

The Monthly Muster

KEY WEST AVENGERS NEWSLETTER | MAY, 2025

Next Event | *Resaca, May 16-18*

Resaca is fast approaching! This is our one annual opportunity to participate in an event in which the 7th Florida fought. The event website can be found at the link below. Cpt. Hendrix & Sgt. Hendrix will arrive Thursday evening to establish camp.



[Resaca 2025 Website](#)

Captain's Desk

Captain David Hendrix



Welcome to the 7th Florida Company K Newsletter 2.0. For many years Keith Van Leuven published the Newsletter which is now in the capable hands of Sergeant Major Christopher Hendrix.

I attended the annual Battalion Meeting, and I am pleased to announce that the Battalion unanimously elected Jay Welch as our new Colonel. Our very own Keith Van Leuven was elected Lt. Colonel.

Please join me in a hearty and well-earned congratulations. Our beloved Colonel Mark Rominger is now the Colonel of the Department of Tallahassee and will focus on being the event coordinator of the Natural Bridge event.

I for one am grateful for Mark's leadership and friendship. The Battalion will grow and prosper under

the leadership of Colonel Welch and
Lt. Colonel Van Leuven.

I wish you all safe travels to our next
event at Resaca.

Captain David Hendrix

Event Recap | *Fort Clinch Secession Garrison, March
14-16, 2025*



Fort Clinch Secession Garrison was a small living history event at an original Civil War era fort. No battles were held at this event, and no Federal reenactors were present. This event was focused on drill, living history activities, and enjoying time with our friends. Company K had 5 in attendance, and we plan to make this an annual event.



There will be a Fort Clinch Garrison in October. It will also serve as the Florida Battalion drill. Mark your calendars so you don't miss it!

History Headline

The 7th Florida at the Battle of Resaca, May 13-15, 1864



In May of 1864, Union Major General William Tecumseh Sherman had maneuvered out of winter camp near Chattanooga, and began his campaign to take Atlanta. Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston, commanding the Army of Tennessee, opposed Sherman. Johnston's army spent the winter in Dalton, about 30 miles southeast of Chattanooga. They had just suffered a major defeat at Missionary Ridge the November before, and were struggling with a lack of food and supplies.

As Sherman began moving his army, Johnston was forced to act on the defensive, protecting a vital railroad running to Atlanta, which served as his supply line. Johnston used the mountainous terrain to his advantage, plugging gaps between Sherman and the railroad, forcing Sherman to go around Johnston's left flank. After crossing through Snake Creek Gap, some of Sherman's forces found the small town of Resaca, a stop on the

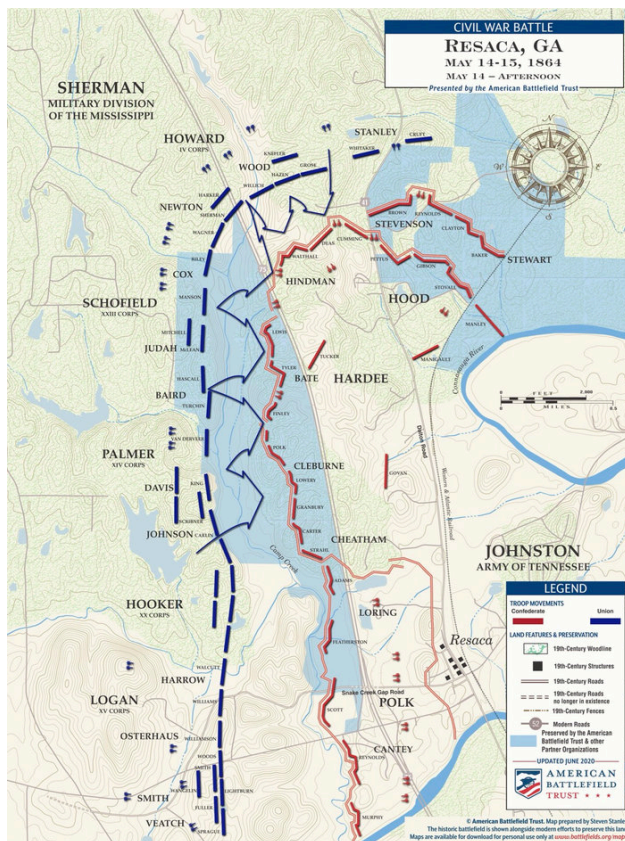
As the Federal infantry advanced towards the Floridians, they were forced to cross a creek, where they got bogged down by the musket fire coming from the entrenched southerners. The Federal ranks collapsed in confusion and disorganization, with much of the infantry remaining in the creek bed until nightfall, when they could retreat to safety.

Sergeant Washington Ives of the 4th Florida described the fighting.

"...at 9:00 a.m. the enemy drove in our main skirmishers and advanced small forces against us. But our boys drove back every advance. Brisk sharpshooting and cannonading. Heavy fighting on the right enemy charging but Stewarts division repulsed them. We lost heavily in wounded from sharpshooting."

The next morning, the attack resumed. Although Sherman's forces had some success on the

railroad, to be lightly defended. Realizing he had been flanked and the railroad was vulnerable, Johnston moved his army to Resaca the evening of May 13. By the morning of May 14, Johnston had created a formidable line around the town, defending the railroad with entrenchments and fortifications filled with 60,000 men, flanked by a winding river on both sides.



The 7th Florida, then part of Finley's Florida Brigade, Bate's Division, Hardee's Corps, was placed near the center of the line.

flanks, Johnston's men held their ground and carried the field. During the fight, Sherman had sent a division 4 miles downriver from the Confederate line, where they built a bridge. Sherman, realizing he would not be able to dislodge Johnston from his position, decided to go around Johnston's flank and threaten the railroad to the south.

The casualties for the 7th Florida are unknown, but the entire brigade lost an estimate of 100 men killed, wounded, or captured at Resaca. One of those wounded was the brigade commander, Brigadier General Jesse Finley, who was wounded when an exploding artillery shell caused a tree limb to fall on him. As a result, Colonel Robert Bullock of the 7th Florida assumed command of the brigade, and Major Tillman Ingram took command of the regiment.



The 7th occupied the freshly dug trenches, along with the 1st & 4th Florida Consolidated, while the rest of the brigade was held in reserve.

Determined to get between Johnston and Atlanta, separating his adversary from the supplies in the city, Sherman decided to attack. On May 14, Sherman opened a barrage of cannon fire that was intended to provide cover for his advancing infantry.



Robert Bullock, unknown date, courtesy of Florida Memory

First Sergeant's Report

First Sergeant Lawrin Ellis



Secure Arms and Trail Arms

Arguably the two most commonly confused or misunderstood rifle positions in the manual of arms are *Secure Arms* and *Trail Arms*. These two are seldomly used and as a result, even the most seasoned of reenactors might not know the proper position.

For both of these, let's take a look at Hardee's Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics, the manual of arms we utilize for the School of the Soldier.





SECURE ARMS

(First motion.) Like the first motion of support arms, bring the piece, with the right hand, perpendicularly to the front and between the eyes, the barrel to the rear ; except with the right hand seize the piece at the small of the stock.

(Second motion.) Turn the



TRAIL ARMS

(First motion.) The same as the motion of order arms, by seizing the piece briskly with the left hand near the upper band, and detaching it slightly

piece with both hands, the barrel to the front ; bring it opposite the left shoulder, the butt against the hip, the left hand at the lower band, the thumb as high as the chin and extended on the rammer ; the piece erect and detached from the shoulder, the left fore-arm against the piece.

(Third motion.) Reverse the piece, pass it under the left arm, the left hand remaining at the lower band, the thumb on the rammer to prevent it from sliding out, the little finger resting against the hip, the right hand falling at the same time by the side.

from the shoulder with the right hand : loosening the grasp of the right hand, lowering the piece with the left, re-seizing the piece with the right hand just above the lower band, the little finger in the rear of the barrel, the butt about four inches from the ground, the right hand supported against the hip, dropping the left hand by the side.


(Second motion.) Incline the muzzle slightly to the front, the butt to the rear and about four inches from the ground. The right hand supported at the hip, will so hold the piece that the rear rank men may not touch with their bayonets the men in the front rank.

Schedule

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