

The Western Dispatch



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 6TH MILITARY DISTRICT
SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE

VOLUME VIII, NO. 4

WINTER EDITION 2011



REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVED

Honor Guard from Company B, 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry SVR fires a musket salute at a Remembrance Day ceremony to honor the 32 Civil War veterans buried in the cemetery in the Dallas Cemetery in Oregon.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

LT. COL. ALLYN RETIRES

CAPTAIN TISCH APPOINTED COMMANDER

Loyal Men of the 6th Military District Sons of Veterans Reserve:



Captain Will Tisch
Commander - 6th Military District

Congratulations on your superb efforts this past year. Your dedication in support of our organization has been extraordinary. The memorial events and tributes were momentous and very worthy to help perpetuate the memory of the Boys in Blue and

bring honor to our Country's cherished Veterans and Service personnel by reinforcing the strength of our commitments to freedom for our fine Country.

The leadership of **Lieutenant Colonel Dave Allyn** has been distinguished and one that carried respectable merit through his tenure as our Commander. He served as Commander of the 6th for over nine years and saw our ranks grow to its impressive current size. We thank Lieutenant Colonel Allyn for his leadership, guidance, and unyielding dedication to our order. We congratulate him on

his well
deserved
retirement
and look for
his continued
Brotherly
friendship.



Lt. Col Dave Allyn
Commander - 6th Military District
14 October 2002 - 11 November 2011

Brothers, the
time of

reporting for
the 6th MD Units has been moved forward. You should have received notices from you Commander and Adjutant. Please give this your utmost attention as soon as possible. We are handling these affairs electronically which eases the tasks of our adjutants and expedites the process of handling and storage of paperwork for future Commanders and Adjutants.

It is a privilege and honor to be appointed your Commander. I look forward to serving with you, and for you, and appreciate your continued efforts and service. I hope and pray your work is fruitful and enjoyable this next year. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

Yours in Fraternity, Loyalty, and Charity

Captain Will Tisch

Capt Will Tisch
Commander
6th Military District
Sons of Veterans Reserve
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

6th Military
District Staff

Capt. Will Tisch
Commander

2nd Lt. Joe
Marti
Public
Information
Officer



CAMP OF INSTRUCTION: LOOKING THE PART [EXCERPTS]



By Stephen P. Hanson
1st Sgt., Co. C, 2nd U.S.
Infantry, National Regiment
Link to article
[http://www.sykesregulars.org
/instruction/wearinggear.php](http://www.sykesregulars.org/instruction/wearinggear.php)

Rule #1:

Nothing on your body should interfere with anything else on your body or with any Manual of Arms evolution.

Rule #2:

Nothing on your body should interfere with anyone else in ranks in front, back, or beside you in any company evolutions.

General

When looking front-on at a fully accoutered soldier standing at attention, the only items of equipment that should be seen, aside from the straps for all his accoutrements crossing his chest, are his weapon, waist belt, cap box, bayonet, and the blanket, either behind his head on his knapsack or across his body if he is wearing a blanket roll. All other items are behind him and out of sight.

Waist belt

Around the waist, the buckle over the navel. It should not ride low on the hips.

Cap Box

On the right side of the waist belt buckle about half way between the hip and the navel. The straps held in place between the belt and the overlap of the belt extending from the buckle to the brass keepers so it will not slide along the belt. The nipple pick, when not being used, should be inside the cap box in the small loop on the left back corner of the box.



Cartridge Box

Behind the right hip and above the buttock. The top of the box about one finger-width below the bottom of the waist belt. With a load of blank cartridges, the cartridge box barely weighs more than its unloaded weight and it is never a problem for the reenactor. However, loaded with live rounds (2-1/4 pounds of lead), it is very heavy. If it rides too low, the resulting bouncing on the buttock during a full-day's march causes a great deal of fatigue.

Cartridge Box Sling

Over the left shoulder, the bottom under the waist belt behind the right hip. The belt plate centered on the chest.

Bayonet and Scabbard

Whether using a Springfield or Enfield scabbard, the general rules for position apply.

Hanging from the waist belt in front of the left hip. Far enough forward so the shaft or handle of the bayonet is within easy reach. Far enough forward so it doesn't obstruct the weapon at Support Arms or get tangled in the haversack or canteen straps. Back enough so that the shaft of the Springfield bayonet does not clink on the belt buckle or the tip does not protrude to the left poking the next man in ranks. The Enfield scabbard should be back far enough so that, when the wearer is sitting, the scabbard

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hangs outside the leg, not resting on top of the thigh or hanging between the legs.

Haversack

Hanging from the right shoulder, behind the left hip with the "bulk" of the full bag resting on top of the left buttock, but not high enough to obstruct the knapsack when worn.

Worn over all leather gear but under the knapsack straps. Far enough to the rear so it does not obstruct the left arm from hanging naturally against the body or get in the way of Support Arms.

Cup

Whenever possible, inside the haversack, not hanging from

it. A bulky haversack with a cup hanging on the outside gets in the way of the man next to the left when turning, gets in the way of the canteen, and clanks when marching

Canteen

Over the right shoulder and resting on top of the haversack behind the left hip. It should sit on top of the haversack flap with the canteen center about even with the haversack buckle. If the knapsack is worn, it should be worn over the knapsack straps so it can be used without taking the knapsack off.



FORT POINT SESQUICENTENNIAL SIGNATURE EVENT SCHEDULED

The Fort Point Living History Sesquicentennial Event will be held on January 28th and 29th, 2012. The event is sponsored by five SUVCW Camps in Northern California, in cooperation with the National Park Service, the National Civil War Association (NCWA), several Auxiliaries to the SUVCW, and the Friends of Civil War Alcatraz.

While there were more than 30 brick Third System Fort on the East Coast, San Francisco's Fort Point is unique as it is the only example of such a fort on the West Coast.

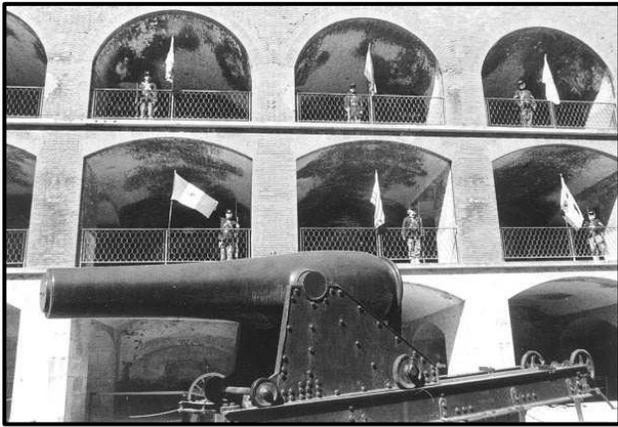
The significance of the January 2012 date is as follows:

- December 1860: Lt. Colonel George Wright ordered 141 cannon to be installed at the fort (consisting of 24, 32, and 42-pounders, as well as 8 and 10-inch Columbiads).
- 15 February 1861: Fort Point was occupied by Company I, 3rd US Artillery by order of S.O. 18, as the first occupation for the Civil War.
- 18 December 1861: Company K, 9th US Infantry joined the garrison
- January 1862 (the first full garrisoning of the fort): Company B, 3rd US Artillery was the artillery component of the Fort. During the ensuing months, the fort was used as the recruiting and training station for soldiers in Northern California.

150th Anniversary of the Civil War



Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War



During the Civil War, as many as 500 men from the 3rd U.S. Artillery, the 9th U.S. Infantry, and the 8th California Volunteer Infantry were garrisoned at Fort Point. Stationed several thousand miles from the major theaters of combat, the men spent their days in a routine of drills, artillery practice, inspections, sentry duty, and maintenance chores. Enlisted men bunked 24 to a casemate on the third tier; officers had single or double quarters on the floor below.

The fort is a popular tourist destination frequented by individuals, families, and tour buses. Planned events for the day include a tours and interpretive displays by the

National Park Service and Friends of Civil War Alcatraz, a mock enlistment station, medical screening, and participation in non-firing artillery drill for the public. In addition, there will be Civil War small arms display and presentations, marching and mock drills by reenactors, and a comprehensive display regarding the history the GAR and SUVCW. This will include a recruiting table for the SUVCW.

Please make time in your schedule to attend and participate in this great event. If you haven't been, it's a rare opportunity to see a Civil War-era fort. The Fort is located under the South end of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.



REGARDING THIRD SYSTEM FORTIFICATIONS

Some of the most spectacular harbor defense structures to come out of any era of military architecture were to be found. Included by virtue of their role in the Civil War were certainly some of the most famous--Sumter, Pulaski, Monroe, Pickens, Morgan and Jackson. From the technical standpoint, this large group of massive, vertical-walled forts represented the general embodiment and the fullest development of features which had previously appeared in only a few and isolated instances, i.e., structural durability, a high concentration of armament, and enormous overall firepower.

-Emanuel Raymond Lewis, *Sea Coast Fortifications*, 1993



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CORRESPONDENCE

The SUVCW National Committee on Real Sons and Daughters

As most of you know, the National SUVCW has appointed a Committee to search for Real Sons and Daughters of the American Civil War. A Real Son or Daughter is one whose birth father served in the Civil War. As a member of this Committee, I am constantly asked, "How can this be? The war was over 150 years ago. Any child of a Civil War Soldier would be well over a hundred years old by now." The answer is, men who served went back to civilian life and eventually lost their first wife. Child bearing was hard on women in those days. Needing a woman in the household to care for his children and his home, a veteran would sometimes remarry. Often, he married a much younger lady, one who



would have the strength and stamina to take care of a family, house, and in many cases assist with farm work. One of our Real Son's father was 84 and his mother was 23 when he was born. To read the names of Real Sons and Daughters whom the Committees has already found, please refer to the following WEB site <http://suvew.org/kids/CWkids.pdf>

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty.

Don Wilt

Member

National Committee on Real Sons and Daughters.

Friends of Civil War Alcatraz

Encourage all readers of this newsletter to look at the WEB site: <http://www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org/> This is the encourage WEB site of Friends of Civil War Alcatraz. Twice a year, this organization presents "Living History Days" on the island. Company B, 8th Regiment California Infantry, SVR acts as Provost on these days. We encourage you to join us on the island. Watch the above WEB site for 2012 dates. For more information contact **Captain Brad Schall, PCinC** at dschall@starstream.net or **Lieutenant Don Wilt** at edonwilt@aol.com.

Lt. Don Wilt, Adj.

Member

Friends of Civil War Alcatraz

Co. B, 8th Reg. CA Inf., SVR

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GENERAL ORDERS

GENERAL ORDER 2011-14 **Sons of Veterans Reserve** **13 November 2011**

1. Effective 11 November 2011, the Commanding General SVR accepts the request of **Lieutenant Colonel Dave Allyn**, Commander 6th Military District, to be moved to the rolls of the SVR Inactive Reserve. The Commanding General wishes to thank Lt. Col. Allyn for his dedication to duty within the SVR.
2. Effective 11 November 2011, the Commanding General SVR appoints **Captain William E. Tisch** as the Commander of the 6th Military District, SVR. Contact information for Capt. Tisch is 8505 Ellsworth Lane, Santee, CA 92071, phone 619-448-4818. All Staff positions within the 6th Military District will remain

GENERAL ORDER 2011-17 **Sons of Veterans Reserve** **19 December 2011**

Christmas is a wonderful time to remember our, relatives, friends and associates and give thanks to these special people who enrich our lives. We should embrace the beauty and excitement of the Christmas season and give praise to whom praise is due. As we celebrate let us not forget the true reason for the season. "God is available to provide you with ever blessing in abundance." (2 Corinthians 9:8 – NRSV).

I extend a wish for a Merry Christmas to all members of the Sons of Veterans Reserve and your families as you rejoice and count your blessings while you celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and prepare for the excitement of a Happy New Year.

Major General Robert E. Grim
Commanding

Attest:
Colonel Donald E. Darby

ABOUT THE SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE



The Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) is the ceremonial uniformed military component of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). The National Military Department of the SVR consists of the General Staff and seven geographical Military Districts across the nation. SVR Units participate in Civil War related ceremonies, parades, living history programs, and re-enactments.

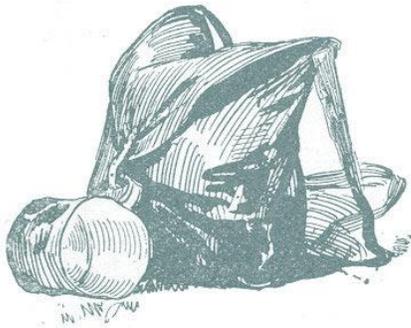
Membership in the Sons of Veterans Reserve is open to any Member (Hereditary), Junior (Hereditary), or Associate (Non-hereditary) of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. To be in the SVR you must be a Member or Associate in the SUVCW. Units and individuals must file an application for membership. Minimal annual dues are charged all SVR members.

Individuals interested in joining the SVR may contact either:

Major Gen. Robert E. Grim - Commanding Officer
5367 SR 72 South, Sabina, OH 45169-9425 (937-584-4622)
Email: robertgrim@dragonbbs.com

OR

Col. Donald E. Darby - Adjutant General
1382 Western Ave., Chillicothe, OH 45601 (740-772-6081)
Email: darby@horizonview.net



The Sixth Military District is comprised of the following states:
Arizona, Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and submissions from throughout the district, preferably with photos. Please send all submissions to itramej@yahoo.com.



Please also be sure to read, discuss, and contribute on our Facebook page: [6th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve](#). Don't forget to hit the LIKE button!

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



From the 6th Military District

"Christmas Boxes in Camp - Christmas 1861" by Winslow Homer. Published in Harper's weekly, Jan. 5, 1862

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