

# ANDERSON ZOUAVE

NEWSPAPER OF THE ANDERSON BATTALION, AUSTRALIA.

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 2

ISSN 1834-1675

FEBRUARY 1, 2007

## THE ARMS OF PECK'S BRIGADE AT TENNALLYTOWN AND ON THE PENINSULA 1861-1862.

There is some confusion about the arms used by the Anderson Zouaves and its brigade at the time it was stationed at Tennallytown, D. C., guarding the northern approaches to Washington. Some of the evidence is vague and contradictory however, by piecing together what little information there is, we may be able to make an educated guess as to just how the Peck's brigade may have been armed when it boarded its transports at Georgetown for the Peninsula Campaign.

In the report of New York's Adjutant General of Volunteers, Thomas Hillhouse, in January 1862, it is claimed that the Sixty-second left the state for Washington armed with Enfield rifles. The list in the report is very particular regarding the strength and the arms of the other regiments sent into service and, in the main, appears to be very accurate. Where an estimation has had to be made it has been noted.<sup>1</sup>

However, contrary to this report by Hillhouse, an earlier report by *The New-York Times* claimed that the regiment was armed with the Springfield musket. *The New-York Tribune* was even more specific in this respect when it wrote "Their arms are the old, smooth-bore muskets, with shank bayonets, and percussion locks altered from flint locks"<sup>2</sup>

In Hillhouse's report it is noticeable that where a mixture of arms was given to a regiment the formula seemed to follow "2 Cos. rifles, rest muskets, 1842". It is probably safe to assume that the number 1842 (and in some cases 1835, 1840, and 1845) indicates the year of manufacture or conversion and not the model number, and so it is likely that at least some of these muskets were the Model 1816 musket converted from flint lock to percussion lock as mentioned in the *Tribune* report and not necessarily the M1842 percussion lock smoothbore musket.

The 470 men of the Fifty-fifth New York, soon to be brigaded with the Sixty-second, had two companies armed with rifles and the other companies with muskets. Similarly armed were the Forty-sixth, Fifty-second, Fifty-fourth, Sixtieth, Sixty-fifth, Sixty-ninth and the Eightieth. Arming regiments with this mixture of arms was a particular tendency for regiments sent into service after July 30, with those sent prior to this being generally uniformly issued muskets across all companies.

Notwithstanding this there are at least two errors regarding the Sixty-second in Hillhouse's report and likely three, the third being an error in the type of long arm issued to the regiment. First Hillhouse spells Riker's name incorrectly as "J. Lafette Riker" and second he omits the date that the regiment left for Washington. This is the only instance in a list of 42 regiments sent into service between July 30, 1861, and January 1, 1862 where he makes such an omission. The implication here is that the full records of the regiment were not to hand when compiling the table. Thus, it is possible that the claim that the Sixty-second were armed with Enfield rifles could be an error and there is substantial evidence that such an error did occur.

The Consolidated Morning Reports, completed by Peck's staff when the Sixty-second were at Tennallytown, show that the regiment was armed with 769 .69 calibre muskets and 190 .54 calibre rifles. The Fifty-fifth New York on the same reports are noted as having 500 .69 calibre muskets and 100 .54 calibre rifles. The other two regiments, the Ninety-eighth and the One Hundred & Second Pennsylvania, are shown armed exclusively with .69 calibre muskets.<sup>3</sup>

Assuming the regiment was not divested of its original Enfields and reissued with the combination of rifles and muskets, then the report by Hillhouse in January must be in error.

*The New York Tribune* was probably most accurate in its description of the arms of the Sixty-second, save that it did not mention the .54 calibre rifles which show up on the Consolidated Morning Reports in November and December 1861. As there were only 190 of these weapons (probably issued to two companies like other New York regiments sent into service

around the same time) it is likely that their existence was ignored or merely overlooked in the *New-York Tribune* report.

Given that the .69 calibre musket in the Consolidated Morning Reports was most likely the Springfield smoothbore and the .54 calibre Austrian Lorenz rifle, and given the preceding newspaper evidence it appears that the Sixty-second were armed with 769 Springfield M1816 flint lock smoothbore muskets (converted to a percussion cap mechanism) and 190 Lorenz rifles. The total arms for the brigade in late December 1861 was 2,858 .69 calibre muskets and 290 .54 rifles. Whether or not the other .69 calibre weapons in the brigade were also these M1816 converted muskets rather than the M1842 is not known for certain but it is likely as the M1816 arm was the most popular weapon at this early stage of the war.

Which companies may have been issued the Lorenz rifle is unknown, however one may speculate that these arms, being rifles, may have been issued to the most accurate or most experienced companies in the regiment, which, in the case of the Sixty-second, would almost have certainly meant the Advance Guard (company "I"), many members of which were said to have fought in the Crimean War.<sup>4</sup>

When the men of the Ninety-third Pennsylvania, joined the brigade on January 22, 1862, they brought with them the Belgian rifle which was likely to have been the M1859 French rifle (Liege variant) with a .61 calibre bore. How many of these rifles the ninety-third had is not clear, but we do know that those they did have were exchanged for Springfields on March 18, 1862 before going to the peninsula.<sup>5</sup>

It is possible that a decision was taken to make the brigade uniformly armed before commencing the campaign to take Richmond and that the whole brigade, at the expense of the Lorenz and the Belgian rifles, was converted to the .69 calibre smoothbores before the Ninety-third embarked for the peninsula. It is also possible that the Ninety-third may have exchanged their Belgian Rifles for the .58 caliber M1861 Springfield rifle but it is unlikely that the regiment would have been rearmed with the new weapon without a more specific mention being made of it in the Ninety-third's history. There would have been a logistical imperative for exchanging the rifles of the brigade for smoothbore muskets, as it would be easier to provide a brigade with one type of ammunition as opposed to three. However, remembering that the Sixty-second was promised a "more effective arm" it is possible that the regiment and brigade may have been upgraded to the M1861 sometime between January and March 1862. This will have to remain a matter of speculation until clear evidence is uncovered.

However, it appears that the Fifty-fifth was given a unique new arm just prior to going to the peninsula.

In early February 1862 the *Pennsylvania Thirteenth*, regimental newspaper of the One Hundred & Second Pennsylvania, made the observation that "The Fifty-fifth N. Y. Vols. . . have received a new arm. It is a most effective weapon, being the sabre-bayonet, globe sight rifle."<sup>6</sup>

*Harpers Weekly* claimed that the sabre bayonette was usually attached to the minie and Sharpe's rifle, in lieu of the old clasp bayonet<sup>7</sup> and that the globe sight was most notably used by Berdan's Sharpshooters.<sup>8</sup>

These rifles given to the Fifty-fifth sound much like snipers' arms as a globe sight is made of very fine wire or pig bristle mounted in a cylinder which is, in turn, mounted on the barrel of the rifle. The cylinder keeps sunlight off the sight so that it can be seen more easily. It is not clear just how many of these rifles the Fifty-fifth were given, however, De Trobriand, colonel of the regiment, notes very particularly that at Warwick Courthouse in April 1862 his regiment were armed with a "rifled musket of a French model" to which was affixed the sabre bayonette mentioned in the *Pennsylvania Thirteenth*.<sup>9</sup> As a native Frenchman commanding a French regiment it is unlikely that De Trobriand would claim that his men were using a French rifle if in fact they were armed with another type. Perhaps the Fifty-fifth had acquired Belgian rifles to replace their Lorenz and Springfields.

To compound the matter, the February 22 issue of the *Pennsylvania Thirteenth* has an article entitled “Charge Bayonets!” promoting the use of the bayonette among the members of the One Hundred & Second. The substantial reason given for the necessity of perfecting the drill is said to be “that the other regiments composing the brigade have weapons which have proved effective at 600, 800 and 1,000 yards, while we have but the old smoothbore pets of the regular army officers.”<sup>10</sup> Sour grapes or an accurate reflection of the state of the brigade at that time, what is clear is that in February 1862, remembering that the Ninety-third was yet to exchange its Belgian rifles and the Fifty-fifth had already taken delivery of their new French model globe sighted rifles, Peck’s brigade could have had as many as five different models of longarm.

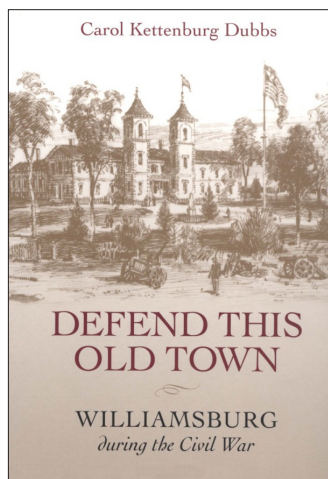
While we can not be certain exactly what arms Peck’s brigade carried on the peninsula, there is a suggestion in a letter by the brigade quartermaster, Silas Titus, that there must have been substantial numbers of smooth bores when he writes of the Battle of Williamsburg that “Wounded prisoners say it was the buck and ball from our front that cut them up so badly”.<sup>11</sup>

Whatever the case may have been, the existence of the exotic French arm destroys the theory that Peck’s brigade was uniformly issued .69 calibre smoothbore Springfield muskets when it ventured onto the peninsula in March 1862. With the evidence at hand it is possible that the Sixty-second had been rearmed with Springfield muskets or even Enfields before embarking for the peninsula. Perhaps Hillhouse’s report, published in early 1862, reflected not the state of the regiment when it left New York but as it was armed in early January 1862. Until clear evidence is discovered one must allow for the possibility that at the Battle of Williamsburg, and the other engagements during the Peninsula Campaign, the Sixty-second fought with two companies armed with the Lorenz rifle and eight with the converted M1816 Springfield smoothbores or perhaps with rifled Springfields or even Enfields.

**Notes**

1. *The New-York Times*, January 16, 1862.
2. *The New-York Times*, August 21, 1861; *The New-York Tribune* August 22, 1861.
3. Consolidated Morning Report, November 28, 1861; December 6, 1862; December 9, 1862; December 28, 1862, from the collection of John Tierney
4. 62nd Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry Civil War Newspaper Clippings <http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/historic/reghist/civil/infantry/62ndInf/62ndInfCWN.htm> (accessed 29/01/2007)
5. Mark, P. G., 1911, *Red, White and Blue Badge*, p. 124.
6. *Pennsylvania Thirteenth*, February 8, 1862, p. 3.
7. *Harpers Weekly*, August 3 1861.
8. *Harpers Weekly*, August 24 1861.
9. De Trobriand, R. (trans. Dauchy, G. K.), 1889, *Four years with the Army of the Potomac*, p. 170.
10. *Pennsylvania Thirteenth*, February 22, 1862, p. 2.
11. *Courier and Union (Syracuse)* May 16, 1862. p. 2.

**BOOK REVIEW –  
DEFEND THIS OLD TOWN:  
WILLIAMSBURG DURING THE CIVIL WAR  
BY CAROL KETTENBURGH DUBBS.**



Generally portrayed as little more than a skirmish and frustratingly ignored for many years, the Battle of Williamsburg was the first major battle of the Peninsula Campaign and was a pivotal moment for Peck’s brigade and the Anderson Zouaves in particular.

Carol Dubbs’ book, *Defend this Old Town*, published in 2002, is the first major work on the battle which acknowledges the central role played by Peck’s brigade in the drama of May 5, 1862. When R. L. Murray claimed in the preface to his own book on the battle that it was “the most detailed description of the

events yet in print”, he clearly had not read Dubb’s engaging account.

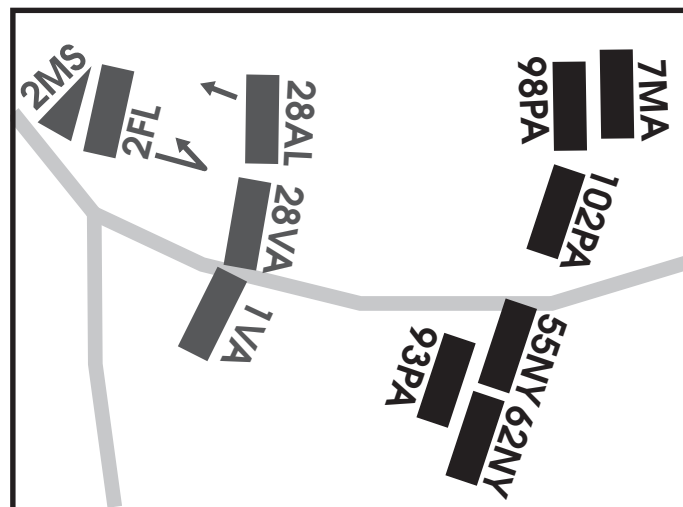
Dubb’s relies not only on the Official Records but on many accounts from newspapers, memoirs and the letters of those who were there, including the Sixty-second’s William P. Allcot, whose letters to his “Ma

and Pa” are in the Swem library at Williamsburg, which is also happens to be Dubb’s home town.

The book covers the period leading up to the battle, the battle itself and the occupation of the town by Federal troops for the rest of the war. The fact that it was a comparatively small conflict is reflected in the human scale which Dubb’s brings to her account. In spite of this, this book has a depth to it – showing an understanding of the battle, and the ensuing history of the town, which is unmatched by any other account to date.

The 2004 paperback edition of the book is 406 pages in length, however, the seven chapters related to the battle itself cover only 119 of those. There are also nine excellent maps which illustrate the changing fortunes of the battle over the course of the day.

It is a satisfying to read an account of the Battle of Williamsburg which finally acknowledges the contribution made by Peck’s brigade in this generally overlooked conflict. Also a relief is that this essential read for students of Peck’s brigade and the Anderson Zouaves can be bought used from Amazon for as little as US\$8 for the 2004 paperback edition, or for about US\$25-30 from Abebooks for the 2002, 440 page hardcover edition.



*A detail taken from one of the maps illustrating ‘Defend this Old Town’.*

**LETTER TO THE NEW YORK SUNDAY MERCURY.**

The following letter appeared in the *New York Sunday Mercury* on February 2, 1862. The letter appears to have been written by Albert V. Meeks, who served as the captain of Company “G” from its inception until he was discharged in August 1862. Meeks dined with Horatio Nelson Taft in Washington in September 1861 and appears three times in Taft’s diary entries. In the years after the war Meeks was a Companion of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and was a farmer at Meads’ Basin, Wayne, Passaic Co., New Jersey, about 30 miles from New York City and close to Pompton Plains where, Medal of Honor recipient, J. R. Evans, of Company “H”, is buried.

[Special Correspondence of the Sunday Mercury.]  
SIXTY-SECOND REGIMENT (ANDERSON ZOUAVES).  
HEAD-QUARTERS, TENNALLYTOWN, D. C. }  
Jan. 28th, 1862. }

To the Editors of the Sunday Mercury:

In our regiment there is a son of the Emerald Isle, who, by his original and peculiar manners, affords us much amusement.

One dark night, during the present wet and muddy season, Finnigan was on guard, and had been pacing up and down on his post for two hours, and nary a drop of whiskey in his canteen.

At last, the relief-guard came round, much to Finnigan’s relief. Finnigan, like a true soldier, brought them to a halt, and challenged, as usual, in his peculiar style. Upon ascertaining it to be the relief, he cried out,

“Yeese are wilcom, gentlemen, if iver mortal man was wilcom!”

And, amid the laughter of the guard, he fell into his place in the rear.

A. V. M.

MUSTER ROLL OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM N. HATHAWAY'S COMPANY "C" OF THE ANDERSON ZOUAVES.

The following muster roll has been transcribed, by John Tierney from the document *A record of the commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers and privates, of the regiments which were organized in the state of New York and called into the service of the United States to assist in suppressing the rebellion, caused by the secession of some of the southern states from the Union, A.D. 1861, as taken from the muster-in rolls on file in the Adjutant-General's office, S. N. Y. Vol. II, Albany 1864,* and forms a part of more complete records kept on all members of the Anderson Zouaves, Sixty-second New York State Volunteers Infantry Regiment. There is a retrospective nature to the original document upon which this transcription is based, for while the original claims to be a roll of the members mustered into service on June 30, 1861 the information is actually taken from a roll of the regiment made on October

15, 1861 a week after the regiment arrived in its camp at Tennallytown, D. C. Consequently this roll reflects the composition of the regiment on that day and is not an accurate description of the regiment when it was mustered in on June 30 and July 1, 1861 at Newark Bay House, Saltersville (now part of Bayonne), N. J. The whereabouts of the original roster documents from July 1861 is unclear, however, it is possible that they may be in the James Riker collection in the New York Public Library.

While every endeavour has been made to ensure this is an accurate transcription of the original document, it is possible that there may be errors. Researchers are encouraged to refer to the original document where possible. Some historical annotations, made by John Tierney, appear at the bottom.

MUSTER-IN ROLL of CAPTAIN WILLIAM N. HATHAWAY'S Company, in the ANDERSON ZOUAVE REGIMENT (PECK'S BRIGADE) of U. S. V., of N. Y., commanded by COL. J. LAFAYETTE RIKER, called into service of the United States by proclamation of the President, from the 30th day of June, 1861, (date of this muster,) for the term of three years, or the war, unless sooner discharged.

Numbers of each grade:	NAMES, PRESENT AND ABSENT (Privates in alphabetical order.)	RANK.	AGE.	JOINED FOR DUTY AND ENROLLED				TRAVELLING.		VALUATION IN DOLLARS, OF—		REMARKS 1. Every man whose name is on this roll must be accounted for on the next muster roll. The exchange of men, by substitution, and the exchanging, swapping or loaning of horses, after muster into service, are strictly forbidden.
				When	Where	By whom enrolled.	Period	To place of rendezvous. No. of miles	From place of disch'ge home, No. of miles	Horse	Horse equipments	
1	William N. Hathaway	Captain	36	April 19	New York	Col. Riker	3 years	...	...	...	...	...
1	George H. Eddy	1st Lieut.	32	do 29	do	Capt. Co.	or war	...	...	...	...	...
1	Horace A. Pratt	2d Lieut.	23	May 23	Essex Co., N.Y.	Col. Riker	do	...	...	...	...	...
1	McConnell, Samuel <sup>1</sup>	Sergeant	21	do 15	New York	Capt. Hathaway.	do	...	...	...	...	...
2	Crothers, William W.	do	25	do 15	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
3	Perine, Abram T.	do	32	do 5	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
4	Hudson, Joseph	do	19	do 25	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
5	Baker, George <sup>2</sup>	do	25	do 1	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
1	O'Neil, Thomas	Corporal	30	do 1	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
2	Brown, William	do	20	April 27	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
3	Neil, George	do	19	May 10	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
4	Ralph, Alfred	do	37	do 1	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
5	Young, Alexander C.	do	23	April 27	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
6	Eddy, Charles C.	do	27	May 5	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
7	Tapley, Thomas <sup>3</sup>	do	28	do 5	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
8	Moore, Thomas <sup>4</sup>	do	27	June 1	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
1	Parker, George	Teamster	19	do 1	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
1	Johnson, James	Musician	24	May 22	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
2	Moulder, Christ John <sup>5</sup>	do	18	June 10	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
1	Armstrong, Christy	Private	28	May 15	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
2	Bisher, John <sup>6</sup>	do	19	June 5	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
3	Birmie, John	do	37	do 15	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
4	Blanch, Martin	do	21	May 15	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
5	Boyd, George <sup>7</sup>	do	19	June 15	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
6	Bunting, Henry <sup>8</sup>	do	21	do 5	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
7	Berhan, Louis	do	21	May 5	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
8	Campbell, Patrick	do	22	June 1	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
9	Caffrey, Samis <sup>9</sup>	do	40	April 27	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
10	Chartes, Christopher <sup>10</sup>	do	28	May 3	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
11	Cusick, Hugh	do	19	do 15	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
12	Cohen, John	do	20	June 20	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
13	Craig, Samuel	do	19	do 1	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
14	Carroll, Michael	do	40	do 1	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
15	Curtis, Charles.	do	18	May 25	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
16	Daga, George S.	do	20	do 5	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
17	Dillen, John <sup>11</sup>	do	19	June 20	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
18	Dingelmeyer, John <sup>12</sup>	do	18	Aug. 1	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
19	Farnip, Benjamin <sup>13</sup>	do	22	May 20	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
20	Galaghan, William <sup>14</sup>	do	20	do 15	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
21	Garrity, John <sup>15</sup>	do	36	do 7	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
22	Gillen, Bernard	do	30	do 1	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
23	Harding, William <sup>16</sup>	do	33	do 10	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
24	Hand, John	do	19	June 1	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
25	Hunter, Hugh <sup>17</sup>	do	24	May 15	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
26	Hoag, Albert A. <sup>18</sup>	do	20	June 20	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
27	Hickey, John	do	19	do 20	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
28	Heims, Edward <sup>19</sup>	do	22	April 25	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
29	Hass, Henry <sup>20</sup>	do	21	Aug. 1	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
30	Hall, Joseph	do	22	May 25	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
31	Kerney, Patrick <sup>21</sup>	do	27	Aug. 1	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
32	Kennefich, Martin <sup>22</sup>	do	28	May 5	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
33	Kaine, Solomon <sup>23</sup>	do	20	May 15	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
34	Larkins, Patrick	do	27	do 1	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
35	Lynch, John	do	19	May 15	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
36	Larney, Farn <sup>24</sup>	do	36	do 15	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
37	Kelavey, Martin <sup>25</sup>	do	19	June 1	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
38	Murphy, John H.	do	26	May 20	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...
39	Morissay, William <sup>26</sup>	do	30	do 20	do	do	do	...	...	...	...	...

