

# THE TYRANT'S FOE

ISSUE No. 45

June 1993

## "THE BEST OF THE BEST: PERRYVILLE & MURFREESBORO"

### COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

It is time to brush the mud off your traps and get ready for the summer and fall season. Murfreesboro seems like years ago. Port Hudson and Pleasant Hill went by in a blur. But George Ranch and Honey Springs, are just around the corner. Orders are being issued to breakup winter quarters and take to the field once again.

My compliments to the company for winning the *Best of the Best* award at Murfreesboro. It is not bragging to say that the Texas Rifles have reached a level that has earned us this title. Other companies, however, are hot on our tail, looking for the opportunity to win the title for themselves. This is no time to rest on our laurel: we must decide if we can settle for anything less than best.

This company is very special. I missed serving with you all at Murfreesboro when I was called away. But I was also proud. What other units can demonstrate the depth of leadership that the Texas Rifles can? Our NCOs are the best that there are in the hobby--bar none! Our men are well trained and dedicated. Things ran smoothly despite the weather because we have a philosophy that works.

Special, too, is the unique relationship that we have with our Ladies. The Ladies of the Texas Rifles have obtained a level of sophistication beyond any that I have ever seen-- and they just keep getting better. Although they operate separately at times, the Ladies are an integral and important part of the Texas Rifles.

I haven't singled out anybody for special mention here because it is difficult to do. Yes, there are some who hold positions which makes them more visible than other, but all members serve with distinction. It is the dedication and contributions of all that have earned for us the title *Best of the Best*.

Your Ob't. Servant,

*Bruce Winters*

Capt., Commanding  
Texas Rifles

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **GEORGE RANCH (June 19-20)**

We had originally planned to hold a muster at Fort McKavett but had to revamp our plans. The fort is undergoing a change of management this month and informed me that we would not have use of the park after all.

George Ranch is graciously allowing us to hold a Summer Muster there. Straw and firewood will be provided by the park. Bring tent flies for shade. We need to drill and prepare for Honey Springs. The Rifles will not have a company mess. You will therefore need to call up your pards and put together messes of your own choosing. The muster officially begins at 8:00 AM on Saturday morning and will be over Sunday at Noon.

### **HONEY SPRINGS (July 16,17, 18)**

This is a maximum effort event for the 1st Trans-Mississippi Regiment. I have been informed by the sponsors that they already have more than 1,300 preregistered participants. Directions: Take I-75 out of Dallas toward Sherman. At Dension I-75 becomes I-69. Witt Edwards, who is with the Oklahoma Historical Society, says that the site is 2 hours and twenty minutes north of the Texas border. Look for the Checota-Rentisville exit. (It is the second exit after you pass I-40.) Signs will direct you to the reenactment.

### **OLD WASHINGTON, ARKANSAS (Sept. 10, 11, 12)**

This event is being sponsored by the 3rd Arkansas. There will be a battle on both Saturday and Sunday. They need Federals and asked us if we would come. The 3rd Arkansas is one of our sister companies in the Trans-Mississippi Regiment and we need to give them our support.

Old Washington is a fine historical park. It was originally founded in 1825 and is full of history. This is where Jim Bowie had his famous knife made. Old Washington was on the road to Texas if you were headed there from Tennessee. Some of us have already been there and highly recommended it.

### **TEXAS TIMELINE, FORT WORTH TEXAS (Sept. 25-26)**

"The Texas Timeline: 19th Century Texas Military History" is a part of Fort Worth's Pioneer Days. The sponsors are offering bounties for units that participate: \$15 per person; \$5 per tent; \$35 per house; and \$75 per artillery piece. Participants must attended both days in order to collect their bounties. This might be a way to raise some money for the company fund. Let me know if you are interested.



## **TEXIAN MARKET DAYS (October 23-24)**

T.M.D. has become a Texas Rifles annual event. More information will follow but it appears that there are no other events to conflict with the George Ranch this year.

## **PRAIRIE GROVE, ARKANSAS (December 4-5)**

This is not a bad little event. It is long drive for those in south Texas but it is well worth the trouble. Troops are camped in a period village. The scenery is nice. What else can I say? Let's go!

## **WINEDALE, TEXAS (January 22 & 23)**

There have been several complaints in the past from members who could not attend the muster because it conflicted with New Orleans. We are trying to take eliminate the problem this year by holding the Winter Muster and Election a little later.

## **RED RIVER CAMPAIGN (April 2-10, 1994)**

We have known that this event has been in the works for more than a year. It is time to count heads to see who can make the march. Consult you schedules so we can give General King an estimate of how many Rifles will start the march and how many will join up along the way. Those who plan to attend need to start getting themselves and their traps in shape.

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### **DRILL BITS**

**By Jamie Bain**

We are always looking for ways to improve our drill and at the same time to make things easier for the men in the ranks. This following method of answering roll comes from August V. Kautz, Customs of the Service For Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1864), 135. I intend to employ this method of calling roll at future events.

- Step 1: The 1st Sergeant brings the men to attention and then commands, "Support Arms."
- Step 2: The 1st Sergeant calls the roll, commencing with sergeants, then going on to corporals, and then privates.
- Step 3: Each man answers, "Here," when his name is called and then brings his piece to the Shoulder, then to the Order.

There are several advantages to this method of calling roll. First, it look smart and crisp. Second, it will help me call the roll quickly and identify men that I have not yet placed in my roll book. J.B.

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### **"ATTENTION TO ORDERS!"**

I have receive orders from Lieutenant Colonel Swenson that the companies of the 1st Trans-Mississippi Regiment are to begin using the *Goetzel* edition of Hardee's Tactics. Here are the changes that you should learn.

Load in Nine Time.

156. (First motion.) Same as the first position of present arms.

(Second motion.) Carry the piece to the left side with the left hand--butt upon the ground--barrel to the front--piece inclined to the right an front resting along the left thigh, muzzle six inches in front of the center of the body--right hand grasping the piece just below the upper band, and the left hand extending upon the piece.

Fix-BAYONET.

188. (First, second, and third motion.) Same as in the first, second, and third motions in the first time of loading except in the third motion the right hand is carried to the bayonet, grasping it, with the little finger up.

189. (Fourth motion.) Draw the bayonet from the scabbard, fix it, seize the piece with the piece with the right hand at the muzzle, the left hand resting on the barrel, arm extended.

Unfix--BAYONET.

200. (First and second motion.) Same as in fix bayonet.

201. (Third motion.) Same as in fix bayonet, except turn the bayonet clasp with the right thumb, grasp the shank of the bayonet with the right hand, palm under thumb and fingers extended well at the blade of the bayonet.

202. (Fourth motion.) Wrench off the bayonet, return it to the scabbard, grasp the piece at the upper band with the right hand, lower the left hand along the barrel, the arm extended without depressing the shoulder.

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### **QUARTERMASTER DEPARTMENT**

I would like to undertake a program to put all our military members in standard knapsacks, haversacks, and belts. This would not only help improve out physical impression, it would serve a utilitarian purpose as well. The following in a brief



description of how we could do this quickly and cheaply.

I propose we make these items ourselves. We get together to roll cartridges don't we? We could use the same method to get together to manufacture knapsacks, &c. By doing the work ourselves I believe that we could get the price down to 1/2 or even 1/3 of the normal cost. I need to know how many male and female "artisans" we have who would be interested in getting together this summer with me to get things started.

This project could be incorporated into an event scenario. Any items manufactured could be "issued" to the company at Old Washington, Arkansas or some other place. Let me know if you want to help on this undertaking. B.W.

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### **ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT**

Each region needs to bring 100 cartridges for the company ammunition box at Honey Springs. J.H.

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### **FOR SALE**

Enfield Musket with Bayonet, \$260. Kevin Young, 210-733-5343.

August V. Kautz, Customs of the Service For Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1864), 135. This small volume is a must for those who plan someday to be NCOs or officers or just like collecting period military manuals. A very informative book on the duties of NCOs. It looks like only a small number were printed so you better get yours fast. Available at most sutlers.

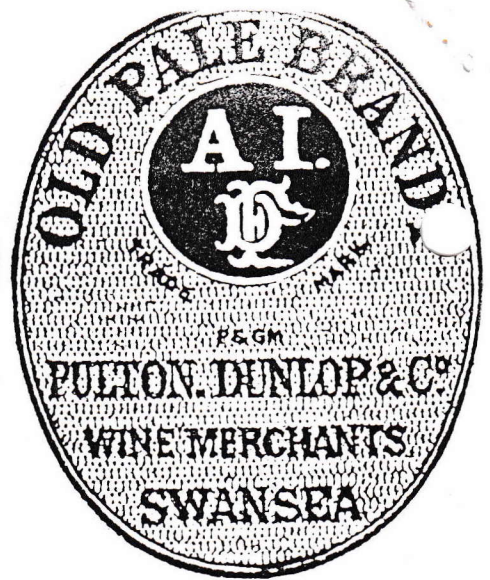
Dixie Leather Works. This company produces items for personal use (wallets, foldup writing desks, leather bound journals, &c.) as well as sword belts and other accoutrements. They have a plethora of period stationary and labels. At \$4, their catalog is a little high but it is interesting reading. A sample sheet [the original is in color] is included from their stock to introduce you to their wares to entice you to give them a try. Dixie Leather Goods P.O. 8221 Box Paducah, Ky. 42002-8221 1-800-888-5183.

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**IN CLOSING . . .** I'm sure that you have noticed a long lapse between between this and the last newsletter. I fully intended to have Vince put out an issue last month. I spent most of the may traveling, however, and couldn't to get the information to Vince on time. The tardiness for the newsletter is my fault, not his. B.W.

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