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# The UNION STANDARD

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May 2005

Vol. 13, no 5

## *The Newsletter of the 1<sup>st</sup> United States Infantry, The Regulars*

Our last adventure was in East Texas at the Jefferson event.



The 'local' events seem to be getting farther away, but this one was definitely worth the drive as it was agreed by all who attended that it was the best small event we've had in many years. The scenarios planned by Generals Mark Griffin and Mark Dolive were imaginative, fresh, and interesting both for the reenactors and spectators. Getting to use street firing maneuvers in an authentic 1860's town was the highlight for us as well as the public. If only we could have ignored the cars, it would have been a magic moment. The ensuing march to the plantation, a small skirmish, and the 'ladies' surprise' could have been smoother but we did liberate certain 'pies' from the kitchen and it helped blend the scenario of marching right into the main spectator battle. Again on Sunday, the surprise attack on our camp was a great way to bring the running battle to the waiting crowd. It proves a battle can begin without the two sides squaring off across two ends of the field and repeating what we've seen year after year. We certainly wish that this event will continue and develop along these same lines.

Thanks for all the guys who came out to help George at the Stockyards on 13-14 May. On Friday, we 'entertained' over 1500 kids from the Ft Worth schools with living history. Ask George, Alan, and Beck about their interesting night spent camping in old cowtown. What Saturday's drill lacked in attendance was made up for in practicing new ways of improving our drill impression. (A topic that will be discussed in another section of the newsletter.) We did get a couple of new prospects who seem very eager to start in the hobby. Hopefully they will be joining our latest new recruit, David Noyes. Welcome, David, and thanks for taking the great pictures that are posted on the website from Jefferson (*aside from small 'magic' editing, by McFuddy, David is responsible for the picture to the left here...Ed*). David comes complete with a most authentic Yankee accent. This brings up two other topics; recruiting and mentoring. As George has taken on the job as President of the NTRS, he has stepped down as recruiting chairman as of the Stockyards event. George was tireless in his recruiting duties and deserves our gratitude. No one does recruiting as well as George, but we do need someone to step up and try to fill his shoes. He'll be there, as always, to help you, so if you want an important job in the unit that desperately needs to be filled, please let the board know. Once we recruit, we also need to mentor, Beck has volunteered to head up the mentoring program.

(See DISPATCH continued on Page 3)

# 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Calendar

2005

## JUNE

10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Tribbey Oklahoma

## JULY-

## AUGUST

August 20<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Social ,  
Joe T. Garcia's, Fort Worth

## SEPTEMBER

16<sup>th</sup> –18<sup>th</sup> Drill & live fire at Fort Chadbourne

## OCTOBER

Sept 30<sup>th</sup> – Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinth Ms.

## NOVEMBER

TBA

## DECEMBER

(tbd) Drill & Candlelight – OCP  
(annual McFuddy lay-about feast)

*Note: **Bold** are scheduled maximum effort events.  
Italicized dates are available events or recruiting  
activities.*

## Recruiting Coordinator

The 1<sup>st</sup> US needs a new Recruiting Coordinator to take over those reins. The associated responsibilities are: plan recruiting events, maintain marketing materials, oversee the contacting of interested prospects, and attend Board meetings for quarterly updates. Be advised that George Hansen will be on hand to assist the new coordinator. Contact George if you are interested or if you want more information.

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## TRIBBEY REENACTMENT, Oklahoma, June 11-12 MAX EFFORT

This event is 30 miles SE of Oklahoma City. This is a campaign style event; i.e., dog tents & shelters preferred, but A-tents are permissible. Reenactor registration includes a nominal \$5 fee plus another \$10 for food. **Send your \$15** made payable to

NTRS no later than May 25. Forward your check to Alan Prendergast, 1403 Barclay Drive, Carrollton, TX 75007. For more info visit <http://www.wildfiremusicfestival.com>

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## *From the Journal of Amodeus Thurn*

*(sometimes known as Glen Hargis...Ed.)*

## Swimming and Walking to Port Jefferson

A little after midnight on Friday, my voyage on the US hospital boat Ella came to an abrupt end. Caught on snag, our little vessel was very nearly sheared in two by the US steamer Imperial. A few of us clambered up the broken bow of our assailant as Ella foundered in a matter of seconds.

The foredeck was littered with what was to have been our brigade hospital. All those crates and bales shifted dangerously as the big steamer heeled ever increasingly to port. Up on the Hurricane Deck they tried to loose the whaleboats, the starboard ones were useless but they managed to launch one of the port side boats before the ship turned turtle. Cabbaging onto some flotsam, I kicked my way to shore. As it turned out, I found myself on the Reb side of the water and five or six miles south of our Jefferson lodgment. Fortunately for me all the Confederates I encountered were fixed upon getting as much distance between themselves and our landing as shank's mare would carry them. By staying out of their way, I avoided inconvenience for any of us. The only challenges I faced came from snarling dog packs One huge beast in particular forcefully objected to my sleeping under what he clearly considered to be "his" bush. With naught but the loss of some shoe leather, I found my way to the head of Banks' victorious column.

The next morning, what medical staff and supplies that could be found were assigned to the several commands. A cavalry doctor and I were to man a dressing station behind a two-battalion assault column.

But then orders came down that we were to force every man capable of locomotion back

into the ranks. This was a disheartening task but since our aim was to cut through the enemy, any of our men left behind would be lost. Besides this cruel duty, I was encumbered with the disarming, care, and feeding of Reb prisoners. My surgeon insisted on going to wherever the firing was thickest, contrary to practice and prudence. I was sure he was going to get me killed. I was wrong about who was to be sacrificed, however.

There then followed a fight on the river road, but by then I had been ordered elsewhere. When I caught up with the fight, were driving the foe through field and bosky wood. By this time I had picked up a young drummer for an assistant wound-dresser. We two followed the conflict well back; helping those we could and left those who would never need help again. Our third member, and leader of our small band, kept well to the front, as was his practice. He was with an artillery section, well to the fore when counter battery fire ended his war for good. After all the wounded were dealt with I ran bolus rounds and dealt with general health matters. The soldiers I'd been looking after saw to it that I had a warm meal and shelter for the night and so I drowsed my way into the next day.

At mid-morning the big question was when or if we would take up our pursuit of the enemy that day. The answer came in the form of heavy firing as the Rebs swarmed through the woods and we hunters became the hunted.

The lad and I unpacked the dressing station at the first safe spot behind the line. We unpacked and packed up again a number of times as the foe advanced and our definition of "safe" kept changing.

In the end, there were no safe places and wounded were coming in by the wagonload. Many of my patients both, U.S. and Reb, seemed to bad off to move, so, at length I looked up from my patch work and found myself BEHIND the Confederate lines. The work continued of course. I had but two difficulties. At one point, an excitable young grayback with a ball shot through one ankle essayed to draw his revolver. I told him if did not put that piece away, I WOULD feed it to him. Besides, said I, you have bigger problems than just who you are

sharing a bit of ground with. Nine out of ten men with a wound like his do not survive it. He found this a sobering bit of news.

When a Reb gun went into battery and began firing over my patients. They suffered mightily from the muzzle blast. I pleaded for them to move by hand to the front a rod or two. Instead, the artillerists dragged all the hurt men away from their section. These were soldiers of their side as well ours who should have been left alone instead of being dragged and jerked. They might have lived had they not have been so ill-treated.

Having checked our advance for a time, the Rebs loaded all of their people that could be moved into wagons, paroled all us Yankees and left their bad hurt men to my care.

So it was that I came to be delivered from bondage, and the next day, our Army moved south.

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**Tribbey Directions:** North on I-35. In Oklahoma take exit #91 & follow Hwy 74 2-miles north to Purcell. In Purcell go east on Hwy 39 approximately 19 miles to Hwy 102. Turn north on 102, go about 10 miles to a "Wildfire Reenactment Banner" in Tribbey, turn east & 1.7 miles to site.

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## DISPATCH

(Continued from Page 1)

He will try to get someone who lives close to the new prospect to help him into the hobby, so if Beck calls asking for help, please give it serious consideration. We cannot grow the unit without either of these important programs.

We broke in a new cook at Jefferson too. Mike Gristina did a great job keeping us well fed with the able assistance of our beloved unit laundress, Mrs. Thomas.

Come ta think of it, combining cooking and laundry explains why the troops smelled like corn beef and cabbage on Sunday's inspection!

If you haven't sent your \$15 dollars to Alan for Tribbey, time is running out. This is our last

hurrah for the first half of the season as our next event will not be until we have the Ft Chadbourne live-fire in Sept. Tribbey is a brigade event which counts for earning your Frontier Brigade Eagle and has a reputation as the best event on the OK schedule. Come see our 'master bugler' Neal control the brigade with his calls. (What did that one mean? I dunno', I thought you knew these calls...)

On 16 Jul, we will meet at my house to build period correct boxes; ammo, bread, peach, etc. You can even build a musket box if you like. Another part of upgrading the unit impression. In Aug, we will be rolling blanks and also the live cartridges for the Sep live-fire. And 20 Aug will be the unit social at Joe T. Garcia's. Hope to see ya all at each.

In my first "Dispatch from the Board" as new senior company officer, let me finish by giving thanks where thanks are due. Don Gross has been relentless in the last four years as senior company officer. His 'imaginative' and sometimes 'colorful' leadership has continued the high standards of all our past commanders. Most members will never know of all the work he does behind the scenes to keep the unit moving forward, but we all appreciate what he has accomplished to make us 'Semper Primus.' As Battalion Cmdr, good luck; as private in the ranks, keep that musket clean and 'quiet in the ranks' .....

I remain,  
YMOS,  
John J. Bowen  
Capt, Co. D, Commanding

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### **Charles Francis Adams Jr., letter to his father,**

Pell-mell, without order, without lead, a mass of panic-stricken men, rider less horses and miserable cowards, our picket reserve came driving down the road upon us, in hopeless flight... throwing away arms and blankets, and in the distance we heard a few carbine shots and the unmistakable savage yell of the rebels.... Nearly all the men belonged to a new and miserable regiment, the 16<sup>th</sup> Penn. They had never been under fire before.... I spurred my horse forward and shouted, "Come on, follow

me....," waving my sword... but... as I looked over my shoulder I saw my line vanishing...., on the road home. The wrath seized my soul and I uttered a yell and chased them. I caught a hapless cuss and cut him over the head with my saber. It only lent a new horror and fresh speed to his flight. I whanged another over the face and he tarried for a while. Into a third I drove my horse and gave him pause, and then I swore and cursed him. I called them "curs," "dogs," and "cowards," a "disgrace to the 16<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania, as the 16<sup>th</sup> was a disgrace to the service," and so I finally prevailed on about half of my line to stop for this time.

Charles Francis Adams Jr., letter to his father,  
March 8, 1863, camp of the 1<sup>st</sup> Mass Cav,  
Potomac Ridge, Va. USA,

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### **Film Review: "The Battle of Franklin"**

by George Hansen

A couple days before the Jefferson reenactment the Franklin reenactment DVD arrived. Entitled, "The Battle of Franklin: Five Hours in the Valley of Death," it features a 65-minute documentary about the battle, a Franklin battlefield preservation tour, separate footage of the 140<sup>th</sup> Reenactment, and an interview with Thomas Cartwright, whose ancestors owned the Franklin house where an ongoing, bloody conflict took place.

The documentary adequately sets up 1864 events prior to the November engagement and provides interesting Battle of Franklin facts. A couple which come to mind: Confederate regimental commanders suffered a 50% casualty rate; a 9:00 pm Confederate charge with torches failed as the Union artillery & infantry plummeted the lit-up rebel lines. More reenactment footage in the documentary was expected, but Wide Awake Films preferred to use specific taping better suited to the script.

The reenactment portion is segmented by the three days showing activity at the main sutler area, Union & Confederate camps, and of course the battles. A gross oversight is few Civilian camp sites were shown. The reenactment footage does not have that sharp, crisp DVD look as it seems to

be recorded in extended play. The major complaint, as with the documentary, is that the battle scenes appear to small scale, company size. One would expect to see more battalion lines, or even better, brigade lines. The charges or action shots typically show one or two companies although there were roughly 5,000 reenactors at the reenactment. The scope of those present in the battles is not fully realized which irks me to no end, although there is an occasional 'aerial' shot showing the many brigades involved.

Those 1<sup>st</sup> US'ers who are seen in the documentary segment are **Don Gross, Alan Prendergast, Pete Graham, Mike Gristina, Ron Myers and Kevin Doughtie**. The reenactment portion briefly shows in the 1<sup>st</sup> US camp - **Pete G., Alan P., Conway Barton, Dave & Brent Nelson, Dave Rosini, Brad Walsh, Don Marshall, Tony Durant and Scott Harris**. Scott was featured by talking briefly and very nicely done in a slow, period tone said, "I think their Rebel yell could use some work though. More like a whine really today. We'll get 'em yet tomorrow." Awesome!

"The Battle of Franklin" film is recommended because of its professional presentation and for its in-depth historical depiction as what can be allowed within 65 minutes. The reenactment segment is somewhat of a disappointment as it should have been longer and better battle action shown. On the whole I am pleased with those reenactment videos purchased at national events and "The Battle of Franklin" carries on that tradition.

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## Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Federal Division

### Reenactment of Corinth, Mississippi

**Sept. 30 – Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005**

#### The Basics

**Site** – within 6 miles of Corinth, MS (NW) with approximately 600 acres.



#### The Battles

##### Friday:

Late afternoon – Battle of Oliver Hill (cavalry action with possible march, infantry support)

##### Saturday:

Mid Morning – Battle of Iuka (General Engagement with all branches involved)

Afternoon (3pm) – The Defense of Powell's Battery.

##### Sunday:

Early Afternoon (1pm) - The Defense of Battery Robinette (Artillery Heavy) The Confederate Army is stopped in their tracks.

#### Camps

Provisions are being made for full campaign and garrison camps. However, all units are highly encouraged to camp light using shelter tents.

The brigade commanders have been contacted to ascertain if they wish to take the campaign option or the garrison option.

The garrison camp will be 50 to 100 yards to the rear of the reconstructed battery Robinette. At the original battle the main infantry camp was started approximately 400 to 500 yards to the rear of the batteries. This camp was a riot of every type of tentage imaginable, with all types of furnishings "liberated" from the locals. You may take that into consideration when planning on staying in garrison. That said there is garrison camping and

there is authentic garrison camping. Strive for the latter.

The campaign camp is approximately 1 mile from the main camps and not connected by a paved road. Troops will camp Friday night in this camp and join up with the main army for the Saturday morning action.

The military camps will be military. Understand this, there are no provisions for women, regardless of impression, camping in the military or campaign camps. Any Brigade support unit need to make arrangements with Division HQ to have their women and/or other civilians in the military camp are during the day (passes). Each Brigade's "personality" and internal running will be respected, however certain minimum standards will be maintained.

#### **Guiding Impression**

Early War, fall, 1862. Union troops should be in sack and/or frock coats with black leathers. No leggings unless they can be documented. Hats should be slouch, Hardee, or forage caps. No straw or wheel hats. No two banded rifles in the ranks. No Bowie, long, or sheath knives on the field. Pistols will be limited to only officers in the infantry. Cavalry and Artillery need to check with their branch HQ for firearms guidelines.

Henry Rifles are not appropriate at this event. Specialized rifle impressions using Sharps rifles will be considered.

The Federal Army had slowly moved to Corinth following the battle of Shiloh. Once Confederate forces withdrew after the initial shelling Union forces occupied the town and rebel earthworks, and then proceeded to improve on these. Reports have some Union troops in sad need of resupply and repair, while others freshly arrived units had new uniforms. The town was stripped of various items used to make soldier life in the camps easier. So a very noisy, cramped, and jumbled military "city" presented itself to the casual onlooker in September of 1862.

#### **Organization**

Battalions must have at least 4 companies with color guard and staff to stand alone. Units not meeting this standard will be placed with other

units. However, all unit integrities and affiliations will be respected. Brigades will consist of 2 or more battalions.

Unit impressions will be based on units of the Army of the Mississippi and Army of West Tennessee under the command of MG William S. Rosecrans. A list of available units will be issued when numbers attending the event are known. Assignment of Brigades to each scenario will take place 6 to 10 weeks prior to the event. Scenario packets are anticipated to be published in late August, early September.

#### **Registration:**

Registration will be available online between Feb. 15 and Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Early registration is encouraged. Starting registration fee will be \$12.00 and increasing to \$20.00 around August.

#### **Artillery:**

All Union guns attending this event will be associated with the 1<sup>st</sup> Federal Division. Other guns must be cleared by the Chief of Artillery. Guns arriving early and participating in school days will be paid a bounty. Federal 20 lbs Parrot rifles will receive the same bounty as a horse drawn gun.

#### **Parking:**

Upon arrival reenactors may unload their equipment at their Army drop off point. Cars will be allowed in the camp area no longer than 20 minutes on Friday. Artillery and horse trailers will be given 30 minutes. All cars in camps Saturday morning will be towed.

#### **Miscellaneous Information:**

The area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring this event. All monies raised will be given over to various preservation endeavors connected to the Corinth campaign and battle. Of particular note is the sponsors desire to raise enough funds to erect a marker to UNION troops involved in battle giving the boys in blue their due.

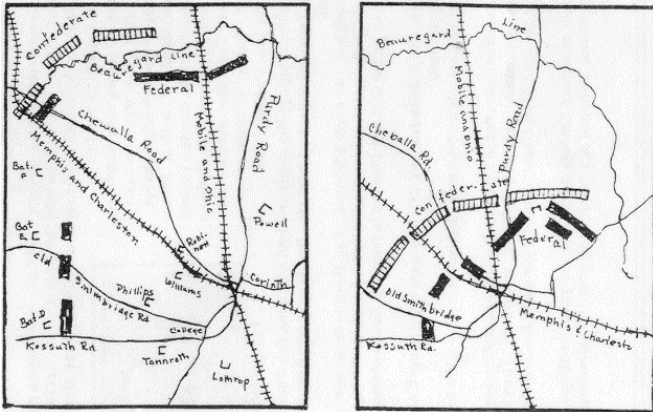
Staff is currently investigating a route allowing the Cavalry a 6 to 8 mile march and ride into battle on Friday.

There will be a Friday School day that units are encouraged to support.

*Courtesy of the 1<sup>st</sup> Federal Division*

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## The Battle of Corinth



This engagement occurred after the capture of Corinth by Federal troops under Henry Halleck in early May 1862 following the Battle of Shiloh. After the Confederates evacuated Corinth, Union soldiers occupied the town. They spent most of the summer digging wells to find good water and building additional fortifications. Gen. Halleck ordered the construction of a series of larger earthwork fortifications called "batteries," designed to hold cannon to protect Corinth against Confederate forces approaching from the west or south. His successor, Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans, concentrated on protecting the railroad crossover and its vital supplies. He built an inner series of batteries on the ridges immediately around the town. Trenches for infantrymen connected the batteries and masses of sharpened logs pointing outward strengthened the line.

On October 2, Gen. Rosecrans learned that the Confederates were approaching from the northwest. The two armies each had 22,000-23,000 men, but Rosecrans's position behind his defensive earthworks was a strong one. He stationed his advance guard about three miles beyond the town limits. On October 3, Union and Confederate forces fought initially in the area fronting the old Confederate earthworks. In heavy fighting

throughout the day, the Confederates pushed Union forces back about two miles. Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn, the Confederate commander, certain he could win a victory in the morning, called a halt to the fighting about 6:00 p.m. His troops, exhausted from lack of water and 90-degree heat, camped for the night, some only a few hundred yards from the inner fortifications where Union troops had taken refuge.

During the night, Union commanders moved their men into better positions closer to Corinth, covering the western and northern approaches to the town. The entrenched line was strengthened at key points by the cannons of the batteries named Tannrath, Lothrop, and Phillips located on College hill southwest of the town; batteries Williams and Robinett, positioned overlooking the cut of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad immediately west of the rail junction; and an unfinished Battery Powell, still being built on the northern outskirts of Corinth. Battery Robinett was manned by members of the 1<sup>st</sup> US Infantry now acting as heavy artillery.

The Rebel attack the next day was delayed several hours. Finally about 9:00 a.m. the Confederates opened an attack on the Union line. Some Confederates fought their way into the town. Battery Powell changed hands twice in fierce fighting. About 10:00 a.m., four columns of gray clad Confederates advanced on Battery Robinett.

Four times they charged, each time being mowed down by fire from the cannons of batteries Robinett and Williams and from the muskets of the men lined up in the field next to the batteries. After desperate fighting, a Union bayonet charge led by men of the 1<sup>st</sup> US broke the enemy columns and drove them back. By noon Van Dorn's army was in retreat. Rosecrans did not pursue the retreating army until the next day, and eventually Van Dorn managed to save his army. The Union lost 2,359 men killed and wounded in the fierce two-day fight; Confederates losses totaled 4,838.

The Union continued to occupy Corinth for the next 15 months, using it as a base to raid northern Mississippi, Alabama, and southern Tennessee. Control of Corinth and its railroads opened the way for Union victory at Vicksburg in July 1863.

Date(s): October 3-4, 1862

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans [US]; Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn [CS]

Forces Engaged: Army of the Mississippi [US]; Army of the West Tennessee [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 7,197 total (US 2,359; CS 4,838)

## Sources:

**National Park Service**  
**The American Battlefield Protection Program**

## Improving the Impression

John Bowen

There's always room to improve our impressions. Sometimes it's by seeing the way another unit does something that prompts you to ask them about it. Sometimes it comes up in conversation with other reenactors or something you read in an article. As the 1<sup>st</sup> is always concerned about improving our knowledge base to portray the best possible impression of the 1860's Regular army soldier, we encourage all members, whether veteran or fresh fish, to both question why "we've always done it this way," or research all aspects of Civil War topics to improve our overall impression.

The latest examples of our desire to 'update' have been our newly learned proficiency at marching by the left flank and responding to calls of the bugle. Thanks to Neal Rudy for the latter. A couple of items came up at our drill down at Ft Parker with the 9<sup>th</sup> TX this winter. A fellow from 'back East' fell in with us and asked a couple of questions that got us to researching. The first



*Support Arms.—No. 189.*

question raised was about the position of 'Support Arms' and the second was our practice of returning from 'Right Shoulder Shift' to 'Shoulder Arms' when coming on line after 'By Company into Line.' Let's take them one at a time...

At 'Support Arms', he noticed that the angle of the musket differed between his carry and ours as his musket was inclined more vertically than ours. Upon researching the topic, it seems we have been doing this incorrectly. (All except Rick Brockman, who said his having it right was just a happy circumstance of his lack of height, or as he says, his more period-correct height!) As the picture at left shows, the butt is carried on the left thigh, not angled forward as we've been doing. Additionally, the left hand should be placed ON or below the right breast, not above it. This will cause the musket to be carried almost vertically and the cock will rest more on the forearm rather than the crook of the elbow. I'll admit this position is not as comfortable as the old way, but who ever accused the Army of being comfortable. Anyway, give it a try and see what you think.

He also asked why we came automatically from 'Right Shoulder Shift' to 'Shoulder Arms' when coming on line after 'By Company into Line.' It is true that the general rule is to automatically go the "Right Shoulder Shift" anytime you double time. Yes, there is a general rule that whenever you come to a halt, you will automatically come to 'Shoulder Arms,' but no where does Casey state that you come to the shoulder when going from the double quick to quick time. So from now on, we will stay at "Right Shoulder Shift" after any double quick, until we are given a command for another arms position. If anyone can find documentation that disputes this rule, please bring it up, otherwise, we will follow only what the 'book' says.

And here's a final revision to how we have always done things; that is, the countermarch command. In the past, because no one knew how to 'march by the left flank,' if ever we had to march off to the left of the battalion formation, we always heard the following..."Countermarch, by file left (or right), March. Look all you wish in Casey's and you will NOT find this command. It was made up so that we never had to give a 'Left Face, Forward March.' There is a countermarch command but it was used to reverse a company front (that is, line of battle) without inverting it



with an 'About Face.' The full command was: "1. Countermarch. 2. Company, right-Face. 3. By file left. 4. March." At the 2<sup>nd</sup> command, the company faced to the right except the left and right guides (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgts) who about faced. The captain broke the 1<sup>st</sup> two files slightly to the rear to clear the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt then at "By file left," the men filed around the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt and marched to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt. They were halted, fronted, and then dressed on the 2 sgts. Thus the formation was faced about without being inverted. We practiced it at the Stockyards and will do so again.

Two more impression updates before I close: the Frontier Brigade Eagle and camp stools. The Brigade Eagle was instituted as recognition of an individual's progression and participation in the Brigade. While I'm not suggesting that we do away with this recognition, we have to admit that the award is not period correct as soldiers wore no such decoration on their uniforms. Accordingly, at the last unit board of directors meeting, it was voted that the Eagle decoration will NOT be worn on the sack coat but it MAY be worn on the dress uniform. As with anything in a volunteer organization, this policy is what we suggest for authenticity standards, what you do is your decision. (Speaking of authenticity standards, Blair and Ron have been working on a new unit guideline which will be published in the near future.)

We have recently started thinking about improving the look of our camp impedimenta, specifically in regard to camp stools. Period chairs that may have been 'confiscated' from the locals would be appropriate for a static camp. Otherwise, the troops would only have access to what was on hand; hay, fence rails, and supply boxes, etc. We are not asking you to burn your assorted camp stools, but maybe we can try to move to a more realistic camp scene. In light of this, we will have a period box-making session at my shop in July. We will make cartridge, (ball or shell, if you like), rations, (peach, bread, etc.) generic, or even Springfield musket boxes, anything you wish to carry your equipment in and then sit on at night. Sitting about on correct seating will certainly add to the midnight ambiance around the camp fire as the McFuddy Quartet serenade us with their evening entertainments.



*(serenade? quartet? These howlers? Ed....)*

Think about what you might like to make, I'll be taking orders soon to get the supplies and your box will only cost you the price of materials. If you have any box plans or pictures, please send them to me so we can get some ideas of what is available. (Or send any web addresses that you know of that have such items.)

These items are a start. If you have any others, please submit your research. If we keep doing the same old things over and over again, we'll all eventually burn out. Let's keep it interesting, do some research and share it with everyone else. And just because you may be relatively new to the hobby doesn't mean you have less to say. Sometimes it's the old hands who are set in their ways that have it all wrong! If you have one year or ten years in the hobby, we can all read and find something new to do.

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## Diary Entry:

14 May

Regarding our recent foray to Fort Worth.

Were this a formal report I would wish to indicate we had some success both in recruiting and improving and/or re-establishing our relations with the formerly hostile citizenry of Texas since the successful conclusion of the late unfortunate 'argument' between the Union and the various southern states.

We erected our recruiting fly and small encampment 'on the green' at the Stockyards directly outside the Stockyards Exchange building. From this vantage point we were able to keep close

watch on the activities in the stockyard area and were in a most advantageous position with regards to being visible to potential recruits or friendly locals who wished to demonstrate their support for the cause of Union and express their regret over the recalcitrant behavior of their state starting in February (need I remind myself?) of 1861 and ending most recently. We were also able to keep watch on a seemingly friendly band of Indians who had wandered out of the thicket and were presumably grateful for our presence as encouragement for keeping any roving Comanche bands at bay. There were several other contingents from the various frontier line forts present, Fort Concho being the most notable.

We were forced to bring to the attention of the local constabulary a group calling themselves the Republic of Texas. Were it not for the limitations of the military to get involved in technically civilian affairs I contemplated rounding them up and placing them under arrest as it strikes me that groups re-forming the "Republic of Texas", now a state of the Union once more, can lead to no good in the future. However the local sheriff assured us they were, essentially, a harmless bunch, outfitted with obsolete weapons, and convinced that they were needed in the event Santa Anna began acting up again along the Mexican border. One would think after the rough handling we've given him in the past this would be unnecessary, but he is, after all, a persistent cus, if NOT, as self styled, the Napoleon of the West.

The evening of Friday, May 13 was somewhat tense as the weather changed for the worse in the wee hours of the morning and strong storm blew in, but the encampment remained untouched only suffering a washing that was probably long overdue. The locals were most active and either a celebration of some sort was going on, or Fort Worth is a town of rowdies. Given that we were located near the stockyards, a loitering place of the scum of the earth dredged up for cattle driving, I should remain unsurprised.

One such rowdy misplaced his horse and was staggering up and down the street using language most likely heard from a dock worker in the east as he tried to find it until he was collared by the sheriff's deputies and hauled away in chains to sleep off his encounter with Mr. O.B. Joyful.

The camp guards were active at the height of the storm, but by then I was fairly comfortable, and, I emphasize *dry*, in my tent and had little inclination to get involved in the duties of the pickets and local law enforcers. To some extent I might add I regret that, as I'm informed several young, (shall I use the term ladies? or would that be far too generous?) women, encountering the rain on the way back from some local ginney, and doubtlessly besotted with alcohol, found it appropriate to take their Saturday bath a little early by disrobing and sauntering through the camp area. While I'm told the pickets and guards were highly entertained they apparently, forgive the pun, 'viewed it all' with some favor as no arrests for indecency were made that I am aware of.

Those of us who braved the storm were rewarded by a very presentable breakfast served at the Stockyards Hotel and the day promised to be warm and sunny. Captain Bowen, having spent his night in a genuine house, under a real roof in a real bed, arrived to take command before assembly and my duties were limited to strolling about, hob-nobbing with the locals and keeping a watchful eye on the mother of Quanah Parker (the storied Cynthia Ann Parker). Poor woman, more Comanche than white, and never reconciled to living again in white society.

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### Newsletter contributions –

E- Mail/Mailing submissions to The Union Standard –

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**Newsletter** – contact George Hansen if you did not receive your mailed newsletter,

[beast1st@comcast.net](mailto:beast1st@comcast.net) or (972) 529-5349.

**Address/Telephone changes** – any mailing/e-mail address changes or telephone number changes should be submitted to Ron Myers,

[soonlobo@verizon.net](mailto:soonlobo@verizon.net)

or 817-416-3741



The 1<sup>st</sup> US pushes towards the River at Jefferson



The “funny hat” squad enjoys a warm fire, Jefferson

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## The Union Standard

*Newsletter of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry*

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