
The UNION STANDARD

June 2004

Vol. 12, no 6

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

Dispatch from the Board

Well we're half way through the year now. Behind us are the Live Fire, Bellmead, Cross Timbers, Beaumont, Battalion Muster, and a drill. In addition we've had a cartridge rolling party, and a workday for Gainesville/bullet making. Ahead of us lie Franklin, Prairie Grove, and at least one drill. There are two activities that we are looking at that we could use some input on. The first is having some type of indoor training session later this summer; sort of a cross between a NCO school and school of the soldier. All from a class room perspective. We're looking for a suitable indoor venue. I don't think anyone wants to do an outdoor activity in August. The second is the social activity. Brad Walsh has the lead on this. Originally we thought to do something late in the year but we've received some feedback that things get busy after Thanksgiving. Maybe a social get together with the families in August would fit the bill.

For those who couldn't make it to Fort Chadbourne this month you missed a fine time. In addition to the competition for the cup, we ran a tactical skirmish line over about 700 yards. Starting from the outskirts of the fort proper, we worked our way down a short slope, through the mesquite. All the while keeping a sharp lookout for enemy skirmishers. Keeping track of our own line in the brush was difficult. An interesting phenomon occurred. The line kept drifting to the right and our heading had to be consistantly corrected. I think this was caused by the tendency of each man to naturally

go around an obstical to the right. After about 300 yards enemy skirmishers (hidden behind logs and trees) began to come into view. Hitting random targets at 100 - 150 yards through the trees was a lot more difficult than on the competition range. After dispatching five of the seven enemy, we continued to advance till we came in sight of the main enemy formation drawn up in a company line of battle. Several volleys were given with little result. Finally we loaded one last time, charged bayonett and advanced – stopping only to deliver a final volley at 50 yards before rushing in to deliver the cold hard steel. I was a bit disappointed that we didn't have more of you guys there. But on the other hand it was difficult enough safely managing ten guys with loaded muskets advancing and firing in the underbrush.

For those who have still not noticed it you need to check out our new website. Ron Myers is the point of contact for the site. He and Melissa Gilbert did an outstanding job building the site. Ron also serves as moderator for the message board. The purpose of the board is to allow free flow of ideas (or comments good or bad). It's a moderated forum just to keep things civil. It is a work in progress. If you have any suggestions of things that can be added, or pages that need correction, let Ron know.

In an effort to improve the communication flow we will be sending out informational e-mails twice a month. This is in addition to our monthly newsletter. Look for them.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



1st U.S. Calendar

2004

JULY

4th Old City Park – Annual
McFuddy Lamb Roast &
Lay-about festival! (Bedad, ‘tis
the 4th of Ju-ly too!)

SEPTEMBER

TBD Drill

OCTOBER

1st- 3rd **Franklin TN, 1st Federal Division
NATIONAL EVENT**

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

FRANKLIN UPDATE

by Conway Barton

Guys, we have had a wonderful response to the Franklin National reenactment in October. Currently 37 members of the First US have indicated they are attending the event in some capacity. We will have men serving on division, brigade, and battalion staffs, the Henry company, and battalion color guard as well as our own infantry company. So far no truth to the rumor that we will also be selling tickets and parking cars!

Several of our members are still hopeful they can confirm for this event at a later date. They will give us an excellent chance to have over 40 members present! The event is expecting over 10,000 reenactors from all over the country. If you have never been to a national reenactment be prepared to see and do things you will never forget! More updates to follow in future newsletters, which will include car-pooling info.

“DISREGARD THE HENRY’S”

By McFuddy

The “boss” (meaning the editory feller ya see) has a deal of disdain for the Henry’s don’t ya know, and can always be heard grouching about the damned things except when they are pouring fire into the enemy at a tactical. T’isn’t the fault of the Henry rifle that our Confederate brethern hold it in disdain either. T’is’s their fundamental misunderstanding of the weapon’s capability. This same misunderstanding allows them to mass in comfort when well inside canister range of a 2 gun battery of 12 lb Napoleons.

The quote for the article here came from a grey clad officer of a Reb unit several years ago at Weatherford as his unit was being enfiladed by a ‘mere’ 5 men carrying Henry rifles. This Irish lout is here to tell you that he watched Mr. Kip Basset (formerly a River Boat Pilot, or so he claims, what with his shooting ability I think t’is a might more likely he was a River Boat Gambler. And don’t I know he’s a good man what won’t hardly let a solid cuss pass over his tongue, but I think t’is a front ya see to make up for all the wicked ways he had on them River Boats...) pour a tube of ammo faultlessly into a target at 100 yards. I can never keep count of how many rounds a Henry will tote there in that underslung belly of an ammo box it carries below the barrel, but suffice to say it’s a many. 5 rifles in the hands of fellers such as Kip may not cause as quick a devastation as a 12 lb gun, but by thunder it’ll be just as bloody. Any man who thinks he can ‘disregard the Henry’s’ is likely to be sleepin the sleep from which there is no waking shortly after he makessuch a foolish statement.

Cup challenge – Live Fire, Fort Chadbourne

Eight men participated in the live fire competition at Fort Chadbourne earlier this month. The competition consisted of a Four Minute drill at 50 yards against a silhouette

target with 10 points awarded for a head or heart shot and one point for any other hit. Standard loading procedures were used. The 100 yard event was against a scored bull's-eye with five rounds from any period position. The final event was at 200 yards, five shots at a silhouette and 20 points per hit.

Prior to the competition rifles were "sighted" and the troops had ample opportunity to warm up. Unlike past live fires there was no range per se. We worked in a 350 yard open area of somewhat rolling terrain. There were two low berms established at 50 and 100 yards. With such open terrain the wind would play a factor in the longer ranges. To aid in loading, the bullets were cast slightly smaller this year. While this certainly fixed the past difficulties of ramming, there were a fair number of "tumblers", few of which managed to hit the (any) target. (Note: It has not been scientifically determined whether the ballistics are that far off for a "tumbler" or the shooter just couldn't aim.)

Four Minute drill:

Number of shots:

7 – Hansen, Prendergast, Martin

8 – Myers

Score:

40 – Schultz, Andrew

60 – Prendergast

65 – Martin

100 yard event:

17 – Martin

18 – Gristina

23 – Durant

200 yard event:

20 – Gristina

20 – Hansen (and didn't the judge give it to himself, but didn't the Captain claim he didn't hear it! And here was poor George, not a red cent to his name to help change the captain's mind about it...So, credit where do says I!....McF)

Overall Results:

68 points – Alan Prendergast

63 points – Mike Gristina (new guy, first drill)

82 points – Beck Martin

A good job by all participants and congratulations Beck. The cup has already been engraved with your name and will be presented to you at the next drill.

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DISPATCH (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The first one went out last week reminding folks about registration for Franklin.

Speaking of which the registration cost jumps from \$10.00 to \$15.00 after June 30th.

Save yourself \$5.00 and get your registration in today. They're trying something different this time and everyone has to register individually. You can do it directly over the net or print out forms and send them in the mail. As it stands right now the Brigade is planning on two Battalions at Franklin. We are looking into transportation options such as renting vans which worked out real nice for some of us for Perryville last year.

See you in the field.

Don Gross

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Letters to the Editor

To The Standard

Somethin' t' Remember When th' Balls iz Goin' Both Ways:

I enjoy'd Miz. Melissa's renderin' uv th' images frum Ft. Chadbourne. I 'member a strikin' one uv a feller kneelin' down, takin' aim over a pile o' dirt. Koodin't hep but think thet hiz form wuz fine fur shootin' paper, lumber, hash cans, rabbits an' th' like. But it sure cuts hiz chances fur retirin' t' th' ol' sojer's home if he trize thet when folks iz shootin' back.. Whin balls an' other hurtfull things iz flyin' yore way, it'd be best t' do yore shootin' frum th' right side uv an awbstruction an' down az low az yew kin git. Thetaway, onlyest a bit o' th rite side o' yore noggin an' yore hands iz 'sposed t' hostile fahr.

Th' gummimint spent a peck o' money fillin' yore haid wit all kind o' useful teachins. 'twud be a shame t' have alla thet blow'd out th' back o' yore skull by th' odd angry shot.

Deacon

The problem is the Armt didn't issue us a flat field to shoot from ya see! Here we were shootin at 'fellers' that was down in a cutting below us, and we weren't behind piles o' dirt what wuz on the military crest. We were a good 30 feet back from where a wise officer would have had us dig our hidey holes, and the result wuz we couldn't see nuthin if we got down low as we should have.

This led to all kinds of crazy positions using the dirt as a ramp for standin ON, rather than a place for hiding BEHIND of. It were a most uncomfortable position to try and hit the 'enemy' from and as I recollect, I didn't hit 'him' at all, except for the officer's steed, which I swear was a buffalo (actually bigger'n a buffalo, which is already a fine large target, but then maybe it weren't there...which may explain my score in the match...)

Editor

Response from the Deacon -

Problem iz, o' korse, thet most folks'll see th' image witout knowin' th' lay o' th' land. Mebby we all shud practice proppar peekin' round thangs an' likewise shootin' round 'em too. An' a 'nuthar thang ... Ya know, mebby at drill we shud go thru th' moshuns uv standin' in line o' battle on th' crest uv a hill an' firin' down t' marks at th' base. Be nice t' be able t' do it whilst NOT shootin' th' front rank fellers in thar ankles.

Deacon

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1st US, Co B – USAFA

By Don Gross

Just like the officers way back when, I recently found myself on detached duty in Colorado territory and found myself as an observer of the raising of a new company of Federal Infantry.

The genesis of this was Adam and his history professor, Maj. Stephen Bacon – both of whom happened to be reenactors.

The new unit, which will be an officially sanctioned academy club, has strong backing from the administration. Of course this means a bunch of paperwork but as an official club they are eligible for 50% funding from the Association of Graduates. They are planning on using this funding to purchase the muskets, accoutrements and maybe some tents with the individual cadets buying their own uniforms. [Now if we could only figure out funding like that].

Regulations require a club to have three faculty advisors and Maj. Bacon found two other faculty members with some reenacting experience to sign on. The advisors fill the role of company commander, adjutant and 1st Sgt. Adam as the only cadet with experience will start out as 2nd Sgt.

At the meeting there were uniforms, a variety of arms, and personal items for inspection. The hobby of reenacting was explained along with some historical information on army organization, drill, and the time period in general. I was impressed by the high level of interest of the cadets. Being military types they were most excited about getting muskets.

The administration has more or less dictated the unit be able to portray both Federal and Confederate impressions. The federal impression is the 1st US, Co B. For the confederate they use as the unit they portray the Cadet Corp of Jefferson Military College, Washington, Adams County, Mississippi. For you movie buffs check out “The Horse Soldiers” (John Wayne movie on Grierson’s Raid).

There were about 25 cadets who signed enlistment papers at the meeting. There are five women, three of which intend to have dual impressions – females and male soldiers. You couldn’t ask for a more enthusiastic bunch of recruits. [If only George could be so lucky]. The meeting concluded with a short drill session.

It did my heart good to see them pick up the facings so easily. Of course they neglected to do a left face at this time.

Starting a unit from scratch involves a lot of work setting up operating procedures and standards. Adam has taken it upon himself to put together guidelines for uniforms. The plan is to take advantage of the recent research into uniforms to make sure the guys get the most accurate, correct uniforms they can reasonable afford.

They plan to have their first overnight in September and there is some talk about trying to send a detachment to Franklin. I know a company that they would be very at home with.

New Document Found about 1st at Ft Chadbourne

The below document recently came to light providing further documentation on the 1st life on the frontier. Missing information is indicated by [].

Miles south of Fort Chadbourne, Texas 9th Jun 186[]

Sir,

On 5th June I had the opportunity to inspect the garrison at Fort Chadbourne. This post was not originally on my inspection tour but traveling within a few miles of its location I took the opportunity to visit. The detachment of 1st Infantry present at this time scarcely seems adequate for the duties imposed on the garrison. Under command of Cpt Gr[illegible] the post had but one sergeant, two corporals, and eight men present for duty. The majority of the company being away on detached duty.

The post is generally in poor conditions, many of the buildings having fallen down. There was one fine stone barracks, albeit without a floor, that provide sufficient protection for the men. The post commander has recently requested that sufficient boards be forwarded to his location to

floor the main barracks. If this is done soon the men will be warm and completely protected this winter. In my estimation, excessive labor has been expended on the single officer's quarters, as refined a set of rooms as could be found at the Willard Hotel in Washington.

The post books and ledg[er] were inspected and all found in order. The arms & equipment were in excellent serviceable order & the knapsacks, canteens, & haversacks good. The men were well dressed and for the most part clean. Rations were sufficient and being supplemented by local purchases. The men are well fed as the company cook is particularly diligent in his duties.

At the target, 6' x 22", 9 men, one round each, at 100 yds, made 3 hits or 33 percent; at 200 yds, 4 hits or 44 percent; at 300 yds, no hits. Thus it appears at the target practice these men are inferior to other posts I have visited. However, in speaking with the ordinance Sgt the balls used were slightly small[er] than the balls issued by the arsenal. This experiment was done to try to improve the fouling that occurs during heavy firing.

Capt. G[illegible] carried the men through skirmish drill which was well and quick[ly] executed. The men were advanced through several hundred yards and successfully engaged "enemy skirmishers" who were realistically hidden. All targets save one were thusly engaged. At the end company formation was established and several volleys were made against a massed target formation. The exercise concluded with a bayonet charge, the men dispatching their opponents with the cold steel. The men were much animated during this drill and the results were most impressive.

Although at a small remote post the moral of the men were high. Partly as a result, I deem, of the over liberal issuance of the allotted whiskey ration normally reserved for severe fatigue duty. Although energetic and hard working, the Capt commanding, in my estimation, is too lax in the discipline normally required of the men. Daily formations were too informal and the men

allowed out of barracks too far into the night. It must be observed however, that despite this lax attitude there were no reports of serious discipline problems. This no doubt was achieved by keep a tight and proper rein on the company 1st Sgt. a certain Sgt Pren[illegible]

All of which is respectively Submitted
Jos. K. Mansfield
Col. & Inspt. Genl.

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Franklin Update

For those who have a lot of time on their hands and can't resist following message boards check out

<http://www.nsalliance.org/forums/Bulletins/index.html>. This is the Franklin message board.

Lots of extraneous stuff but there is some relevant information every now and then.

The official web site is

<http://www.battleoffranklin.com/>. Go here to register and read about the historical battles.

Registration is up to individuals. You can register on line directly or down load a form to mail in. Use Don Gross as unit POC. [1626 S, Adams, FW, 76104, 817-560-7042 w]. Our unit affiliation is 3rd Brigade (Frontier). Cost goes to \$15.00 July 1st. When you register let Bowen know so we can keep track of numbers. If you're a Henry shooter include that information.

Later this summer we will be organizing van rentals for those who want to travel that way. Speaking from experience it's a cheap and efficient (time wise) way to get to a national event. The key is to match up travelers who can leave and return at the same time. I.e. depart on Thursday after work and return directly after Sunday's battle to be at work on Monday.

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A Blast from The Past Tidbits about the 1st Infantry

Major Movement of the Regiment

June 6, 1855--Special Orders No. 60 issued by order of Brevet Major General Smith, Head Quarters Department of Texas, Corpus Christi, June 6, 1855:

"11. . . . The commanding officer of the **1st Infantry** will make the details for the disposition of his regiment in the following manner viz: the **Head Quarters** and two companies to take post at **Fort McKavett**; two companies to take post at **Fort Chadbourne**; two companies to take post at **Fort Belknap**; two companies to take post at the camp **on the San Pedro** recently occupied by Captain Granger['s] company, on the El Paso road; and two companies to occupy **Fort Duncan**. The movement indicated will be made with the least possible delay after the arrival of the necessary transportation, and for that purpose ten wagons for the regimental Head Quarters, and the ten wagons for each company, will forthwith be sent to Fort Duncan by the Chief of the Quarter Master's Dept. for distribution by the regimental commander.

"11. . . . The six companies of the Second Dragoons occupying Forts McKavett, Chadbourne, and Belknap, will prepare to proceed to Fort Riley, Kansas Territory. They will be allowed transportation at the rate of ten wagons for the Head Quarters of the battalion and the Hospital Department, and ten for each company, for all purposes in addition to the wagons already in the possession of the companies. As soon as the companies are relieved [sic] at their respective posts by the arrival of the companies of the 1st Infantry as above ordered, they will avail themselves of the transportation brought by the latter, ten wagons to each, and will proceed as promptly as possible to concentrate at Fort Belknap, under the command of Major Steen 2nd Dragoons, who will immediately thereafter march them by the shortest practicable route to Fort Riley, and report to the authority under which the post belongs. The ten wagons used by the Head Quarters of the 1st Infantry will accompany the Dragoon companies from Fort McKavett, to make up the allowance above authorised [sic]. The whole transportation for the command will be

transferred permanently to its acting assistant Quarter master, with the proper transfer rolls of the teamsters. The provisions for the use of the consolidated command on its march, will at once be sent forward to Fort Belknap. The forage will be provided under the orders of the commanding officer, at such points on his route as he may be able to procure it. All artillery and artillery equipments in the possession of the companies, and all other property pertaining properly to the posts, will be turned over to the garrisons which are to occupy them." (RG92, NM-81, E-225, Box 411)

June 16, 1855--Letter from W. W. Chapman, Acting Chief A. Q. M., Dept. of Texas, Asst. Quartermaster's Office, Corpus Christi, Texas, to Major General T. S. Jesup, Quartermaster General, Washington, D.C.:

"I have the honor herewith to transmit for your information, copies of Dept. Orders Nos. 60 & 61, relative to the movement of the First Infantry and six companies of the Second Dragoons.

"In compliance with these orders, I furnished from this Depot 40 of the 70 wagons, and directed Major Belger at San Antonio to furnish 15, and Lieut. Williams at Indianola 15. They will all concentrate at Fort Duncan on the 3d of July, for the movement of the six companies of the First Infantry to Forts McKavett, Chadbourne and Belknap, via. San Antonio

The 1st Engages Hostiles

June 16, 1856--Letter from D. C. Buell, Assistant Adjutant General, Head Quarters Department of Texas, San Antonio, to Captain Seth Eastman, 1st Infantry, Commanding Fort Chadbourne:

"Your communication of the 7th instant, reporting the affair which resulted in the killing of seven Indians at your post by your command on that day has been brought to the notice of the Department Commander; and he has directed me to express to you his approval of your course in this matter.

"In this connection I am instructed to say, also, that all Indians in Texas that are not settled on the Reserves under the control and protection of the

Government, and even these if they are absent from the Reserves without the written permission of the Indian Agents, are to be regarded as hostiles; and are to be pursued and attacked wherever they can be found. From this rule are to be excepted the few Delawares and Shawnees that have found their way into the state, and whose good conduct is not questioned." (and you can tell the good Indians how? Oh yes, they have signs)

Conditions on the Frontier

September 28, 1857--Letter from D. E. Twiggs, Bvt. Major General, U.S.A., Comdg. Dept., Head Quarters, Department of Texas, San Antonio, to Lieut. Colonel L. Thomas, Asst. Adj. General, Hd. Qrs. of the Army, City of New York:

"At many of the posts on the Texas frontier, the troops are either under canvas or temporary sheds, that do not protect them from the severity of the 'northers' so prevalent in winter in Texas. They are making estimates for funds to patch and put up such temporary shelters as will best protect the men. I have asked that funds from the appropriation, already made for Texas, may be ordered, to build suitable quarters for the men and sheds for the public animals. If it is intended that buildings be erected for that purpose, it is useless to patch up the old sheds. One regiment (the 1st Infantry) has been for the last ten years on the Texas frontier, and in that time have not been in sheds or tents with a plank or wooden floor. The winter will soon be here and I respectfully ask for a decision in this matter." (and we grumble about campaigning it for a weekend)

The above was supplied courtesy of Garland Richards at Fort Chadbourne. All information is taken from the National Records.

Muster Pictures

The copies of the Ambrotype picture taken of the 1st US at muster are in. Actually they've been available for pick-up at the cartridge rolling and live fire. If you haven't picked up yours I'll bring them to the next drill. The united fronted

the \$5.00 coat for each print and we need to recoup.

The following individuals ordered prints (and I have a few extra): Schultz x2, Rudy x2, Foote x2, Walsh x2, Bowen, Brockman x2, Rudy, Rogers, Hargis, Thomas, Hansen x2, Myers x3, Bassett, Gates, Smith, Beard, Sanders x2, Benefiel x2, Gross x2. (Yes I know a few have been picked up already!)

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Newsletter contributions - 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 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, jbowen1stus@comcast.net or (972) 539-6167.

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