

# ANDERSON ZOUAVE


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## APOLOGIES

We must apologise for the non appearance of the April issue of Anderson Zouave. The publication of that issue was prevented by a change of premises for the office and its equipment. Furthermore a transcription of the muster roll of Company "E" of the regiment from October 15, 1861 was planned for this issue but has been held over until the July issue due to the amount of content presented for this edition. 

## ETHNIC MAKE-UP OF THE ANDERSON ZOUAVES.

One of the outstanding characteristics of the American Civil War was the number of foreigners and immigrants who chose to fight for their adopted country with the English, French, Germans, Irish and Italians being particularly conspicuous among the volunteer regiments of New York.

The 69th New York was a pre-war militia regiment which was characterised by its significant Irish membership and its distinctive green regimental flag. The Garde Lafayette, otherwise known as the 55th New York was, likewise, a pre-war New York militia regiment of Frenchmen which went to war under the tricolore and clad in a variety of continental uniforms including red trousered chasseurs, zouaves and pioneers wearing bearskin hats and leather aprons.<sup>1</sup> The 54th New York, also known as the Schwarze Jaeger or Black Rifles, was a German regiment which marched off to war under a black banner embroidered in silver with a skull and crossbones and with a unique uniform of black and silver.<sup>2</sup> The Independent Battalion New York Volunteers, known as "Les Enfants Perdus" or "The Lost Children", were originally intended as an elite regiment of veteran Frenchmen who had served in the Crimea and with Garibaldi in Italy. They wore the "jauntiest" uniform based on the famous *Chasseurs d'Afrique*, (*à pied*)<sup>3</sup>. Unfortunately, for these French *enfants*, Colonel Felix Confort appeared more competent when it came to publicising his regiment than he did in commanding it and the reputation of the regiment in service never quite met with the expectation. The 36th New York was created by the consolidation of two regiments – one of Englishmen the other of Irishmen – the result of which was that there was almost as much fighting done within the regiment as there was on the field of battle.

It is well known that the Anderson Zouaves had a significant number of Frenchmen in its Advance Guard, or Company "I", but outside of this the regiment has not been generally recognised for being composed of specific races, or more correctly, nationalities. However, a letter appearing in the *Syracuse Daily Courier and Union* clearly says that the Anderson Zouaves was composed "principally of Irishmen". The letter which appears to be an accusation of racism or bigotry against Lieut. Colonel Dwight of the 122d New York follows:

—Lieut. Col. Dwight, of the 122d Regiment, who is now at home, made a speech before the dis-Loyal League last Friday evening, upon which occasion he so far forgot his duty as a soldier and a man, as to malign and vilify the 62d N. Y. Volunteers—a very worthy, tried and true regiment, and one that has seen much service in the field, and always acquitted themselves with gallantry and distinction. He said, in substance, that the Sixty-second was raised principally in the "Bloody Sixth" Ward of New York, that they (the men) never knew but one political party, and but one nomination for any election, and their system of election was "a Democratic ballot or down goes your house," and that when they left their homes, they were so thoroughly wedded to the Democratic party they believed that Andrew Jackson was still living to be voted for President! Astute "Col." Dwight! smart "Col." Dwight! loyal

"Col." Dwight! eloquent "Col." Dwight! genteel "Col." Dwight, had better go to the field, where he belongs, than to be lounging around home vilifying an old and faithful regiment. The gallant Sixty-second was made up principally of Irishmen; perhaps this is the reason for the "Colonel's" animadversions.<sup>4</sup>

Rightly or wrongly the Irish during Civil War "enjoyed" a dubious reputation. Colonel Regis de Trobriand of the 55th New York, which was brigaded with the Anderson Zouaves, had this to say about the Irish in his own regiment:

*Company K was composed entirely of Irishmen, commanded by three American officers, drawn from the nursery of the Seventh New York militia. The Irish have two prevailing faults, uncleanness and a tendency to drunkenness. On inspection, their uniforms were seldom without spots or their bearing without fault. When whiskey was introduced into the camp clandestinely, it was the Irish quarter that the officer of the guard first found it. The most severe punishments availed nothing. But, on the other hand, they were fine fighters. When they were under fire, the spots on their uniforms disappeared under the powder or blood; — good fellows after all, indefatigable, enthusiastic, and always ready for a joke or a fight.<sup>5</sup>*

A characteristic for which, until recent years, the Anderson Zouaves seemed to have been exclusively well known was its lack of discipline and bad behaviour while encamped at Tennallytown.

Brig. General Peck and Colonel De Trobriand were particularly critical of Riker's men during this period, an attitude that only seems to have changed for Peck after he witnessed their behaviour on the field of battle before Fort Magruder on May 5, 1862.<sup>6</sup> Peck is reported to have said that it was "mortifying to find so much neglect of duty, so much inefficiency, and so low a conception of the soldier's position, as... in the Anderson Zouaves. Its organization was defective and unfortunate."<sup>7</sup> When petitioning the Governor of New York, Edwin D. Morgan, for a commission for his brother, Peck specifically requested that it be in any other New York regiment but the Anderson Zouaves. De Trobriand said of the Anderson Zouaves that

*...insubordination reigned amongst the men, discord amongst the officers, the regimental government was full of intriguing, and the regiment, which, in other hands, would have been as good as any, was left to look out for itself. A bad neighborhood, which subjected our sentinels, more than once, to insults which it was necessary to punish ourselves, or see them go unpunished.<sup>8</sup>*

Whether or not the men of the Anderson Zouaves deserved the criticism levelled at them, the strength of the accusations by Peck and De Trobriand could, in itself, be seen as further evidence that the regiment was made up mainly of Irishmen. The prevailing prejudice against Irish immigrants at the time, particularly the newly arrived and even more so those of the "Bloody" Sixth Ward would have the effect of amplifying the criticism directed at the regiment.

Reviewing the surnames of the Anderson Zouaves one can pick a typical and popular Irish surname such as "Murphy" and find that there were eight individuals who enlisted in 1861 out of roughly 1433 total enlistments which shared this surname in the regiment. By comparison the number of individuals named "Murphy" who enlisted in 1861 in the 69th New York of the famous Irish Brigade, numbered just 13 out of a total enlistment of roughly 2716 individuals. Using this as a rough and convenient gauge we can claim that the proportion of people claiming Irish descent among the first enlistments in the 62d NY and the 69th NY was probably very similar.

So it would appear that there was a significant Irish population in the

Anderson Zouaves, however, despite this, the regiment has not really been recognised for this Irish character in our present period. On the contrary the presence of a small number of Frenchmen in the regiment has engendered more enthusiastic analysis than has the number of Irishmen.

The reasons for this emphasis on the regiment's French element is fairly easily perceived. The popular image of the Anderson Zouaves as having a significant French component really has more to do with the zouave uniform and the small number of recruits which joined the regiment in the middle of 1861 after defecting from the 55th New York. In the early months of the war the "French company" was quite conspicuous with its distinctive uniform and with the experience of some of its members in the Crimean War, but by 1864, with the zouave uniform discarded and many of the early recruits from the 55th New York dismissed or deserted, it appears that the most obvious national identity in the Anderson Zouaves was most likely Irish – hence the outburst of Lieut. Colonel Dwight of the 122nd NY.

This large number of Irishmen in the regiment is more a matter of happenstance than of design. The regiment was never envisioned as an Irish regiment and it is perhaps only because Riker was a native of Manhattan and that there happened to be a large number of Irish immigrants on the island that the number of Irishmen in the regiment were as high as they turned out to be. Riker's political affiliation to the Democrat Party,<sup>9</sup> also can not be ignored when considering the calibre of the men which he attracted. The Sixth Ward was a notorious Democratic stronghold as well as an Irish ghetto.

We should reassess our image of the men who formed the rank and file of the Anderson Zouaves. Instead of imagining the regiment as Gallic speaking continental veterans in red pantaloons and fezzes one would be much better off imagining illiterate Gaelic brawlers in filthy state New York State uniforms.

#### Notes

1. De Trobriand, R. P., 1889, *Four years in the Army of the Potomac*, trans. George K. Dauchy, Boston.
2. New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center Unit History Project <http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/historic/reghist/civil/infantry/54thInf/54thInfMain.htm>
3. *New York Times*, December 3, 1861.
4. *The Syracuse Daily Courier and Union*, Monday, April 4, 1864.
5. De Trobriand, op. cit., pp. 81–82.
6. *Utica Morning Herald and Daily Gazette*, May 20, 1862.
7. McAfee, Michael J. "62nd Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry; 'Anderson's Zouaves'" *Military Images Magazine*, May/June 1991 p. 31. The quote was found in the notebooks of Frederick P. Todd, currently in the Anne S. K. Brown Collection at Brown University. The quote was not fully cited but was recorded in the 1950s when Todd was researching the 62nd New York's regimental file.
8. Riker's political sympathies are pronounced in an article in the *Syracuse Daily Courier and Union* on June 14, 1862 which in part reads: "...Poor Col. Riker, who fell at Fair Oaks Battle leading his regiment is to be buried here tomorrow with honors. He was a brave man, of a brave family - a decendent of the brave old Bartavianrace who settled old New York. Hiero saw him proudly march down Broadway at the head of his regiment: yet he was not the man to wish to shed the blood of Americans; nor did he aim to pervert this war into a crusade to liberate Africans. He marched and fought as a soldier, not as a partisan. He has a soldiers grave, and has left a hero's name. Like Vosburgh — like hundreds more of his low-dutch blood and his Democratic politics — he has fallen in a war for guilt of which he was not by vote or voice responsible."

## LETTER TO THE NEW YORK SUNDAY MERCURY.

The following letter appeared in the *New York Sunday Mercury* on February 16, 1862. This is the first of the letters to the *Sunday Mercury* by a member of the Sixty-second New York not to include the words "Anderson Zouaves" in the header. The letter is signed J. L. S. which, assuming that the roster of the Anderson Zouaves is complete and correct, could be the initials of James L. Shields or James L. Silvey.

At the time this letter was written James L. Shields was serving on Colonel John L. Riker's Staff as Sergeant Major. Shields had originally enlisted in company "F" as a private at the age of 31, but was transferred to company "D" on July 3, 1861, the day companies "F" and "E" were mustered in.<sup>1</sup> Shields was promoted to Sergeant on September 1, 1861 but, for reasons that are not known was reduced in rank to private exactly a month later on October 1, 1861. Whatever the reason for his being "busted down" to private it did not seem to effect Shields' reputation for too long, for on New Years' day 1862 he was promoted to Sergeant Major and was transferred to Riker's regimental Field & Staff.

Shields was further promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant on May 22 when Peck's Brigade was camped about a mile from the Chick-

ahominy near Bottom's Bridge. This promotion became effective on May 30, 1862, the day before the battle of Fair Oaks, when Shields was transferred back to company "D". For reasons which are, again, unknown, Shields was dismissed on December 13, 1862 during the Battle of Fredericksburg.<sup>2</sup>

James L. Silvey was enlisted on June 17, 1861 by Captain David J. Nevin into Company "D" at the age of 19.

J. L. S. wrote another, and final, letter to the *Sunday Mercury* on March 8, 1862 on the eve of the movement of Couch's division to Prospect Hill, VA during McClellan's advance on Mainsails.

The subject of the following letter is of great interest as it relates to William P. Allcot of Company "D". A collection of Allcot's personal correspondence is held by the College of William and Mary, in Williamsburg, VA. Allcot's letters have recently been used as source material by Carol Kettenburg Dubbs for her history of Williamsburg during the war, *Defend this old town*, and transcriptions of the letters will appear in this paper at some future date.

This letter, along with another printed by the *Sunday Mercury* on March 9, 1862, confirms that a number of the members of the Sixty-second served as New York fire fighters prior to enlisting. However, as Engine Company No. 15 of New York was supposed to have been disbanded in 1855, when Allcot was just 16 or 17, it is likely that, in this respect, the letter is in error.

[Special Correspondence of the Sunday Mercury.]

SIXTY-SECOND REGIMENT, N. Y. S. V.

HEAD-QUARTERS, TENNALLYTOWN, D. C. }

Jan. 28th, 1862. }

To the Editors of the Sunday Mercury:

The monotony of camp life was much relieved on the afternoon of the 7th inst. by the presentation of a watch and chain by the members of Company "D" to their company commissary sergeant, Mr. William P. Allcot (late assistant foreman of Engine Company No. 15 of your city).

The presentation took place immediately after dress parade, by orderly sergeant John T. Cumming, in behalf of the members of Company "D." It was a very interesting affair, and the able and appropriate remarks of Sergeant Cumming called forth cheer after cheer. The recipient, in his usual modest style, thanked the donors.

The watch is a very neat one, and upon the inside case has engraved: "Presented to William P. Allcot, by Company "D," Anderson Zouaves, Sixty-second Regiment, N. Y. S. V., February 7th, 1862.

J. L. S.

#### Notes

1. Contemporary newspaper reports claim that companies "E" and "F" were mustered in on July 1, 1861.
2. As Shields was enlisted by Sanford J. Dockstader it is possible that he may have originally been one of the members of the Lowville company, from Lewis county, NY recruited by Captain Philip W. Smith. While captain Smith himself did not join the Anderson Zouaves, despite newspaper reports saying that he had intended to, it now appears that some members of his company may have. An article on the Lowville company of the Anderson Zouaves appeared in the October 2006 issue of *Anderson Zouave* and a follow-up, reinvestigating the company using new evidence, appears in this issue.

## ANDERSON'S GIFT.

On Thursday, August 8, 1861, the Anderson Zouaves were presented colors on Riker's Island as a gift from General Robert Anderson. An article from the *New York Times* of the same day said:

This afternoon a splendid American Flag will be presented to the Anderson Zouaves, on Riker's Island, where the regiment is presently encamped. It (the flag) is the gift of Major Robert Anderson, and will be presented to the regiment on his behalf by Dr Crawford, who was in Fort Sumter during the bombardment. Col. J. Lafayette Riker will receive the flag for the regiment, and the Chaplain, Rev. John Harvey, will invoke a blessing upon it. All who wish to witness the ceremony can do so, as the Steamboat Major Anderson leaves Peck-slip for Riker's Island at 2 o'clock P. M., and returns same afternoon.

A week later, on Thursday, August 15, 1861, an article appeared on the back page of the *New York Times* describing the presentation. It is thought that until now that this description has not been generally circulated.

## PRESENTATION OF COLORS.

An interesting ceremony took place on Riker's Island yesterday. The colors destined for the Anderson Zouaves, the gift of Gen. Anderson, were presented to the regiment, in the presence of numerous spectators, by Dr. S. W. Crawford, the medical officer of Fort Sumter, \_\_\_\_\_ of Gen. Anderson. The regiment was drawn up in line of battle, numbering 700 muskets; a guard of honor escorted Dr Crawford, with the colors, to the front of the regiment, who, holding the colors, addressed the regiment as follows:

Col. Riker and Soldiers of the Anderson Zouaves:

I stand before you for no common purpose today. I come in behalf of that patriot and soldier whose name you bear, to give into your keeping as patriots, and intrust to your fidelity as soldiers, these colors. In every case, and among all nations, the emblem of their nationality is sacred and beloved; but to the soldier it is doubly dear. Around it centres whatever is glorious and renowned; for its safety and honor he stands ever ready to yield his all, and life itself becomes of no value to him when danger threatens it.

To you, soldiers of the Anderson Zouaves, this banner bears a peculiar relation, coming as it does to you from one whose unwavering devotion to his country's flag in the hour of its danger has become part of that country's history. In his name I intrust it to your keeping. Take it with you as you go forward to join that army of patriots on the distant Potomac, and as your eyes rest upon it in the bivouac and on the march, by the camp-fire, or when it becomes your rallying point amid the shock of battle, let the firm and unflinching resolution be taken by each one of you that it never shall be lowered in dishonor or disgrace. The eyes of your fellow-countrymen are upon you, their hearts will follow you, for your very designation will make you a conspicuous regiment. Let that thought animate you as you go onward; let it strengthen and support you on the day of battle, and when you return may it be with this banner borne proudly before you, an eternal witness to your patriotism, fidelity and valor.

The colors were then handed to the Color Guard, and Col. Riker replied to the address in a few remarks. He alluded to the formation of the regiment, to the high honor they esteemed it to be called after so illustrious a patriot, and that the name they bore should be an incentive to him and them to devote themselves to the cause of their country. Words were wanting on his part to convey all he felt on behalf of his regiment, at the magnificent present thus made to them. Let Gen. Anderson feel assured it would be dearly prized, and that dishonor or disgrace should never stain it. They felt that much would be expected of them, but they felt only the more determined to devote themselves to duty. He again thanked Gen. Anderson for his gift.

The Chaplain then invoked the blessing of God upon the colors thus presented, and prayed that strength to sustain them nobly and honorably might be given the regiment who received them.

The regiment was then reviewed by Dr. Crawford, and Lieuts. Hawkins and Marston, who acted as his Staff on the occasion.

The regiment leaves in a few days for Washington. Dr. Crawford, like all the officers at Fort Sumter, has been promoted, and is now Major of the Thirteenth Regular Infantry.

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## MORE ON THE ARMS OF PECK'S BRIGADE ON THE PENINSULA MARCH – AUGUST 1862.

The February issue of *Anderson Zouave* (volume II, number 2) considered the subject of the arms issued to the regiments of Peck's brigade in late 1861 and early 1862. Surprising new evidence requires that the conclusions arrived at in that article now need to be revised.

In the previously published article it was supposed that the Anderson Zouaves were armed during the Advance on Manassas and the Peninsula Campaign with the Lorenz rifle and the Springfield M1816 musket. This assumption was confirmed by newspaper articles and by several Consolidated Morning Reports. In light of this evidence the Report of Adjutant General Hillhouse in January 1862 stating that the regiment was armed with the Enfield rifles across all companies was thought to be an error.<sup>1</sup> Clearly, every piece of available evidence proved that the regiment was not armed with Enfields when it left for Washington and the claim by the *New York Times* that the regiment would be given "a more effective arm when they reach their destination"<sup>2</sup> was thought to have been an error or an empty promise. However, this now seems not to have been the case, and the "more effective arm" which the regiment received was indeed the Enfield Rifle!

A letter written by the Chaplain, provided the first clue. Harvey wrote that "Charles Travis had just discharged his rifle when a shot from the enemy took off the top of the small stump behind which he was reloading".<sup>3</sup> This seemed to indicate that at the very least Company "I", to which Charles Travis was connected at this time, were armed with rifles. However, there was no reason to assume that these rifles were not the Lorenz rifles which the regiment was known to be armed with in late 1862.

Nevertheless, in arriving at a definitive statement, it is the recent surfacing of the transcripts of letters and diaries written by Alfred Covell Woods of Company "E" of the Anderson Zouaves which provide the best evidence to date.<sup>4</sup>

In a letter written on August 28, 1861, Woods echoes the claim, made previously by the *New York Times*, that the arms of the Anderson Zouaves would be replaced when they reached Washington:

*We are to have the new minnie muskets. We were to have enfield rifles but these are supposed to be better than them.*

This letter also appears to indicate that the report by Hillhouse was an error. Assuming that Woods' information is correct, one would conclude that the regiment was most likely going to receive Springfield rifles upon its arrival in Washington. Clearly, this was not the case and the regiment held onto its Lorenzes and Springfields throughout 1861. However, if Hillhouse's report is assumed to be correct, it could be that the Anderson Zouaves were rearmed after December 1861 and before the appearance of the report in the *New York Times* on January 16, 1862.

In his 1862 diary, Alfred Covell Woods records a relatively long account of the Battle of Williamsburg. In it he writes:

*The Battlefield presented a sickening sight. Every description of mangled humanity headless, armless, legless and every imaginable mortal wound. In front of our position 62nd - 328 dead rebels were found. I had a talk with (one) of the fifth North Carolina Regt and he told me that the Anderson Sharpshooters (meaning us) had a perfect range of his Regt mowing them down at every discharge hitting either in the head or breast. He said that of his company only five men were left and of the Regt very few were left - but were killed or wounded. Our Enfield Rifles made Savage work.*

Not only does Woods' diary entry confirm several of the assertions made by Chaplain Harvey in his letter regarding the same battle, but it states expressly that the regiment was armed with Enfields!<sup>5</sup>

It was a possibility suggested in the previous article, that the report by Hillhouse did not describe the regiment as it was armed when it left New York but how it was armed in January 1862. This now seems to be the case. The Hillhouse report, the newspaper article and the letter by Woods appear to indicate that from the outset there was an intention to arm the Anderson Zouaves with the Enfield rifle despite being sent forth armed mainly with M1816 smoothbores.

In view of this new information the report in the *Pennsylvania Thirteenth* of February 22, 1862, which claimed in its article "Charge Bayonets!" 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," seems a lot less like sour grapes and more like an accurate reflection of the state of the brigade at the time.

In fact, new evidence regarding the arming of the 102d Pennsylvania has also recently come to light. The following entry from the diary of J. B. Martin of Company "H" of the 102d describes the arms used by this regiment during the Advance on Mainsails.

*Monday, March 17*

*...We are scouring our old harpers ferry muskets, are very rusty...<sup>6</sup>*

The march to Prospect Hill, Virginia, by Peck's brigade had been attended by terrible weather and the baggage train had not kept up. Consequently the men had had to "sleep" exposed to the pouring rain and their muskets must have been the worse for wear when they returned to their camp at Tennallytown.<sup>7</sup>

There were two arsenals which produced the M1816 before and during the Civil War – one at Harpers Ferry, VA, the other at Springfield, MA. Assuming that the names "Springfield" or "Harper's Ferry" were not being used generically for the M1816, the diary entry of J. B. Martin shows that the 102d was armed specifically with the converted M1816 musket produced at the Harpers Ferry arsenal.<sup>8</sup>

If the arming of the Anderson Zouaves with the Enfield rifle in January and the Lafayette Garde with the globe sighted "French" rifle in February 1862, is seen as a general trend away from the smoothbores with which the brigade had been generally armed with up until that time, then it is likely that when the 93d Pennsylvania exchanged its Belgian rifles for Springfields on March 18, 1862, that it was for the .58 calibre M1861 Springfield rifle and for not the M1816 smoothbore.

Given this new information a description of the arms of Peck's brigade during the Advance on Manassas and the Peninsula campaign may be speculatively summarised as follows

- 55th New York – All companies “French” (possibly .61 cal. M1859) rifled muskets with globe sights and sabre bayonettes. (Until February 1862 armed as: Eight companies M1816 “Springfield” .69 cal. smoothbore muskets, converted from flint locks to percussion caps. Two companies Lorenz .54 cal. rifled muskets).
- 62d New York – All companies P53 Enfield .557 cal. rifled muskets. (Until January 1862 armed as: Eight companies M1816 “Springfield” .69 cal. smoothbore muskets, converted from flint locks to percussion caps. Two companies Lorenz .54 cal. rifled muskets).
- 93d Pennsylvania – All companies M1861 Springfield .58 cal. rifled muskets. (Until March 18, 1862, armed as: All companies Belgian rifle – may have been the .61 cal. M1859 French rifle “Liege variant”).
- 98th Pennsylvania – All companies M1816 .69 cal. smoothbore muskets, converted from flint locks to percussion caps.
- 102d Pennsylvania – All companies M1816 “Harpers Ferry” .69 cal. smoothbore muskets, converted from flint locks to percussion caps.

#### Notes

1. Anderson Zouave, Volume II, number 2, February 2007.
2. New York Times, August 21, 1861.
3. Utica Morning Herald and Daily Gazette, May 20, 1862.
4. The letters of Alfred Covell Woods were sold on Ebay in April and May of 2007. Transcripts of the letters may be found at: <<http://web.mac.com/strangeplanet/iWeb/Anderson%20Zouaves%20Company%201%20Letters%20of%20Alfred%20Covell%20Woods.html>>
5. The diaries of Alfred Covell Woods were sold on Ebay in April and May of 2007. Partial transcripts of the diaries may be found at: <http://web.mac.com/strangeplanet/iWeb/Anderson%20Zouaves%20Company%201%20Diary%20of%20Alfred%20Covell%20Woods.html>
6. Diary of J. B. Martin on 102d site.
7. De Trobriand, R. P., 1889, Four years in the Army of the Potomac, trans. George K. Dauchy, Boston. pp. 81–82.
8. For a detailed description of the M1816 “Harper’s Ferry” and “Springfield” .69 cal. smoothbore musket go to <http://members.tripod.com/~vet5/musket.html>

## LOWVILLE COMPANY REINVESTIGATED.

In the October issue of *Anderson Zouave* a broadside attributed to the Lowville Company of the Anderson Zouaves was investigated. The conclusion to that article was that the Lowville company under Captain Phillip W. Smith, despite an apparent intention to join the Anderson Zouaves, for one reason or another joined, the 59th New York instead. However, the appearance of the name of Sanford J. Dockstader on the muster roll of Co. “D” may mean that this conclusion needs to be reassessed.

The newspaper reports which appeared in the *Lowville Journal & Republican* on June 12, 1861 were certain and explicit:

*The 2d Company of Volunteers in Lowville and vicinity, have been accepted, and will join the Anderson Zouaves...*

and;

*Capt. PHILLIP SMITH was in New York last week, and secured a place in the Anderson Zouave Regiment, (Col. RIKER) for a company of Volunteers...*

A report in the same paper the week following reflected the same assured optimism.

*Capt. SMITH's Company is nearly full. It is a fine Company, and will reflect great credit on the County of Lewis. – They intend to organize and leave for New York the latter part of this week where they will join Anderson's Zouaves under Col. RIKER!*

Captain Phillip W. Smith had even produced a patriotic broadside, an explicit call to action, emblazoned with the words “ATTENTION COMPANY! ANDERSON ZOUAVES!”<sup>2</sup> So it is something of a surprise to find that Smith’s name does not appear on the rolls of the Anderson Zouaves but on those of the 59th New York. The assumption made in the October article was that for an unknown reason Smith’s Lowville

company and Smith himself had been unable to, or decided not to, join Riker’s regiment and had instead joined the 59th.

Most of the privates in the regiment in 1861 are recorded as having been enlisted by one or another of the regimental staff officers or of one of the company captains.<sup>3</sup> The muster roll of Company “D” of the Anderson Zouaves from October 15, 1861 shows 15 members of that company having been enlisted by Sanford J. Dockstader. While Dockstader was eventually to become captain of Company “I” on May 15, 1864 in October 1861, he was not yet a captain of the Anderson Zouaves and in fact was not even enlisted or commissioned in the regiment until April 1, 1864. This begs the question “How did Dockstader come to be enlisting privates for the Anderson Zouaves in 1861?”

Newspaper reports from the time show that Dockstader was for a period the Major of the 59th New York Infantry – the same regiment in which Captain Phillip W. Smith was to receive a commission as Captain of Company “B” on August 9, 1861.

Speculating, it is possible that when Captain Smith presented his company to Colonel Riker there may have been room in the regiment for his men but may not have been room for a commission as captain for Phillip W. Smith. So while Riker may have accepted Smith’s men., Smith, himself may have had to go to the 59th in order to get the Captain’s commission he sought. Dockstader may have had a connection with Smith and the Lowville company and, like Smith, may also have sort a higher commissioned rank with the 59th than he was able to receive in the Anderson Zouaves. If this is the case then it may explain how Dockstader came to enlist the privates on the Company “D” muster roll.

Alternatively, as Dockstader was actively enlisting privates as early as April 25, it is possible that he may have been initially enlisted with the Anderson Zouaves as a captain but may have sought a more favourable commission in the 59th. The association between Smith and Dockstader would in this case be purely coincidental. An example of this type of situation is the case of Prescott Tracey, who was recorded in the New York papers as the adjutant of the Anderson Zouaves but eventually did his service with the 5th New York.

Dockstader seems to have enlisted several men into Company “F” of the Anderson Zouaves. As Company “F” and the Troy Company, Company “E”, were both mustered in on the same day, it is possible that Co. “F” may also have been from upstate New York. The regimental roster and the biographical information on the members of the regiment, suggest that this could be the case. Perhaps Smith’s Lowville company was to form a significant part of Company “F” of the Anderson Zouaves.

Another interesting coincidence is that the 59th appears to have occupied the encampment of the Anderson Zouaves at Saltersville, Camp Lafayette, after it was vacated by the regiment on July 15, 1861. Perhaps the presence of Dockstader on the Anderson Zouaves, muster documents indicates that some individuals which had originally enlisted in the 59th, had had their enlistment transferred to the Anderson Zouaves. Whatever the case may be there seems to be a connection between the 59th and the 62d New York which deserves further investigation.

As a result of the consolidation of two regiments in the formation of the 59th, Dockstader lost his position as Major and so was transferred to the Hawkins Zouaves, at the age of 24 or 25, as a First Lieutenant where, it appears, he served alongside two other Dockstadars – Lancy and Crosby, both 26 years old who enlisted on the same day. Is it possible that the Hawkins Zouaves had three Dockstader brothers in it ranks – two of which may have been twins?

#### Notes

1. *Lowville Journal & Republican*, June 19, 1861.
2. New York State Library <<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/>> Title: Attention Company: Anderson Zouaves. 36 x 53 cm.
3. *A record of the commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers and privates...* Vol. II, Albany 1864, pp. 612-635.

## COMING EVENTS

**MAY 26, 2007**

**62nd New York State Veteran Volunteers – Co. F “Anderson Zouaves” – Third Annual Company Dinner, 26th May, 2007** - from 12 noon until very late, at Old Sydney Town, Somersby NSW. Cost \$5 (site fee). RSVP: Friday, 18th May, <[62NYSVV\\_CoyF@yahoo.com](mailto:62NYSVV_CoyF@yahoo.com)>.

**MAY 31, 2007**

**The Friends of Colonel Riker** invite you to commemorate the 145th Anniversary of The Battle of Fair Oaks and the death of Colonel John Lafayette Riker from 7pm on Thursday May 31, 2007 at the Hotel Sweeney’s, corner of Clarence and Druitt streets, Sydney.

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