

of 1861.

With feelings in Northeastern Missouri at a fever peak and moving toward full fledged war, Moore felt it would be prudent to move into camp at Athens, Mo. Here he would be close to a source of much needed supplies over the Des Moines Valley Railroad, which lay in Iowa directly across the Des Moines River from Athens.

Near the end of July, Martin Green moved his Pro-Southern forces to Edina and began to prepare for an attack.

At his camp at Athens, Moore was ill-prepared to meet this attack. Although he had requested military arms and provisions weeks before, the number of men still far exceeded the muskets available. Luck was to intervene in the Battle of Athens, however.

In the first week of August, Cyrus Bussey, military advisory to Iowa Governor Samuel Kirkwood seized one thousand 58cal. Springfield muskets that were destined for the 4th Iowa Infantry forming at Council Bluffs, Iowa. At Croton, directly across the river from Athens, he left two hundred muskets for David Moore's troops.

On August 5, Green attacked Moore's out numbered forces at about 5:30 a.m. The State Guardsmen tethered their horses and fought on foot, flanking their artillery, which consisted of a nine pounder and a six pounder. The two lines faced one another a little more than 300 yards apart at the center. The Federals were also circled on three sides with a wide river at their backs.

At the climax of the battle, armed with the newly acquired rifled muskets, Moore had his forces fix bayonets and charge. With a yell, the Federal center surged forward, with gleaming bayonets outstretched. The sight of the cold, pointed steel was too much for the inexperienced Secessionist troops to bear. The Rebel center quivered, then broke, men rushing to the rear in panic. Seeing the Rebel line give way before them, Moore's troops quickly bolted forward, ignoring the commander's order to maintain alignment. The Rebels fled in such a panic that many did not even stop to retrieve their horses.

The crucial battle for Northeastern Missouri was over. Its outcome: Northeastern Missouri was to remain under Union control for the rest of the war.

"To Offer ... the Customary Salutations"

By Robert Braun

While on garrison duty in Louisiana, Captain John W. DeForest of Company "I", 12th Connecticut Infantry recalled that

I am regimental officer of the day. My duties consist largely in wearing a sash diagonally and in keeping quiet. Also, I am solemnly bound to go twice a day to the guard tent...

Immediately the guard bustles forth... and comes to shoulder. When I am within a few feet the sergeant commands, "Present arms!"

I raise the forefinger of my right hand to my cap and the drop it in an impressive manner which would terrify you to see.

(A Volunteer's Adventures by John W. DeForest, p 12)

How often have you been in the tented field and seen salutes (also "salutations" or "compliments" in the jargon of the period) rendered in a manner similar to the (albeit documented) manner of Captain DeForest? And how often in the "tented field" or in the cinema have you seen similar Civil War era compliments rendered in a fashion remarkably reminiscent of the British Army? Or

worse, rendered similar to today's modern army salute?

Who is right? What was the proper Civil War era salute?

No doubt we are all familiar with the Revised Regulations..., p. 42, which states



256. When a soldier without arms, or with side-arms only meets an officer, he is to raise his right hand to the right side of the visor of his cap, palm to the front, elbow raised as high as the shoulder, looking at the same time in a respectful and soldier-like manner at the officer, who will return the compliment thus offered. (Emphasis added)

Frequently when Civil War era hand salute are rendered, they are interpreted from this regulation to be quite similar to modern British Army salutes. This latter salute differs from the Revised Regulations..., in that it is presented in front of the right side of the visor of the cap or other headgear. Period images confirm that the hand salute of the period was rendered *quite literally*, at the right ear, at or quite near the right-side button that secured the chinstrap of the cap. Further,

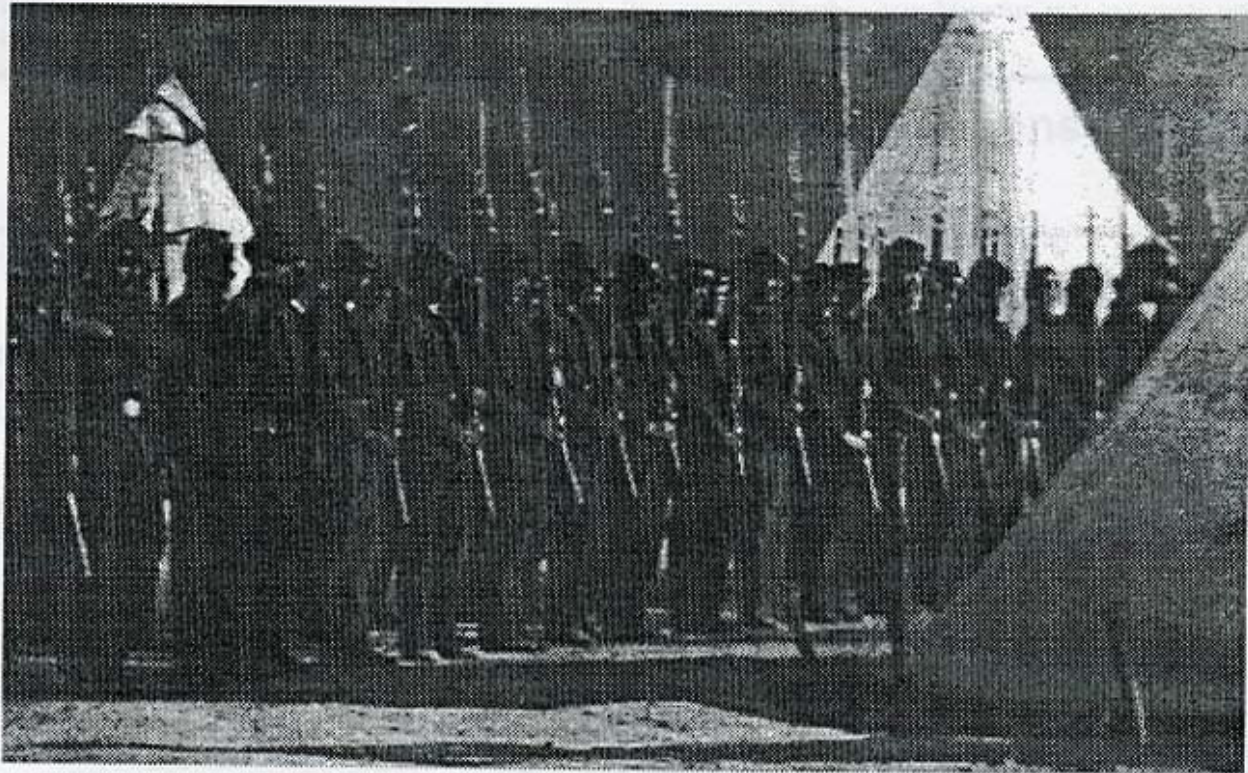
images would suggest that this style of salute was practiced by both Union and Confederate soldiers, and in the manner prescribed by the Revised Regulation...

The regulations do not make clear the issue of whether or not the salute of the inferior is held in the position prescribed until returned by the superior or not, as is customary in the present-day armed services. It is suggested that a case could be made for holding the salute until acknowledged by the superior, who is obliged to "return such complimentary notice." It would seem that the superior should return the salute in a *similar fashion* to the one received, although we have learned from Captain DeForest's writings that wasn't always the case.

The Revised Regulations... are clear on the custom of rising to one's feet in the presence of officers (if seated) or turning to them (if standing) and rendering a salute. When fre-

quently in the presence of officers (as in a headquarters scenario) inferiors are only required to render salute once, that being the first time approached by the officer(s).

Finally, "Sergeants... with muskets,... Corporals out of ranks, and privates not sentries, will carry their muskets at a shoulder as sergeants, and salute... by bringing the left hand across the body, so as to strike the musket near the right shoulder." This was the common salute of soldiers under arms as indicated. I am indebted to member Nels Monson, who brought to my attention an image of a double rank of soldiers at "Present arms," with a non-commissioned officer (designated by a rectangular belt plate; any chevrons are unclear) with his piece at a shoulder, rendering a salute "with musket" as previously described *and while in the ranks*... This form of salute by the orderly sergeant, when the balance of soldiers are formed in two ranks and at "Present arms," is worthy of further investigation.



Notice the rank and file at the position of "Present Arm" while the 1st Sgt. on the right has his weapon at "Sholder Arms" rendering a salute.

