
The UNION STANDARD

February 2010

Vol. 18, no 2

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

From the Desk:

Members of the 1st US

We're off to a good start in 2010 with the successful completion of our traditional January Drill. I am pleased to report that we have suffered no casualties so far and that the calendar for the remainder of the year looks very good. Details are in this newsletter and can be found on the web site.

We are ordered to report to Fort Washita, Indian Territory, by February 6. The Battalion will form there in preparation to deploy to Port Hudson, Louisiana at the end of March. Battalion command has identified deficiencies in field performance directly attributable to weakness in the execution of drill. Drill and education are, therefore, the focus of the weekend. Although local entertainment will no doubt be available, soldiers are strongly cautioned against engaging in such low pursuits. Multiple uniform and equipment inspections will be conducted and a formal dress parade will commence on Sunday. Don't be the man called out for tarnished brass or a rusty musket!

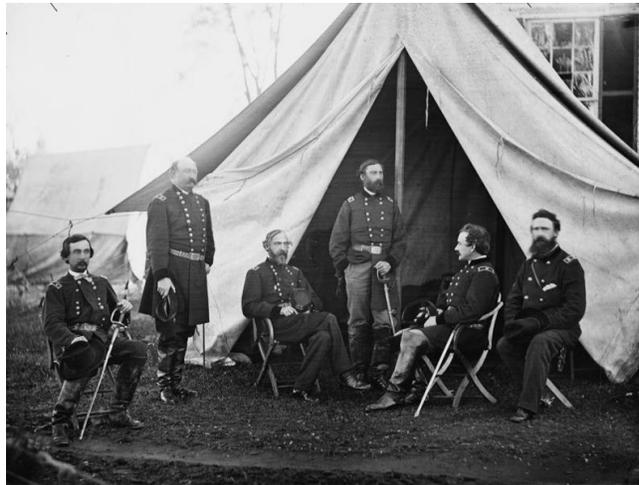
In continuing the theme of improving our impression, I'll leave you with two fine points of drill that while certainly not crucial, are the types of details that can help set us apart. First, we've made a small refinement to the commands for inspection. At the preparatory command of "To the rear, open order" the 1st and 2nd sergeants step four paces to the rear to set the new line for the rear rank. According to Casey's, they accomplish this by carefully calibrated eye rather than the notoriously unreliable method of actually counting the steps. On the execution command of "March", the rear rank men march backward to the line set by the sergeants and halt. The next command, which causes the 2nd sergeants to return to their places in the front rank, is "Front". Now the company is properly positioned for inspection. In the past, we have omitted the final "Front" command and left the sergeants to find this own way back to the correct positions.

Second, counting off is, at times, a clumsy and inelegant exercise. While some of this is due to inattention and talking in the ranks, I think we can better do it "the way they did" by eliminating unnecessary uncoordinated

movements. At the command "In each rank, count two" each file, beginning with the rightmost, counts off. It should not be necessary for men to look to the right during this exercise and it looks rather silly for there to be various degrees of heads turning and snapping back forward as the count progresses. Assuredly, having the man standing right next to you yell out his number is a sufficient signal to alert you to your proper number and the time at which you should count. I'd like to see us do it as Casey directs "...without hurry and without turning the head".

YMOS,

Capt. Brook Thomas, USA



Commanders of the Army of the Potomac at Culpeper, Virginia 1863

1st U.S. Calendar

2010

February

6th – 7th Battalion Muster, Fort Washita, Indian Territory

13th Twiggs Surrender, The Alamo, San Antonio

March

6th -7th Irish Festival, Fair Park, Dallas

27th – 28th Port Hudson, Louisiana

April

24th Farmers Branch Historic Park

May

8th Texas Forts Muster, Fort Worth Stockyards

June

TBD, Fort Scott, Kansas

August

1st US Social (TBD)

September

TBD Cabin Creek Indian Territory

October

Drill TBD

November

13th – 14th Twin Rivers Campaign, Memphis TN

December

4th – 5th Prairie Grove Arkansas

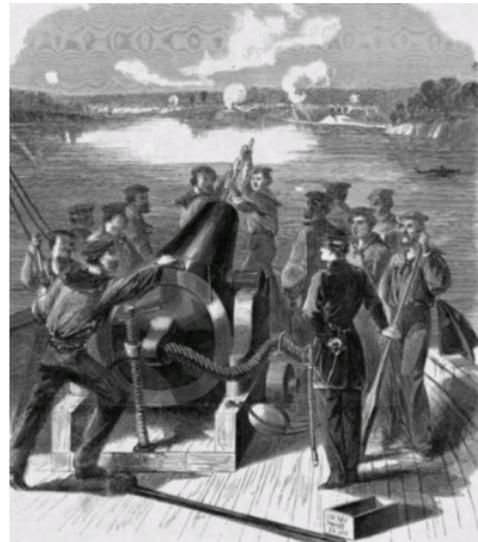
*Note: **Bold** are scheduled maximum effort events. Italicized dates are available events or recruiting activities. ****See website for full event calendar*****

Port Hudson March 27th – 28th

Once again the 1st US will heading down to Cajun country for a great time. Port Hudson is one of the few reenactments we attend that we actually get to “fight” on part of the actual battlefield.

Those who attended this event two years ago can tell you how much fun it is/was. The “street fighting we did down the trails had the rebels on their heels. Good time indeed.

It is not too soon to start planning for this great event. There will be more detailed correspondences in the near future.



North Texas Irish Festival

The 1st US will be recruiting and enjoying a little "Luck of the Irish" on March 6th and 7th. Details are still in the works on this event, but as you all know we need to fill our ranks with new recruits and this event give us an opportunity to do. 1st Sgt. Rudy will be sending information out in the near future.



Twiggs Surrender

Some members of the 1st US will be attending Twiggs Surrender on Saturday, February 13th.

Yes, the U.S. does surrender, but afterwards enjoy the history of the Alamo and Menger Hotel. Take a stroll down the River Walk in your dress uniform and polished brass. This is a great event to take your wife or companion. Contact 1st Sgt. Blair Rudy for additional information, if you are interested in attending this fun and truly historic event.

brsuv1@verizon.net

David Emanuel Twiggs (1790 – July

15, 1862) was a United States soldier during the War of 1812 and Mexican-American War and a general of the Confederate States Army during the American Civil War. He was one of the oldest generals on either side in the Civil War.

Twiggs was born on the "Good Hope" estate in Richmond County, Georgia, son of John Twiggs, a general in the Georgia militia during the American Revolution. Twiggs volunteered for service in the War of 1812 and subsequently served in the Seminole Wars and the Black Hawk War.

He was Colonel of the 2nd U.S. Dragoons at the outbreak of the Mexican-American War. He led a brigade in the Army of Occupation at the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. He was promoted to brigadier general and commanded a division at the Battle of Monterrey. He joined Winfield Scott's expedition, commanding its 2nd Division of Regulars and led the division in all the battles from Veracruz through Mexico City. He was wounded during the assault on Chapultepec. After the fall of Mexico City, he was appointed military governor of Veracruz. Brigadier General Twiggs was awarded a ceremonial sword by the Congress on March 2, 1847. (The sword was recovered when New Orleans was captured in 1862 and returned to the Twiggs family in 1889.)

After the Mexican-American War, Twiggs was appointed brevet major general and commanded the Department of Texas. He was in this command when the Civil War broke out. Twiggs's command included about 20% of the U.S. Army guarding the border of the U.S. and Mexico. As the states began to secede, Twiggs met with a trio of Confederate commissioners, including Philip N. Lockett and Samuel A. Maverick, and surrendered his entire command to them. At the time of his surrender, Twiggs was in San Antonio with approximately 200 Union soldiers, the remainder of his troops scattered along the border between the United States and Mexico. 2,000 Secessionist militia entered the city, intent on capturing the Union arsenal there. Outnumbered five to one, Twiggs surrendered on February 19, 1861.

Twiggs subsequently was dismissed from the U.S. Army for treason and accepted a commission as a major general from the Confederate States. He was appointed to command the Confederate Department of Louisiana, but his advanced age kept him from pursuing an active command and he retired on October 11, 1861. He died of pneumonia in Augusta, Georgia, and is buried at "Good Hope".

Headquarters, Infantry Battalion, 3rd (Frontier)
Brigade
February 2, 2010

GENERAL ORDER: 2010 #1

The Infantry Battalion of the Frontier Brigade has been detached for further duty to the XIX Corps, Army of the Gulf. It has been directed to proceed to the vicinity of Port Hudson, LA to arrive by not later than the last week in March.

As such companies of the First Battalion are ordered to proceed from their winter quarters to Fort Washita, Indian Territory to muster prior to the movement to Louisiana. All companies should be in place at Fort Washita by February 5th.

Companies A and D 1st Infantry currently at Ft. Chadbourne upon relief by companies G and K 8th Infantry will march with due haste and by direct route to Ft Washita, IT.

The 2nd CO and 77th PA will vacate their respective posts in Indian Territory as they are relieved by the 2nd Calvary but in no instance will they delay their removal to Ft Washita later than the first week in February.

The 10th KS will assemble in the vicinity of Wichita KS and move as a unit to Washita.

All other companies on detached duty are directed to remove themselves to Washita forthwith upon receipt of this order.

Local commanders are authorized to procure such transport at government expense as may be required to move their supplies and baggage.

All scattered detachments should arrive at Ft Washita by the 5th instant. Upon signing in at post headquarters, troops will be billeted in barracks and will be available for such duties and training, as the commander may desire.

The commander is pained to inform the respective company commanders that their proficiency on the battlefield has diminished recently. This has no doubt been due to the extensive time spent in garrison this past year.

I fully expect this battalion to be committed to battle immediately upon our arrival near Port Hudson. In this regard, every company's attendance at Fort Washita is critical. The honor of the respective officers, nay even the survival of the men is at state.

The battalion will form accordingly: 1st Co, Capt Kirk, 5th Co Capt Goering, 2nd Co Capt Griffin, 4th Co Capt Trent, 3rd Co Capt (Brevet) Thomas.



West Barrack at Fort Washita (ruins)

Battalion Muster

Ft Washita, Indian Territory
February 5-7 2010

The infantry, from it's powers of endurance, it's capabilities for battle in all kinds of ground, and it's independence of those casualties by which other arms may be completely paralyzed, is placed as the first arm; and upon it is based the strength of all others. - Mahan

Billeting arrangements are as follows:

- Junior NCOs (corporals) and enlisted men will be billeted on the second floor of the South barracks. If space permits Senior NCOs will be billeted in the barracks.
- If weather demands it, Senior NCOs and Company officers will be billeted on the ground floor of the South barracks in the east room.
- Attached laundresses will be billeted in individual fort quarters as numbers dictate (Adjutants hut or down hill)
- The west room on the ground floor of the barracks will be the Mess Hall.

Rations:

Rations are provided for Saturday morning through Sunday (4 meals). Cost of rations is \$15.00. For additional family members fewer than 16 costs is \$7.00. Money is due by January 30th. If possible checks should be sent by unit. **If you have not yet sent your ration money, please contact Treasure, Don Gates ASAP.** d_gates@verizon.net

Federal Enlisted Uniform guidelines:

- 4 button sack coat, sky blue kersey pants, black Hardee/slouch or forage cap for drill.
- Parade/Inspection uniform will be frock w/ Hardees or fatigue blouse with forage caps, sky blue kersey trousers. Brass must be cleaned and uniform free of mud.

Officer Uniform guidelines:

- Frock coat/shell jacket or officer sack with sky blue kersey or dark blue pants for drill, Forage, kepi, slouch or Hardee hat.
- Evening Parade/review uniform will be frock/ shell or officer fatigue blouse with Hardee, kepi, or forage in good condition. All officers on parade/review will have swords. Brass must be polished and uniform free of mud. If there are extenuating circumstances, please let me know.
- Officer of the Day/Guard will wear a sash in the prescribed manner.
- Militia Officers – Federal Uniform, Militia Grey, of Mexican War

The following guidelines will be followed with respect to gear brought to the muster:

- Period items befitting the status/rank of the individual soldier.
- Physical strength of the soldier dragging the stuff up the stairs into the barracks.
- Anachronistic items will not be displayed on the post from 7:00 am Saturday until noon Sunday.
- If you are musically inclined (no matter the skill level) please bring your instrument.

Personal actions

Remember, we are portraying (and playing at) soldiers of the mid 19th century. I trust we will all act the part.

Please consider your fellow enactor and Do Not make obvious use of modern items. Cell phones especially can be annoying.



Both Barracks at Fort Wahsita

Schedule:

Friday

- Arrival/Barracks Set-up
- Dinner on your own
- 1:00 Officer/ NCO Training Session
- 9:00 Officer Meeting

Saturday

- 7:00 Reveille
- 7:30 Surgeons Call
 - Breakfast Call
- 8:30 Parade (assemble the battalion)
- 8:45 Morning Drill Call
 - Squad/Platoon level instruction by senior

NCOs

- Company Drill
- Battalion Evolutions
- 12:00 Dinner call/ Soldier's time
- 1:00 Classroom Instruction
 - Officer/NCO Instruction
- 3:15 Afternoon Drill Call
 - Battalion Commander's Time
- 5:45 Supper Call
 - Battalion Meeting
- 7:00 Soldiers time
- 10:30 Tattoo
- 11:00 Lights Out

Sunday

- 8:00 Reveille
- 8:30 Breakfast Call
- 9:30 Battalion evolutions
- 11:30 Final Formation/Dismissal

Tactics

Company

- Arms positions
- Facings
- Stacking
- Marching, left and right
- Wheels (fixed and moving)
- By company into line
- On the right (left) by file into line

Battalion

- Form a line of battle in front to right and to left
- Passing through obstacles
- Retire into columns
- Closed in mass
- Counter march
- Changing fronts
- Double columns
- Colonel's surprise

Washita Directions

See www.mapquest.com for more detail.

From Hwy 69/75 – about 2 miles north of Durant, OK, take the Hwy 48 exit and go north (turn left). About 3 miles turn left (west) onto Hwy 78. Go 7 miles to Hwy 199, turn left (west) and at 3 miles the Ft. Washita entrance is on the right. The barracks is to the left.

From I-35 – take the Hwy 70 exit east about 2 miles south of Ardmore, OK. In Madill take 199 east to Ft. Washita, which is 11 miles

STREET FIRING

From "The 1863 U.S. Infantry Tactics", May 1, 1861

Street firing is the method of firing adapted to defend or clear a street, lane, or narrow pass, in the execution of which the company or platoon must be formed according to the width of the place, leaving sufficient space on the flanks for the platoons to file successively to the rear.

When the column has arrived at the place where the firing is to commence, the commanding officer will give the word, **Column, halt-Prepare for street firing**. At this command, all the captains will pass by the right flank to the rear of their companies, covering the center. The colonel next commands-**Commence firing**. The captain of the first company will promptly command: *First company-ready-aim-fire-recover arms-outward face-quick march*.

The first platoon face to the right, the second to the left: the first platoon conducted by the captain, the second by the 1st lieutenant, will file right and left around the flanks toward the rear, halt on the flanks opposite the centre of the column, reload, and as soon as the rear of the column has passed the platoons, the captain will command: *Platoons-right and left face-march*. At which command, the first platoon faces to the left, and file left, and the second to the right, and files right, and unite in the rear of the column. At the instant the men of the first company recover their arms after firing, the captain of the second will order such company: *Ready-and wait in that position until the front is cleared by the first company, when the captain will cause it to advance twice its front (followed by all the companies in rear), and fire, file down the ranks in the same order prescribed for the first company*.

Firing in retreat is conducted on the same principle as on the advance, except that the companies fire without advancing, on the front being cleared by the former company; and, instead of halting on the flanks, the platoons will pass immediately to the rear of the column, countermarch, form, and re-load. The same principle will be observed in column of platoons as column of company.

*****Year Membership Dues*****

Yes, it is that time again for everyone to pay their yearly membership fee. The annual \$25.00 cost is applicable to individuals/families and is now due. **Please make your check payable to NTRS, not the 1st US.**

**Make check payable to NTRS and mail to:
Don Gate
1205 Balboa Circle, Plano, Texas 75075**

You can bring your check or cash (exact change would be appreciated) to the Battalion Muster.



Red, Yellow & Green: Practicing the Healing (Ha!) Arts During the Rebellion

American hospitals flew red flags to make them easier to find and as a shield from hostile fire. In a pinch, red shirts were reportedly used. One report exists of the emergency use of a ladies red nether garment for a hospital flag! The Rebs' Stars and Bars proved to be indistinguishable from the old U.S. flag (a.k.a. Gridiron Flag, Old Glory), so a switch to a mostly red battle flag was made to cut down on the confusion. So then U.S. and C.S. hospitals, with their red flags, started receiving the unwanted attention of federal artillery. To dodge this new threat, a switch to yellow flags began. Some times a green "H" was added to differentiate hospital banners from the old quarantine flag. The changeover was largely completed by after Gettysburg, although some use of red hospital flag is noted in 1864. Ambulance drivers and stretcher bearers were directed to wear plain green half chevrons and a green band around the cap. Ambulance service sergeants wore green chevrons, points up. Only surgeons were considered noncombatants, so ambulance fellers wore pistols to defend themselves and their wounded charges. All Hospital Stewards wore yellow trimmed green half chevrons with caduceus (snakes on a stick). Temporary Hospital Stewards (appointed in the field at \$20 per month pay) wore this chevron on the old uniform of their corps. Full fledged Stewards (appointed by the Secretary of War at \$22 per month pay) wore a maroon trimmed frock coat, maroon sergeant width pant stripe, "US" hat insignia, crimson sash, and were authorized the N.C.O. sword. They filled prescriptions (labeled by patient name and cot number), they prepared drugs (except for Galenials, just didn't trust them with stills), they took care of dental needs, the supervised the nurses, ward masters and matrons, they were responsible for procuring, preserving and distributing medicines, medical supplies, food (including "special" diets), they took meteorological readings (temperature, humidity, weather conditions) and filed reports, they performed minor surgical procedures and assisted in major ones. It was said it was easy to know what a Hospital Steward's duties were, the hard part was determining what they were not. Experienced in the medical arts and with the scars to prove it - **Hargis, G. 5 A-1**

The Union Standard

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