

## 2012 Perryville After Action Report

October 2012

Gentlemen of the Guard;

The Perryville, Kentucky event is now history. No words can convey my personal thanks to so many who did so much to make the event a success for the Guard and the associated units who composed the 3rd Brigade. Special recognition is given to the cooks, Daveski and Pickles, Keith Harrison, Tom Berlucci, Robert Rock and the newest member, Bill Mattix. Bill rented me a horse and rode with me as mounted courier. He absolutely fell in love with the Guard and cannot wait for a repeat performance at Gettysburg.

Camping and fighting on the original ground, the event was not huge....2200 of all branches including civilian. I had some issues with such things as a 4:30 am reveille for a 7:00 am battle, a plan to march us about a mile in the dark, across a creek just to get to a field 200 yards in a straight line from our camp, etc., etc. The issues were resolved in our favor but the entire Brigade had an issue when the Union commander rode his horse *through* our line of battle on Sunday's battle. Little things like incorrect commands, "Fire by Army, by the drum" and ":Attention Brigade" took a lot away from any pretense we were honoring the men of 150 years ago. You could literally hear them spinning in their graves.

Still, it was a grand time with our other brethren, the Army of the Wabash and The Military Department of Mississippi under Earl Zeckman. Virtually anything within our Brigade was fun and anything outside the Brigade not fun.

Some of the Michigan Cavalry rode as HQ escort until they were drafted by the cavalry to join them. At least one Guard gun was there as the 19th Indiana Light Artillery. It was really the 1st Wisconsin gun but the crew portrayed a unit that was present at the battle. That crew was put together by Dennis Mount who, at the last moment, injured his back and could not make the trip.

Our Brigade drummer, Ed Fredricks and our bugler, John Grimshaw did great. To give you an idea of our diversity, the bugler flew in from Fort Hood, Texas, one of the battery guys flew in from Las Vegas, Earl had guys from Florida and, of course, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana were well represented.

Thank you to all of the men who tolerated the cool weather and dumb stuff to stick with it and give it all they had. Great job.

Colonel Dave Shackelford