

Hastings 2022 After Action Report

What a great event to kickstart our Guard activities for the year.

First, I want to thank those that held roles of responsibility in the battalion this weekend, because you guys are the ones that help make the activities run smoothly. A big thank you to Scott Lawalin and Ryan VanMaldegan for stepping into wing commander roles. You two gentlemen performed flawlessly all weekend. Thank you to Ryan for also stepping into the slight role of Adjutant and coalescing all of the morning reports for me this weekend. To my company commanders, Ian Fulford, Doug McComas, Marty Walker, and Scot Spiekerman, thank you guys for pulling together your companies to support the event. A big thank you to JR Schroeder for filling the role of battalion surgeon, which was needed during a brief false alarm (thankfully) during the Saturday afternoon scenario. Lastly to the field music that joined us for the weekend. For Michael Schroeder, TJ Berlucchi, and Liam on the drums, and your friends from Camp Chase, including Brian Jankowski and his son Everett, who lent their fifes to the effort this weekend.

The weather on Friday afternoon was a little rainy on and off, and then gave us a bit of a break to set up towards evening. Saturday morning, we all woke up mostly dry, more importantly to much cooler weather than we are normally treated at Charlton Park, and were looking forward to getting the weekend started. We shook off a little rust with a little company drill after breakfast, which was sorely needed by Doug McComas's company who had 6 fresh fish in his ranks. I can't recall ever seeing so many first eventers in one company and between Doug, Andrew and their NCO's, they handled it marvelously and got a lot of teaching done while making sure everyone was safe in the process. The second half of the drill, we came together as a battalion and the evolutions we walked through went really well with only a few small things really needing to be fleshed out. We all took a little break from the sun to get some lunch before heading into the afternoon battle. We met the Confederate forces just across the road and were steadily pushed back into town, supported by the dismounted troopers of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade headed up by Captain Kevin Yaeger, with the federal artillery that joined us for the weekend. Both wings performed admirably, taking heavy casualties in the process. We did everything we could to withstand the overwhelming push that Ben Cwayna and his command gave us, but eventually were forced to withdraw. The 8th Michigan medical group came to our rescue shortly thereafter making sure everyone was staying hydrated and no other injuries cropped up. Saturday evening brought about a lot of camp fire talk and pards laughing and sharing stories. It really was a nice night to sit out and spend some time with friends. Unfortunately, due to an e. coli warning in the river, the annual Cumberland Guard Swim Meet had to be cancelled for the year, much to the chagrin of the 49th Indiana, who were laying out bets on who the winner would be for this year. I would be remiss to mention the contributions to the ladies that put on the US Christian Commission, including Allison Shimmienti and Brittany, who lent their efforts to caring for men both Federal and Confederate all weekend offering snacks, drinks, newspapers, and letter writing for any of those that asked for it.

Sunday morning woke us to still another great day. We were brought into battle in the morning tactical to assist the Michigan Cavalry Brigade in driving off some Confederate infantry. There were a lot of great efforts by the officers to keep the men in formation and fighting back, but we were pushed onto the defensive from the start. Unfortunately, with the numbers that we were able to field, we were outmaneuvered and were forced to retire in defeat. Sunday remained a busy day with some company level drill for those that missed the morning scrap. The Sunday afternoon battle began out of town where we met Confederate skirmishers and began pushing them back. After driving them back into the town, again with the support of the MCB, we gave the Confederates a steady push little by little eventually until forcing them to retire. The weather thankfully held off and everyone was able to take home dry

canvas. Again, thank you too all of the federal officers and the event coordinators for their roles in making the weekend a success. Thank you to the federal infantry as well for making sure the camp was as spotless when we left as when we arrived. I look forward to seeing you all at Jackson at the Cascades.

Your Obedient,

Col Miner