

The 28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry

24 Sept 1861

30 June 1865

*4th Regiment
The Irish
Brigade*

*“Faugh a
Ballagh!”*



The Fighting Irish

The 28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry was one of the most distinguished Regiments to serve in the US Army during the American Civil War. Constantly in action, the Regiment fought in most of the major campaigns in the eastern theater of war. Recruited almost entirely from men of Irish birth or heritage, the Regiment was notable for its green Regimental banner marking it as a member of the Irish Brigade. Its Regimental Battle Cry: “*Faugh a Ballagh*” means “Clear the Way” in Irish—a motto the men of the Regiment lived to its fullest.

(Pictured: An inset from “*Clear the Way*” Don Troiani, 1987)

The Regiment formed at Camp Cameron near Boston and entered Federal Service in December 1861. The Regiment saw its first action in June 1862 at Secessionville, near Charleston, SC. By August 1862, the Regiment had moved to Virginia, seeing action at 2nd Bull Run, Chantilly, South Mountain, and Antietam. The Regiment finally joined the Irish Brigade in time for Fredericksburg in December 1862, where its green banner marked the center of the Irish Brigade’s heroic but futile assault on Maryes Heights. (Pictured).

1863 saw the 28th Mass in action at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and Mine Run—most notably at Gettysburg in the fight in the Wheatfield on the 2nd day. 1864 saw the 28th in action in all of the battles of Grant’s Overland Campaign. The 28th served through Lee’s surrender in April 1865, and marched in the May 1865 Grand Review of the Army of the Potomac, before mustering out of Service in June 1865. Over the course of the war, the 28th suffered 1103 casualties from the 1703 that served (66.5%)— through its valor, Irish Green had become Red, White, and Blue.

The Recreated 28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Company B

*4th Regiment
The Irish
Brigade*

*“Faugh a
Ballagh!”*



The Recreated Fighting Irish

The recreated 28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Company B was formed in 1985. Since its establishment, Company B has continued to grow and to establish itself as an active and highly respected part of the Civil War re-enactment community.

Company B's primary goal is to create an authentic impression of the US soldier of the Civil War, with a focus on soldiers that served in the Army of the Potomac in general, and more specifically of the Irish-American soldier.



Company B was the American Battlefield Trust's
2009 Reenactment Unit of the Year.

Who We Are & What We Do

Known for its commitment to excellence, the recreated Company B is “family-friendly” and welcoming. The Company draws its membership largely from the Washington DC metro area between Richmond and Baltimore, to include Western Maryland. Both military and civilian impressions are welcome.

Our annual schedule is composed of a mix of Living History events, Parades, School Presentations, and Battle reenactments.

How to Get Involved

It is easy to get involved—ask any of our members on how to do so. We recommend coming out to an event to try out the reenacting hobby—and we maintain uniform and equipment items to help new and prospective members get started.

More information, to include our schedule, is available at
www.28thMassCoB.org



The US Army Soldier of the Civil War

Meet Billy Yank



The Federal Soldier

Roughly 2 Million men served in the US Army during the Civil War. The vast majority were volunteers and 75% were native born. 98.5% were between the ages of 18–46 with the average age being 26.8. Average height was 5 foot, 8 inches; Average weight was 143 pounds. Before the war, 48% were farmers, 24% mechanics, 16% laborers. 5% were in business. Privates were paid \$13 a month until June of 1864, when their pay increased to \$16. Of the half million foreign born Federal soldiers, the majority came from Germany (175K) and Ireland (150k). 200k plus were African-American, with most coming from slave states.

Uniform and Equipment

- . Forage Cap with hat brass
- . Blue wool coat and trousers (with braces)
- . Shirt -Domet flannel issue or civilian version
- . Cotton Drawers (Undergarment)
- . Jefferson Bootees (Brogans), wool socks
- . Rifled Musket with bayonet
- . “Accouterments” - leather belt, cap pouch, cartridge box with chest strap, scabbard
- . Canteen and Haversack (for rations)
- . Double-bag Knapsack with wool blanket
- . Gum blanket and shelter half
- . Mess Gear and personal items

Rations

Soldiers were fed differently depending if they were marching on campaign or in camp.

Marching rations consisted of 16 ounces of hard bread, also known as ‘hardtack;’ 12 ounces of salt pork or 20 ounces of fresh meat, sugar, tea or coffee, and salt.

Camp rations could substitute soft bread, flour, or cornmeal for hardtack, and included extras such as dried beans or peas, rice, vinegar, and molasses along with an amount of soap and candles.