

After Action Report for Armendaris Tour 11/28/1607

*P*remise

The event was the Armendaris Ranch Tour on November 28, 2007, which covers part of the Valverde Civil War Battlefield and a portion of the Camino Real as it approaches the Valverde Fords. The intention was for our group to intercept the tour near the Black Mesa. As they approached we would come over a low rise and halt them, asking if they are a lost Onate supply train that we had been searching for. The people on the tour would know nothing about our encounter. Our lead people would halt the "wagons" and in Spanish begin to chastise and harangue them for their inability to follow obvious expedition sign and Indian trails. The place we will encounter the tour, people in the back of the tour will probably be able to see some of us, especially the mounted soldados, who will ride down along the wagons, chastising the "mule skinnners and wagoneers." The tour members know that when the tour stops they are to get out and move forward, so we would soon have a crowd of lost souls, and the interaction continues to a point where we'll switch to third person and in English talk who we are, etc.



A view of the colonial road to Mesa del Contadero

*M*uster

We mustered six people: Gwen Pirtle, Roberto Valdez, Mike Bilbo, Samuel Ulibarri, Tim Kimball, and Juan Carrillo. Gwen Pirtle was mounted on a Spanish Barb. Wearing an Italian morion, plate armor, a lance and period clothing, she was quite intimidating, and looked right out of Jose Cisneros' "Riders Across the Centuries."



Roberto Valdez and Tim Kimball



L-R: Tim Kimball, Samuel Ulibarri, and Roberto Valdez

The Encounter

The location of the encounter was planned to take place at the Bruton Place. However, about 4 miles from the encounter location, Juan and Gwen pulled over as it was discovered that a wheel had completely come off the horse trail. That was about 0815 and knowing that when Tom Harper says "I'll be there at 0900," it means he'll be there at 0900, I decided that would do for the encounter location. At 0850 Tom arrived (he would thus have been at the original location at 0900). In addition to Tom Harper, Paul Harden was also in attendance.

The above-mentioned scenario didn't happen quite as planned. However, it was Gwen who found the forlorn travelers, had them dismount from their carretas and carros, and led them to us. Musketeer, Roberto Valdez, fired off signal shots with his matchlock musket to announce that the lost supply train (the tour) had been found and then he and Cabo (Sam Ulibarri) in charge of the search party and 3 pikemen (Tim Kimball, Juan Carrillo and me) confronted the other "expedition members," in 1st person at first, and surprising replies from the audience, and then we went into 3rd person for questions and answers.



(photos courtesy of Paul Harden)

Conclusion

It was exciting to see an area that is normally off-limits to the public as it is on private land.

Mike

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