

Form the Archives of “The Light” Newsletter of the 5th MI, Co. K

The Glue

Lads, every month so far, I've come to you with some bit of information about uniforms or the history of the Boys we portray. This month I want to go in a different direction. I am so thrilled with the way our group is growing. I'm watching old veterans work with new recruits and having a great time. Newer fellows, I see you growing in your gear and skills and I see a hell of a lot of smiles! No matter how cool your coat may be, those smiles and laughs are the coolest thing I've seen.

Jimmy and I were talking last week and he mentioned something that I think makes our group different. He called re-enacting a “way of life” for us. While some use it as a hobby or a way to get a weekend outdoors, Jim, Scott, Kurt and I view it as a way of life. We don't put it down in the fall and pick it back up in the spring. We host drills in the dead of winter and then sucker you all into coming out with us!☺

While working on movies together, Jimmy and I often talk about doing 1:1 scale modeling, or full size modeling. In that, we are making living dioramas of the Boys of '61 in our hobby. Talk to a modeler. When you make a diorama, you need figures, landscapes, parts, paint and glue. We are the figures. Our parts are the kits we've put together so far. The paint can be seen in our constant work to upgrade our impressions, whether it be by getting new kit or doing more 1st person or drilling better. Landscapes are provided by the events we attend. Many of us have worked hard already this year to make the best site we have, Historic Fort Wayne, look much better as a military installation.

The glue. Well, I'm not going to suggest gluing us to the ground at any event (though if we don't keep our ranks straight in drill, Captain Cummings may glue us shoulder to shoulder☺). The glue we have is the laughs, smiles and great experiences we share. I have had a wonderful time getting to see many of my old friends and make new ones. This is the glue of a lifetime for me. Honestly, re-enacting is the reason I'm still in Michigan. My life was really rough after a break up some years ago and I almost moved to New York to work on movies. Re-enacting was all that kept me here. Good thing because several months later, Wendy and I started dating and she's now my wife.

I hold my friends dear. This glue gave me two of the guys who stood in my wedding. It gives me friends I can call to celebrate with when life is good and shoulders to cry on when it is bad. If you are new, you've entered a great group and I hope we can share as much with you over the years as I have received from it.

See you at Fort Wayne, Detroit! Will Eichler