

# The Tyrants' Foe



## Newsletter of the Texas Rifles

Volume XXI, Number 3 \*\*\*\*\* August 2005

**Editors Notes:** Please read through the entire newsletter as there are some very important issues covered, including cartridge assembly. Please also take the time to send me the information requested at the end of the newsletter. If you're planning on attending TMD, the registration form is also attached. Mail or email to the addresses provided. Thanks, Don.

### \*\*\*Next Max Effort Events\*\*\*

**Red River Battalion Muster (Beaumont Ranch): Sept. 10-11<sup>th</sup>**

**Corinth with RRB: Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> - Oct. 2nd**

## Captain's Dispatch

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Winedale was six months ago. It seems like yesterday, but that is the reality of modern life. What has the Texas Rifles accomplished in the last six months and what remains to be done this year? Another article in this newsletter will address these questions. Consider what follows as an overview of what has happened so far and what lies ahead.

Foremost, the condition of the Texas Rifles is good. We continue to have quality, committed members who consistently field the finest company in Texas Civil War reenacting. We are universally acknowledged as the best company of the Red River Battalion, just as we were formerly the best company of the Texas Brigade. Together with our civilians we raise the level of authenticity at the events we attend. There are "messes" of reenactors whose individual authenticity is better than ours, but these groups are typically four to eight men. They rarely drill; they rarely act within a larger army structure such as a company, regiment, brigade or division. They rarely have civilians associated with their organization. In short, these small groups have reduced the Civil War experience to one aspect; physical authenticity. The Texas Rifles prefers a broader approach to life in the 1860's in which the entire spectrum of a person's experience of those times, be it military or civilian, is recreated. In that we have no equal in the state and few across the country. It is a privilege to be the leader of such an organization and I do take great pride in being pointed-out as such.

Since Winedale we have attended events such as Jesse Jones Park, Pleasant Hill, Jefferson and Fort

McKavett. In between have been cartridge rolls, seminars for civilians, gun show, museum events and a drill with the Red River Battalion. The quality of the Texas Rifles is most visible at events, but the work that makes this quality possible is generally accomplished long before. It is done by member's efforts behind the scenes. At Winedale there was an almost a total turnover in the leadership positions within the group. The Texas Rifles has been and continues to be blessed with a depth of leadership. Nancy Tucker puts in long hours and a lot of miles to assist civilians in assembling period clothing. Under her leadership our civilians have grown from one woman to twenty-one men, women and children! Lt. Marek has taken command of the company at the Jefferson and Fort McKavett Events. He is also taking over the critical responsibility for recruiting and the Avant-garde Committee. First Sergeant Sozansky has the best job in the unit; he gets to have authority and stay with the enlisted men. Sergeants always set the tone of the unit and Phil has stepped-into the role. The other NCOs are utilized as needed, but Don Tucker, Rodney Bode and Tommy Attaway, to name a few, have been equal to all occasions. Jim Bosworth, his wife and brother MADE the Fort McKavett Event. Tommy Attaway is set to guide the Texas Rifles to its next level with the Authenticity Committee and Rodney lifted a great burden from my shoulders when he took on being the TR Quartermaster. Don published the newsletter and manages the website. These highly visible areas are where many potential recruits first encounter the Texas Rifles, and form their first impression of us.

In the near future the Texas Rifles will attend the Fall Battalion Muster at Beaumont Ranch on the weekend of September 10 and 11. After that comes the Maximum Effort Corinth Event, followed by TMD and Liendo.

Does the Texas Rifles face challenges? Yes. We have few recruits in the process of becoming members. WE ALL NEED TO RECRUIT! The best recruiting person we have is you. Tell friends and neighbors about your experiences in the Rifles. We have a lot of jobs to do in the Texas Rifles and we need committed members to do them. It is a great time to be a member of the Texas Rifles, it is even better if you contribute and participate!

Regards,  
Captain John Keahey

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## Lieutenant's Inkwell



Well the dog days of summer are just about over and the fall campaign season is closing in on us. If you are The cooler weather will find us in the field more and you are sure to read more on our website and message As a group, I think that the Rifles need to start setting up a recruiting table at all events that will let us. Other Not only at events, but Street Fairs also allow us to meet the public and let them know we exist. Many towns ha set up a table at these and we don't need a whole company of men. Quite an impression can be made with just t As individuals we have to look for different opportunities. Simply talking to friends is the easiest way. Mayt In general, talk up your hobby and the Texas Rifles. To progress and move forward as a group we always ne  
CORINTH or BUST!!!

FJMarek LT of Texas Rifles  
Dios, Libertad y Tejas!

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## Because the Sergeant Says So!



You know, it's funny what the summer months do to Civil War reenactors. At first, we're almost happy to have the time away from the hobby to rejuvenate, particularly after a very busy spring campaign season. The increasing temperatures remind us daily how fortunate we are that we are not in the field, suffering under layers of jean cloth and bulky equipment, and thirsting for water from canteens that are nearly empty. We go on vacation with our families, attend backyard BBQs, and generally lounge around during our quiet hours. June and July become little more than pleasant memories drifting on warm breezes.

But then early August falls upon us like an avalanche. We are initially uncertain just what the problem is. We become restless and a little irritable, a condition treated with quick, secret sips of Southern Comfort. The scent of local farmers burning piles of brush nearby suddenly seems appealing. We find ourselves absent-mindedly drinking our coffee thick, black, and strong in the morning, when all summer long cream and sugar were the general rule. Bacon returns to our breakfast diet and we begin to pine for skillet taters. Even basic hygiene goes out the window as our beards and fingernails grow ever longer—no more clean faces and perfect manicures for us (much to the chagrin of our spouses). It takes a few days—maybe more for some—before we finally awaken at night doused in a cold sweat, inexplicably shouting, “Sergeant of the Guard!” It is then that it hits us: we actually MISS the self-imposed misery and stress of the field. In fact, we find ourselves salivating for the next event on the schedule, whatever it is—local dog and pony show, national mega-battle, or otherwise. Summer is nearly done, and by god, it's time to return to the ranks! There's a war to fight!

All of this naturally brings us to the present. Our lengthy summer furlough is indeed winding down and the autumn campaign season beckons. The comfortable camaraderie of fireside chats, shared canteens, and elbow-to-elbow stands against the enemy will not easily be denied. We must not resist. We dare not resist. The September battalion muster notwithstanding, on the immediate horizon is the Battle of Corinth, Mississippi, in early October. Let us make certain that messes are formed and travel arrangements made well in advance, for it is no time to straggle to the rear.

Our call to arms is clear: blacken your leather, polish your brass, oil your rifle, delouse your uniform, roll your blanket, and “Fall in!” The Texas Rifles have a war to fight!  
To the Tyrants Never Yield and HURRAH for the Texas Rifles!

First Sergeant Phil Sozansky

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## From the Home Front

Finally, summer is winding down and the reenacting season can begin. In preparation, we are going to have another hoop-making session, this time in the Austin area. If anyone is thinking of new dresses, Simplicity came out with three new patterns in the last few months. 4551 is ideal for calico. 4400 and 4510 are both intended for wools and silks.

We will have a few civilians at the Corinth reenactment. TMD is a great living history opportunity for us to demonstrate to the public some of the skills and activities of those on the homefront. We also have the

potential to have some laborer impressions. We are working with the Ranch to get a better location this year. As you'll see on the registration form, we are recognized as our own entity. As we get closer to the event, keep an eye on the TR Civilians yahoo group to keep informed.

See you all soon,

Nancy Tucker  
Civilian Coordinator

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## **SIX MONTH REPORT TO THE TEXAS RIFLES**

In the six months since the current leadership was put into place at Winedale 2005 much has been accomplished and much remains to be done. While the Bylaws state no "term limits" on any elected or appointed position in the Texas Rifles, the two year rule seems to be the tradition in most cases for elected offices. At Winedale we elected a new Captain, Lieutenant and First Sergeant. Nancy Tucker, the Civilian Coordinator was continued in office as was Doug Davis as Treasurer. New appointees were Rodney Bode as the TR Quartermaster, Tommy Attaway as the chair of the Military Authenticity Committee, Don Tucker as Newsletter editor and Website Manager. A Civilian Authenticity Committee was created and its chairperson is Nancy Tucker. The Bylaws Committee was dissolved after the revised Bylaws were approved by the membership. Lieutenant Marek has assumed the duties of Recruiting Coordinator in addition to his duties as chairman of the Avant-garde Committee.

Currently the Texas Rifles has 35 military members and 10 civilian voting members.

The current balance in the Texas Rifles account is \$673.49. The TR QM separate account has a balance of \$200.00.

Since Winedale members have participated in the Maximum Effort Event at Jesse Jones Park and Jefferson. Other events members attended were the Spring Battalion Muster, Pleasant Hill, Fort McKavett and the Fort Martin Scott Ladies School. There were also various cartridge rolls and recruiting efforts at a Houston Gun Show and Museum of Southern History. A contract was negotiated with the George Ranch Historical Park to manage the Civil War Area at TMD 2005 for a fee, but the final version of this contract was so delayed by the GRHP that it became impossible to implement or vote upon the contract by our members.

Nancy Tucker has been a tremendous asset to the organization. She has re-built the civilian side of our impression almost single-handedly. Our civilian side has grown from one person to 21 counting children. The military side needs to take recruiting lessons from Nancy! Since Winedale Nancy has a system for new recruit's wardrobe, organized the Jesse Jones Park Event demonstrations, increased civilian loaner gear, launched a Civilian Authenticity Committee (CAC) and participated in the planning for Fort McKavett. Nancy looks to create better civilian experiences with better scenarios in the future, create more events such as Fort McKavett where military and civilians cooperate to have a quality experience, improve the civilian seminars at Winedale, recruit additional members, develop civilian attendance at national events and improve demonstrations at events.

Lieutenant Frank Marek has served in a variety of roles in his new position as a commissioned officer. Frank commanded the Texas Rifles during parts of the Jefferson Event and all the Fort McKavett Event. Frank chairs the Avant-garde, an informal group of well connected members who look to the future of the hobby and the TR's place in it. Frank implemented the first TR Rations System at Pleasant Hill. He has assumed the duties of Recruiting Coordinator at my request. Frank feels, as I do, that recruiting needs to be improved for our organization to prosper.

Tommy Attaway is bringing his extensive experience and knowledge to the important Military Authenticity Committee (MAC). Since taking office the MAC has placed a drill manual on the website and worked upon the western Confederate guidelines. In progress is a draft of the Western Confederate

Guidelines and an improved and updated item/source/impressions matrix.

The 501-3C Committee was hit hard when Doug Davis had to excuse himself from the committee due to a potential conflict of interest with his job (as a prosecutor).

The Insurance Committee under Rob Williamson has made no report. My contacts in other living history organizations tell me that for people with homeowner's insurance, additional medical and liability insurance policies are redundant. But I would like to have this confirmed.

In the next six months the Texas Rifles needs to recruit! We need new younger members in order to survive as something like the Texas Rifles of the past 18 years. No ifs, no ands, no buts! New ideas of where and how to recruit are needed!

The personal medical cards are still needed and information forms for those are being prepared. These are laminated cards to be carried in a standardized place, such as a cartridge box for the military, which display a member's name, address, emergency contact information, medical conditions and medications being taken.

By the end of the year I would also like to see the event and travel liability and medical insurance issue resolved, as well as the 501-3C issue brought to the membership for a vote.

This is what your elected leaders, appointed leaders and other active members in the Texas Rifles have been doing for the last six months. This list of accomplishments and names is incomplete and does not honor all the contributions great and small made to this organization. But, what have YOU done for the Texas Rifles lately?

Your obedient servant,  
John M. Keahey  
Captain

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## Authenticity Committee

We are working on revising the Western Confederate guidelines to reflect impressions more representative to th

TLA

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## Baseball Cap Update

I'm getting the exact price from Battlefield Dry Goods for our patch (below) embroidered on 20 butternut caps with grey bill (see Confederate infantry cap on their site;

<http://www.battlefielddrygoods.com/>). Thanks to Kip Othold for initially contacting them to get things started. Don.



## **Red River Battalion Meeting Notes from Tommy Attaway**

The Beaumont Ranch location for the muster is a temporary fix, pending a more suitable location to have such events. The RRB guys go for that due to being more concentrated geographically - had some 35 present today, about half were the officer / NCO and most of the remainder were recruits being schooled....

Anyway, as the muster site is not the preferred location, prep is still underway, no wood or hay will be provided (burn deadfall only), and the restaurants in both barns are already spoken for Saturday, so the RRB will use Saturday to teach some field cooking skills, as the units becomes more campaign like.

We will be preparing for Corinth, The TR will be designated 3rd Company in the RRB. There is a list of evolutions that will be needed for Corinth and will be practiced at the Ranch. Officer / NCO meeting set for 8PM Friday on site. They will have a set camp laid out....

For Corinth there will be a wagon like at Franklin. Because of the anticipated ammunition needs, the TR can place one ammo box for our company on the wagon. They will again ask for donations to help support the cost of the wagon at the event. The setup will be such that the sutlers at Corinth will be difficult for CS troops to visit, and we will need to do so prior to the start of the event. As at Franklin, goods and refreshments will be on a wagon for sale using scrip, which is to be obtained at the start of the event - no refund possible for unused scrip. We are asked to push for the rest of the TR to get in on the ration deal with the RRB, as rations will be issued Friday and Saturday from the wagon (don't have to carry all of the food needed for the event in this case). They intend to issue sugar cured ham which will have to be cooked Friday - and the RRB insists that it will not allow higher HQ to issue sudden movement order that will ! preclude the ability of the troops to cook up rations on Friday.

Intention is the use the WIG for skirmish and guard, therefore the TR will most likely not be called on for this role at this event, but....

Mark Griffin is working on putting the brigade on a more realistic structure - working on having 10 functioning companies in the field as a regiment, asking smaller groups to serve combined in order to get companies at 25 to 30 men at a minimum. Additionally, the reports are that it is getting more difficult to plan large events due to the various issues such as suitable sites, etc.... conclusion is that will need to go to state and other parks for use of site...

That is all of the notes that I took in addition to the handouts. I think it would be good for the TR to be represented at these meetings - it gives us a link into what is being planned.

They have 17 TR registered for Corinth, and 8 paid for rations.....

Tommy L Attaway

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## **Houston Report for Port Jefferson**

Following a successful cartridge roll at Doug Davis' homestead (300 rounds), the Houston boys headed off to Jefferson, Texas. A brisk night found many of the Houston boys spooning with their favorite partners. Early morning roll call found the following Houston members in attendance, The Captain and Lieutenant, four of the infamous Davis brothers (Efram, Iram and Mushy, and Windy), Frenchy (DD), Sprout (Little D), Roudy, and Don..... following a fairly good nights sleep in the Davis Hotel.

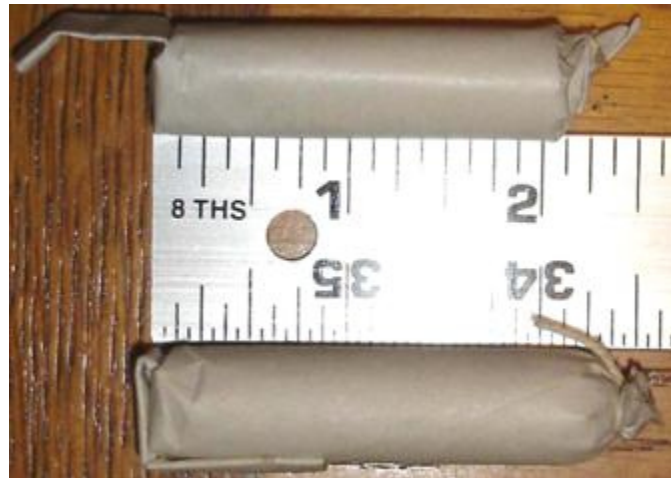
The Houston boys held their own during the defense of Jefferson, but fell back with the command to the camp grounds 3 miles away. Saturday night brought the usual bottle passing and tall stories. Efram again produced his homemade brew contained within Jeanie, a curvaceous container, which was passed from man to man, leaving a burning sensation as it flowed into our guts. The many liquor formulas helped pass some of the cold night, but again body warmth was the final saving factor for those who didn't spend the night near the fire.

Sunday morning following breakfast found the company assembled for punishment. It seems a piece of bacon was allegedly placed into the Captain's coffee. For some odd reason, the Davis brothers were suspected; but the entire company made to suffer through "High Port" until someone confessed. The Houston boys suspect elements of the Austin group as having conducted this dastardly act. As a true Band of Brothers, the company noncoms and privates withstood the cruel acts of their commanders. The afternoon battle found many of the Houston boys killed in the main engagement or in the skirmish in the woods (Windy) as we surprised the Yankees in their camp. Steve Wolford.

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**NOTE:** This information is also available on the Texas Rifles Website (<http://www.texasrifles.org>)

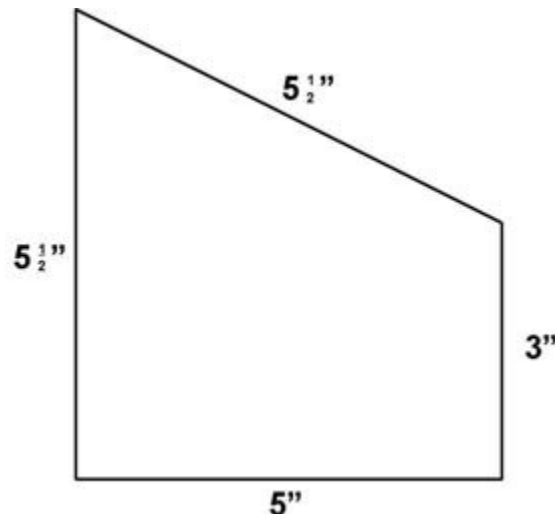
## **.58 Caliber Minie' Ball Cartridge**



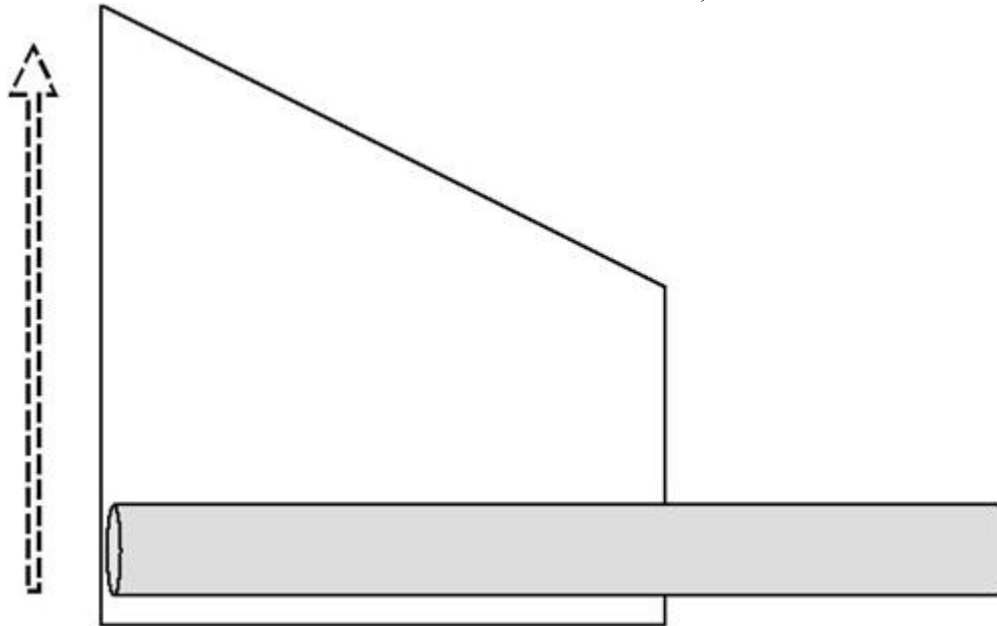
Two 58 cal. blank cartridges are shown above. The upper cartridge is one of the previous Texas Rifles blank cartridges. The lower cartridge was prepared by John Zimmerman (Harpers Ferry) to be identical to a Civil War 58 caliber Springfield cartridge (contains a Minie' ball with walnut shells in place of black powder).

### **To prepare a Texas Rifles blank cartridge**

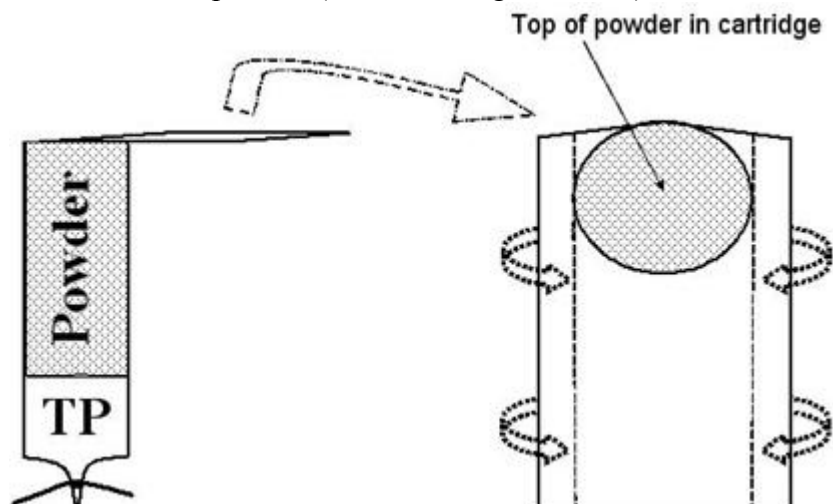
1. Prepare a template using the dimensions below (pressed cardboard material at the back of a pad of paper works well).



2. Draw the template pattern, as many times as possible, onto newsprint paper (available at art stores, copy shops, or U-haul supply stores) and cut out cartridge papers. If possible, stack multiple sheets under the template sheet & cut together to save drawing template on every sheet.
3. Next, roll cartridge paper around a tube of approximately 58 caliber (0.58 inches diameter) in the direction indicated below. Roll the paper with the long part at the end of the tube. Appropriately sized copper tubes can be found at a hobby shop or a wooden dowel can be used (harder to find a wooden dowel of close to correct size).

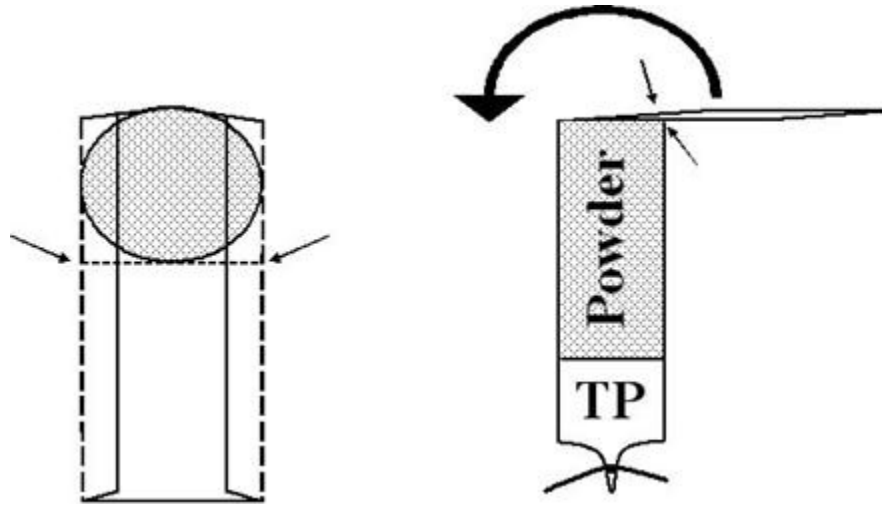


4. After the paper is completely rolled around the tube, hold the paper snugly on the tube & slide the long end of the paper past the end of the tube approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (to the left in the above diagram).
5. Twist the paper extended from the end of the tube to seal the cartridge and tie off the twisted end with a piece of string (any period appropriate string).
6. After the cartridge tube is prepared, stuff 1-2 pieces of toilet paper down into the tube to serve as an artificial Minie' ball in the end of the cartridge (maintains more authentic final cartridge dimensions, i.e. easier to remove from the cartridge box).
7. Add 70 grains of FFFg black powder to the cartridge.
8. Close the end of the cartridge by folding the end of the cartridge paper flat over the surface of the black powder (left side of figure below).



9. Next, fold the outer edges of the folded over paper up & in (as shown above right before fold & below left after).





10. Now fold the extended tab back over the top of the cartridge (flat) as shown above and fold again down the side of the cartridge (see picture at top of instructions for an idea of what the final product should look like).
11. Ten of these cartridges plus a tube of 12 caps should be placed into each arsenal pack.

## Stamps during the War

US Postage stamps were first issued in 1847. By 1857, the stamps issued were perforated. The day after the bombardment of Fort Sumter, the Confederate post-master general ordered that unused stamps be sent back to Washington DC. The US Postal Service immediately invalidated all stamps in circulation and issued new stamps.

The following months were confusing both in the North and South. Northern post offices exchanged old stamps for new before letters could be mailed. Confederate post offices accepted cash and marked the envelopes "PAID", but the US postal service also delivered mail throughout the South until June 1861. During the summer of 1861, larger cities such as New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville and Mobile offered provisional stamps, produced by local engravers, for local use.

Eventually the Confederate stamps appeared in October 1861. The faces of Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Jefferson Davis, George Washington and John C. Calhoun appeared on these stamps. The stamps were not perforated.



Postal rates in the South were much higher than those up North. A 2c stamp would take care of most letters (except registered mail, express mail, and overseas correspondence) up North. In the Confederacy, distance determined the rate: 5c per half-ounce under 500 miles, 10c per half-ounce over 500 miles, 2c for drop letters (letters which did not move between post offices) and circulars. Later the under-500-mile rate was raised to 10c also. There was also a 50c rate for express mail, and after 1863 a 40c rate for Trans-Mississippi mail to cover the costs of smuggling.

Confederate soldiers were allowed to send letters unpaid. These were marked “DUE” and the recipient paid the postage on receipt at the post office. Jefferson Davis had no franking privileges, so he had to use stamps bearing his own image for his correspondence. The latest known usage of confederate postage was June 4, 1865 in Seguin, TX.

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## 250 YEARS AGO

Why is this sentence written in the English language?

Can you name the first world wide conflict American soldiers fought in?

Next question, imagine yourself as the leader of your country. A 26 year old, wealthy, well connected, militarily inexperienced man receives a politically controlled appointment as a field officer in a regiment. This regiment was created primarily to protect the investments of similarly wealthy men and is not in the service of its nation, but of a local government. The officer attacked and killed some soldiers of a neighboring powerful country in time of peace and consequently triggered a world wide war. This officer subsequently surrendered his command to the enemy and signed a legal document admitting he committed murder. The next military campaign he participated in resulted in a complete disaster. He now wants to be an officer in your country’s real army. As the leader of your country, how would you view this man?

The reason this sentence is written in English is because Great Britain won what we call the French and Indian War of 1755-1763. The rest of the world calls this conflict the Seven Years War. It was fought on every continent of the world by the two greatest powers of that day; Great Britain and France. Troops recruited among the thirteen colonies in North America fought in this war; the first world wide war in which colonial Americans fought in American and British regiments. If the British had lost this conflict, which they almost did in the first two years, then North America might have ended-up being a French colony and we all could be French-speaking citizens of New France.

And the young politically appointed major in the provincial regiment, who lead an attack upon French troops in time of peace, later surrendered his regiment to the French, signed a surrender document admitting to the murder of the French officer killed in the attack he lead, and marched with the British to abject defeat in his next campaign... his name was George Washington.

This year marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the French and Indian War. This was an important turning point in the history of what was to become the United States of American. Watch for articles and television shows about this war; we still live with its results.

By the way, King George II of England never did grant Washington’s wish to be commissioned into the British Army. And the rest of the story you know.

Regards,  
jmk

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## Survey

# Texas Rifles

Emergency Contact:  
Name  
Phone # (XXX) XXX-XXXX

Medical Information:  
Allergies: none  
Other: none

2005 Membership ID

Name

If lost, please mail to :

Texas Rifles  
2810 W. Pebble Beach Dr.  
Missouri City, TX 77459

This ID is to be presented at the first company formation at each Texas Rifles event, and should be carried on you throughout the event. Please keep a copy of your medical insurance information with this card. ID card replacement fee is \$5.00.

Company Recruiting Hotline:  
281-261-0665

Company Website:  
<http://www.texasrifles.org/>

Front

Back

**IMPORTANT: All members (military and civilian), please send me the following information so we can get the TR ID cards made! Thanks, Don.**

Name:

Emergency Contacts:

Contact Numbers:

Medical Info:

Allergies: (especially to medications)

Other: (i.e. heart, asthma, etc.)

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# Texian Market Days 2005

## Re-enactor/Volunteer Registration

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Attendees in your Party (list):

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

Program Area (Circle One):

1830s Jones Stock Farm      Civil War Encampment CW Civilian

1890s Cowboy Camp      1930s Working Cowboys      1930s House/Yard

How many TMD's attended?

Dates you plan to attend:      Friday 10/21      ( )

   Saturday 10/22      ( )

   Sunday 10/24      ( )

Mileage (if more than 150 miles round-trip)\*:

Specialized Interpretation (Character/demonstration/vignette/music)? If yes, please describe:

Can you provide artillery piece for 19<sup>th</sup> century interpretations?      Y      N

Do you plan to bring a horse for your interpretation?      Y      N

Current Coggins and vet records must be presented before horse can enter property.

Return this form by October 1<sup>st</sup> to complete your registration.

By Mail:      TMD Volunteer Registration      By Fax: (281) 343-9316

   PO Box 1248

   Richmond, TX 77406

Or e-mail this information to:      [programs@georgeranch.org](mailto:programs@georgeranch.org)

For more information, go to [www.georgeranch.org](http://www.georgeranch.org)

\* Mileage bounty will be capped at 600 miles roundtrip to keep an equitable distribution.

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## **For Sale**

Available from John Keahey

1 Enfield Accoutrement Set, complete, made by Jarnagin and unused \$200

12 leather bound volumes of the Collector's Library of the Civil War by Time Life. These are famous first person books of the war reprinted in matching covers.

3 Wallet Safes in painted canvas \$5 each.

"Shelter Tents of the Civil War", by Gaede \$20

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## **Newsletter Deadlines**

The next newsletter deadline will be after Corinth & announced on the Yahoo group. Thanks, Don