

FAX

TO: STEVE C. RUCKER

FM: BRYAN R. HOWERTON

Steve, attached is the transcript of the letter we discussed.

The regiment went through three incarnations -- it was first mustered into State service for 3 months at Camp Rector, Arkansas, on May 14, 1861, as the First Regiment Arkansas State Troops. Next, it was enrolled in Confederate States service for one year at Pocahontas, Arkansas, on July 23, 1861, as the First Regiment Arkansas Volunteers. Finally, since the designation "First Regiment" has already been assigned to another regiment, it was redesignated as the Fifteenth Regiment Arkansas Infantry on December 31, 1861 (one of three 15th Arkansas regiments -- go figure!). On May 26, 1862, the regiment was reorganized and reenlisted "for three years or during the war", at Corinth, Mississippi.

During each incarnation, the company designations changed.

As the 1st Regiment Arkansas State Troops --

- Co. A--*Harris Guards*, of Monroe County.
- Co. B--*Jefferson Guards*, of Jefferson County.
- Co. C--*Yell Guards*, of Pulaski County.
- Co. D--*Rector Guards*, of Prairie County.
- Co. E--*Napoleon Grays*, of Desha County.
- Co. F--*Yell Rifles*, of Phillips County.
- Co. G--*Hindman Guards*, of White County.
- Co. H--*Phillips Guards*, of Phillips County.
- Co. I--*Tyronza Rebels*, of Poinsett County.
- Co. K--*Monroe Blues*, of Monroe County.

As the 1st Regiment Arkansas Arkansas Volunteers --

- Co. A--*Harris Guards*, of Monroe County.
- Co. B--*Yell Rifles*, of Phillips County.
- Co. C--*Napoleon Grays*, of Desha County.
- Co. D--*Tyronza Rebels*, of Poinsett County.
- Co. E--*Monroe Blues*, of Monroe County.
- Co. F--*Phillips Guards*, of Phillips County.
- Co. G--*Rector Guards*, of Prairie County.
- Co. H--*Jefferson Guards*, of Jefferson County.

(Note: the Yell Guards and Hindman Guards did not enter Confederate service, and were disbanded.)

As the 15th Regiment Arkansas Arkansas Infantry --

- Co. A--*Harris Guards*, of Monroe County.
- Co. B--*Jefferson Guards*, of Jefferson County.
- Co. C--*Yell Rifles*, of Phillips County.
- Co. D--*Napoleon Grays*, of Desha County.
- Co. E--*Tyronza Rebels*, of Poinsett County.
- Co. F--*Monroe Blues*, of Monroe County.
- Co. G--*Phillips Guards*, of Phillips County.
- Co. H--*Rector Guards*, of Prairie County.

Camp Rector, Mound City, Arkansas,
5 miles above Memphis, May 4, 1861.

Dear Citizen:

Our company, as you know, left on the 30th ult. on board the good steamer A. W. Quarrier for this place. On the way were collected the relations and friends of the soldiers to bid them farewell, and bid them God speed in their glorious mission. Many stout hearts were melted into tears in being compelled by the actions of our Kangaroo President to rend ever dear ties of home and kindred; but still they were proud and happy, because permitted to rally 'round the flag of the Southern Confederacy, and defend our household goods from the polluting touch of northern fanatics. But after we left the sad scene presented to our view at Des Arc, and glided swiftly down our beautiful river, change of scene brought on a corresponding change of feeling and the wonted good humor of our boys returned. As we passed the many farm houses that skirted the banks of our lovely little stream, the air was rent with huzzas for our glorious cause, which were answered with interest from the shore.

We arrived at Clarendon about four o'clock, and found a large crowd collected on the bank, who greeted us with hearty cheers as the boat rounded to. We marched over their beautiful little town and were present at the reception of a very neat flag by the Harris Guards of Monroe County. Eloquent speeches were delivered on the occasion, and one especially appropriate by the beautiful young lady who presented the flag. The Harris Guards are named in honor of Col. J. T. Harris, of Monroe County. They are a fine looking body of men and number about 80. Our company took supper at the hotel and then we separated, each man seeking pleasure after his own peculiar fashion until we were called together at 12 o'clock to leave. We were well received by the citizens of Clarendon, and their kindness towards us was appreciated and will be duly returned if we ever come back from the wars.

At 12 o'clock we left, accompanied by the Harris Guards. On Wednesday night, we reached the Mississippi River and as we left our pretty little steam, cheer after cheer rent the air, mingled with the hope that we would all be able to look upon its swift rolling waters once again.

We met the Victoria at Rosedale, Mississippi, and embarked upon her for Mound City, where we arrived safe and sound on Thursday night at 9 o'clock. The Victoria brought us free of charge. This act of patriotism and generosity will long be remembered by every one of the company. They showed us many kindnesses and provided for us in the very best style.

On Friday, we went into a regular military discipline, performing all of the duties of camp life. We drill twice a day, three hours each time; walk post and cook our own victuals. You can appreciate the beauties of our culinary department when I tell you that there is but two or three in our company who know the least about cooking. Besides, we are living on cornbread and bacon, with a little coffee to wash it down.

We have a good string band and some very fine singers, and so we get excellent music when off duty. "Dixie" and "Way Down in Cairo" are the favorite tunes here. They sing "Cairo" because some think that is our destination. We haven't got any place to dance so we are compelled to forego that pleasure.

Six men occupy one small tent, with a non-commissioned officer in each one. The ground in the tent is covered with straw, and we lay a pair of blankets on that and cover with our other blankets--each man having a pair. The nights are quite cool, so as yet we are quite comfortable, but I fear we will suffer from the heat in the summer, if we stay in this section of the country.

No one yet knows where we are destined to be placed, and many are the surmises on that question. The officers even do not know, and if they do will not tell, so we are in the dark. The boys are all anxious to get into active service, and Gin Erwin says he's "spilin" for a fight. The boys are in excellent spirits--cracking jokes and singing are their principal occupations when not engaged in military duties.

We have at this camp over 500 men, the post being in charge of Col. D. McRae of Searcy, White County. The following in a list of the companies here: the Yell Rifles, Phillips County, Capt. P. R. Cleburne, 90 men; Hindman Guards, White County, Capt. H. P. Blakemore, 45 men; Border Rangers, White County, Capt. D. McRae, 52 men; Pine Bluff Artillery, Jefferson County,

Harris Guards, page 2.

Capt. F. Stake, 41 men; Harris Guards, Monroe County, Capt. J. T. Harris, 72 men; Jefferson Guards, Jefferson County, Capt. C. Carleton, 86 men; Rector Guards, Prairie County, Capt. G. W. Glenn, 64 men.

The following is a list of the rank and file of the Rector Guards: G. W. Glenn, Capt.; J. E. Glenn, 1st Lt., G. S. Polleys, 2nd Lt.; George Murray, 3rd Lt.; M. M. Erwin, Commissary; H. B. Kendall, Orderly Sgt.; T. H. Osborne, 2nd Sgt.; G. H. Hanson, 3rd Sgt.; Wm. Lee, 4th Sgt.; C. G. Locke, 1st Corp.; J. H. Munroe, 2nd Corp.; T. Jeff Woodson, 3rd Corp.; J. C. Butler, 4th Corp.; J. H. Balding, 5th Corp.; Jesse Avery, J. S. Anderson, W. J. Alexander, Ed Brown, A. Butler, J. Blunt, M. J. Birdsong, T. A. Barnett, S. H. Barrer, W. M. Barksdale, Ed Carroll, L. T. Cox, Wm. Cotter, J. F. Cloud, J. H. Crockett, H. C. Erheart, A. Gillman, N. B. Gair, J. S. Golden, F. Hill, S. Herring, H. J. Jones, L. H. Johnson, J. Krebs, F. Kline, W. C. Lea, M. Mizell, H. L. McKissick, S. V. McCraw, P. A. McCraw, W. C. McKendree, R. Newby, S. H. Purtle, W. Perry, Ed Poe, J. H. Quisenberry, Jr., E. T. Ryan, E. T. Sweyer, G. W. Smith, P. Stubblefield, H. O. Sossman, H. Thompson, H. L. Tant, Amos Williamson, Nat Williamson and T. Yore.

You must excuse the dictation of this letter, for I am writing in my tent where music is playing, some whistling, some singing, others all making some kind of noise. I will write again.

Yours,

COP.

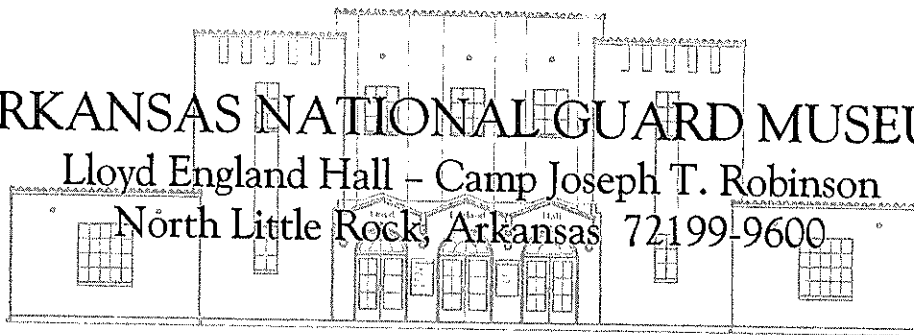
Des Arc Citizen, Des Arc, Arkansas, Friday, 10 May 1861.

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North Little Rock, Arkansas 72199-9600



11/1/00

FAX FOR: CPT Todd JOHNSON

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Todd -

Hope this helps. Call if you have questions.

Steve

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