

**“2nd California Vol. Infantry”
Fort Tejon SHP, Feb, 1-3 2008**

GUIDELINES FOR “MILITARY” REENACTORS

In February 1864, Co. G of the 2nd Calif. Vol. Infantry was armed, clothed and equipped very much like Federal infantry troops fighting in the war “back east.” Below are particular uniform and equipment guidelines which “military” participants should observe, in order to create a more authentic visual representation of the historic unit. It should go without saying that clothing and equipment should conform to period patterns and materials.

HEAD-WEAR - Best: have *both* M1858 dress (“Hardee”) hat *and* regulation forage cap. Acceptable: either hat or forage cap. Disfavored: non-regulation “slouch” hats and (on enlisted men) kepis. Dress hat may be fully or partially trimmed (cord, brass, etc.).

COAT: Best: have *both* infantry uniform (frock) coat *and* fatigue (sack) coat. Acceptable: either uniform or fatigue coat. Disfavored: short “state” pattern jackets and the like.

TROUSERS: Best: regulation infantry trowsers, sky blue, in “Schuyllkill” pattern. Acceptable: other patterns of sky blue federal issue infantry trowsers. In *very* limited numbers, correct cavalry trowsers, as these were sometimes issued in lieu of infantry pattern trowsers.

SHOES: Best: Federal issue brogans, pegged or sewn soles. Acceptable: correct period boots (black only). Disfavored: anything else, unless *approved in advance* by event coordinator (Sean Malis).

SOCKS: Best: army issue woolen socks. Acceptable: “civilian” socks, woolen or cotton, of period design. Disfavored: anything else, unless *approved in advance* by event coordinator (Sean Malis).

SHIRT: Best: army issue woolen shirt, regulation or contract pattern, off-white or any other documented color. Acceptable: “civilian” cotton shirts.

DRAWERS: Best: regulation pattern, woolen. Acceptable: “civilian” patterns, woolen or cotton, *or*...no drawers at all (some men didn’t like them). Disfavored: anything else.

CANTEEN: Best: regulation smooth-side canteen, with *string* attachment for the stopper (the chain attachment came *only* on New York Depot-made canteens) and leather sling. Acceptable: other Federal issue canteens, smooth-side or “bullseye”, with leather or correct fabric sling.

HAVERSACK: regulation Federal issue, of cotton “drill” painted black. The haversack should contain: 1 plate, 1 fork, one knife, 1 spoon, 1 tin cup. (This is a “garrison” scenario - virtually nothing else should be in the haversack, until/unless rations are issued. The haversack was *not* a purse or a “baby knapsack”.)

KNAPSACK: Best: federal issue “double-bag”, early or late war. Acceptable: blanket roll, or other Federal-issue knapsacks *approved in advance* by event coordinator (Sean Malis).

WOOL BLANKET: Best: regulation army blanket, wool, gray or gray/brown, with black end stripes and “U.S.” logo stitched or stenciled in center. Acceptable: non-regulation, “emergency” issue, woolen blankets. Disfavored: quilts, comforters, sleeping bags, etc. The Fort has a good supply of gray woolen blankets -- borrow one if need be. Barracks bedding will be straw-filled mattress ticks, provided by the Fort. (Hint: for a pillow, use a coat, or a small cloth sack stuffed with straw.)

RUBBER BLANKET (optional, but recommended): Best: regulation Federal army rubber blanket. Acceptable: period correct “painted” blanket.

ACCOUTREMENTS: Best: regulation cartridge box for .58 cal., with tins; cartridge box sling (with or without breast “eagle”); M1850 pattern “early war” cap pouch; regulation “Gaylord” early war pattern bayonet scabbard, with either no or 2 rivets; regulation waist belt (leather loop “keeper”) with oval “US” belt plate. Acceptable: same as foregoing, except with other federal issue cap pouches, late war “Gaylord” pattern scabbards, .69 cal. box for ’42 Springfield users, and/or late war waist belts (brass “keeper”). Disfavored: state or militia belt plates; British pattern “Enfield” bayonet scabbards (Federal use limited to a handful of Mass. regiments).

WEAPONS: Best: 1855 or 1861 Springfield, with bayonet; Acceptable: 1842 Springfield with bayonet; P1853 Enfield, with bayonet (but see “Accoutrements” regarding scabbard!). Disfavored: all two-band rifles/muskets of any sort; any other three-band rifles/muskets, except as *approved in advance* by the event coordinator (Sean Malis).

PERSONAL ITEMS: Appropriate personal items, of period design/manufacture, may be carried at participants’ discretion. *Necessary* modern items (car keys, ID, necessary medications) may be kept in a small cloth “farb” bag.

The foregoing guidelines, obviously, are directed principally toward “enlisted” men. Participants portraying officers should take their cue, as applicable, from the foregoing list, and then add items appropriate to officers. Photos and other records show that the Californians’ officers were almost spitting images of their eastern counterparts. “Officers” should strive to be leaders in terms of authentic portrayal.