

Live Fire 2006 After Action Report



71st PVI and the 7th Wisconsin at Live Fire 2006

1st Sgt sends:

I have to start by saying the Union Forces in the form of the 71st PVI and the 7th Wisconsin dominated the 2006 Live Fire Competition – this was our time and we stepped up to the plate. If you weren't able to make it you really missed a great time – even if the wind tried to move us to the next county at times.

Cpl Jenkins showed up early and found us a good spot to set up. He had the camp laid out and folks just had to fall in where he had things marked out. Thanks Cpl Jenkins you did a good job, not only getting the camp set in, but making sure picket was set and other details were accomplished as needed.

Faye showed up with the Clan Crichton rolling show and cook outfit, and got some stew going that night so folks had some hot chow in the belly. Ron picked the 1st Sgt up at the Ontario Airport and for the next hour we did an average of 20 mph trying to get the heck out of the city. From all accounts folks had varying degrees of adventures getting to the live fire, but make it we did. Folks got set up and kicked back to share what had happened in their lives till then. It was about midnight before Clan Crichton was set in, I hit the bunk and was out like a light.

Saturday dawned clear and cold (no wind yet). Faye cooked a great breakfast of sausage gravy, and it was GOOD. We held formation to post the flag and get ready for the safety brief. After the safety brief the range was opened so folks to “warm up” before the first competition. The first competition was the maneuver and shoot – we watched a few units go through it before it was our turn. We stepped off and time started, we maneuvered and fired just like we knew what we were doing. We moved right on down the field reached the objective, conducted a bayonet charge and moved back to the start point. We smoked the competition and came out on top. I was really proud of how our combined unit performed on the field – we marched down holding the line and our volleys were clean and crisp just as they needed to be.

It was time for lunch and the wind started coming up.



Camp Windy

We had a lunch of sausage and potato soup, a first for Faye and it went over with a bang (as usual). She always worries when she tries something new.

After lunch it was time for the infantry sharpshooter. I decided to sit this one out, getting old you know, and can barely see the targets anymore. Anyway, Pvt Peck came out on top as the 71st PVI sharp shooter (yes the Peck, he's come a long way in shootin) in a shoot out against Cpl Jenkins. Overall Union Infantry sharpshooter went to one of our brother 7th Wisconsin lads, 1st Sgt Keith Deluca. He really did well at this event (more on that later).



Pretty soon it was time for one of our favorites events – the 4x4 cut. There were six units to shoot and we were among the first four. The command to fire by file was given and off to the races we went – we knocked ours down in 3 minutes and 9 seconds. Turns out it was the best overall time of all six units, but we needed to fire against the winning Reb unit on Sunday. Now it was time for the rail road tie cut. All the Union Forces against all the Reb Forces to see who could cut a rail Road tie in two. The command to fire was given and again we were off to the races. We were moving right along until one of the legs broke and down it went – of course we hadn't finished cutting the tie so the Rebs insisted on putting it back up. Soon as it was up the command to fire almost got given before a volley cut it completely off – a little soon but the inevitable happened – the Union smoked the Rebs – again.



The Lt tries to convince the tie to stay – it did for about a minute then we blew it away.

It was supper time and we returned to camp for a supper of sloppy Joes – folks were hungry cuz the sloppy Joe went fishin in a hurry. After supper folks started getting social if you get the drift. The Lt stumbled, I mean crawled, I mean arrived in a dignified manner back to camp at around midnight. He did get up right on time the next morning, although I'm not convinced he could see. Evil Dave didn't show, so someone had to take up the slack – wonder who.



The Evil Lt?

Sunday dawned clear and cool with wind gusts promising a repeat of Saturday – WINDY. We had a great breakfast of scrambled eggs and hash – another one of my favorite breakfasts. Guess it's good to have an in with the cook huh. Although I had to pay for it by helping to cook.



Crack them eggs 1st Sgt!



Yes dear! The things I have to do

We held formation and posted the colors. Pretty soon it was time for the first event – a new one. This event has a hay bale wall with a log door in it. A battery of cannon gets six shots each to try and poke a hole in the wall, while sharpshooters are trying to knock down any targets they can see. When a breach is made or time runs out the entire force lines up and assaults the wall while shooting targets from points along the way, culminating in a bayonet charge. It was a pretty fun event even with the wind doing it's best to knock all the targets down. Our three sharpshooters were 1st Sgt Deluca, Pvt Peck and Cpl Chip (69th NYSV). Our cannon hit the breach point a couple times but didn't quite create a breach. Our sharpshooters, especially 1st Sgt Deluca were having a field day. Deluca knocked down everything he fired at it seemed like – the range was around 250 to 300 yds. Heck of a fine string of shots and in high winds to. We marched down the field knocking down targets at every stop and we reached the wall – one last series of shots and the bayonet charge was on. Soon as the Rebs were all taken out the colors were unfurled by the Color Sgt.



Color Sgt at the wall

It was to windy to do the hands of death so we went right into the final 4x4 cut – 71st PVI against the Louisiana Tigers. The command to fire was given and the 71st who was totally focused at this point made almost every shot count. It seemed like in almost no time the 4x4 dropped.



Fire by file

4x4 drops

In actuality it really was almost no time – the combined forces of the 71st PVI and 7th Wisconsin set a new record in the 4x4 cut of 1 minute and 50 seconds!



We find out we just set a new record!

This was just an absolutely great weekend, with the exception of the wind that kept trying to blow us into Mexico. I know I had fun and I hope everyone else did also. After the 4x4 cut we returned to camp and gave the order to strike canvas. Everyone helped pack up and we were on the road until the call to arms sounds once more. I want to thank everyone who was there for all the help folks gave Faye and the cooperation in getting the little details done. I know everyone pitched in, but there is a couple of folks I wanted to point out so don't get you knickers in a twist if you're not mentioned. Anyway, I wanted to say thanks to Cpl Jenkins who came out and helped Faye get packed out while her hubby was off gallivanting around the country for the Army, getting the camp laid out and pretty much being almost everywhere. Thank you to Kim Iverson

who helped Faye in the kitchen area – it meant a lot to her for you to pitch in the way you did. And last but of course not least to our Color Sgt who also seemed to be up and moving about helping Faye and just flat pitching in with no prodding – did it just cuz. Okay, enough gushy junk.

So until we all come together at Calico;

I remain your obedient servant in defense of the Union, 1t Sgt C