

Headquarters,
National Regiment

April 11, 1864

General Orders, Supplemental
For: All NR Personnel

The following is from the General commanding Army, Maj. Gen. Darrell Markijohn.
I forward it for your perusal in information. Please share this with your troops.

I also forget to mention in the original General Orders, that if each man does his duty, the enemy will have no choice but to fly ingloriously before us.

On a final note. To take advantage of the historic nature of this campaign, the General commanding has arranged for a photographer to accompany the army. I enclose a copy of his message to me. If you can get on site on Thursday, feel free to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

“We will bus from the camp and are assembling at the Massaponax Church on Thursday at noon to replicate the War Council photo. They are getting the ORIGINAL church pews out of storage, and the shot will be taken out of the same window originally used.
Feel free to pass this on to your NR members, I could use a few more brimmed hat union officers for the photo. Should be really neat.”

By order of T. Downes,
Colonel, Commanding
National Regiment

From Army Headquarters:

WILDERNESS MORNING SCENARIO

I can't tell you how perfect this piece of ground is going to be. With the large open rectangular field now available, we are replicating the original Wilderness Battlefield better than we could have imagined. The woods are a bit more mature but by May, with some underbrush, it will still be somewhat formidable.

The son of the property owner, Bill Vakos, showed us the no-fly zones, and the land he did not want us to disturb, and was, like his father, a wonderful host. We all need to thank him as well.

We have pushed the Federal Breastworks a bit further north. As discussed, those works will be established, one section for each Brigade. We will be constructing them on Friday. On Saturday morning, orders will be issued for each Brigade to assemble in their pre-designated section to await orders to advance.

*Troops will be permitted to campaign in their works on Friday evening, **but NO CANVAS and NO FIRES.** It is a forward position, and fires would have been banned in 1864 and will be banned here since Bill Jr. strictly prohibited any fires in the woods. When you see it, you will see why. It can be a real fire hazard.*

We were also given permission to remove any barbed wire, and there is a line of it that traverses the length of the field. We will be permitted to cut up and move around dead brush for use in our breastworks. Maj. Ernsberger's ever growing Corps of Engineers will also be creating period maps of the ground for our use.

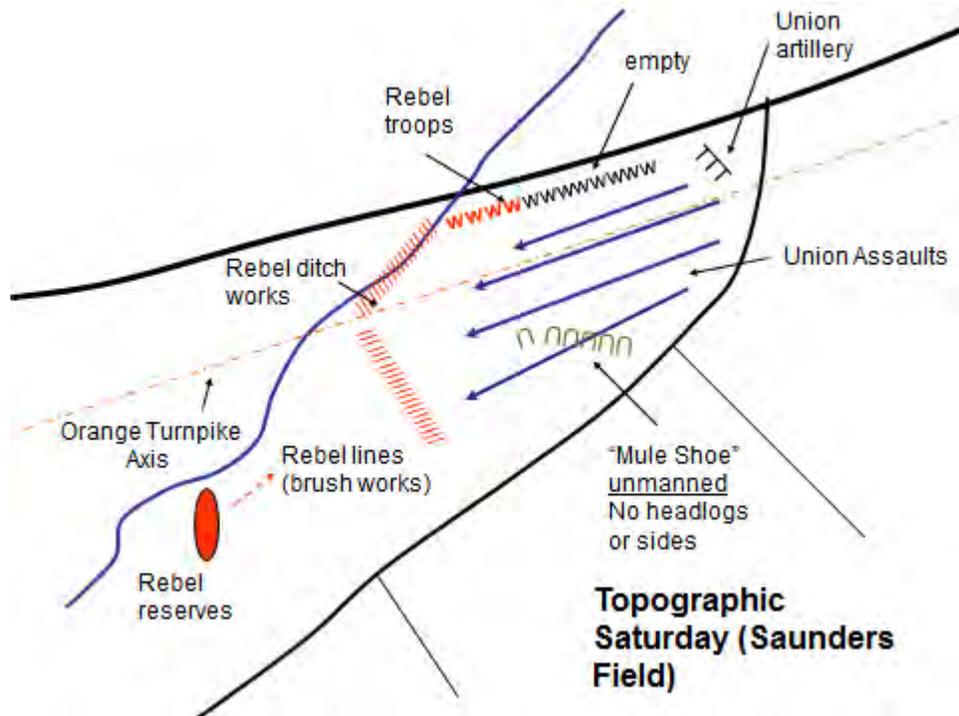
Overall, we were extremely impressed with the opportunities that this prime ground provides. There are at least two roads that traverse the north end. They built a gravel bridge over the creek that cuts the field in half allowing mounted artillery access to the open fields in the north. There is plenty of open ground for mounted cavalry, and depending on how wild the underbrush grows, some access to the woods. All branches of the Federal Army will find an opportunity in this field.

We have some historic vignettes that we are working on, including the 141st NY's capture of the 13th NC battle flag (Grant's first captured CS flag), a CS Cavalry charge of Federal Colored Troops, and of course the US Regulars and Zouave charge across Saunder's Field. Each of these is set forth on the map. With the exception of these three vignettes, we will allow this battle to take on a life of its own. Our plan is to start the engagement with a historic theme, manage the vignettes, and turn the armies loose thereafter.

The field and woods is large and rugged. It may not be suitable for all reenactors. Expect some hard marching. However, you do not want to miss this engagement. Yes we will be starting very early, but you won't find a more authentic looking piece of ground.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON WILDERNESS BATTLE

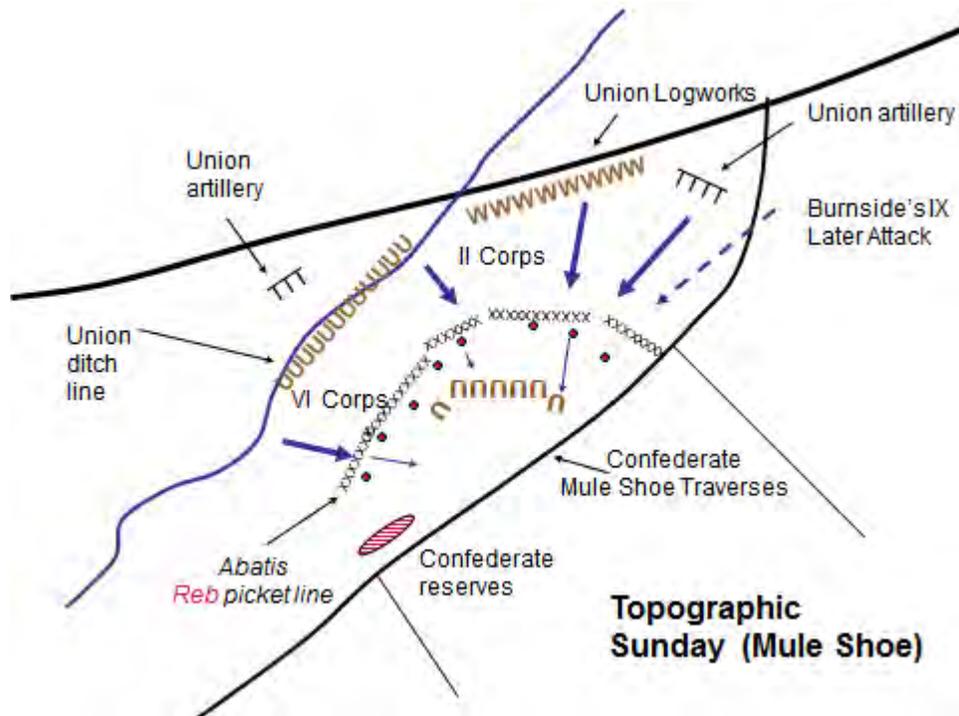
We toured the main battlefield. It is long and narrow and we devised a plan to replicate the Saunder's Field Scenario for the crowd. It is really the only authentic Wilderness battle we can recreate on a field devoid of vegetation. We will therefore repeat the morning vignettes. Your historical V Corps Impressions that you will be assigned for the morning will continue in the afternoon.



SUNDAYS MULE SHOE

We spent considerable time figuring out where to place the Mule Shoe Breastworks. We finally agreed on a location that will allow the Federal three-sided assault room to maneuver and space for the artillery and cavalry. This fight will feature waves of assaults on the CS works and choreographed hand to hand fighting. It will be quite a challenge. We will need all of your skill and experience to do this safely and historically correct.

Once again, we have to send a shout out to the Vakos' and County for their dedication to constructing period looking trenches and traverses. Maj. Ernsberger's Engineers have volunteered their time to help out with the construction.





Union Camps 1