



## 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Company B

TO: Membership

FROM: Joseph Pankey, Captain

DATE: June 14, 2021

RE: After Action Report for Manassas Battlefield Spring Drill

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I am honored to present my After Action Report for the Company B Spring Drill conducted June 11-13, 2021 at the Manassas Battlefield National Park.

First Sergeant Rolf Madole, Sergeant Bill Voelkner, Bugler Joseph Abernathy and Civilian Mrs. Rae-Ann Volkner arrived to establish the camp in the late afternoon of Friday, June 11, 2021. The camp was located immediately adjacent to the historic Henry House site on its famous hill. A light drizzle continued after rain earlier in the day, and with great fortune camp was established and dinner was completed prior to steady rain which began after taps was sounded.

Saturday, June 12, brought excellent weather, and the camp was expanded to its final size with the arrival with the remainder of the Company who would be present for duty. Drill sessions were conducted in view of the public beginning at 10:00 AM. Drill included the handling of arms from Casey's School of the Soldier, and included drill on loading and on weapons safety; marching evolutions; and a short amount of familiarization with aspects of Battalion Drill.

After lunch, Company drill continued, concluding with a public firing demonstration at 1:30 PM. First Sergeant Madole and National Park Service Ranger Gregory Wolf gave excellent narration as the Company demonstrated loading, Fire by Company, Fire by Rank, and Fire by File. A large number of citizens attended, and seemed well satisfied with the demonstrations. The Company performed the evolutions very well, including a new recruit who is learning the drill very well.

Mrs. Voelkner coordinated and supervised the preparation of an excellent evening meal, and as you will easily imagine, it was received with enthusiasm by the soldiers. With slightly less enthusiasm but with great skill the equipment and area was cleaned up, and after the usual socialization the Camp settled for a quiet night.

Sunday, June 13, brought cool, dry and overcast weather, and the public program of Saturday was repeated on a slightly smaller scale as several soldiers needed to return to other tasks after the prior day's service. We were warmly received by the public, and there were many questions asked of us about the Company, the regiment, and the war. Many unit members handled these questions until

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the approaching rain caused all to turn their thoughts to shelter. The Company completed the breakdown and stowage of the camp and departed the area at about 3:00 PM.

Earlier in this report I mentioned by name First Sergeant Madole and National Park Service Ranger Wolf. Without the work of these two men the Spring Drill would not have been possible, and they deserve many thanks from our unit and I think from the many visitors who enjoyed our demonstrations. National Park Law Enforcement Ranger Luke McHale checked on us every evening, and assisted in our efficient access into and out of the Park.

As is usual, Mrs. Voelkner took care of our meals with excellence, and demonstrated a fondness for us that I greatly appreciate, as I am sure do all who benefit from her skill and care.

Bugler Abernathy added greatly to the drill, and ably demonstrated calls to all present. His talent is impressive. In addition, Sammy was popular, and a certain young lady who met him on Saturday returned on Sunday. Though she did not say so, I believe she was disappointed that he was not present in camp!

Corporal Hal Lapham was active in providing equipment to the new and prospective members as appropriate, and with facilitating weapon cleaning.

First Sergeant Madole reports that a total of sixteen members attended, which represents a good start as we return to the field. Further particulars of attendance may be found in postings made by the First Sergeant.

A happy surprise was finding that the Company was featured in a posting on the Manassas Battlefield's facebook page, and that various images of the Company were posted by the Civil War Times.

All who attended, both veteran and recruit, have my thanks for a job well done, and my hope to see you again soon in the field.

I remain your humble servant,



Joseph Pankey

Captain, Company B

28<sup>TH</sup> Mass. Volunteer Infantry