



The Tyrants' Foe



Newsletter of the Texas Rifles

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Next Maximum Effort Event

Red River Battalion Muster in preparation for Perryville

September 9-10th, 2006 TBA

Captain's Dispatch



CURSUS HONORUM

Cursus Honorum is a Latin term whose literal meaning is, “path of honor”, but its true meaning in ancient Rome was the “Path of Offices.” If a noble born Roman of the Senatorial class wished to acquire prestige and power he would enter elections for various administrative offices within the Roman Government. Even in the time of the emperors, most Roman officials were elected. Each office had age and wealth requirements so a fixed schedule of offices from junior to top positions evolved. The most junior elected office was a military Tribune. The most senior position was a Consul; Roman calendar years were named not so much by the year of the reign of an emperor, but by which two men were consuls for that year. It was considered prestigious to be elected to office in the first year of your eligibility, which made ambitious Romans very competitive for public notice, wealth (money drove elections back then just as today), name recognition, luck and ability. Emperors were not elected to be sure; they achieved their position by birth, revolt, bribes, character assassination, murder, coup, political manipulation or all of the above. These techniques have not had much success in the Texas Rifles, but are quite fashionable in some other low number Texas infantry regiments with which we have been formerly associated.

The Texas Rifles also has a cursus honorum within the military side of the organization. I hope the civilian side gains enough members where they too can develop a cursus honorum. Some large civilian groups base themselves upon a town structure with the senior official being a mayor. This does give them a period format, but is complicated by the anachronism for us of women serving in elected positions in a period in which they could not even vote. No one in the Texas Rifles is prepared to be THAT authentic and that is one of those compromises we have to make as 21st century people portraying those from the 19th century. On the military side the first step is to volunteer for one of several jobs. It could be the web site manager, Texas Rifles Quartermaster, Newsletter Editor, Treasurer, the Corporal’s Pool, or serve on a committee. These are all

volunteer positions, although they generally require a certain expertise. Many honorable and talented members have chosen NOT to take this step. They prefer to remain privates. There are as many reasons for this decision as there are people who make it. Members who volunteer for the Corporal's pool are called upon to serve as corporals as needed. Corporals are this first level of supervisors within the military; they lead small groups, but most importantly they teach other members the drill and military responsibilities.

When a person has mastered the duties of a corporal and demonstrated responsibility and skill, he can volunteer for the Sergeant's Pool. This is a much smaller pool of men considered knowledgeable enough to function as Second or Third Sergeants. Full size companies had up to five sergeants, but we have not needed that many sergeants for years within the Texas Rifles. As any soldier can tell you, sergeants run the company. They form and lead platoons, guide troops in line of battle and lead details. Sergeants (except 1st Sergeant's) and corporals are appointed by consensus among the elected military officers.

The first elected office faced by members is generally the First Sergeant's position. The man elected to this position has demonstrated not only the desire to hold this job, but key skills and knowledge. According to the Texas Rifles Bylaws there are no prerequisites for any elected office; any member in good standing can run for any elected office during an election. However, experience has shown that elected positions require certain expertise best acquired by experience within the unit. The First Sergeant's position is a good example of this; **this job makes or breaks our military impression, period.** The First Sergeant is the top soldier of the company. He forms the company, administers it and carries out the orders of the officers. The officers depend upon the First Sergeant to carry out their orders and the men depend upon the First Sergeant for an example, fairness and common sense in obeying the orders of insensitive, ignorant, impractical, arrogant (you get the idea) higher ranks. The Texas Rifles have been blessed with many notable First Sergeants and that remains a reason for our success.

The next step up in the Texas Rifles cursus honorum is the Lieutenant. This is also an elected position and typically requires a candidate to have served as First Sergeant. This not absolute; I never served as a First Sergeant within the Texas Rifles, though I did in another unit, was a Battalion Guide Sergeant for years and was a Sergeant Major in two other regiments. Holding the First Sergeant's position does not qualify a candidate for the Lieutenant position or any other elected position. What should gain elected promotion is carrying out the duties of the lower position skillfully and being perceived by the membership as ready for promotion to more responsibilities. Nothing should be automatic! The cursus honorum is a path from which it is possible to deviate, not an escalator ride ending automatically only at the top, the Captaincy.

To be elected to the Lieutenant's position requires a leap; a leap from the 19th century working class world to the very different world of the commissioned officer. Typically this means new uniforms, insignia, equipment and weapons. Gone is the musket and come is the sword and pistol. The lieutenant is expected to be an officer and a gentleman in character and by Act of Congress. His shirt and his hands are clean from not doing manual labor. In the real world of the Texas Rifles the lieutenant's position has become a utility position with the lieutenant acting in the role of a private or officer as dictated by the number of men in the field. I have known several men who made superb NCO's, but were not as successful at being an officer, and vice versa. It is a different skill set and attitude. Officers should lead by example and have earned the confidence of their subordinates by having performed the duties in the past they now expect of the people under them. Leadership and respect can not be taught well in a classroom or by reading about them; these skills can be innate, or earned and learned through example and experience.

At the top of the cursus honorum is the Captain of the Texas Rifles. He is the CEO, presiding officer, civilian and military leader of the organization. His character, goals, drive and skills define the Texas Rifles during his term of officer both inside the Texas Rifles and to outside organizations. The buck stops on his knapsack. Success both military and civilian weighs upon his shoulders. If you don't think that this is on the minds of the men who have been honored to hold this position, look inside the flap of the old wrinkled painted cloth case each captain has been given when the office is obtained. It says under the list of former captains, "In whose mighty company I must stand unashamed." I can tell you that my hands shook with apprehension when I added my name to that list!

After being captain, usually for two years, each man must make his decision as to his place in the hobby. Some leave the hobby, some become dilettantes, some re-enter the ranks as privates and some obtain field rank in the battalion of the moment (the Texas Rifles have outlasted three or four battalions). I have never known a former captain to retrace the steps in the Texas Rifles cursus honorum and become captain again, but as the Romans understood, few things are impossible for a determined individual.

Jmk, 6/6/2006

Lieutenant's Inkwell



I'd like to talk about Outpost 2006. This was an immersion event that asked a lot of the participants. Rather than the standard "drill, fight, drink" events, we were asked to become soldiers for a full 24 hours. Guard was posted, work details assigned and the Texas Rifles and our guests from the 1st Tx and the 6th Tx fulfilled the duties of soldiers on retreat in a rear guard action. On a personal level, I found the event much less exciting than the last one, but I was never more proud of the men in our command. The goal on the Federal side was to build entrenchments and guard "the road" from the advancing Rebs. In that end, we accomplished everything expected of us and more. After meeting initial resistance on one road, we moved down another and settled into a very quiet 24 hours. Our earthworks were dug, reinforced and manned without a shot being fired. Men from three different units did this together as one. It was like we had worked together all our lives. Guard duty was quickly established and not a man complained about anything other than the heat. Outstanding teamwork! The Federals were never expected to patrol. We were in retreat after all. Yet we patrolled, found the Rebs and harassed him TWICE never losing a man (tho' I nearly lost ALL our NCOs). We took one prisoner and never once was our defensive line threatened. Oh, we were shot at, but find the Yank who thought for a second that our line would be breached. You won't find him.

You were asked to bring a positive attitude and to SOLDIER UP. This is exactly what you did. Be proud of your performance. I sure as Hell am!

FJMarek

LT of Texas Rifles

Dios, Libertad y Tejas!

Because the Sergeant Says So!



How very strange it seems to be in the middle of the summer yet again. For me, this last year has been something of a blur, between having a new baby in March and all of the other comings and goings of life. Still, for all of the change, one thing has remained constant: my affection for the Texas Rifles. As First Sergeant of this company for a second year, I have been proud to witness the remarkable evolution that has taken place among our membership. Let me first compliment the excellent work performed by the NCOs during my spring

baby absence. I have heard nothing but praise on their behalf from the executive committee members and the men-in-the-ranks alike. Next, I would like to recognize the men, themselves. Despite being drenched at Beaumont Ranch, their spirits remained high (or was it that spirits made them high—I don't recall) and they remained willing to make the best of the situation. At Outpost 2006, they performed MAGNIFICENTLY as both Confederates—which I witnessed directly—and Federals—which I witnessed from the receiving end of their musket barrels. As an aside, if you missed Outpost, you REALLY missed something! In any event, I would also like to recognize our civilians, whose efforts in organizing the upcoming Henkel Square event have been motivating to observe. Their importance to the organization is finally returning to the level they enjoyed when I first joined a decade ago. Hear, hear!

Now, with the admittedly impressive past behind us, it is time for us to look to the immediate future. On the horizon in October is Perryville, Kentucky. This is, of course, our company's primary national event for 2006. Preliminary reports indicate that it will be a very good experience overall, even if we do have to visit Mike Lucas's home state in the process. In the interest of preparing properly, break out your Western Confederate uniforms/gear and start walking NOW. Do not wait until the last minute to try and get into physical shape for the inevitable marches across hill and dale. Let's remember, we're heading to central Kentucky. The terrain will be rolling hills and the like. Although the weather should be great, physical fitness will be the key to enjoying an injury-free event. Do I sound like a nag? Perhaps I do. But, I'd rather take that risk, than for anyone to have a poor experience at this event for lack of preparation.

That said, let me take a moment to thank each and every member of the Texas Rifles for their understanding and support over the past six months. Having a new baby is an inherently stressful event, as many of you know well. Not having to worry about how my temporary nonattendance would affect the group was a great relief. I can not tell you how much I have appreciated your patience and "let's pick up the slack for the First Sergeant" attitude during my absence. It was a real thrill to be back in the field with all of you at Outpost. I look forward to what the future holds in store—it looks brighter than ever! To Tyrants Never Yield!

Your humble servant,
Phil Sozansky, First Sergeant

From the Home Front

While the Civilians have not been too active in the field with the Texas summer heat upon us, we have accomplished a couple of our goals. We now have six camp stools and new covers in appropriate, more "genteel" fabric are being produced. Our fly has also arrived and the necessary poles, ropes, and stakes will be purchased soon. We also have a folding table thanks to the wonderful generosity of Mike Covington. So, the Civilians are just about ready for their next event.

A few of the Rifles attended Bellmeade as civilian this year. No, Bellmeade is not the kind of event that most of us like to attend, but for a day trip, I personally had a good time. There was a wonderful workshop and talk on flags and flag production of the war, which was very interesting.

The Henkel Square event in Round Top is moving along. The information and registration form was first made available to our members and is available in a folder on the Texas Rifles Yahoo! group site. The information should have been made available to other groups by the time you are reading this. I encourage everyone to consider participating in this event; it hopefully will help give you a sense of what it really meant to be a citizen in 1862 Texas, as the gentlemen consider whether or not to enlist and fight and the women realize what it will mean to them once the men in their lives are gone. This perspective will round out all our impressions.

We also have a new recruit. Holli Marek has expressed an interest in joining her husband in the hobby. She has been working with Nancy to get clothes and such together. I hope you will all join me in welcoming Holli to our group.

Authenticity Committee Report

The members have voted to change the primary impression of the TR from Army of Northern Virginia to Army of Tennessee, which changes the jacket required for new members from the Richmond Depot style to the Columbus Depot style. This also makes more provision for .69 cal. longarms and accoutrement sets that reflect the depots of Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia.

The impression guidelines will be revised to better correspond with the theaters of operation and our emphasis on events that take place from the Mississippi river to Atlanta. Tommy Attaway.

Editors Note: As always, all previously purchased Texas Rifles approved uniforms & equipment are still appropriate (i.e. while encouraged, no members are required to purchase additional new uniforms or equipment to meet the new Army of Tennessee guidelines. These guidelines will be used for new members as they join the Texas Rifles). DLT.

Houston Area Report

Rifles,

Until further notice and with the Captain's permission, I will be taking over the Houston Area Report.

The heat is here, but summer hasn't even started! I'm certainly glad that we didn't schedule Outpost for later in the summer. Our schedule of events has slowed down a bit, but the Houston area will have a few fellers heading to Manassas soon. For the rest of us, it would be nice to get together for some fun activities. Long summers give the perfect opportunity to become lax and find other interests. I'm hoping that we can find ways to keep ourselves busy and entertained. Some ideas are rolling parties, drills, live fires, beer tasting and simply getting together to watch a movie. Just because the campaign season is slightly on hold, let's not forget that we are Texas Rifles.

Speaking of cartridge rolling, we had a good turn-out at my place last weekend. We rolled over 200 rounds, cleaned up our drill a little bit and had a nice visit. My wife Holli was glad to meet new people and is looking forward to "falling in" with our civilians.

The Houston area welcomes two fellers into the fold. Joe Raffels is a new member and has come a long way in a short time. He fell in with us at Outpost and did himself and the Texas Rifles proud.

Joe, if you liked Outpost, you'll LOVE the Mansfield march next year! Break in those brogans Amigo!

Another new man is a guy named Rob Williamson who moved here from the Austin area. I don't know much about him, but hopefully he will get lined out soon and become a productive member...., OK actually, he's Former Captain Rob, Boozy McBooze, Williamson and he and his family have recently moved back home to Kingwood. Welcome home Rob!

On a final note, tho' the weather might be keeping us from our nice warm uniforms, we can still RECRUIT, RECRUIT, RECRUIT!!! Keep talking up the hobby with your friends. Don't be afraid to wear those old re-enactment T-shirts to strike up conversations and definitely keep us posted on any recruiting opportunities like town fairs, parades and such.

Have a GREAT SUMMER!

God Bless Texas!

FJMarek, Lt of Texas Rifles

Frontier Region

A couple of members have become more involved again and will be welcome participants. The ammo box is in operation to support the region. Tommy Attaway.

WEIGHTY ISSUES

Part the First

I doubt that any of the people reading this article would recognize the name of Lieutenant Alexander Baillie. Lt. Baillie served in his Majesty's 60th Regiment of Foot (infantry to us) in the 1760's during what the citizens of the United States are educated to call the French and Indian War and what the rest of the universe knows as the Seven Years War. This nasty, important war lasted from 1754 to 1760 and resulted in the French finally being expelled from the North American continent by British and colonial American forces.

Lt. Alexander Baillie would remain an unknown officer in a largely forgotten war except for one thing that he did. He was ordered to calculate the weight of clothing, equipment, food and arms that the typical British soldier carried at that time and report his findings to his colonel. Possibly this was a training exercise of some sort that the colonel thought would benefit young Master Baillie. The lieutenant's list and associated weights managed to survive the centuries in some forgotten file until it was re-discovered. It is now the most authorities list of the uniform and equipment of a British infantry private in this little known era and consequently has tremendous value to modern historians attempting to understand the military of that time. My curiosity was piqued by Lt. Baillie's list and I decided to generate a similar list for an infantry soldier of the American Civil War. What follows is a list of the common items, and their weights, carried by a Federal infantry soldier and includes all the issued items. Some of these weights were taken from a digital bathroom scale and some from a spring-loaded postage scale, so they may not be totally accurate. Of course, most Federal infantrymen never carried all this stuff, particularly in the Western Theater and late in the war. However, this was what the U.S. soldier was SUPPOSED to carry. We can assume that a typical Confederate soldier would carry a lesser load of kit.

FEDERAL INFANTRY SOLDIER KIT With WEIGHTS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	
	Pounds	Ounces
Uniform Coat	4	6
Great Coat	6	0
Sack Coat	2	4
Hardee Hat w/ insignia		12
Forage Cap w/ insignia		5
Shirt	1	4
Drawers	1	2
Trouser with Braces	2	4
Socks		4
Jefferson Bootee Shoes (size 11)	3	12
M1861 Springfield Rifle-Musket with Sling & Tompion	9	5
Bayonet & Scabbard	1	2
Waist Belt with Buckle and Cap Box (48 caps)		14
Cartridge Box with Sling, Plate, Breast Plate, 40 cartridges	5	11
Oil Bottle, Screw Driver, Ball Puller & Worm		10
Haversack with three day's Rations, Eating Utensils, Boiler	9	8
Pocket Knife		3
Canteen with sling and water	4	0

Knapsack containing:	1	6
Blanket	5	8
Poncho	2	8
Shelter Half with rope	2	3
Three wooden Tent Pegs		8
Clothes & Shoe Brushes	1	3
Spare Shirt	1	4
Spare pair Socks		4
Shaving Kit		9

TOTAL WEIGHT 68 pounds 11ounces

By that way, according to Lieutenant Alexander Baillie the British infantry private carried a total of 63 pounds and 3 ounces of kit in the 1760's. The loads are very similar, more so than I would have guessed before starting this exercise.

The next portion of this talk will deal with how this load of 68 pounds 11 ounces was distributed around the body and reduced.

jmk, 5/5/2006

WEIGHTY ISSUES

Part the Second

In the first part of this article on the load that the U.S. Army expected its soldiers to carry in the Civil War, we found that the issue load for a fully uniformed and equipped infantry soldier was 68 pounds and 11 ounces. In the second part of this article we will document how soldiers, expected by Army officers to carry heavy loads of uniforms and equipment, lightened their loads to make them more practical.

Ordnance

Items issued to infantry soldiers from the Ordnance Department included all weapons, ammunition and accoutrements. Obviously, an infantry soldier can not long conceal the fact that he decided not to carry his rifle musket any longer due to its "inconvenience." The ordnance items issued defined the soldier and his role in battle. If the ordnance supplies could not be done away with, perhaps they could be reduced however.

Slings and ornamental badges were the first things to go. Musket slings, while relatively light, were frequently not issued to or not used by soldiers. Looking at contracts, there were approximately one third the number of musket slings as muskets in the Federal Army. The ratio must have been much worse in the Confederate Army, which had to endure a wartime shortage of leather. Finally, in 1864 the South began to issue musket slings made not of russet leather like the US pattern, but of linen.

Another sling which could be dispensed with was the cartridge box sling. Accoutrement sets were sometimes issued early in the Federal war effort without cartridge box slings. This put all the weight of the cartridge box on the waist belt, and consequently the abdomen. Thousand of soldiers were medically discharged from the army due to the stress on their abdominal organs due to the weight of the cartridge box. Many soldiers carried a portion of the ammunition issue in pockets or knapsack to lessen the weight on their waist belts. The cartridge sling badge was purely ornamental and could be ditched with no loss of efficiency to the service. One Army of the Potomac Federal regiment held a mock funeral in its winter camp at Falmouth, Virginia and buried its entire issue of cartridge box sling and cartridge box badges. Net weight saved by ditching both slings and two badges; 13 ounces.

Many Confederate infantry troops, in an army under lighter discipline and with replacement equipment more difficult to obtain, threw away their bayonets and scabbards. By one estimate about half the soldiers of the

Confederate Army had no bayonets by 1863. Hand to hand combat was rare in this war and the bayonet had few other uses, in battle or out of it, which justified its retention. Net weight saved; 1 pound 2 ounces.

Clothing

Clothing was issued by the Quartermaster Department. The Quartermasters were also responsible for Haversacks, Canteens, Knapsacks, Blankets, Shelter Halves, Gum Blankets and eating utensils. Much of the weight saved by soldiers came at the expense of the Quartermaster issued items.

The first thing to go was the Great Coat. This was the single heaviest clothing item and was used on the North American continent only in the winter. With the return of campaign weather in the Spring, many great coats were thrown away or turned back in to the QM for storage. When General Hooker took control of the Army of the Potomac, he specified that on the 1863 Spring campaign the infantry had the choice of carrying either the blanket or the great coat, but not both. General Grant, on the opening march of his 1864 spring campaign against the Army of Northern Virginia, was shocked to find the roads down to the Rappahannock River littered with great coats, blankets, and even haversacks. The western armies where Grant had made his reputation were perpetually on the short end of the Federal supply stick. The westerners always got the older weapons, second rate gear and off color clothing. Waste was unusual because everyone realized that a replacement item might not be forthcoming. As one author explained it, waste was the better supplied Army of the Potomac's method of stripping down to campaign weight. Great coats in the Confederate Army were relatively rare, particularly if actually of Confederate origin. In 1862, the Bureau of Clothing of the Trans-Mississippi Department issued 24,767 jackets and overshirts, but only 637 great coats. Lose the great coat; net weight saved 6 pounds.

Most Federal soldiers preferred the sack coat for campaigning; it was loose, relatively light in weight and fabric and cooler to wear in the hot Southern climate than the padded broadcloth wool uniform (frock) coat. In some Federal units the commanding officers insisted that the more military looking uniform coat be worn on campaign, but this seems to be the exception. Ditch the uniform coat; weight saved 4 pounds 8 ounces.

In the western Federal armies where rough and tough was the image, as opposed to the eastern Federal army tendency towards being a military fashion plate, the Hardee Hat was stripped of insignia and used as the fatigue hat. The lighter forage cap, capable of being stowed in a knapsack, might be saved for inspections and formal military occasions. In the eastern Federal armies the Hardee hat was ditched and the forage cap generally worn. There was no way to transport the Hardee Hat other than wearing it. It had no suspension strap and did not fold for packing. Lose the Hardee Hat, wear the Forage Cap and save 12 ounces.

Equipment

Only ignorant recruits threw away canteens, haversacks, food, gum blankets, shelter halves or blankets. These items were necessary to life in the field. Messes were formed so that extra towels, soap, cooking gear and shaving kits were ditched in favor of commonly used items. In the west, knapsacks were frequently thrown away, as in the Confederate service, in favor of the blanket roll. Confederates are frequently portrayed as wearing only blanket rolls. Throwing away the double-bag knapsack only saved you 1 pound and a few ounces. The blanket straps were typically saved from the knapsack. The Confederate QM stopped issuing knapsacks because the troops did not want them. Perhaps the knapsack was not considered necessary because the southern did not have enough stuff to fill one.

Other savings in weight could be had from the Haversack. Soldiers were famous for food waste. The Army often issued food for three days at a time, particularly on campaign. The food was bulky and heavy. Much weight could be saved by cooking all meat rations in advance of the march. This removed much fat and water. Another favorite method to reduce the weight of food was to eat it. Many soldiers would eat their rations intended by the army for three days and trust to "luck" to "find" more when wanted. In short, they planned to forage. In shorter, they intended to steal it.

One reenactor I knew only carried a half full canteen on the march. He correctly anticipated finding water along the road. I do not know if this was a period practice, but certainly a march was only BEGUN with a full canteen weighting four pounds; water was consumed en route.

Total weight savings from the 68 pound 11 ounce issue uniform and equipment could be 16 pounds and 3 ounces if the soldier could and/or would throw away the following items; great coat, uniform coat, Hardee Hat, bayonet, scabbard, shaving kit, knapsack, cartridge box sling and two badges. Additional weight could be saved by eating rations in the present intended for future meals and drinking water. This would make the final stripped-down campaign kit weight as approximately 50 pounds of clothing, food, weapon, ammunition, and camping gear. Still a pretty good load on a march!

jmk, 5/5/2006

WEIGHTY ISSUES

Part the Third (Distribution)

In the first two portions of this three part article addressing the weight carried by the Civil War infantry soldier, we have learned that the total weight of clothing, weapons, ammunition and equipment issued by the United States Army to its soldiers weighed 68 pounds and 11 ounces. The US Army expected that this collection of items would be carried by the soldier any time a change of camp occurred. We can generally assume that a mid-war Confederate soldier was issued less and carried less. The second part of this article dealt with the common shortcuts that the soldiers took to reduce the load. None of this stuff was intentionally issued for a season, such as heavy clothing for winter, but the US Army did develop the habit of storing some issued items, such as great coats, at the beginning of the spring/summer campaign season. It learned to do so after staggering losses of army materiel happened due to items being thrown away or lost in battle. In the early part of the war the Federal Army practice was to stack knapsacks prior to an engagement to lessen the soldier's load and to increase freedom of movement. This practice stopped after battles such as Chancellorsville, where the Federal army left 30,000 knapsacks on the battlefield after retreating. Whole Confederate divisions equipped themselves after that battle with knapsacks, shelter halves, blankets, and gum blankets; all at the US taxpayer's expense.

One of my favorite stories from the Civil War actually took place in the Reconstruction Period immediately after the war and is an example of the type of loss such as happened at Chancellorsville. An itinerate preacher was riding across a battlefield after the war had ended. The South was a lawless place at that time filled with carpetbaggers (not a nice thing to call anyone when I grew-up), outlaws, scalawags (another dirty word), and displaced and desperate people with no food or jobs. The preacher was slowly urging his boney, underfed horse down the road when he saw silhouetted on the skyline on the next ridge mounted men moving towards him. In that place and in that time, this was not a good thing. A group of men riding together on a public highway implied outlaws. The preacher quickly guided his horse into the woods, dismounted and jumped behind what he thought was a low mossy stone wall which extended through the trees. The stone was covered in green mold and, to his surprise, was squishy to the touch. The "stone wall" turned out to be a long row of neatly stacked knapsacks of a Federal regiment abandoned during the battle and never plundered by Confederate soldiers. Boy, there are a lot of relic hunters who would love to know where that spot was!

With the soldier's load reduced either by the intention of the authorities, or by the simple practice of throwing unwanted/unneeded items away, the problem for the soldier now became one of how to best distribute the load around the body for maximum comfort and for practicality in battle. There really is no way to modify how period clothing was worn. Ignoring clothing for the moment, allow me to list the non-clothing equipment items, in order of weight:

Knapsack	15 pounds	3 ounces
Haversack w/ three day's rations	9 pounds	8 ounces
Weapon	9 pounds	3 ounces

Cartridge Box & 40 Cartridges	5 pounds	11 ounces
Canteen (full)	4 pounds	0 ounces
Waist Belt, Cap Box, Bayonet, Scabbard	2 pounds	0 ounces

There is only one way to carry the knapsack and one does not “wear” a musket. Of course, the logical mainstream extension of doing the impression of cavalry person without the horse is to do the impression of an infantry person without the musket, but I digress. The waist belt, cap box, bayonet and scabbard must be worn pretty much as usual. Ditto the cartridge box. Period drill required an infantry man to wear his cartridge box on the right side of the body. No matter which hand was your dominate hand, everyone was trained to be right handed and the drill made no allowance for the cartridge box to be worn anyplace but on the right side. The remaining items to be distributed are the haversack and canteen.

For purposes of inspections and in the U.S. Army Regulations, the haversack and canteen were to be worn on the left side with the canteen on top of the haversack. No mention was made of placing the waist belt over the haversack straps to reduce its motion when moving. That is a reenactor-ism. For obvious reasons, it does not due to place the canteen on the same side of the body as the paper cartridges, which will not fire if accidentally wetted. For many years I use to snigger at a uniform print which showed a Federal private in “marching order” with his haversack on the same side of the body as the cartridge box. Obviously, the artist was ignorant of period military practice. Or was he?

During the Red River II event when we spent a week in the field and marched 57 miles, I had soreness in my shoulders due to the unequal load. I found that wearing the haversack on the same side as the cartridge box helped the problem. After that event I went back to my library and began to look at period photographs of troops one campaign, primarily Federals as the South had few photographers following their armies. I don’t mean tintypes taken in a studio or posed camp pictures; I mean the very few photographs that showed troops in the field. Several, not all, did show soldiers wearing the haversack on the right side of the body. This was the standard practice in the British Army of the 1750’s and it does make sense, from a weight distribution perspective.

jmk, 5/17/2006

Clothing allowance for a 5-year enlistment

(revised Regulations of 1861 and GO 95). (Prices are from “The Company Clerk” 1863):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 great coat (1 per 5 years) \$9.50 • 2 blankets (1 per 2.5 years) \$3.60 • 5 forage caps (1 per year) \$0.56 (cover \$0.18) • 10 sack fatigue coats (1 per 6 months) lined \$3.14, unlined \$2.40 • 11 pair flannel drawers (1 per 5.5 months) \$0.95 • 13 pairs of trousers (1 per 4.5 months) \$3.55 • 15 flannel shirts (1 per four months) \$1.46 • 20 pairs of bootees (1 per 3 months) sewed \$2.05, pegged \$1.48 • 20 pairs of stockings (1 per 3 months) \$0.32 | <p>Dress uniforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 dress hats with trimmings (1 per year) total \$2.04 (hat \$1.68; feather .15; cord and tassel .14; eagle .02; bugle .03; letter .01; number .01) • 5 frock coats (1 per year) \$7.21 • 2 leather stocks (1 per 2.5 years) \$0.10 |
|---|--|

Army Pay Per Month

	Confederate	Union
Private	\$11	\$13
Corporal	\$13	\$13
Sergeant	\$17	\$17
First Sergeant	\$20	\$20
Quartermaster Sergeant	\$21	\$21
Sergeant Major	\$21	\$21
Second Lieutenant	\$80	\$105.50
First Lieutenant	\$90	\$105.50
Captain	\$130	\$115.50
Major	\$150	\$169
Lieutenant Colonel	\$170	\$181
Colonel	\$195	\$212
Brigadier General	\$301	\$315
Major General	\$301	\$457
Lieutenant General	\$301	\$758
General	\$301	

Clothing Allowance and Army Pay provided by Tommy Attaway.

Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter deadline will be announced on the TR Yahoo group. Thanks, Don

Survey



Texas Rifles

2005 Membership ID

Emergency Contact:

Name
Phone # (XXX) XXX-XXXX

Medical Information:

Allergies: none
Other: none

Name

Company Recruiting
Hotline:
281-261-0665

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

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.

Front

Back

IMPORTANT: All members (military and civilian) who haven't passed along the ID info., please send me the following information so we can get the remaining TR ID cards made! Thanks, Don.

Name:

Emergency Contacts:

Contact Numbers:

Medical Info:

Allergies: (especially to medications)

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