



CIVIL WARS

1995 has been a year of anniversaries of the ends of wars — 50 years since World War 2 came to an atomic climax; 20 years since Vietnam gave the U.S. its first defeat; 130 years since Union won the Civil War. (New Orleans was fought 180 years ago and drove the invading British off the Mississippi, though the War of 1812 was already over.) The beginning of the American Revolution at Lexington and Concord 220 years ago this year was celebrated the same day in April an American terrorist blew up several hundred other citizens in Oklahoma City. And American soldiers (women as well as men) leave for another battleground before the year is over, the same bloody soil where the wars of the 20th century began.

Wars are humanity's most compelling and dramatic business and as a result arouse and disturb generations far into the future. So it is especially with the Civil War, America's *Iliad*. Just as the war's schisms are never fully glued neither are its restless battles firmly settled. 130 years after Appomattox the war's fury is reenacted over and over again by thousands of men who converge on battlefields all over the nation dressed in blue or gray and clash in mock combat.

Jim Stanovich is one. He wears gray, a member of the 4th Texas, Co. H, and he fights on Civil War battlefields at Fort Stevens, Estacada, Albany and Willamette Mission (Oregon), and at Fort Sillicon and Arlington (Washington). He is one of about 500 Civil War 'reenactors' from both states who engage in simulated Civil War battles usually once a month. "We don't have enough men for huge battles like back east," he says. "We engage in smaller skirmishes." Earlier this year he took part in a special celebration of the war's anniversary at its old sites.

Away from battle he is a printer at The Daily Astorian. He acted as a combat photographer when his Johnny Rebs recently skirmished with Billy Yank at Fort Stevens. These are a few of his photographs. —MPMc



JIM STANOVICH

