

Dear Sir,

I wish to thank you again for allowing me the privilege of serving on your staff and serving the men of The Army of the Ohio. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to advance my involvement in the hobby. I wish to submit the following as my Medical Director's after-action report.

On 7 September, we had the good fortune to have allocated good ground for such an encampment. Our camp was situated in a quiet area of the woods with good elevation. This proved to be very advantageous considering the heavy rain that was to come. Our camp remained relatively dry through the weekend which certainly contributed to our general good health and morale. There were no medical matters requiring attention on this date.

On 8 September, at 0730, I conducted a sick call in camp. None of the men presented for evaluation or care. During morning drill, however, a soldier of the 41st OVI presented himself to me to be taken out of the ranks due to fatigue and a bit of lightheadedness. He did not appear to require any immediate medical care. I escorted him back to a place near our camp, then checked on the activities of the AotO, which was just finishing drill. Seeing no one requiring attention, I returned to camp and escorted the fatigued soldier to the 17th Medical Unit, where I referred him for additional evaluation, since his camp was close to their headquarters. The afternoon battle was conducted without any apparent injuries within the AotO. I did not receive any individuals requiring care. On the evening of 8 September, I accompanied a detached unit of two companies to a knoll behind a wood lot, located adjacent to The Cornfield. The men marched in good order and without incident, despite the hazards and darkness. In addition, our detachment crossed the hazards of a rebel picket line, as well as one of our own, successfully without injury. Afterwards the men were placed on the hill for the night. Some men were dispatched on canteen duty, so that all would have full canteens for the morning. The unit bedded down for the night. It was a pleasant starry evening, crisp with the autumn air, but the men were well prepared and slept well without incident.

On 9 September, at 0500, the men arose, prepared themselves for the day, ate a quick breakfast, and underwent weapons inspection without incident. Afterwards, we were joined by the main body of the AotO. At 0630, we stepped off into The Cornfield. I had coordinated the medical efforts with the Federal 17th Medical Unit. At the time of the assault, Federal medical personnel were stationed along the left side of the field, to the rear in two places, and along the rear right side of the field. Our efforts along our right flank were limited due to artillery and the movement of other Federal troops. The capacity of our medical efforts was significantly impacted by limited visibility, due to smoke and fog. Nevertheless, we remained vigilant on our watch and assessed the troops upon their return from the field and we remained in communication. In the end, I did not receive any reports of injuries in The Cornfield. During our respite between engagements, I did administer minor care to two members of the 29th OVI for minor cuts and abrasions.

Going into the last engagement, our men appeared to be in good health and good spirits and were ready for a fight on the other side of the tree line, coming out of reserve. Our progress was impeded by two rebel injuries, which halted action. The first involved a blackpowder blast injury to the face, apparently causing a suspected orbital fracture. The individual deferred treatment and was left to his own care. Another individual exhibited heat stress and was removed from the field. Upon moving through the trees, I learned from the Federal Assistant Surgeon that the ground in front of us had hazardous gopher holes strewn throughout the field. Before we stepped off, I moved up and down the line to notify the men of such. Shortly thereafter, I was summoned to our left wing to attend to a corporal who was down and had injured his knee. He did not wish to be removed from the field. The Federal Assistant Surgeon was consulted and attempted to intervene without success. Ultimately, EMS engaged and formal assessment was again deferred by the wounded soldier. As you know, this unfortunately terminated the event.

In summary, I believe our medical operations were conducted effectively. Fortunately, we did not have any major issues. I coordinated my effort with the 17th Medical Unit, under the direction of Trevor Steinbach, whose group was a great asset. I am not sure how much you have worked with him, but he is a value to have on scene. In addition, he was very helpful to me and provided a lot of research material for my future use. I would highly recommend him and his unit for your event next year. In addition, I

believe we can learn a few lessons, as we move forward. For these large events, I would suggest that all participants be required to have some form of medical insurance to participate. Our hobby is an extreme activity with risks, which may require attention. As we saw at the end of the event, a lack of insurance by one individual brought a premature end to the event, which short-changed the participants and the spectators. Each company commander should certify such coverage for their participating members. It is in everyone's best interest. An additional note pertains to my concerns about the schedule from Saturday night thru Sunday. Fortunately, we did not encounter any major health events, but I believe we are at greatest risk when the men are most fatigued. I cannot prove my assertions at MMM, but our only apparent EMS-related events occurred Sunday afternoon and fatigue may have played a role. You may wish to factor in these thoughts for your scheduling of next year's event.

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity. It was an educational and rewarding experience. I do look forward to serving again on your staff if invited to do so.

Your Obedient Servant,
Brian W. Horgan
Acting Surgeon