The UNION STANDARD

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The Newsletter of the 1st United States Infantry, The Regulars

Dispatch from the Board

Well, as you know, we finally had a bit of rain, but do not let us get all excited about it just yet as I do not think we have finished our tangle with drought just yet. For those of you who have not considered the ramifications of dry dry ground it could mean cold cold camp, and no shoosting of the long arms, which you will have to conceded, makes for not much of a re-enactment. I do not want to rain on your enthusiasm of course, but bear it in mind when you say your "Now I lay me down to sleep's" at night. You might pause to ask the Almighty for a little more rain so we can either ruin *(or make if Branagan here is leading you)*, the day of "those people" this spring at a re-enactment.

We had a fine drill on Saturday the 21st at Veterans Park in Arlington (Dalworthington Gardens). While I was not keeping the roll, I off hand counted our numbers at 25 effectives, and two officers. 1st Sgt Gates, I'm sure can correct my count if I have misstated our numbers. That is not bad for the 1st drill of the year. We had a couple of new members enlist on the spot. Recruits Steve Campbell and Taylor Clark joined up and Parker Brown officially re-enlisted after his time elapsed in the volunteers. The Dalworthington Police even took note in a positive way, and asked for more information on us, so perhaps we will see them again wearing blue uniforms of a different sort sometime in the future. We can but hope.

The drill went well from what I could see. I had the pleasure of introducing the Fresh Fish to the manual of arms, managed to completely lie to them on "Right Shoulder Shift" without anybody but Steward Thurn taking note, and he being a kindly soul chose not to berate me for my slovenly rendition on the spot. Where I came up with my method….well, it must have been something that carried over with long association from McFuddy (AKA Archibald MacFarlane) that's all I can say. This morning found me standing in front of a mirror practicing the RIGHT way to perform the arms change, and trying to convince myself that 'my way' was learned as a result of reading that damn traitorous Hardee's method. I confess though, I have not gone to review his method to see if my case will hold up in court. In any event, if you see MacFarlane standing around in his private's uniform practicing arms changes you will understand. Course with him it's hard to tell if he's doing it to learn something (again) or if he's being punished (again). The advantage of having two alter egos I suppose is I can have the one issue punishment to the other, and have the punished party wish death upon the officer party without anyone complaining at me that I have really gone too far this time.

I didn't get to drill the troops much, as Captain "Williams" decided I was too hard on the men at Old City Park last time (what with getting them slaughtered and all) and decided they needed a rest from my legendary iron discipline.

As enlistment officer, I can say the re-enlistment rate is good, we look to be on track considering the early season, with about 30 re-enlistments so far. I can assure you, for this time of year, that is a good. I expect we'll have the usual stragglers that we'll be chivvying back into the ranks towards the middle of March, but as for now all's well.

We also voted on the events for the year. Now if everyone who voted for events would be so kind as to show up at them it will be most agreeable. We have a number of recruiting style opportunities planned. The Irish Festival, the Fort Worth Stockyards, and our usual Old City Park McFuddy Layabout operations. The full event list is, as usual, on page 2, available for your review.

Next Big event is the MUSTER of course, and it

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1st U.S. Calendar

2006

February
10th-12th **Battalion Muster – Fort Washita**

March
17th-19th **Beaumont Ranch**
25th Camp Ford, Tyler Texas, Living History

April
22nd **Fort Richardson – NCO SCHOOL**
28th-29th Fort Worth Stockyards – Frontier Forts Muster

May
(tbd) **Fort Chadbourne LIVE FIRE**

June
3rd Drill (tbd)

July
4th Old City Park , Dallas
Living History/Recruiting
(tbd) **Cartridge Rolling Party**

August
(tbd) **Unit Social**

September
22nd-24th Battle of Atoka
Atoka Oklahoma (Indian Territories)

October
20th-22nd Crockett Reenactment
Crockett Texas

November
11th Old City Park Dallas, or Veterans Day parade (tbd)

17th – 19th **Liendo Plantation**
Liendo Texas

December
2-3 Prairie Grove – Prairie Grove Arkansas

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

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would be great to see everyone there. Fort Washita is an excellent opportunity to be with your pards at an old frontier Fort with a fine Barracks and Dining Hall. The Battalion commander has already laid out a good schedule for the weekend *(included here wherever McFuddy could find room I'm sure…ed*), and I think both old and new hands will enjoy themselves. Also, if it's any incentive to you at all, the word is that Kelsey Arnold will be there WITH MISS TULA'S, complete with O'Doole claiming the place is his, I shouldn't wonder.

After that we've got an opportunity to tour the various posts along the frontier, Fort Richardson, Fort Worth Fort Chadbourne. (all right, Fort Worth isn't the same as it used to be. You'll just have to risk having women come unclothed through the camp during the night as they did last year. I know this is a terrible burden, but I'm sure you men will be able to bear the strain if you're there). We'll be marching from post to post of course, so get your brogans buttered up.

All in all, it should be a good year if you all don't get slaughtered while being ordered to do the impossible.

I have the honour to be, very respectfully
Your obedient servant
Lt G. M. Branagan

(room indeed…as if there's some rush of writing for this bit of a rag!!!!.Mcf)

Battalion Muster
Ft Washita, Indian Territory
February 10 – 12

Preliminary Schedule

Saturday

7:00 Reveille
7:30 Breakfast Call
8:30 Parade (assemble the battalion)
8:45 Morning Drill Call
Squad/Platoon level instruction by senior NCOs
Large Company Drill
Battalion Evolutions
12:00 Dinner call
1:00 Classroom Instruction
3:00 Afternoon Drill Call

4:30 Soldiers Time
Officers and NCO Training
5:30 Retreat
5:45 Supper Call
9:00 Tattoo
11:00 Lights Out

Sunday

8:00 Reveille
8:30 Breakfast Call
9:30 Parade/Inspection/Muster/Pay
11:30 Final Formation/Dismissal

Uniforms

- We are at a frontier garrison and as such fatigue coats and slouch hats are appropriate for daily duty….however
- Forage caps as a minimum and dress coats and hat (if available) for Parade and Inspection
- As this is garrison, the dress coat is appropriate at all times
- Officers – look the part
-

Equipment

We are in garrison so what makes you comfortable……

but modern stuff must be kept out of sight at all times
Lanterns are needed
Individual mess gear

Battalion Bugle calls

- Brigade Preface
- 1st Btn Preface
- 2nd Btn Preface

Standard calls:

- Musicians Call
- Reveille (roll call)
- Orders for Orderly Sgt (morning report)
- Officers Call (day's plan)
- Breakfast call
- Fatigue Call
- Drill Call
  Assembly
  To The Colors
- Recall
- Dinner Call
- Assemble the Battalion
  Attention
  Assembly
  To The Colors
- Retreat (roll call)
- Dinner Call
- Tattoo (roll call)
- Extinguish Lights

Maneuver Calls (In Battalion)

- Halt
- Head to Right/Left
- Wheel into Line
- In Retreat
- Recall

Skirmish Calls

- Deploy as Skirmishers
- Forward
- Halt
- Commence Firing
- Cease Firing
- Wheel Left/Right
- Lie Down
- Rise Up
- Rally By Fours
- Rally
- Rally on Reserve (is this same as recall)

Bits & Pieces

1st US TEXAS 1860-1861

As has been covered in prior issues (and is available in the collected Newsletter Works) the 1st US Infantry was stationed here in Texas from the end of the War with Mexico (1846-1848… and not to be referred to as the "Mexican-American" war) , until early in 1861 when the State of Texas, in February ,declared themselves to be in secession from the Union. At that time a treaty was signed between the representatives of the state and General David E. Twiggs, United States Army, Commander of the Department of Texas. More like a forced surrender, they swarmed Davy's small command (160 men) in San Antonio with over a 1000 irregulars (Rangers and assorted others) and gave Twiggs little choice in the matter.

Company A, 1st US was stationed at Camp Verde, which was established in 1856 near Bandera Pass about 65 miles north and west of San Antonio. Known as "Little Egypt" because it was also the home of the United States Army Camel Corps (80 camels). With two sets of officers quarters, barracks for one company, a band practice building, a blacksmith shop, cavalry stables and a hospital. It had been built by the enlisted personnel at no cost to the United States government. Under the command of Carlos A. Waite the garrison consisted of Company A, 1st US commanded by Cpt James N. Caldwell. With a complement of 2 officers and sixty enlisted men. The HQ staff of the 1st, plus the regimental band (1 officer & 15 men) were also located at Camp Verde.

Company D was, by this time, stationed at Fort Cobb, so they weren't involved in the exodus from Texas (though they did withdraw from the Indian Territories back north into Missouri).

Company H, under command of 1st Lt Walter H. Jones could be found at Camp Cooper, but had formerly been at Fort Stockton. H consisted of 3 officers and 74 enlisted men. Company K, was posted at Fort Lancaster, about 90 miles east of Stockton along the El Paso Road, under command of Cpt Robert S. Granger. Company I, 1st US was stationed in San Antonio, under command of Cpt John H. King and was comprised of three sgts, a corporal and 53 privates.

Finally, Company G 1st US was stationed at Fort Chadbourne, under command of Cpt. G. W. Wallace, with 77 enlisted men, and 2 mountain howitzers.

As a result of Twigg's surrender the state of Texas received 44 cannons and howitzers, 1900 muskets, rifles and carbines, 400 colt pistols, two magazines full of ammunition, 500 wagons, 950 horses, 500 sets of harness and large quantities of tools, corn, clothing and commissary stores. The value of the property surrendered at San Antonio, not counting the buildings was a whoping $1,229, 500.00 dollars (US).

Company A, 1st US destroyed 'public property' at Camp Verde after the surrender and Colonel Waite was advised by the Texas Commissioners that the officers and men of said company would be held responsible for such acts and that a force of Texans would be dispatched to protect the remaining property there from their 'depredations'.

MacFarlane's NCO school

As it has come to my eagle eye attention (while rarely sober) that we're to have an NCO school this spring it seems only sensible that I take this opportunity to introduce you enlisted men to this rare chance to be properly educated in the roll of NCO that has won meself acclaim and recognition amongst the various crowned heads of Europe, if not amongst the officer corp of the Army.

Below I've included a rough outline of the course and useful information pertaining thereto:

Wayward NCO Class Information

i. Class Policies

ii. Grading

iii. Appointments

Class Policies

Attendance

When we commence to drinking and discussing ways to shirk your duties, we expect you to stay until we're done, or until someone keels over, or both. No skylarking about and trying to shift out from under the class on the premise it will make you a better student of shifting, shirking or malingering if you don't even show up in the first place, or if you try and sneak out the side door while we're tipping the jug back.

Games of Chance

Class is important because it's the time when we're most likely to be participating in games of chance and luck *(bad chance and bad luck for most of the students, but good fortune and fine luck for the instructors)* that you'll be needing to know in order to further your careers as Wayward NCOs. Since it's one of the primary ways we accumulate pocket lining of the green or gold sort, we'll be expecting you to attend and no shillyshalling about it.

Bribery

Class period is the main time we'll be soliciting bribes - bribes may be discussed and hinted at but should not be given during class time, that's why we have appointments. It's least effective to be pushing bribes around when everyone *knows* that there's bribery afoot. You should understand this remarkably fundamental, but extremely important, rule.

Grading

- Drinking

1. Required daily (each evening)
2. Generally to excess (drunk enough not to notice us going through your pockets)
3. Practicing with
    - Corn liquor
    - Whiskey
    - Brandy (if it can be stolen)
    - Wine
    - Ale & Beer
    - Hard Cider

- Bribing
    1. Bribing public officials
        - deeds
        - permits
        - elections
    2. Bribing Army Inspectors
    3. Bribing Naval Inspectors
    4. Bribing your officers
    5. Bribing the NCOs
    6. Bribing the Provost guard
    7. Bribing soldiers
    8. Bribing the Enemy
        - Officials
        - Generals
        - Civilians
        - Soldiers
- Shirking, Malingering & *"Flanking"* your duties
- Gambling
    1. Games of Skill (not favored – some soldier might actually be good at them...)
    2. Games of Chance
    3. Rigging games of skill and chance
    4. Outright Cheating
    5. How to win by employing timely and convenient 'fire' in the tent or dwelling.
    6. Weaponry and how to employ it..
- Cussing
- Bribing the instructors
- Purloining and redistribution of goods for profit
- *"Liberation"* of Southern goods for profit
- Creative Accounting practices (cooking the books)
- Creative Excuses for failure to perform duties
- Learning how and when to *"go to Chicago"*®

Instructor Appointments

Appointments are usually scheduled for the mid morning hours after we've had a chance to get some coffee or the hair of the dog into ourselves. The main reason we provide appointments is so you can bribe us properly in private as you should always do *(and receiving money or favors usually brightens an otherwise painful morning).*
Appointment time should not be squandered with complaints about the course or to discuss your class standing. Those things, complaints especially, are best discussed after we've had a chance to loosen up a bit during the evening sessions around the jug. It is our contention that a rare individual will drink us under the table and the upshot is we expect to be quicker on the shillelagh swing than you are when your recriminations commence. Whacking a man in a cold sober state when he starts whining about the class takes more fortitude than we care to muster up on a daily basis so you'll save your complainin for the evening hours thank you very much.

For Sale:

The 1st has purchased powder and contact John Bowen if you need some – jbowen1stus@comcast.net

E- Mail/Mailing submissions to The Union Standard – **d1stus@gte.net** or C/O Alan Prendergast, 1403 Barclay Drive, Carrollton Texas, 75007
Newsletter –
contact George Hansen if you did not receive your mailed newsletter, **beast1st@comcast.net** or (972) 529-5349.
Address/Telephone changes –
any mailing/e-mail address changes or telephone number changes should be submitted to Blair Rudy, brsuv1@verizon.net - or 817-424-0027

2006

February
10th-12th Battalion Muster –
Fort Washita

March
17th-19th Beaumont Ranch
25th Camp Ford, Tyler Texas, Living History

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