
The UNION STANDARD

March 2004

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

Dispatch from the Board **Dispatch from the Board**

There is something about being at an old fort that gives reenactors a special feeling of history; to me it's a feeling of somehow 'being home.' Being amidst the restored and ruined barracks and other artifacts lends itself to reflecting on the mostly dull and routine lives soldiers endured on the frontier. This is where they 'soldiered-on.' Even during the war, the majority of their life was spent doing the ordinary and mundane duties of camp life. Hearing Neal's bugle at reveille and lights out added to that reverie along with the usual drill, parades, meals, etc. that accompany our annual muster. (And brother Blair's drumming...well, as he says; it'll take some more work!! Just kidding Blair, great job for the 1st time out.)

Although battalion turnout was somewhat down from musters past, we had a fairly good showing from the 1st. The food was excellent, the weather was great (until Sunday morning) and the major didn't drill us till we dropped! We practiced some new items; marching and deploying from the left flank, forming divisions, forming square (or "L"), and marching around obstacles. We had a new twist on drill on Saturday afternoon by way of a tactical exercise. Maj Greg and Adjutant Kip posted a band of unreconstructed Rebs in the woods and our mission was to find them and map their position. Skirmish drill becomes much more interesting when you do it for a defined purpose, and outpost duties become clearer when actually exercised. After ¾ of the time wandering aimlessly through the woods, we finally found the rascals and successfully mapped their outposts with minimal casualties. Capt Gross' 'independent command' saw most of the action while yours truly sent 1st Sgt's Fett's bummers off on a

stroll through the woods in the wrong direction; at least they got back to the barracks first! Our new battalion commander displayed superior skill in weather forecasting by dismissing the troops after breakfast on Sunday morning. Perfect timing, as we drove through the front gate, the skies let loose with a tremendous downpour.

We held a unit meeting Saturday night at the NCO camp inside the ruined barracks. A number of items are worth mentioning relating to unit policies and upcoming events. We chose the first weekend of June (June 5-6th) to do a live-fire mini-muster at Ft Chadbourne. We'll have the chance to recreate another fort event while making use of the wide-open range to see how our .58's do at extended-range targets.

Relating to the General Order found elsewhere in the newsletter, we decided on a new policy for the awarding of service stripes. The motion was presented to award the stripes as they were actually awarded; at 5 year intervals, to keep our impression in line with actual practice. As a compromise, the quorum of members present voted to accept the policy that the 1st stripe will still be presented at 3 years, but the next stripe will be awarded 5 years after the 1st, with no further stripes being awarded thereafter. (Stripes previously awarded will be 'grand fathered')

As a sponsor unit for the X-Timbers event on April 16-18, we must continue our efforts to make sure we have a maximum turnout to support Bob and Ed. You could not ask for a better site or for an event that offers something for everyone. The spectators should see a realistically scripted battle, we'll be able to recruit, the reenactors will have the choice of static or campaign camps, and the Saturday night/ Sunday morning tactical will be sure to please everyone... (Continued on Page 2)

Directions to Beaumont Ranch

From Dallas - head south on I-35E to Hwy. 67 and then head towards Cleburne. Exit south to I-35W in Alvarado and go south. - follow the below directions ...

From Ft. Worth, - take I-35W south to Exit 15 (FM916 Maypearl). Go east 1½ mile to CR 202, turn right. Go 2/3 mile to CR 102, turn right, the ranch entrance is on the left.

1st U.S. Calendar

2004

MARCH

19th-21st Beaumont Ranch – Grandview Texas

APRIL

17th, 18th Cross Timbers – Gainesville Texas

MAY

21st-23rd Bellmeade – Waco Texas

AUGUST

(tbd) Annual Live Fire

OCTOBER

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

Recruiting Post

by George Hansen

Haven't earned your Regiment "1" insignia yet? A requirement to receive that brass piece is to recruit at a Board approved recruiting event; e.g., Beaumont Ranch and Gainesville. Contact me if you're interested and if this is your first time, I'll forward some recruiting tips as there are certain items which ought to be conveyed to the unwashed.

There is always enough room on these pages to thank those who recently pulled recruiting chores. Attending the Irish Festival were William Ray, Brad Walsh, Kevin Doughtie, Alan Prendergast, Blair Rudy, Art Ogle, Pete Graham, and Don Gross. It's now my responsibility to contact the prospects and get them to the next drill.

As noted in an earlier article, John Bowen recently made a marvelous recruiting box/table, which will be used at the next two reenactments. 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 beautifully crafted and a must see by all. "John, you out did yourself. Many thanks."

(McFuddy could not but fail to note that we must have once again angered the kindly ladies what hands out unit flags to beloved regiments as the glorious old Irish Brigade colors were seen floating over some other feller's booth at the Irish Festival...again. We had to make due with our old standby national colors (not them fancy new ones we just received). Trying to explain the connection twixt the Irish and gallant men in the uniform of the U.S. Army is always a requirement when you're on recruiting detail unless you have that 69th flag with the Harp and Erin's Green someplace near to hand. So many people think there was just ONE brigade of Irish fellers, for didn't THEY get all the good press ya know. The poor Irish immigrant in the Regulars was hardly noticed though he'd been servin all along, in most of Amerikay's wars, and wasn't part of some flash unit like the 69th, darlins of the newspaper corp. Truth be told there over 185,000 Irishmen who fought on both sides, if someone can't understand the linkage between the Irish and the United States Army, well..., they probably can't see the connection between sunrise and daylight eitherMcFuddy)

Mentors

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.

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Dispatch from the Board – continued from Page 1

. . .Please note the follow-on article requesting help on April 3rd to prepare the site for this event. Those not able to help at site

preparation can help Kip and Ted prepare for the Chadbourne live fire by helping cast minie balls

The meeting ended, much to John Schultz's surprise, with a birthday cake. Happy 50-something John! (Andrew had to ride home in the truck bed for letting that one out.) Next year John says, skip the cake, just bring money... Even though the meeting adjourned, most everybody stayed around the NCO camp.

The men must've felt sorry for the sgt's camping out in the cold while they had snug barracks for themselves. (Or was it Mike & McFuddy's special apple cider that kept their attention...) So ended a memorable night with period songs (accompanied by Neal's 1860 guitar) in the NCO camp.

In other news, General Dolive briefed the troops on Franklin. On-line registration is now open for individuals, which will have the happy consequence of relieving you of having to wait in the event registration line. Just show your pass and drive on in. (Standby to find out if we can register as a unit or register as individuals, more on that later.) The Spring Hill and Franklin scenarios are shaping up to be a one of a kind experience with lots of maneuvering and extended battles.

Lastly, welcome new member Kevin Terry recruited by Steve Sanders. (We're not holding that against Kevin, well, not yet anyway...) And speaking of recruiting, let's make the most of Beaumont Ranch and X-Timbers; they're our only recruiting events left this year, so let's give George and Conway a hand out there.

Semper Primus,
John Bowen

Lessons From Lincoln

The political problems alone would have been as great a load as mortal man might have been expected to carry, but Lincoln's perplexities were increased, his time occupied, and his patience sorely tested by such an undignified and unpatriotic clamor for offices as has never been exceeded in the history of our government. The Democratic party had been in power for many years. Every position in the gift of President Buchanan had been filled with a

Democrat, many of them Southern sympathizers, and now hordes of hungry Republicans besieged the White House demanding appointments. The situation was described by the President in a single observation. A Senator who noticed an expression of anxiety and dejection upon his face inquired:

"Has anything gone wrong, Mr. President? Have you heard bad news from Ft. Sumter?"
"No," answered the President, solemnly, "it's the post-office at Jonesville, Missouri."

Muster Picture

At the February muster the unit had a period ambrotype picture taken with our new National colors. Actual size is about 4 x 7. Most of the guys there viewed the wet plate image and I think that all will agree that it was an excellent picture. The unit is getting the original glass. The photographer will make sepia "period" prints from the original print. Cost is \$5.00 each.

If you haven't ordered your copy yet contact Don Gross don-gorec@charter.net. The order will be sent in soon. Money will be collected when prints are delivered.

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Cross Timbers

April 17/18

An initial planning meeting for Cross Timbers with commanders from both sides was held earlier this month. Looks like this event is shaping up to be really good for us. Saturday's spectator battle will involve limited marching for federal infantry (that will be nice for a change!). We will basically be working from behind to just in front of tree line. Plan is to draw out the cornfeds with cavalry and dismounted troops. The Confederates will try to chase the attackers off but the infantry will come out of the trees and blunt that engagement. We will dig in using propositioned logs and bolster our position with cannon. The final mass cornfed attack will force us back through tree line and out of sight of spectators. During this phase we will set up

some scripted hand to hand with 9th. Expect the battle to last for more than one hour with a break as forces regroup and we erect defensive positions.

All spectators will be off site by 5:00

Saturday. After the spectators leave the event staff will feed us dinner. Tactical portion starts after dinner Saturday and will end by noon on Sunday. I expect the infantry and cavalry should work well together during the tactical as we did at the Grasslands last year. Bob Furhman will play with us for this portion with his wagon.

We will use a Henry platoon for this event. We hope to have seven or eight Henries with lots of rounds. Start making your rounds!

There are two options for camping. You can camp near the suttlers and across the road from the Confederate camp or for those who like a bit more privacy there is an area for us behind tree line away from the crowd. Its easy access by vehicle and just a short walk from the suttlers etc. The recruiting team will be in full force and set up near the heavy camp and spectators.

This is our Primary event this spring. If you can only make one event this spring this is the one. In mid April the weather will be perfect, both for fighting and sleeping. And, its early enough so the bugs and other creepy crawly things won't be a factor.

From the Field

New member, **Scott Harris**, participated at his first event attending the Ft. Washita muster. Recruiting officers made special mention to **1st Sgt. Prendergast** that Rct. Harris performed admirably during drill, attentive at dress parade, passed barracks inspection, and showed good countenance in the tactical. Fellow Rackensackers congratulate Rct. Harris and welcome him to the First.

Three youngsters joined the 1st U.S. during the nineties and now soon graduate from high school. Commemorating this milestone early pictures of them in uniform were presented at the muster. Congratulatory remarks and praise

were extended to **Pvts. Sean Bowen and Andrew Schultz and Cpl Sean Prendergast.**

They will do well in life because of their character and willingness to aspire.

We knew them first as kids and now refer to them as fine young men. *(We have to wonder if the author here consulted the fathers of the above three, but let it go, the sentiment is nice ya see...McF).*

A surprise birthday bash was sprung upon **John Schultz** at Ft. Washita, who wanted that occasion to be kept quiet. Seems young Andrew ignored his father's wishes as John ended up making a wish over his birthday cake. Later, one could hear John mumbling, "... that boy is going to get his"

Capt. Don Gross' hip surgery in January went well and he is now reporting to work and even attended the muster. **Pvt. Blair Rudy and wife, Candy**, presented a cane to Don at the Irish Festival, which supports his hobbling though gamely desires to stay on his feet. Batt. HQ reports nothing can keep the former mule driver behind a desk.

Former remnants of Co. C straggled into the Ft. Washita barracks. Wishing that Co. C perform drill all by itself, solitary C member, **Pvt. Jeff Foote**, proved he is C's last remaining braggadocio. Self appointed as the Regiment's medicinal elixir distributor, Pvt. Foote provided ample quantities of Dr. McGillicutty's rheumatism medication, which according to Jeff, also kills tooth aches and frostbite *(and eventually anyone who'd be fool enough to drink the stuff for long...McFuddy)*

That Regular Impression

by Pvt. G. Hansen

The last three years or so the reenacting hobby has been inundated by suggestions to better serve our impression. From hand-stitched button holes; to replacing metal buttons with wooden ones on shelter halves; from substituting the A-tent with just a singular shelter half; to acquiring period correct wool weight and sack

coat specs; these are just a few notables that some, who might be labeled as progressives, are ardently proposing. Although I'm not a stitch Nazi and thoroughly enjoy my A-tent, these proposals and others offer fuel for *our* quest for The Holy Grail.

The use of "our" here implies most, not all, reenactors strive to perfect their impression. Some, like me, are content with the status quo and have to be grudgingly pulled into the ever increasing changing reenacting realm as extensive research uncovers further authentic interpretations.

As one looks for the First to collectively improve, a recent visit to the Sykes Regulars web site showed nearly 85 Regulars dressed in frock coats, scales and fully trimmed Hardees while marching in a parade. An awesome photo which is representative of their impression – Regulars. So why shouldn't the First collectively have the same look? Frocks and trimmed Hardee hats were standard issue for dress parades, dress parade formations, ceremonies, etc.

The 9th Texas Infantry is no longer just a Confederate unit as they now have a Federal Zouave impression along with their long standing Union sack coat look. The 9th ventured out by daring to escape the norm while now having two Federal impressions as well as their Western Confederate uniform. They truly are a galvanized unit.

My hints several years ago that maybe the First pursue a Confederate impression were met with skepticism if not hysteries. Ok, the idea was probably far fetched, but what about improving our impression? A 90% turnout in frocks and Hardees might be claimed as a successful target. This could be a two-year project thus allowing a gradual process. Of course, this goal is purely voluntary. We have an unfriendly economy and for most of us money is tight. And, if you just don't have the money, nor the inclination to participate, then don't. This is your hobby and within reason you have the freedom to do as you

wish. Sacks and forage caps should and must remain acceptable parade dress attire.

For those who wish to partake, then maybe visit with Sgts. Prendergast, Fett, Kirkendall, or Thomas. Let them know your intention so they can report accordingly to HQ. (Note: members of the Board were not privy beforehand of this writing and it remains solely one man's suggestion. Maybe in the next issue HQ will care to respond. *(And maybe they won't ya know, pushy, Danish, one man's suggestion infernal machine that ya are! You have any idea how many enlistment bounty's I'll have to jump for this...there are only SO many regiments I can enlist in the Army ya know!... McF))*

Associated costs? Gay Frazer says total pre-tax price will range from \$220 to \$405, depending on quality and sizing. See Gay's below pricing/options. Maybe we can get a discount if a mass purchase order. As always, check other sources if you are so inclined.

Again, the stated goal here is for the 1st US to hone its impersonation as Regulars just as we polish brass, blacken leathers, attentiveness to drill, etc. How we look is almost as important as how we perform. Discuss this with your friends and NCOs and decide for yourselves if this is a worthy objective.

Semper Primus.

Frazer Brother Pricing:

Frock coat – best quality, buttons included.

\$189 - 44 reg. or smaller

10% more - 44 tall or smaller tall size

15% more – 46 – 48 reg. or tall

30% more – 50 – 52 reg. or tall

Frock coat – \$150, lesser quality, lacks finer details.

Hardee hat - \$26; more expensive version available at \$80.

Scales

\$65 – Naugatuck, good quality

\$30 – Pakistani, ok detail

Hardee trimming - \$15
\$5 - Hat cord
\$3 ea. – Feather, bugle, eagle
\$1.50 – Company letter
N/A – Regt. 1 insignia, awarded to recipient
by the Unit

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.

Unit Work Day – *To Arms....To Arms....*

The will have a workday on Saturday **April 3rd**. Preparations for two upcoming events require some volunteer labor. First, Kip will need about 4-5 guys to help pour lead for the live rounds to be used in June at Fort Chadbourne. We also need about 10 guys to help pre-position firewood and other supplies at Cross Timbers on Saturday afternoon. A few of us will already be there in the morning for a commander's walkthrough. We need some volunteers starting at noon time. If you want to pour lead contact Kip Bassett (kip@imagin.net). Cross Timbers volunteers contact John Bowen (jbowen1stus@comcast.net) Maybe guys who live south can go to Kip's and guys from up north to Gainesville.

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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

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

'Joshin' the Recruit

“All sorts of games were played on recruits by men who liked nothing so well as a practical joke. I recall the case of a young man in my own company who had just arrived, and, having been to the quartermaster for his outfit of clothing and equipments, was asked by one of the practical jokers why he did not get his umbrella. ‘Do they furnish an umbrella?’ he asked. ‘Why certainly,’ asked his persecutor, unblushingly. ‘It’s just like that fraud of a quartermaster to cheat a recruit out of a part of his outfit to sell for *his* own benefit. Go back and *demand* your umbrella of him and a good one too!’ And the poor beguiled recruit returned to the quartermaster in high dudgeon at the imagined attempt to swindle him, only to find that he had been victimized by one of the practical jokers of the camp.”

From the book “Hardtack and Coffee” by John Billings

Submitted by Ron Myers

HEADQUARTERS

1st US Infantry

Special Order 2004-1

March 1, 2004

1. Pursuant to discussions with the membership and a decision by the Board of Directors the following policies will apply to the issuance of service stripes.
2. A service stripe will be awarded following three years of active service in the 1st US Infantry as defined in the by-laws for a voting member.
3. A second stripe will be awarded following a further five years of faithful and active service (eight years total service).
4. A maximum of two service stripes (one indicating wartime service) will be awarded. Stripes are only to be worn by enlisted ranks on the dress (Frock) coat.
5. Those individuals currently awarded service stripes may continue to wear them irrespective of years served.

By Order,

Don Gross
Captain, CoA

President, NTRS

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