

## 2010 Hasting After Action Report

Hastings/Charleton Park, MI. -- 2010

This event used to be a "don't miss" then the politics got in the way and it declined into oblivion. For the last couple of years, guys like Jim Newkirk and Marty Walker have worked to revive the event. Backed by the complete support of the locals and of the Board of Directors for Charleton Park, an amazing transformation is occurring. I believe it has regained that original "don't miss" status.

This year, we were camped back out in the field like in the past. While spraying for mosquitoes never happened, the spraying for poison ivy was evident and effective. The mosquitoes are a problem but a little precautionary measures go a long way.

We had two battalions, one commanded by Craig DeCrane and the other by newcomer Rob Van. Both handled their troops without incident and did a magnificent job. Their staffs performed their tasks and it was rare that the Brigade staff had to get involved. When I say Brigade staff, I mean Keith Harrison who has the stoic, reliable Chief of Staff down to a science.

The tacticals both days ended in a draw but the guys had a good time and demonstrated great tactics and response to orders. More judges are needed for the tacticals so give that some consideration for next year.

There were really no negative occurrences other than a scene involving a former reenactor whose vehicular visit to the camp resulted in a lot of hard feelings toward the only vehicle that made it into our camp for the entire weekend. I have never seen so many bridges burned without the Engineers present.

Paul Davis and his Great Lakes Battalion were there in force and were a very welcome addition.

On Sunday, the men were taught "Street Fighting" then proceeded to use it to perfection against our adversary, Nick Medich. It was great to see Nick and even better to watch that rolling column move up the streets in the village.

All in all, it was a great event. We could use more Yanks next year as well as some that will volunteer to act as judges for two hours each morning.

Thanks to all for their efforts.

*Colonel Dave Shackelford*