. Hang foodstuffs off the ground if insects or other pests are an issue.

17. Find a camp that takes advantage of the terrain, windbreaks, grassy spots, trees for shebangs, available dead fall for fire wood, etc.

18. Arrange the camps to keep companies together and be sure the staff officers know exactly where each company is located.

19. Check the ground carefully before laying down your ground cloth/gum to be sure there are no yellow jacket, ant or insect nests nearby. I have however, made friends with some large, wolf spiders throughout the night and not been bothered much by them.

20. Work with your messmates. Delegate responsibilities and get more done at one time (one starts a fire, two collect wood, one gets water, etc).

References: Hinman, Wilbur;
Corporal Si Klegg and His Pard;
J.W. Henry Publishing, 1997;
Ashburn, VA

From the Colonel's Tent by Don Gross

2012 promises to be a busy year for the Frontier Brigade - especially in terms of large scale events (surely a welcome change from the past few years). The second year of the 150th Anniversary cycle will find us at Shiloh, TN, at the end of March and at Raymond/Vicksburg, MS, in October. On a more regional basis, the 150th Prairie Grove is this December. The infantry battalion has also committed to Jefferson, TX, in May. Add to these the local events in Oklahoma, Missouri, and Kansas and there should be more than enough opportunity for everyone to don the blue.

As I write this, Shiloh is less than sixty days away. A lot of effort is being made to make this a truly memorable event. The site is huge, almost 2,000 acres, which is more land than we can use. Once you get out of the parking lots there are no modern intrusions to be seen. The infantry camp is a mixture of woods and field and feels as large as the entire federal camp at Wilson's Creek. Scenarios are being developed that reflect as close as possible the actual flow of events 150 years ago. Efforts are being made to correct the most annoying problems from past events. The camps are closed to cars starting Friday night. The Blue Gray Alliance "owns" this event and this will be enforced! Artillery for the Saturday dawn battle will be prepositioned the night before. They have a set time to reposition for the afternoon battles and a directed route that keeps the trucks away from the camps. The only intrusions by vehicles are for the sinks and to fill the water buffalos - which we hid as best we could given the requirement for access. As if that wasn't enough, the Fallen Timbers scenario will be fought on the actual ground. The Confederate

hospital was actually located in the middle of the field we will fight in!

I'm more intimately involved in the planning for this event than I've ever been before. For the first time, I really understand how critical early registration is to the planning process. In just my small world of scenario development I have to make assumptions on what we'll have for forces - and we all know what happens when you assume. This is a detailed process and I can't wait till the week before the event to plan scenarios. More importantly, what about the guys that are responsible for the contracts for port a potties, firewood, and hay? At some point (soon now) they have to commit and pay for these amenities. You know what happens when we get a bunch of late registrations? Not enough sinks, firewood, water, and hay. And everyone bitches. So don't be the cause of bitching. If you haven't registered yet, do it today.

As part of the Army of the Frontier, we are looking to build on what we began at Wilson's Creek. There we fielded two battalions. It's my dream to field three for Shiloh. That would be something to see. A real brigade of three battalions maneuvering as a brigade should. I don't think in almost twenty years of reenacting I've see that done right. To make this happen it will take an extra effort on everyone's part to drag out the bodies. Think about the guys you haven't seen in a while, or perhaps old timers that were there for the last mud-loh. Pick up the phone and give them a call. You might be surprised. The boys who make this one will have stories for the campfires for years to come.

See you in the field

Frontier Brigade Morning Reports

By Jim Scheidel

Introduction

The purpose of the Company Morning Report is to capture an accurate accounting of the manpower currently on the field. The report indicates the strength (numbers of rifles) of "Brigade Member Units" and is a record of attendance in regard to brigade voting eligibility in accordance with the brigade by-laws. The Company Morning report is consolidated on to the Regimental Morning Report and is given to the Brigade Commander. If a higher headquarters is present on the field the Regimental Morning Report is forwarded to that Command element. (i.e. AoF and/or Division at National Events)

Company Responsibilities

Company Morning Reports are due from all "Brigade Member Units" who have soldiers present on the field.

Per regulation Company Morning Reports will be turned into the Adjutant via the Sergeant Major by 8'oclock in the morning.

Math must be correct or the Adjutant will return the report for correction.

Employ the "KISS" principle when completing your company morning report. Although the Sergeant Major and the Adjutant always enjoy a good joke, we ask that you please not be "witty" with this report. We all have much to do without having to deciphering any humorous entries."

In the field, if you have any questions regarding completion of your company morning report, please don't hesitate to ask for assistance from the Sergeant Major or the Adjutant.

Procedures

1. Fill out the top of the report with the name of the captain commanding the company, company letter designation, Regiment, State or US for Regulars.

2. There are 2 categories PRESENT and ABSENT. For our purposes count those who are on site or PRESENT when you conducted role call. If soldiers arrive after you turn in your morning report account for them on the next days report. (You also may verbally inform the Sgt Major or Adjutant of your additions)

3. The "For Duty" section is where you will account for individuals who will be in the field and on the battle line for your company.

4. The "Sick" section is where you will account for individuals who are **actually** ill or injured (heat issues, turned ankle, etc) and will not be taking the field that day.

5. The "On Extra or Daily Duty" section is where you will account for individuals **actually** serving elsewhere in the Brigade (i.e. Brigade Headquarters Staff, Hospital, or securing your company street as a Company Provost Guard while your company is on the field).

For our purposes we will not use the "In Arrest, or Confinement" section

Note

The "Total" is the number of Enlisted men

The "Aggregate" is the number of Enlisted men **AND** Officers

The difference between Total and Aggregate is that Officers are counted in the Aggregate and not the Total.

6. Annotate the Total and Aggregate numbers in the "For Duty" Section

(These numbers are subtotals)

7. Annotate the Total and Aggregate for the "Sick", "On Extra or Daily Duty",

(These numbers are also subtotals)
Again for our purposes we will not use the "In Arrest, or Confinement" section

8. Add the "Total" in the "For Duty" section to the "Total" in the "Sick" and "On Extra or Daily Duty" sections. Write this sum in the Present and Absent Section in the "Total Present and Absent column.

9. Add the "Aggregate" in the "For Duty" section to the "Aggregate" in the "Sick" and "On Extra or Daily Duty" sections. Write this sum in the Present and Absent Section in the "Aggregate Present and Absent column.

10. Enter the Total and Aggregate from the prior report. (If applicable)

11. Complete the Station (location), Date (Use actual date). Form must be signed by the First Sergeant and the Captain, if not signed the Adjutant will return for signatures.

13. Keep a copy of the report or make a note in your Sergeants notebook of this report Total and Aggregate. You will need these numbers so you can provide yesterdays count on your next company morning report.

See attachment 1 for an Example Morning Report

Fascinating Tales and Oddities

Horses Kept the War Alive
By Webb Garrison

According to some accounts of First Bull Run, Confederate Brig Gen P.G. T. Beauregard lost four horses during the battle.

Union Brig Gen William T. Sherman lost a "magnificent sorrel race mare" and two other mounts on the first day at Shiloh. When a fourth was shot from under him later in the same battle, he told aides that Beauregard no longer held the record. After Shiloh, Sherman is generally believed to have lost only one more mount, for a total of five. (3)

Their Mothers Wouldn't Have Known Them
By Webb Garrison

In 1934 near Shiloh National Military Park digging in his garden, Mancil Milligan found a quantity of human bones. He eventually learned that he had stumbled upon the unmarked grave of nine Federal soldiers killed in the battle. While Milligan's find evoked wide interest in the region, it was not until pathologist examined them that a more interesting discovery was made. One set of bones belonged to a female, probably killed or fatally wounded by the minie ball that lay close to her ribs. Investigation failed to identify the woman who died at Shiloh. According to some authorities, however, she was the only female positively known to have been killed in combat. (4)

Distinctively Obscure
By Webb Garrison

George W. Johnson of Kentucky, a plantation owner and attorney, scoffed when the state's elected leaders announced that the state would be neutral in the sectional struggle. He sought and won election as the first head of the provisional Confederate government established in the Bluegrass State. Chafing at civilian life while the fighting was escalating, Johnson volunteered his services to Confederate Gen. Albert Sydney Johnson. Enrolled as an advisor without a uniform, he was later transferred to the staff of Maj. Gen John C. Breckinridge. Johnson accompanied the former

vice president of the United States to the battlefield at Shiloh, where a horse was shot from under him early in the struggle. Demanding an opportunity to fight rather than advise, within hours he enlisted as a private in the First Kentucky Infantry. Private Johnson was struck during his first day of fighting and died on April 9. Had he known of his unique niche in the story of the Civil War, he would have smiled at the honor of being the only governor to die of Civil War battlefield wounds. (4)

Generally Speaking II
By Brian C. Kelly

Future Union General Charles Ferguson Smith, Class of 1825, became a widely loved commandant of cadets-a position he held when both Grant and Sherman passed through West Point as cadets. He in fact was an idol to both of them, especially Grant. During the Civil War, ironically, an aging General Smith served under Grant in the storming of Fort Donelson. But then just before Shiloh, he sharply banged his shin jumping into a row-boat. The bruise produced an infection that would not go away and he soon lay dying. He lay dying, in fact, at Grant's headquarters at Savannah Tennessee, just close enough to hear the sound of the battle in the distance as his two former cadets, Grant and Sherman, pressed home their victory (with Buell's timely help) over Albert Sydney Johnston. Johnston, its worth noting also, graduated from the Military Academy just a year (1826) after Smith himself. Sadly, too, wounded in the leg at Shiloh, Johnston kept to his horse and slowly bled to death before that battles' end. (5)



Gen Charles Ferguson Smith

2012 - U.S. Frontier Brigade Events

Mar 30-Apr 1 150th Shiloh, TN
May 5-6 Jefferson, TX
Oct 19-21 Raymond Champion Hill Vicksburg, MS
Dec 1-2 150th Prairie Grove, AR

Organization of the U.S. Frontier Brigade

Brigade Headquarters

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Twenty-fourth Missouri Infantry
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Readers Comments

Informative! Makes for an
entertaining read,
"unconditionally", there is
something for all the ranks in
the pages herein, my complements
to the editor

G

My thoughts exactly, War is all
Hell but I "howled" as I read it!

N

Those people are Miscreants!

i

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Attachment 1
 Example Morning Report

Morning Report of Captain SMITH, Company (A), 3rd Regiment of KANSAS Volunteers

For Duty.	PRESENT.										ABSENT.				Present and Absent	REMARKS.
	Sick.		On Extra or Daily Duty.		In Arrest, or Confinement		Aggregate Present.		Detached Service		With Leave		Without Leave.			
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2nd Lieutenant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sergeants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Corporals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Musicians	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Privates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Aggregate	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Commissioned Officers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Non-Commissioned Officers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Musicians	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Privates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Present	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Aggregate Present	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Commissioned Officers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Enlisted Men	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Commissioned Officers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Enlisted Men	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Aggregate Present and Absent	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Present and Absent	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Aggregate Present and Absent	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total last Report	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Aggregate last Report	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total last Report	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Aggregate last Report	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Station: TRAILER GROVE ARK.
 Date: DEC 4 2012
 (Signed) [Signature]
 First Sergeant

(Signed) [Signature]
 Commanding the Co.

Note - The names of the absentees, both Officers and Soldiers, must be given on the back of the report