



*B Company is one of the premier living history organizations in the country. It is an integral part of the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, and the official living history detachment of the Texas Military Forces. The men and women of B Company seek to honor America's veterans while educating themselves and the general public regarding the uniforms, equipment, drill and day-to-day realities of life of the common infantryman from the Civil War through Vietnam.*

## What does B Company do?

B Company is part of the official living history detachment of the Texas National Guard and operates under the auspices of the Texas Military Forces Museum. All members of the unit are registered volunteers of the museum, located at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. The detachment supports the museum and the Texas Military Forces through programs, events and ceremonies designed to honor our nation's veterans, support our men and women in uniform today, link the troops of the Texas Army and Air National Guard to their heritage while fostering their sense of esprit d' corps and educate the public on the grand history of the armed forces of the United States and Texas Military Forces.

Members of the unit come from all walks of life. Some are veterans, others members of the current armed forces, some students, but all of them are

Americans who love military history, want to learn more about it and share their knowledge with each other and the public.

Most B Company events take place in Texas and are educational or ceremonial in nature. However, we also participate in large-scale Civil War battle reenactments around the country various and non-public "tactical" 20th Century events. Permanent events on our schedule include the Close Assault living history programs held at Camp Mabry on Memorial Day weekend and the weekend closest to, but before, Veterans Day each year, as well as the Muster Day event (including living history encampments from 1823, the Civil War on through Vietnam and a large WWII battle reenactment) which takes place at Camp Mabry each April. Another standard event for us is Battleground 1863 each March at Camp Mabry.

## How do I get started?

It is easy to get into living history. We can help you find the right gear — our members have uniforms, weapons and equipment to loan while you test the waters. When you are ready to buy your own gear, we can help you get what you need from the best vendors at the best prices. There are no dues to be a member of B Company, although membership in the Texas Military Forces Historical Foundation is encouraged.

All potential members are assigned a sponsor — a veteran of the unit who will help you buy or borrow what you need, meet the men and women in the unit, get to events, etc. After attending two maximum-effort B Company events, a recruit is eligible to be voted into full membership. If you think B Company is for you, contact us to learn more.

»» *For more information about B Company, contact Jeff Hunt, commander of the Texas Military Forces Living History Detachment and the director of the Texas Military Forces Museum, or speak to one of the B Company members.*

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Visit the museum website:  
[www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org](http://www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org)



# B COMPANY

## RED RIVER BATTALION

### TEXAS BRIGADE



LIVING HISTORY GROUP



## What does it take to be a member of B Company?

➤➤ *B Company is not for everyone. The company is a “hard core” LIVING HISTORY group. Our principle aim is to find out what it was like to be on the front lines and in the camps during America’s greatest conflicts – the War Between the States, World War I, World War II and Vietnam – while educating and commemorating along the way.*

Authenticity standards, both physical and mental, are very high. Equipment, uniforms, tentage, weapons, etc., must be 100% authentic or accurate reproductions. Facial hair and haircuts must conform to military standards of the period being reenacted. We practice the art of total immersion into a time period – this includes period drill, period tactics, sleeping in pup tents, on the ground without shelters or in foxholes we have dug ourselves, period paperwork and military discipline. The unit has an outstanding reputation as a fine reenacting unit and living history organization. This reputation has been earned by men and women willing to live, move and fight like the soldiers who served in the time periods we interpret – no matter how hot, cold, wet or dry the weather, or how hard the work or uncomfortable the living conditions. Our feeling is that if those who endured these trials for real, day in and day out for weeks or months on end, could cope with them, we ought to be able to endure them for a few days.

Safety is a primary concern, as is unit morale and cohesion. Those who cannot follow orders or obey instructions or who are not willing to be part of a

functioning military organization will probably not enjoy being a part of B Company. All rank is appointed on a merit basis, and only rank actually needed for the unit to fulfill its mission is utilized. Most unit members will be privates. Camaraderie is a vital element of our unit, as it is in real military organizations, and although we work hard at what we do, we also believe in having a good time and enjoying the fellowship of our fellow living historians. There are no height, weight or age requirements (except that you must be at least 16 to carry a weapon). Men and women of all races are welcome as members. The most important asset is the proper attitude and a desire to “do it right.”

B Company is a non-political organization and it neither subscribes to, nor supports, any political group or agenda. Our primary and unifying interest is to better understand the history of our nation, our armed forces and Texas by an intensely interactive study of the past, and to use that knowledge to educate the public, honor our veterans and support the Texas Military Forces, the Armed Forces of the United States and the Texas Military Forces Museum.



## What is the B Company impression?

Our primary Civil War impression is B Company, 4th Texas Infantry, Hood’s Texas Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia. However, we strive for a generic mid-war Confederate infantry impression which allows us to accurately portray Rebel soldiers from the Trans-Mississippi Theater as well as the Western and Eastern theaters of the War Between the States. We are a campaign-style unit. This means that we typically carry on our backs everything that we need to live, march and fight. Ammunition boxes and pioneer tools are the only items of “heavy” equipment that we possess and these are generally carried on the brigade wagons during events. We do not typically utilize camp furniture or tentage other than the standard “dog” tent carried by the common soldier.

Our primary World War II impression is G Company, 2nd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army in World War II – the famous T-Patch or Texas Division. The 36th was made up of Texas National Guard units called into federal service in November of 1940. The 36th served in North Africa before spear-heading the invasion of Italy at the Gulf of Salerno on September 9, 1943. As part of the U.S. 5th Army it fought its way up the bloody boot of Italy, engaging in vicious combat at San Pietro, the Rapido River and Cassino before leading the breakout from the Anzio beachhead and capturing Rome on June 4, 1944. In August of that same year it helped spearhead the invasion of southern France as part of the VI Corps of the 7th Army, after which it fought its way through the

Vosges Mountains, withstood the massive German counterattack known as Operation Nordwind in January 1945, fought to reduce the Colmar Pocket, battled its way through the Siegfried Line, liberated the Landsberg Concentration Camp and sliced through Germany into Austria by the end of the war.

Secondary impressions include the 36th Infantry Division in World War I; the Texas National Guard during the Punitive Expedition in 1916-1917 and the 101st Airmobile Division in Vietnam. Many members own and restore World War II, Cold War or Vietnam War era military vehicles and the unit boasts a large number of such vehicles among its assets.

When appropriate, we will don other division patches and undertake other impressions, but our primary focus is always on the ordinary U.S. or C.S. Army infantryman. Members of B Company get a chance to learn infantry drill, tactics and camp life across a broad spectrum of U.S. military history as well as getting the opportunity to be part of a standing Civil War battalion, brigade and division. Those who become involved in the 20th Century aspects of our unit work with machine guns, radios, artillery, aircraft and even tanks! There is no better way to learn military history from the inside out and share your passion for our past with fellow enthusiasts and the general public, while supporting those who wear and who have worn our nation’s and our state’s uniform.

