
The UNION STANDARD

January 2004

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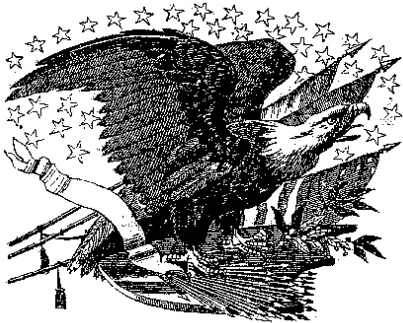
The Newsletter of the 1st United States Infantry, The Regulars

Dispatch from the Board

Another year is ahead of us. I trust and pray that you all had a joyous holiday season. For myself, I spent several weeks in the woods of New Hampshire on extended recruiting duty. Actually that duty has taken a back seat to spending time with the family and my wife who got three weeks leave from the mid east.

Our January drill is at Veterans Park in Arlington on the 17th (See Page 5 for directions).

After shaking the rust out with school of the soldier and company we will spend about an hour in our annual meeting. Primary purpose of this meeting is to vote on our schedule for the coming year. If there is an event or activity that you've wanted to do, now is the time to bring it up. If you can't make the drill get your input to any board member and we will make sure it's discussed. There are three events that are already on the schedule that I think are particularly good.



On the last weekend in February we will attend the 1st Battalion Muster at Fort Washita. This old Indian Territory Fort is off Hwy 75 less than an hour north of Dallas.

Beds, boxes, and benches as well as lanterns and the kitchen sink (period please) are the order of the day. NCOs and above bring tentage as the two upstairs barracks rooms are reserved for the men. Meals are taken in the "dining room" as the ladies will be providing the victuals for the weekend. The bi-annual Battalion Muster has always been a popular event. The opportunity to train *as a battalion* for the weekend is what enables the 1st Battalion to perform as the veterans of old. Executing maneuvers that dazzle and confuse our opponents who more often than not significantly outnumber us.

The Cross Timbers event (just outside of Gainesville) is in mid April. This is *our* event as we are one of the military sponsors. What this means is that in exchange for a little sweat equity we set the scenarios and objectives. This event will be different! Bob Fuhrmann and Ed Zelinski have planned an event that really does look out for the re-enactors. There is one spectator battle on Saturday. After that we are on our own till Sunday noon. How much of a success the event is, is up to us!

This year's national level event is Franklin Tennessee on 1-3 October. This is a First Federal Division event. This is the place to be if you want to see thousands of soldiers take the field. While most events offer us the opportunity to experience the life of a soldier during the Civil War it is only at a national level event where you have the opportunity to truly experience large-scale battles. Any of the old heads can tell you how good Franklin was 5 years ago. I had one particular "magic moment" that to me makes re-enacting. It was the last day. We were at the tail end of the column, marching along a country road that was actually traversed by the Federal forces. We came out of the woods and up a hill. There before us was the entire Federal army already attacking the entrenched Confederate line. Brigade after brigade of union troops, flags flying, lines dressed, advancing against the enemy. Surely a sight to strike fear into the heart of even the most die-hard Confederate.

The rest of the year will be filled out with a mix of local events and drills – whatever you guys want. So bring your ideas to the January drill. I would hope that we could field two full companies at the muster and Cross Timbers. With a little pre-planning there should be enough of us to make a good showing at Franklin. The ability to field two companies is up to you.

I remain your obedient servant,
D. Gross

DRILL – January 17th at Veterans Park in Arlington

1st U.S. Calendar

2004

JANUARY 2004

17th Drill, Arlington Veterans Park

FEBRUARY

27th, 28th Battalion Muster, Ft. Washita OK

MARCH

6th& 7th *Annual North Texas Irish Festival at Dallas Fair Park*

19th-21st *Beaumont Ranch – Grandview Texas*

APRIL

17th, 18th Cross Timbers – Gainsville Texas

MAY

21st-23rd *Bellmeade – Waco Texas*

AUGUST

(tbd) Annual Live Fire

OCTOBER

1-3 Franklin Tn, 1st Federal Division NATIONAL EVENT

Note: Italicized dates have not been voted on yet by the membership, but are events that we have attended in the past which occur during these months.

Recruiting Post

by George Hansen

While most were in NW Arkansas fighting the Secesh, a few Rackensackers recruited at the Great Western Show November 7, 8 & 9. Principally organized and led by our most gifted senior member, Glen Hargis performed setup on Friday, which was an outstanding display. He propped a half-shelter like a lean to tent on a table and centered a 24x36, 1988 Gettysburg reenactment photo that showed a much younger Hargii and a Mr. Rick Brockman. Many spectators stopped just to view this marvelous picture. Also helping that weekend were Ed Prejean, Beck Martin and myself.

The upcoming spring recruiting events are the Irish Festival and the Beaumont Ranch & Gainesville reenactments. Please contact me if you wish to help, or just wait for my notices. These are prime 2004 opportunities and the more folks around the recruiting table the better.

Speaking of which, John Bowen made a marvelous recruiting box/table. Measuring 22x28 the lid can be removed allowing inner hinged boards to swing out as the lid is replaced thus offering a nice tabletop with plenty of inside storage space. Even neater are legs that fold out from underneath. Also, a large-size, painted eagle is carved on the top plus "1st US" on the side. It's a beauty and will be on display at the January drill. "John, you out did yourself. Many thanks."

Contact Regt. Sgt. Maj. Mike Beard if you'd like to try your hand as a mentor. Our new recruits need support and guidance as they seek to establish a foothold into the hobby. Even if you recently acquired your company letter, your expertise is needed. Mike can be reached at dotmike@sbcglobal.net, or (817) 446-7935.

CandleLight

Their Goose weren't cooked!

Candle Light at OCP went pretty well (all things considered). We allowed ourselves to be discovered by a good many of the citizens of Dallas, and we, in turn discovered some things our own selves.

We discovered that there's a recipe for the absolutely best oatmeal cookies in the entire world. This was voted on by at least 4 of us. Anyone interested in seeing if they can duplicate this feat should contact Christy Doughtie as she managed to get said recipe from the kindly lady in the Miller log cabin. If your cookies don't taste like the best in the world, doubtlessly it's because of some error *you* will make in the process. That doesn't diminish the fact that the ones *we* had *WERE* the best in the world.

We discovered you better have a good solid bed of hot coals down (hard wood mind you) if you're gonna cook your goose.

We discovered you should never listen to random passer's-by who *claim* your goose is cooked (it weren't...). We discovered that goose cooking over a fire is damn near one of them perpetual motion machines – fire heats goose, melting fat falls from goose onto fire, fire heats goose &c....

We discovered kitchen help is a great thing, but you really need to supervise them, or in true Army fashion, they will combine all ingredients into one pot for simultaneous cooking. We also discovered in the case of the “apple chutney” this was a good thing despite the hopping up and down attitude of the French-chef-impersonating Irish cook. We discovered new vegetables for the men to have, and discovered new ways of cooking some ones we already know of. (Look for turnips to appear and for sweet potatoes to make a comeback diced and fried. And McFuddy intends to corner the Kale market.)

In attendance at what turned out to be a feast of turkey soup (made beforehand as a fall back position) and vegetables were – Greg Fett, John Bowen, Kevin & Christine Doughtie, Blair Rudy, William Ray, Glen Hargis & lovely family, Bill Hathcoat, Beck Martin, Scott Fullerton and his charming daughter, and Alloysius McFuddy of course.

Time traveling Ed Prejean came, but he was dressed in what he claimed was an outfit the Army would wear *IF* they fought a war with the Spanish sometime in the future. He was toutin a funny looking fire-iron too. We had to trust his claim it would actually work without killing the man shooting it.

. As for cooking our goose....it was a noble ambition that I doubt we will revisit, but it was probably worth it just for the entertainment value and onlooker interest. (*what he's trying not to say was the 'cooked' bird was served almost raw, then hideously dismembered by knife wielding bumblers, then fried to a Cajun black crisp and rendered inedible. It would have done with a Christian burial, but they further murdered it by cremating it to dispose of all evidence – Mcfuddy*)

Report on the Camp Ford Shanty

(Or “You wouldn't keep a dog in here!”)

12 of us assembled at Camp Ford in Tyler Texas on December 6th to build a “hut” for the officers. The hut we were to build was really a half hut dug into the slope of a small hillside (okay, a small embankment). The front was to be stacked logs, and the roof was to be logs, branches, dirt, pretty much whatever we could lay hand on that might shed some water.

Anyone who hasn't had an opportunity to swing a pick, axe or mattock, or wield a shovel or hand saw really did miss out on a chance. I've never worked in a “gang” on this sort of detail in a confined space, but for a collection of fellers who don't do that for a living, I think we got organized and reasonably effective fairly quickly. Course there were moments when I wondered which of us was going to become Moe or Larry and have a pick get tangled up in our braces, but we, rather admirably, avoided that. First hand discoveries are always more entertaining than having them related to you, then again, some things are better to hear about than to have to endure yourself. Am I beginning to convey the idea here? **THIS IS HARD WORK**, in case you haven't had the occasion to dig down about 5 feet into the side of a clay/dirt fill hill and out about 9-10 feet with hand tools only. It gave me a new opinion of burial details.

We scrounged around for old logs to stack up once we had the dirt mostly moved from the place. Someone had run a test ditch (with a steam shovel) up behind the spot we were to dig, and several of us recognized that the hut in wet weather would be supplied with hot and cold running water (it would be cold in the winter, and hot in the summer) as a result (And the roof! Hell, it has a built in shower if the weather conditions are right....)

There's not much to Camp Ford, but it has potential. A previous group of individuals, also working on Government Service (convicts...), had been used to erect a nicer log cabin over a ways, and ours was a poor second once we were done. We tried using branches, and pine straw, and dirt, and shingles and anything else we could find on the roof, but the pitch was a bit

steep and without being able to nail things down it's pretty sure it will run off in the first good rain. Still, it wasn't bad for a first attempt, and we got more of it up than I thought we would by the end of the afternoon. It could use some MORE work though. In particular the roof could be redone. If that were managed, it would start being at least a place out of the elements.

We used a unique building material that I haven't used since I was a kid – twine...yeah, we used string to hold some things together. Well... we didn't have bailing wire!

John Bowen and Don Gates (and others, I was busy wrecking the roof, so I wasn't paying strict attention to all those involved in making the "cat" for the fireplace) are now experts in using wood and mud to make a fireplace that won't (we hope) catch fire when you start a fire IN it. They took it up as high as we had wood for, but it will need an extension to draft properly.

Don Gross revealed a fun side that I haven't experienced before when he wiped one of his mud/concrete hands on my shirt. It was entertaining and no doubt well deserved considering all the horse crap I was giving him (and still am) about our roof.

Don Gates served up a nice vegetable soup lunch, that had just the right amount of zing to it. Blair Rudy and Scott Harris managed, somehow, to look CLEAN throughout the day, while John Bowen was dirtier than I've ever seen him, and dirtier than anyone else on the site.

The hearty souls who attended were Kevin Doughtie(with his darby), Don Gross, Don Gates, Scott Harris(what a trooper too! New guy and very welcome!!!!), Glen Hargis, "Dirty John" Bowen, Bill Hathcoat, Mike Beard, Greg Fett, Blair Rudy, McFuddy (complete with hat) and our own long lost Jim Gigliotti!

It was really great to see Jim, and he looked really good.

As for our construction effort...well, it's on State Property now, and if we were contractors, I'm sure there'd be an investigation. Still, if you're down Tyler way, swing up towards the camp and take a look at it. It was, after all, for the officers. My feeling is now with the experience we have, we can build a better quarters for the NCO's, and finally when we're

top of the line experts, we can put up good quarters for the enlisted men!

Sgt Prendergast

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Annual Return of the First Regiment of Infantry

By Don Gross

Commanded by Major Samuel P. Heintzelman, 1st Infy during the year 1859

[Ed Note: The below is verbatim transcription of the remarks section of the Annual Return and details all movements of the 1st Infantry]

Regimt. Headquarters transferred from Fort Duncan to Camp Verde Texas, June 11th 1859.

Regimt. Commander, "Major S.P. Heintzelman and Acting Adjutant C.H. Thomas left Camp Verde Texas Nov 13, 59 to take command of troops ordered to operate against a band of Mexican Marauders who were committing serious outrages in the vicinity of Brownsville, Texas.

Co "A" left Fort Duncan Tezas, June 11, 59 and took post at Camp Verde Texas, June 18, 59. Lsft Camp Verde en route for Brownsville Texas Nov 14, 59. Arrived at San Antonio Tex. Nov 16, 59. Returned to Camp Verde Tex. Nov 24, 59. Left Camp Verde Tex. Dec 18th enroute to Brownsville, Tex. Returned to Camp Verde Texas Dec. 31, 59.

Co "B" left Fort Clark Texas March 20, 59. Arrive + took post at Infy Camp near Comanche Agency Tex April 13, 59. Left Infy Camp to re-enforce the troops charged with the protection on the Indians at Brazos Agency, Texas May 18, 59. Left Brazos Agency Texas June 16,59. Arrived at Camp Cooper June 18, 59. Left Camp Cooper July 29, 59 as escort with Indians to the Wichita Agency. Returned to Camp Cooper Aug. 31, 59. Left Camp Cooper Sapt 16, 59. Arrived + took post at Fort Cobb ...?...?....Oct 25, 59.

Co "C" left Fort McKavett Tex. March 22, 59 arrived at Brazos Agency Texas Apr. 5, 59. Left Brazos Agency escorting Indians to the Wichita

Agency Texas, Aug. 1, 59. Returned to Camp Cooper Aug. 31, 59. Left Camp Cooper Sept 16, 59 arrived + took post at Fort Cobb {W C ?} October 25, 59.

Co “D” left Fort McIntosh, Texas, March 3, 59. Arrived at Camp Hudson March 17, 59. Left Camp Hudson April 12, 59. Arrived at Camp Vasn Camtr (?) Texas, May 7, 59. Left Camp Van Camfr Aug. 27, 59 enroute to Camp Hudson. Left Camp Hudson Sept. 16, 59 arrived and took post at Fort Cobb W C Nov 3, 59.

Co “E” A detachment of one Lance Corporal + 10 privates under command of Lieut. Powell 1 Infantry operating with a detachment of 1st Cavalry successfully engaged a band of Comanche Indians Feb 23, 59 35 miles west of Fort Arbuckle {C M ?}

Co “F” left Fort McKavett Texas March 22, 59. Arrived + took post at Camp Radiminski (?) C. N. (?) Apr. 18, 59. Left Camp Radiminski June 1, 59, arrived and took post at Brazos Agency, Tex. June 4, 59. Left Brazos Agency July 13, 59 arrived at Camp Raqdiminski July 18, 59. Left Camp Radiminski C W Dec 6th arrived + took post at Fort Cobb W C December 9th 1859.

Co “H” left Fort Lancaster Tex. April 12, 59. Arrived + took post at Camp Stockton, Tex. April 16, 59.

Co “I” left Camp Verde Texas Feb. 21, 59 arrived at camp near Comanche Agency Texas, March 9, 59. Left camp near Comanche Agency June 18, 59 assigned + took post at San Antonio Barracks, Tex July 2, 59. Left San Antonio enroute to Fort Brown Texas, Nov. 14, 59. Received orders at Fort Merrill (?) to return to its station. Arrived at San Antonio Barracks Nov 28, 59.

*Headquarters First Regiment of Infantry
Fort Chadbourne Texas
July 6th 1860
Gouverneur Morris
LtCol 1st Infantry
Commanding the Regiment*

DRILL Directions

From the North/East (Dallas and North) – Get on I-30 West out of Dallas, proceed west to Arlington and exit at EASTCHASE PKWY (Exit #24). Take a left onto EASTCHASE and follow for @4.2 miles (The road’s name will change from Eastchase to Dottie Lynn to Green Oaks as you head south) Take a left onto Arkansas Lane. (see below)

From the South/East (Dallas and South) Get on I-20 West out of Dallas. Exit at Green Oaks Blvd. Go North (Right) on Green Oaks for @2.3 miles. Turn Right onto Arkansas Lane. (see below).

From the North/West (Ft Worth and North) – Get on I-30 East out of Ft. Worth, proceed east to Arlington and exit at EASTCHASE PKWY. Take a right onto EASTCHASE and follow for @4.2 miles. (The road’s name will change from Eastchase to Dottie Lynn to Green Oaks as you head south). Take a left onto Arkansas lane (see below).

From the South/West (Fort Worth and South) – Follow I-20 East until you get to Green Oaks Blvd Exit. Exit at Green Oaks and go North (Left) on Green Oaks @2.3 miles. Take a right onto Arkansas lane (see below)

ON ARKANSAS LANE – Follow east for 1.7 miles until you get to Spanish Trail. Take a right at Spanish Trail. The park entrance will be on your right.

*******Election year!*******

Okay, it's NOT an election year, but it is an important year for those who are considering (or even those who up until THIS instant haven't considered) a run for "office" in the 1st. Unlike the national elections (let's see, there are how many candidates running in the Democratic Party? Three? - John C. Breckinridge, Stephen R. Douglas, and John Bell., and one Republican – Abraham Lincoln) there isn't a primary for our elections. Our "campaign" season really IS our campaign season, or the previous two seasons, depending on what office you're considering.

Since we hold elections early in every 3rd year, usually at a muster event, your participation at events over the previous two years will qualify you for candidacy, in addition to your command experience. With that in mind, I'm including the table for Rank Standards in the 1st U.S. in this newsletter. In case you wondered how SOME people got to be where they are (*he could only be talking about himself...McFuddy*) in the company, these are the qualifications:

	Minimum Time In Service	Previous 2 Years' Participation	Prerequisite Knowledge	Additional Duty Knowledge	Additional Expectations
Recruit	None	None	None	None	Participation and learning for advancement to Private.
Pvt	3 months as Recruit	4 Drills plus 1 Area event plus 1 Regional or National event	Manual of Arms Facings Firing	School of the Soldier	Participation at 50% of scheduled events.
Cpl	6 months as Private	5 Drills plus 3 Area events plus 1 Regional or National event	School of the Soldier	Lead fatigue details, fill in for Sergeants as needed. Guard Mount	Squad telephone contact and board member. Participation at 60% of scheduled events.
3rd & 4th Sgt	6 months as Corporal or 3 years as Private	Participation at 70% of scheduled events	NCO School or 1 year as Corporal	School of the Company Guard Mount Lead School of the Soldier drill	Platoon telephone contact and board member. Participation at 70% of scheduled events.
1st & 2nd Sgt	6 months as Sergeant or 2 years as Corporal or 5 years as Private	Participation at 75% of scheduled events	School of the Company or 2 years as Sergeant	Lead Company drill Take command in the field as needed	Company telephone contact and board member. Disseminate company information, supervise junior NCO's, keep company records. Participation at 75% of scheduled events.
Junior Officer (1st Lt)	4 years as NCO	Participation at 80% of scheduled events	2 years as 1 st or 2 nd Sergeant	Company command School of the Battalion	Company telephone contact and board member. Represent and command regiment as required. Participation at 80% of scheduled events.
Senior Officer (Cpt)	2 years as Junior Officer	Participation at 80% of scheduled events	Complete knowledge of Regimental and Battalion functions	Regimental command	Regimental telephone contact and board member. Represent regiment at higher organizational levels. Participation at 80% of scheduled events.
Board Member "At Large"	1 year as Private or Civilian				Attend board meetings and perform duties as assigned.

Hospital Conditions and Care for the Wounded (Completion)

Less deadly than pyemia, but perhaps more distressing to both victims and onlookers because of their hideous outward manifestations, were tetanus, and hospital gangrene. Tetanus, or lockjaw, is caused by the bacillus tetani, found frequently in the very soil the soldiers fought over. It was easily spread by horse manure (horses being a popular host of the germ), and the largest single outbreak of the disease during the war came after the Battle of Antietam, when many of the Union wounded were treated at a field hospital located in a stable that was ankle deep in manure. Once securing a foothold in a deep puncture wound-the bacillus cannot survive in the open air- tetanus releases a variety of toxins that grotesquely affect the central nervous system, causing the familiar fixed smile and frozen jaws of the terminal victim. There was no effective treatment at the time, and the mortality rate was a fearsome 89 percent. Doctors tried large doses of brandy and opium, administered through stomach tubes or enemas, but without noticeable effect. "To enumerate the means used for the relief of tetanus would require a volume," a surgical manual explained, "but to record those entitled to confidence does not demand a line." Few who saw a tetanus victim thrashing his life away on a hospital cot, held down by half a dozen straining attendants, ever forgot the hideous sight.

Hospital gangrene, now mercifully extinct, was even more terrible to behold. The infection typically began with a small black spot the size of a dime appearing on the surface of the wound. Within a few days' time, the spot would grow into a rotten-smelling mass of decayed tissue, gray, blue, green, or black in color. Because its characteristic odor and repulsive appearance were upsetting to fellow patients, doctors, and staff, gangrene cases were sometimes kept in isolation wards or separate hospitals, such as the Confederate's Empire Hospital in Macon, Georgia. Treatment included surgically

removing the dead tissue or burning it off with corrosive chemicals such as nitric acid, chlorine, or bromine. Charcoal, yeast, turpentine, and carrot poultices were also frequently applied to the wounds, with predictably low rates of success.

Understandably, if wrongly, confusing the cause of the disease with its most noticeable symptom, doctors attributed hospital gangrene to the catchall culprit "sewer effluvia." Pails of bromine were scattered about the wards to combat the smell, although one Confederate surgeon actually opposed the practice on the grounds that it was "like removing the beacon that warns the watchful mariner of the certain death that lurks beneath the surface." Patients trapped in nearby beds no doubt disputed that nautical reasoning. (Pp.90-98)

Whitman was far from the only visitor in the hospitals. Indeed, one signal characteristic of Civil War-era hospitals was the easy access that the general public had to the men. This access was not always an unalloyed blessing, as one disgusted Indiana soldier recalled later, remembering the "broken-down, short-winded, long-faced, seedy preachers of all denominations" who prayed regularly over the men "without having smiled on a single soldier or dropped a word of comfort or cheer," and the "batch of sightseers, do-nothings, idlers, time-killers, fops, and butterflies [who] skip through the hospital, and the summer shadows, leave no trace behind." (pp. 107-8)

In light of such unorthodox views, it was inevitable that Whitman would soon part ways with the Christian Commission, although he continued to hold its members in high regard for their selfless (and unpaid) devotion to duty. He had considerably less use for the salaried members of the United States Sanitary Commission, a quasi-military organization whose cool, clinical approach to aiding the soldiers was summed up by one female volunteer who recommended that hospital nurses "put away all feelings. Do all you can and be a

machine-that's the way to act; the only way." (p. 110)

In April 1863 the Army came up with a new organization, the Invalid Corps, to help the hard-pressed hospital administrators. In theory the Invalid Corps was to be a "Corps of Honor" comprised of "meritorious and deserving" individuals whose physical handicaps precluded them from returning to the battlefield. In practice, however, its ranks filled with a volatile combination of unwilling soldiers who wanted to get back to the front, unhealthy soldiers who wanted to get home, and unvalorous soldiers who wanted to get out of active duty. To a man, the members of the Invalid Corps loathed their new, eye-catching sky-blue uniforms and Corps insignia-"I.C.-which unfortunately duplicated the governmental stamp on broken-down horses and inferior material: "Inspected and Condemned." In time the name was changed to the more dignified Veteran Reserve Corps, but the quality of care it provided to those confined to the hospitals remained conspicuously poor and grudging. (pp. 113-4)

In the aftermath of Chancellorsville, Whitman suffered a temporary crisis of faith. One evening he went down to the Sixth Street Wharf to see the arriving flood of wounded, and was profoundly disheartened by what he saw. "The men in charge of them told me the bad cases were yet to come," he wrote. "If that is so I pity them, for these are bad enough. You ought to see the scene of the wounded arriving at the landing here....Two boat loads came up at about half-past seven last night. A little after eight it rain'd a long and violent shower. The poor, pale, helpless soldiers had been debark'd, and lay around on the wharf and neighborhood anywhere. The rain was, probably, grateful to them; at any rate they were exposed to it...All around-on the wharf, on the ground, out on side places-the men are lying on blankets, old quilts, &c., with bloody rags bound round heads, arms, legs....The men generally make little or no ado, whatever their sufferings. A few groans that cannot be suppress'd, and occasionally a scream of pain as they lift a man into the ambulance." The wounded were arriving at the rate of nearly one thousand per day. (Pp. 117-8)

That Body of Brave Men The U.S. Regular Infantry and The Civil War in The West

This book chronicles the role of the regular army in the western theater during the Civil War concentrating on four of the "new" army regiments, the 15th, 16th, 18th, and 19th U.S. Infantry Regiments. Its companion book on the role of the regulars in the east, *Sykes Regulars*, is currently out of print.

The role of the 18th Regiment accounts for a majority of the book. This is in part due to the size of the 18th. More than 4,700 men passed through the regiment during the war. Easily making it the largest regular regiment in the army. The large size was primarily due to its colonel, Henry B. Carrington who was the adjutant general of Ohio before the war. His forte was in recruiting and organizing and thus was able to obtain an adequate number of troops while the other regiments were struggling against higher bounties paid by volunteer units and the shorter terms of service, three versus five years.

For those of you looking for lots accounts of the 1st this is not the book for you. While several former officers of the 1st are talked about in the book there is very little information about the unit we portray. Of course there is some mention of the 1st in the prologue which covers the evacuation of the Texas frontier in 1861.

The book is well written and is an easy read, moving along quickly. Maybe that was because of the subject matter. I particularly found it interesting for the vignettes (mostly through letters and reports) of the life of a regular. Because the record of the regulars is generally poorly documented these little pictures of the soldiers are particularly illuminating in the hobby we all persue.

In addition to the difficulties in raising regiments for regular service, once companies were formed it often proved difficult to get them into the field with the regiment. Department

commanders often kept troops far from the front. There were even a few companies from the 16th Infantry sent east to the Army of the Potomac. When they were finally employed they were often used as emergency reserve – thrown in to save the day, at great cost to themselves.

Things weren't all hard campaigning – especially in 1862. During the Kentucky campaign Capt Knight of the 18th Infantry gave this account of preparation for the march.

Each company was furnished with one wagon and six mules with which we carried our tents, consisting of five Sibley, ten wall and one common or wedge tent, officers baggage and mess chest, ten days rations for the company and all the mess pans, cooking apparatus, etc and the soldiers knapsacks as well as ten days forage for the mules. It required close packing to get it all on and then it was a very heavy load.

Much has been made of the regulars' use of frock coats and scales. There is one account of a company that "lost" their scales in December 1862. The company in question was A/18/3 (company A, 18th Infantry, 3rd battalion) commanded by Lieutenant Anson Miles (later BGen). The company had spent the last three weeks being alerted to march off after confederate raiders. They were alerted late one Saturday night to be prepared to move with four days rations in two hours. Each company was allocated one wagon. They could not fit all the company gear into the wagon and casting about for what to leave behind Miles spotted the large heavy chest holding the men's scales. Now everyone knew that the scales were a useless piece of equipment in the field - heavy, something else to account for and just one more piece of brass to polish. No one had the courage to abandon such a part of the regular army but Miles had the 1st Sgt throw the box in the nearest

latrine. As fate would have it the orders to move were cancelled. Come Sunday morning, the battalion fell in for inspection. Frock coats and shoulder scales was the enlisted uniform and A/18/3 was conspicuous without their scales. When Col Caldwell trooped the line, he inquired of Miles where the men's scales were. Miles replied that they were abandoned for want of transport. Miles was reported for this and ordered to requisition for more. This he never did and from that time onward he was upbraided at each formation for lack of scales. What is particularly interesting is that this incident leads one to believe that as late as early 1863 the regulars were carrying their scales and frock coats around with them and if nothing else were using them on Sunday inspections.

Newsletter Costs

Members who receive the newsletter by mail can help the First US save money by requesting a newsletter copy only by e-mail. The postage and printing costs will help the treasury pay for a needed national flag and other items essential to our impression. Should you wish to contribute to this goal contact G. Hansen at beast1st@comcast.net.

.....
Newsletter contributions - E-Mail/Mailing submissions to **The Union Standard** – d1stus@gte.net or C/O Alan Prendergast, 1403 Barclay Drive, Carrollton Texas, 75007
(Okay!!!! we'll take submissions in any danged font, just write something once in a while!)

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, jbowl1stus@comcast.net or (972) 539-6167.

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