

Company Streets in Camp

By Jim Tate and Peter Vaselopulos

During the Civil War each regiment laid out its camp in the manner prescribed by the Army Regulations. Today as reenactors we must best organize our company streets based on the members attending, both civilian and military.

The following instructions show the typical layout of a reenactment camp in an attempt to simulate a Civil War army camp.

- The battalion color line is first established and then company streets are set up perpendicular to the line in two rows of tents facing each other. The width of the street should be at least five paces. The distance between the tents in a row should be at least one pace (use a camp chair for reference).
- Military A frame tents will be pitched on one side of the street, and dog tents will be pitched on the opposite side of the street. The military tents will be pitched on the end closest to the color line.
- Commissary tent, fly, and cook fire will be at the end of the street opposite to the battalion color line and in front of the line of officer's tents.
- Civilian tents to be placed on the company street starting with the end closest to the commissary fly tent.
- The first sergeant's tent will be placed on the end of the company street closest to the officer's tent.
- All military and civilian unit members will be expected to maintain proper dress and decorum on the company street.
- An NCO will be appointed in charge of the company street when the first sergeant is not in camp. All personnel leaving the street must inform the NCO and in turn will be advised as to when they should be back in camp.
- Boxes, chairs and stools will not be placed on the company street during drill or formations.
- Tent doors will be kept closed at all times and all non-authentic gear stowed away during camp inspections.
- Officers are not allowed on the company street without first asking permission of the first sergeant or NCO in charge.
- No enlisted man or civilian may approach an officer or visit an officer's tent without the permission of the first sergeant.

Camp Layout of 3rd US Regular Infantry Company Street

