

Head Quarters
77th O.V.V.I, 2nd Brig., 3d Div., 7th A.C.

June the 1st, 2015

[modified from Red River 2 circular, April 2, 1999]

To: Federal Infantry, Red River 3

Gentlemen:

Please refer to www.armyofthepacific.com for battalion information, <http://www.redrivercampaign.com/> for event info

Within a few days, we shall begin an event – a campaign – that will last for a week’s time. We will be at our step-off point on Sunday, June 7, and begin marching Monday June 8. The event is a challenging one, both physically and psychologically. The infantry is composed of two small companies tasked with accomplishing a goal that will be demanding on our 21st-century bodies and minds. Both companies are composite companies, made up of smaller groups consolidated into a group that needs to work together. It will also be frustrating at times; tempers might flare; feet will hurt; people will be tired. Be patient, flexible and ready to help.

Officers and NCOs: You have been chosen as **leaders** of your companies. Not just someone wearing straps or stripes, but leaders, whose talents must stretch beyond the drill field. Among other things, we must all strive to ensure that, the men’s needs are taken care of; to ensure that they are physically able to continue (Federal soldiers can be a stubborn lot); to properly train and instruct them on their duties on the battle field, on the picket line and in camp; and to ensure they follow the rules and guidelines regarding sanitation and other soldierly conduct.

Please see www.armyofthepacific.com for links to military duties and bugle calls.

In short, we are placed into a military structure; we need to function together and look out for one another. The men are depending upon you, as I am, to be competent, strong and caring leaders. By our enlistments in this campaign, we have indicated that we want to have an experience beyond static events. This means going beyond the normal demands of being a soldier at a static event. It is a 24-hour commitment to living history within a military structure, and most importantly to a concern for safety of each and every one of us.

I will now introduce some of the key people in the battalion.

Dom Dal Bello, Major, commanding. He is a veteran of 30 years. Commander of the Army of the Pacific. Commanded a wing/battalion at RR1 and the Federal Army at RR2. He has served in a command capacity or helped plan march events totaling about 250 miles.

The Adjutant is Sean Malis, veteran of RR1 and 2, and served as Adjutant at RR2; he will also oversee the quartermaster duties (work with the wag on train). There is no Sergeant Major. Marty Rubin is the battalion bugler (please see bugle call notes and links to the calls at armyofthepacific.com).

Company commanders are Captain Ted Parrott (Co. C) and Capt. Simon Taylor (Co. H). Orderly Sergeants are 1st Serg’t Mike Bogert (Co. C) and 1st Serg’t Scott Czajkowski (Co. H).

Info continued on next page

All officers and Sergts. should have writing materials ... pencils and paper/booklets.

Fatigue

A battalion is a working organization. The men will need to gather/cut firewood, help receive rations, dig trenches, &c.. The 1st Serg'ts should each keep a **fatigue roster** of the men so that the duties are fairly distributed. Each 1st Serg't will be provided with 3 rosters, one each for the 3 classes of duty – 1st Guard, 2nd Detachments, 3rd Fatigue. Guard and Fatigue are the most important.

With but two companies of infantry, we need to take special care to not overwork ourselves. We are not marching as far as in the first Red River Campaigns, so more effort can go into camp duties.

Rosters (this info is detailed in *Instructions for Guards and Pickets*, and *Kautz's Customs of Service*).

List the privates in alphabetical order on each roster. Start at different points on each roster (so a man is not given two duties at the same time). Go down each roster to determine who is "next" for duty. Keep corporals and serg'ts on a different list.

Rations

Note that these are **not** ARMY OF THE PACIFIC rations, so don't expect our commissary barrels and hardtack boxes, Essence of Coffee, dessicated vegetables, &c.

Rations will be issued daily starting Monday afternoon. BRING RATIONS to sustain you until Monday afternoon.

A Sergeant or senior Corporal from each company should be detailed with some men to report to the Battalion/Brigade Commissary officer or designated NCO. The foodstuffs will be divided up between the branches, and then the infantry will take their stuff and divide it up by companies. Then each Serg't. will see that the rations are fairly distributed to the companies. Officers will draw from the same rations.

Rations will be issued at the evening stop to cover that evening's supper, the next morning's breakfast, and the next day's noon meal.

Again, bring rations to last you until Monday afternoon. The last ration issue will be Friday night (for Friday evening and Saturday AM, etc.).

Ammunition

Boxes will be carried in the wagon. We should have enough boxes available for 200 rounds for each enlisted man. Each need only carry 60 rounds on his person. A Sergeant/NCO will need to oversee turning in of ammunition and then redistribution, as detailed in previous communication (I wish this was simpler than it is).

Tools and Camp Gear

The AoP (Californians) is bringing some tools 6 shovels, 4 axes, 4 hatches and canvas buckets. Please treat them as if they are your own.

We some nesting kettles/pots for coffee/large stews that companies can borrow. Again, please treat them as your own and clean them out after use.

Drill

As this battalion is being formed from many parts, the companies need to start drilling as soon as possible... School of the Soldier, School of the Company and Skirmishing. Skirmishing will be vital in the woods, on the march as Flankers, &c. I do not expect much need for battalion drill (at RR2, we had 4 companies and did no battalion drill, although we did fight as a battalion).

Basic drilling needs to be continued throughout the event in order that we become proficient at it. Thus, when we stop marching at the end of the day, we may do a little bit of drilling (especially skirmishing) as well. It is thus important that officers and sergeants instruct efficiently – the boys have been walking all day.

We will be doing a lot of stacking. The first major drill should be in stacking (per Scott/Casey), so that it takes but an instant to halt, front and stack arms. By Friday, we will be pretty good at it.

Advance Guard and Flankers

When on the march, we shall be protected by the cavalry, but we must also deploy an Advance/Rear Guard and Flankers as necessary. Thus, skirmishing is vital. Because our battalion is smallish-size, the men detailed as the screen may be on the order of platoon-strength. Every company will get a shot at such service.

Guard Duty

We will need to have Guard Duty all night long... whether it be as picket posts and/or in camp. While the details will be given to you on site, the basic plan is that each company will take a couple of nights of Guard/Picket Duty. We will need minimum number of camp guards at any one time (if in camp), or, if we have picket posts, more men need to be awake. Needless to say, we will all be going to bed relatively early.

While we are there:

- Morning Twilight: 5:34 am; Sunrise: 6:03 am; Sunset: 8:25 pm; Twilight ends: 8:54 pm.
- Moon: Last Quarter towards New (none), so it will be dark.
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Sanitation

Sinks are to be dug at every camp and covered before we march off. There are no porta-johns on the march.

Interaction with Civilians

We will have interactions with the civilian (period civilian) population; and likely with the modern population as well. The battalion commander expects the men treat both sets of civilians with respect. You may be able to trade/purchase items of both sets. If it is deemed the period civilian town must be searched, etc., we will do so.

Please try to act with the citizens in a period manner.

That's all I can think of for now. I am looking forward to working with you – should be a bully time. This is an excellent opportunity to experience a little bit of campaigning. Take care.

On to Shreveport!

Dom
D.J. Dal Bello