
The UNION STANDARD

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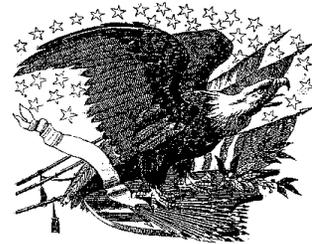
The Newsletter of the 1st United States Infantry, The Regulars

Dispatch from the Board

For those who were unable to attend the Beaumont event, you may be wondering, was it as good as Granbury? Well, there were some similarities and then again, some differences; some positive, some negative. One could not have asked for better weather, tempered of course by the 31-degree temps Saturday night. And the location can't be beat. Not only is it easy to get to but also the scenery and ground is all that advance reports from Don and George purported. Then again, the parking plan could use some improvement. Of course, some units solved that problem by simply parking in camp! The terrain offered a little of everything; streams, open fields, woods and hills. All of which was traversed by the infantry with alacrity under the command of our illustrious young major. Rations were once again up to the impeccable standards of Herr Gates with a Sunday morning assist by Julie Thomas. Fresh biscuits and gravy are sure to spoil our men and doubly appreciated since the mister was off on detached duty in other parts. The battle scenarios were much better at joining at realistic distances and it did a soldier's heart some good to see the Cav dismount and fight in an authentic fashion. Occupying the town proved enjoyable and enabled more spectator participation and other than the "unfortunate" incident with Mrs. Thomas' stew, went fairly well. That is, as soon as we got rid of the pesky Johnnies who insisted on being run out of town or shot (for being a nuisance!) We had some more practice at breastworks, which came in handy for Saturday evening's picket duty and for the Sunday's battle. Speaking of which, our major and captain once again demonstrated their penchant for scampering around in the dark, leading the troops on probes of the Rebs' camp. A mention should be made about recruiting here also. Although spectator turnout seemed to be rather dismal, our recruiting staff, George and Conway, nonetheless, (roped, err, snagged,) I mean, signed up a goodly number of very fine recruits. One of them, Stan, actually came back on Sunday and participated with us in battle. Neal Rudy flew his plane down from Peoria. After some time convalescing from previous wounds, we welcomed back to our ranks our beloved Sgt Major, Mike Beard. And our own officer in training (from that new West Point) Adam enjoyed his last weekend home from furlough doing what he knows best, eating and sleeping. (Although I did spy him cracking the books Friday night.) As the Gross clan had to depart early to get Adam on the Sunday Express, yours truly had the opportunity for his first field command. The boys did admirably well, obeying commands I didn't give and performing correctly to incorrect commands! Last, we come to individual awards and recognition. Mark Dolive was presented with a certificate bestowing upon him the position of "Sergeant Emeritus of the 1st US" for his tireless contributions and commitment to our unit. And finally, 'Cookie' Don Gates was inducted as the latest member of the Rackensacker Mess, and presented with an adorable red lacey apron that's the envy of the ladies of the Sanitary Commission.

One final thought before I close. There's a common tie that binds all in the reenactment community, and that is our respect and admiration for the men and women who gave their all in service to their country during our Civil War. We offer that same respect and admiration for today's warriors in our ranks, George Renfro in Washington and to Tracie Gross and Mike Phineas, somewhere over there in the deserts of the Middle East, as well as Adam Gross and Chris Foote at the Air Force Academy and Annapolis respectively. You are all in our thoughts and prayers and we will always appreciate the sacrifices you make daily to keep our nation strong and protect the liberties we enjoy. God Bless.

Until we once again meet in the field at the "Grasslands,"
YMOS,
John Bowen



Directions to the Tactical:

From Fort Worth take Hwy 287 north to Decatur. From Decatur follow FM 730 north 10 miles to CR 2461 (Cottonwood Cemetery Road). At the fork, turn right on CR 2560 and proceed 3 miles and turn left on FS Road 900. The trailhead will be on your right at 2 miles.

1st U.S. Calendar

2003

APRIL

26th Tactical – Vicinity of Decatur, Texas

MAY

17th Drill – location TBD

JUNE

TBD More drill! (Hurrah!!!!) – location TBD

AUGUST

(TBD) Live Fire

SEPTEMBER

26-28 Battle of Middle Boggy (Atoka, Oklahoma)

October

(TBD) Drill

November

7-9 Battle of Bentonville (formally Cane Hill)

The Recruiting Post

by George Hansen

Although the Beaumont Ranch Reenactment didn't have a plethora of spectators, the recruiting efforts garnered good prospects. Thanks go to **Conway Barton** and **William Ray** for their recruiting labors. Conway and I are actively contacting the prospects and soon hope to turn them into new recruits.

Quality Gun Shows are needed this summer and if you know of any then contact me. The 1st used to regularly recruit at these venues and we need to do this again. Also, let me know if you wish to recruit at the May 10th Boy Scout Show. Details are to soon follow.

Recruiting Committee

Volunteers are urgently needed as members of the new Recruiting Committee and applications can be forwarded to Recruiting Sgt. Hansen – beast1st@attbi.com. Committee members will help at recruiting events (attendance is voluntary, not mandatory), suggest proposed recruiting events, and formulate ideas as to how the 1st US can best acquire additional recruits. Current Recruiting Committee members are **William Ray** and **Blair Rudy**.

ORDERS

HEADQUARTERS NORTH TEXAS

No. 4. April 6, 2003

Members of Co. D and Co A, 1st US Infantry are directed to assemble at Tadra Point approximately twelve miles north of Decatur, TX on or about April 26. At Tadra the 1st will rendezvous with cavalry forces and supply wagons. Assembled force will provide security for Federal re-supply efforts in the area.

Uniform is heavy marching order and 60 rounds ammunition. If available Henry rifles will be carried with sufficient ammunition. As the area is generally bereft of water sources each man is further directed to transport to the assembly point two gallons of fresh water to be loaded on the supply wagons.

It is imperative that the force be prepared to move by 9:00 the morning of April 26th. It is anticipated that the re-supply will be successfully accomplished by noon on April 27th.

It is rumored that approximately 60 enemy infantry and some cavalry are operating in the area.

D.W. Gross
Captain, 1st US

The Glen Hargis Rakensacker Award

Don Gates was recently awarded the Glen Hargis Rakensacker Award at the Beaumont Reenactment. As the sixth recipient of this prestigious award, Don was recognized for his continuing and substantial contributions (time not money) during his seven years of service to the First. Don joined the 1st US in April 1996 and within a year he was appointed Corporal in Company A. In 1998 he was honored as Co. A's most outstanding NCO. Don volunteered in late 1997 to hold the first Chairman position of the newly formed Living History Committee. He was elected to a Board position in 1999 as Company A's 2nd Sergeant. Don currently serves as the Regimental Mess Sgt. assuming that role in 2002 and last month he was again elected to the Board, this time as a Corporal.

The award itself is the white Maltese Cross, the emblem of the 2nd Division, 5th Corp. Company G of the 1st U.S. served in this Corp during the war. Afterward the White Cross came to represent all Regulars, regardless of where they served, at various reunions. The Cross is to be worn during formal or social occasions and those wearing it are to be recognized as "First Among Equals." What makes this award unique within the First is that members who previously received the award select members to receive the award.

Memorial Day in McKinney

The 1st U.S. will again participate in a Memorial Day celebration at Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney and please contact George Hansen if you would like to participate - beast1st@attbi.com. Arrive no later than 9:15 a.m. as the remembrance ceremony starts at 10:00. This is a formal dress-parade ceremony so white gloves are mandatory – black tie/cravat and white shirt preferred. Either sack coats/forage caps or frocks/Hardees are acceptable. As always, the presence of Civilians is especially appreciated.

Please note that Harry McKillop, who is the cemetery board president, will again feature a luncheon for us at his house after the ceremony. Directions to Harry's house are available at the ceremony. Harry's train collection and setup is one of the finest in north Texas and his residence is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a Texas Historic Landmark.

Directions: Pecan Grove Cemetery, McKinney
From Dallas: North on Hwy. 75 – take the Hwy. 5 exit in McKinney (Exit #38) and go east (right) approximately 2 miles to Pecan Grove Cemetery. The cemetery entrance is on the right.
From Ft. Worth: East on Hwy. 121 – 121 turns into Hwy. 5 past the Hwy. 121 & Hwy. 75 intersection. Proceed east on Hwy. 5 and Pecan Grove Cemetery is approximately 2 miles on the right.

To: Jan Batts, Civilian Coordinator
Cc: Kevin Keim, Reenactor Coordinator
From: Mark Backus, 12th Texas Infantry
Subject: Beaumont Ranch School Day

Jan,

Thanks very much for the opportunity to help out at the Beaumont Ranch School Day Program. Speaking for the infantrymen, we thoroughly enjoyed it. In fact, we probably had as good a time as the students. I've heard from my contact with the PTA at Durham Middle School in Southlake that the students from Durham Middle School had a great time on Friday at the ranch.

I cannot thank enough for their efforts, **William Ray** and **Art Ogle**, Companies A and D of the First United States Infantry, and Mark Motley of my home unit, Company A, 12th Texas Infantry Regt. The team effort we employed in our presentations added immensely to the content and retaining the attention of our audiences. Thanks for an excellent job, gentlemen!

I hope we all have the opportunity to work together again in the future.

With Kind Regards,
Mark Backus

You might need this on the 26th

TO FIRE AND LOAD KNEELING

1. Carry the right foot to the rear so that when you kneel down, your lower leg is perpendicular to the front. As you lower your right knee to the ground, grasp the rifle at the lower band with your left hand, your right hand on the small of the stock. Your left elbow will rest on your left thigh. The butt will rest by your right thigh. Seat yourself on your right heel. Cock the piece in this position then raise it to aim and fire.

2. To load: bring the piece down to the position before firing, left hand still at lower band and butt against right thigh. Next, carry the piece to the rear rising on the knee with the butt resting on the ground, barrel downward, the left hand supporting at the upper band. Draw cartridge and load.

3. When loaded, bring the piece to the front with the left hand at the upper band and grasp the small of the stock with the right, turning the piece barrel up and nearly horizontal. With the left elbow once again resting on the left thigh, left hand at the lower band, half cock and prime. Continue firing or be at the ready as appropriate to commands.

TO FIRE AND LOAD LYING

1. Drop to both knees then lay down on your belly with the piece nearly horizontal with the left hand at the lower band, the butt and left elbow resting on the ground. Cock with the right hand then grasp at the small of the stock. Raise the piece with both hands, butt against shoulder, both elbows resting on the ground. Aim and Fire.

2. To load: bring the piece down and turn upon your left side, resting on your left elbow. Bring the piece back so the cock is opposite your breast, resting the butt on the ground beside you. Take a cartridge and while holding it between your thumb and 1st two fingers, seize the small of the stock and lay down on your back. Carry the piece to the rear, butt between your heels, barrel up with muzzle elevated. Charge cartridge.

3. When finished loading, turn again upon your left side and prime. Continue firing or be at the ready as appropriate to commands.

Not period but from one of our attached members

Space Shuttle Debris

Michael Daley in Nacogdoches reports that Columbia space shuttle debris fell into his yard. Mike states: "I found a piece of fabric 4.5 x 1.5 inches. Looks like a piece of shiny brown upholstery. I hope it's not from one of the seats. I've been waiting three weeks for someone to come and get it. This includes several contacts with local law enforcement and e-mails with NASA. Unfortunately, they have over 3,000 sites in this county alone and twenty with human remains. I've got a part number from NASA and hopefully that will keep me from being arrested. I had to pick it up and bag it to keep it from getting lost. I don't think it's toxic, although they found whole fuels cells that were. Debris was evident everywhere. They are still getting 20 calls a day for new discoveries and some will never be found. Good luck with the debris under water as visibility in some of those lakes is 20 inches."

Art's Great Grandpaw

Art Ogle recently revealed to me (Beast) some background as to his ancestry. This is Art's fascinating story using his distinctive and colorful colloquialism:

I believe you've said several times that you were a native of Missouri. I have a cousin named Mildred Strickland. She's a fair to middlin geneologist. Awhile back I paid her expenses to investigate the family assumption that my great grandfather, one Ninian O'Gill, fought with the 14th Mo. Vols., better known as J.W. Birge's Western Sharpshooters. According to her research my great grandfather did fight with that unit. This came from info in Pension Records, etc. Also from MOLLUS (Military Order of Loyal Legions of the U S). Ninian enlisted shortly before the 14th was re-designated the 66th Illinois. He fought at Kennesaw Mt., Altoona, Resaca, Dallas, and finally at Atlanta where he was wounded,

survived, and discharged to return to Sarcoxie, Mo. His father footed the bill (\$45.00) for a repeater and Ninian and his fellows in Companies A, B, and D of the 66th dispatched 700 Johnnys. Or, as they used to say around Missouri, 'They paroled them to Jesus'.

Ninian decided to move to Oklahoma where my grandfather, and father (born in 1905) went to work for the MKT Railroad. They went by the name of Ogle. Seems when ole Ninian was processed into the USA at Ellis Island they mistook his brogue when he gave the name O'Gill and wrote Ogle on his entry papers. He never used Ogle in his dealings. Guess no one gave a fig in those days whether you gave your surname or not. Mildred says he was born in 1837 in Belamora, County Offally, Ireland.

I remember once that my father, Horace, told me he saw a letter from Ninian to his wife Sarah. Ninian's outfit was fighting at the battle of Rocky Face Mountain in the Atlanta Campaign. According to my dad, the letter described an event in which my great grandpaw and his Pardes were attempting to drive the Johnny's from the crest of the mountain. Ninian shouted to a kid named Timothy Cassidy, "Timmy me son. Keep yer head down O Boy. Don't ye know you're your mithers favorite son?" Ole Pvt Cassidy survived and later went to work for the Chicago Rock Island & Pacific RR. He was transferred to Ft. Worth and built a house in 1911 on Pearl Ave. My dad bought the house in 1949. Cassidy died in 1950 at another location; however, my first RR job was Fireman on the CRI&P RR. I never knew Cassidy, but I'm informed he rose to the rank of Division Superintendent.



REMINDERS **Membership Dues Deadline**

If you have not paid 2003 dues then you are seriously past due and your May newsletter delivery will be suspended if dues are not immediately remitted. The annual \$25 cost is applicable to individuals/families and make your check payable to **NTRS**, not the 1st U.S. Forward your check to:
Alan Prendergast
1403 Barclay Dr.
Carrollton, TX 75007

Newsletter contributions - E-Mail/Mailing submissions to **The Union Standard** – d1stus@gte.net or C/O Alan Prendergast, 1403 Barclay Drive, Carrollton Texas, 75007 (please help out by using Times New Roman font if available on your machine...)

Newsletter – contact George Hansen if you did not receive your newsletter, beast1st@attbi.com or (972) 529-5349.

Address/Telephone changes – any mailing/e-mail address changes or telephone number changes should be submitted to John Bowen, bowen01@dellepro.com or (972) 539-6167.



Note: This promises to be an outstanding little weekend. Members of the 1stUS developed much of what follows.

Spring Tactical **LBJ Grasslands**

Scenario: The Federal forces are on a re-supply mission (historically accurate for this part of the country). Their job is to "re-supply" three garrisons. The Confederates have to disrupt/prevent the re-supply effort. The Confederates know that the Federal forces are in the area and are re-supplying the garrisons but they don't know the route or what order the Federal forces will re-supply the garrisons. The overall structure puts the Federal forces on the defense and the Confederates acting as the attackers. This is a judged tactical. Forces should be prepared to move out by 9:00 AM on Saturday. Scenario will continue till a logical conclusion or 12:00 Sunday.

Force Structure: Forces are organized to minimize any requirement to galvanize. Each side will operate as a combined force of infantry and cavalry. Confederate: 9th TX infantry and 7th TX cavalry (mounted and dismounted). Federal: 1st US infantry and cavalry as assigned. The infantry commanders will exercise overall command of their respective forces, infantry, cavalry, and artillery (if any). Each side has their own wagon support. Each side must be self-sustainable for the duration of the Tactical

Terrain: Tadra Point, LBJ National Grasslands, Decatur TX. The scenario area is generally constrained by an 8-mile circular trail. Starting/ending point is a primitive rest area at Tadra Point. Forces are not constrained by the trail. They can maneuver where they want, how they want. The three Federal garrisons will be indicated by American Flags and located near the trail.

Force Employment: General timeframe is 1863-64. Each side has rifled muskets with a maximum employment range of 250 yards. The Federals will have a HENRY platoon. Range estimation by officers and passed to the men is required to determine success of firings. Cavalry cannot stand against deployed infantry within 250 yards unless they dismount and fight with carbines. In any given engagement relative force size (1:1, 1 1/2:1, 2:1) and accurate range volleys will determine the success of your tactics. Appropriate timeframe CW tactics must be followed. As the cavalry is assigned to the infantry commanders they should be employed as the commanders eyes and ears as well as reconnaissance, harassment, and force fixing. When we stop for the night (4-5PM) opposing forces will go into outpost. Level and duration will be determined at that time by the condition of the men. The outpost scenario will consist of probing and identifying the enemy's position. Night battles will not occur. Gobbling pickets is allowed but should be limited to those individuals who do not exercise proper tactical awareness and picket procedures. The Federal garrisons will be considered sanctuary for Federal forces, i.e. they have sufficient artillery and forces to preclude an attack by Confederate forces. As each garrison has been re-supplied a black streamer will be attached to each flag.

Judging: Each side will have (as a minimum) one judge with the infantry. The decision of the judges is **final**. Judges are there to evaluate the effectiveness of the tactics employed, act as secondary safety observers, and facilitate (when required) the smooth flow of the scenario. The judges will not interfere with the command and control of troops and their calculations shall in no way impede the action of the scenario. The men should not be aware of any required communication between opposing commanders. Judges will be unarmed and dressed in appropriate attire. If possible a unique piece of clothing will be worn to more readily identify the judges.

Casualties/Prisoners: Overall a responsibility for taking casualties rests with the respective commanders and is assisted by input from the judges. Everyone realizes that to do it right means that you must take casualties. Casualties are not defined as wounded or KIA. Casualties exist only till the end of any given engagement. They must fall back at least 100 yards behind their lines (or lay dead in the field - their choice) and then be re-united / resurrected after the disengagement of the forces. Infantry prisoners taken will be paroled in an expeditious manner to allow them to rejoin their unit. Mounted forces captured will be paroled but must remain at the point of capture for 30 minutes or till their captors have moved beyond visual range, whichever is greater. Pickets captured at night may be taken to your own line but then must be released to return to their own lines.

Tactical Evaluation: Judges will maintain radio contact. Judging will be based on coordinated unit fire using range estimation and the number of volleys. *Fire by file* will count as one volley. Judges will use numbers, accuracy of range estimation, chance die, and concealment to evaluate and pass firing effectiveness. Although a smaller force may deal a staggering blow to an attacker, they must eventually leave the field to the superior force. Judges will primarily be concerned with four things: 1. # Of men firing; 2. All men at the ready before the command to aim/fire again is given or I will disregard that firing for casualty assessment; 3. Ranges given to the men before firing; 4. Concealment, or the lack thereof, of the target taking fire.

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