



DELTA RIFLE'S DISPATCH



August 2012

After Action Review: August 25 & 26, 2012, Brierfield, AL,

Our most recent skirmish at Brierfield was hosted by the 3rd Georgia Volunteer Infantry. The overall turnout of participants was good, with I believe were 7 five man teams competing in carbine, smoothbore and musket . Even though the turnout was not as great as the 3rd GA would have hoped, the conduct and management of the range was performed professionally and admirably by members of the 3rd GA. The 4th Louisiana Infantry, the "Delta Rifles", wants to say "Thank you" to the 3rd GA for hosting the event and going out of the way in providing a Free Lunch and cold water to the all the participants.

The 4th LA had light participation for this skirmish. We fielded enough shooters to participate in all team and individual events; however we elected to not participate in the revolver team competition. Our shooters for this skirmish pictured below from left to right included Steve Sheldon, Mike Langston, Jim Wood, Rod Harbin and CMDR Bob Kelley.



Congratulations go out to Jim Wood and Steve Sheldon for placing in individual events. Jim was successful in winning 3rd Place in 50 yd Carbine, 2nd Place in 100 yd Carbine, and 2nd Place in Carbine Aggregate. Steve Sheldon, using Chuck Garvey's SB musket, managed to win himself a 3rd Place metal in the 50 yd SB Musket.

In team events, the Delta Rifles took the 2nd place medal in Team Smoothbore Musket and participated in both carbine and the rifle musket but failed to place. The team event of revolver was cancelled after the Delta Rifles withdrew due to only two teams being interested in participating.

Civil War Trivia and Facts?



- 1. Who was the first person to direct artillery fire for an army via aerial reconnaissance?*
- 2. What was Lt. Gen Richard S. Ewell's nickname?*
- 3. Approximately how far did the three-inch iron rifled ordnance gun throw its shell when elevated five degrees ?*

Answers on the last page

During the Civil War, glasses with colored lenses were used to treat disorders and illnesses. Yellow-trimmed glasses were used to treat syphilis, blue for insanity, and pink for depression. Thus we get the term, to see the world through rose-colored glasses.

Centuries before and decades after the Civil War, including during the war itself, doorways were built wide, not because of the width of women's skirts, but so coffins could be passed through, with a pallbearer on both sides.

Streamlining Range Clean-up

One of the least favorite activities to perform while at the range is clean-up. Think about it, after spending the weekend at the range walking back and forth posting and shooting targets, the last thing you and your team wants to do is go back down range and

pick-up target debris that consists of card board, twisted wire, jagged metal, broken clay, and shattered tile of all shapes and sizes.

Nope, clean-up is never fun to perform but always necessary no matter how tired you are. Normally all that you and your team really want to do is get their rifles and equipment packed up and get on the road heading back to the house. So, any time and effort saved on clean-up can be well worth a little planning ahead. You've learned from previous skirmish events that other than the card board backer; most of the debris is too small to effectively rake into a nice little pile. Then after picking up that small pile and placing it in the garbage bag, you still have to pick all the small pieces of debris out of the grass. Not only that; you know that the debris field of target fragments can be scattered for yards beyond your target frame. Frustrated and dejected by the lack of effectiveness of the rake, all that is left to do is to be one with nature and get down on the ground and pick up the debris with your fingers. We all know how fun that is.

This getting down on the ground, whether it be kneeling or on your hands and knees, can be quite labor intensive. For those of us that might be getting a little long in the tooth, going down range, bending over, or getting down on your hands and knees can be quite a task and never draws a lot of participation. Most of us aren't as limber as we use to be. So, what can you do to make range clean-up less laborious and somewhat more enjoyable? Nothing - labor and clean-up his never going to be a joyful event.

Well, there's some good news in making range clean-up a little less labor intensive, but unfortunately, clean-up still isn't going to be fun. During the most recent skirmish, the Delta Rifles employed a new innovative method to drastically reduce the amount of time required to perform range clean-up. This new method required the use of a simple green 8 x 10 TARP or as we discovered one a bit larger would be better. Yep, that's right, a simple, ordinary tarp made the world of difference.

At our most recent skirmish, Mike Langston showed up at the range with some tarps that he purchased from the local hardware store. The intent of the tarps was to catch target debris. So, prior to the start of team events, Mike and Steve Sheldon laid out the tarp under the target frame. It took less than a minute to lay the tarp out and after standing back to look at our tarp and comparing our target frame to the other teams; we knew that clean-up was going to be a breeze compared to the amount of time the others teams would spend on their clean-up.

After Saturday afternoon's smooth bore team event, clean-up of the range took just a couple minutes. It was great; we had an accumulation of more than of 95% of target debris left from the carbine and smooth bore team events laying on the tarp. The rest of the debris was scattered within several yards beyond the tarp. We knew that the tarp couldn't possible catch it all. For clean-up, we gathered up the sides of the tarp and poured the debris into our garbage bag. Anyway, the tarp performed as intended. In all, it literally took a just couple minutes to clean-up our area of debris.



For Sunday morning's team event, the tarp was again employ with the same time saving results. With the amount of time we spent picking up debris (couple minutes), we knew that we were the envy of the other teams there at the range that day.

I think the Delta Rifles will be setting a trend in the way range clean-up is performed at future skirmishes. The use of tarps to catch target debris saves teams time on clean-up efforts. In addition, it also helps to keep the range in shape for future events.

It is sad to realize that two of our long term friends we made over the years have retired from skirmishing. One of our prior team mates, Ken Thornbury the second funniest man I ever met and Ken Hansgen formally of the 4th Tennessee will skirmish no more. I guess each of us will one day should we live long enough need to retire as well.

Upcoming SKIRMISHES

| Date | Location | Host | Remarks |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| September 14 - 16 | Smokey Bottoms, TN | 4 th TN | Cancelled |
| October 3 - 7 | Winchester, VA | Fall Nationals | |
| November 2-4 | Eva, TN | Forest Escort | |

SKIRMISH planning/Travel Tips

September's skirmish in Smokey Bottoms, TN has been cancelled.

Since none of our team members responded to the call for national registration no individual targets were ordered nor did we register any team events for the nationals. The next skirmish for us will be held in Eva, TN at the Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park. The 4th Tennessee has once again invited us to come in with them and share a house located just outside the entrance to the park at Eva. Any of you that are interested should let me know so a cost can be determined but is expected to be about \$50 for 2 nights including the cost of 1 dinner and 2 breakfasts. For any of those that may want private rooms in Camden, TN:

Country Hearth Inn, 321 Highway 641 North, Camden, TN. Last check, rooms are still available. <http://countryhearthcamden.com/>

Best Western, 170 Highway 641 N, Camden, TN, A check of available rooms revealed that there are room's still available, but a majority of the available rooms are smoking rooms. <http://www.bestwestern.com/>

There are cabins available at the state park. For cabin information, call the park office at 731-584-6356 or 800-714-7305
<http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/parks/NBForrest/>

Not sure if you can attend an upcoming skirmish; well it never hurts to reserve a room at a local hotel a couple months early. As long as you follow the hotel's cancelation policy, you shouldn't lose

any money for making an early reservation. Just be careful of early purchase promotions. Special promotions will lock you into a room at a really good rate, but will cost you should you try to cancel.

Where to buy?

All of us shooters buy our shooting supplies and accessories from various places whether it is from a local sporting goods store or from an online source. In an effort to cut cost and save money, please share with the rest of the team where you buy some of your shooting supplies. This is the best forum to share cost savings with the rest of the team.

As you buy items to replenish your shooting/reloading supplies, submit an email to Mike Langston at hawk60a@yahoo.com and let us know where you buy your supplies and how much you are paying.

For any of you that may be running low on powder and caps, Richard Hill has agreed to pick up some for us at the nationals. If you are interested check the following web-site and call in your order. Be sure to give them your team name, your name and Richard Hills name in addition to what items you want. Your credit card will not be charged until the items are picked up and Richard will deliver the orders to Eva.

Answers: 1. Balloonist Thaddeus Lowe, U.S.A. on September 24, 1861, 2. "Baldy Dick" 3. When elevated five degrees, the three-inch rifled ordnance gun can throw its shell accurately up to 2,000 yards.