



The Tyrants' Foe



Newsletter of the Texas Rifles

Volume XXXII

Celebrating 29 Years of Excellence

September 2016



Well folks, I have been putting off my submission but I had a good reason. Last night we had a battalion Officers call via the phone. Many things were discussed and I would now like to share them with you.

First of all let us discuss Perryville. Many times some of the folks who have been in the hobby for a bit mention the old days of having huge companies at an event. At Perryville this is going to happen again. We are forming mixed companies to ensure we have 40 men per company. We will be forming a company with the 9th Texas. The 6th Texas and Company B will form a second company. All battalion staff the first day will fill the ranks unless told to join the battalion staff. We will be assigned to men from the eastern part of the United States and will not be under the umbrella of the Army of The West. We do not know currently what reg't we shall be, but the park service there will provide us a flag. In total all Confederate Troops will consist of 5 Reg'ts only. This means big companies with about 2 battalions per Reg't. Not a lot of extra Officers running around with no troops either.

The event itself will be based on actual units involved. We will be on the actual battlefield and will try to be as close as we can to where the reg'ts actually fought. Only those units, no extras, no hangers on. It will be more of a living history versus the reenactment so many of us have had in the past. The standards for the event are pretty simple. I suggest each of

you take a look at them. If you need any gear, equipment or uniform pieces let the 1st Sgt know.

At the event itself our combined company rank structure shall be, Major Zabava will step down to Captain and command us. Captain Ron White will become a LT. 1st Sgt Larsen of the 9th will be 1st Sgt. I will be 2nd Sgt for the event. We will have 4 Corp's. Two of them will be Frank as 1st and Tommy as 2nd. Although not required, if you can sew on some stripes, it would be nice. The last two Corps are going to be Keyes Larsen and Arthur Porras of the 9th. This rank structure was selected by myself and the other officers of the 9th Texas. With a 40 man plus company, it should be great. We will have a short company and battalion drill on Saturday to work out the kinks of a combined company. Nothing too involved but with a combined company with new leaders it is almost required.

For the Sunday battle, we will pick up 1-2 other companies to join us and our battalion staff will reform. It should not effect us men in the ranks that much. It will really be a good event with some new twists plus we get to form up with some other units we have not been with before. Some of you may remember the 37th North Carolina, that is one we will be with for example.

We need to remember we are at a National Event. The modern stuff needs to go away for this event. We of course need the company fly, plus anyone else who has a fly needs to bring it along. A frames, dog tents etc are a last resort. We will build shebangs first. It will be like the old days folks, and I know I can do it for a couple of nights. We will need pioneer tools as well as some period rope so dig deep and bring that as well. The weather can be fickle so plan accordingly.

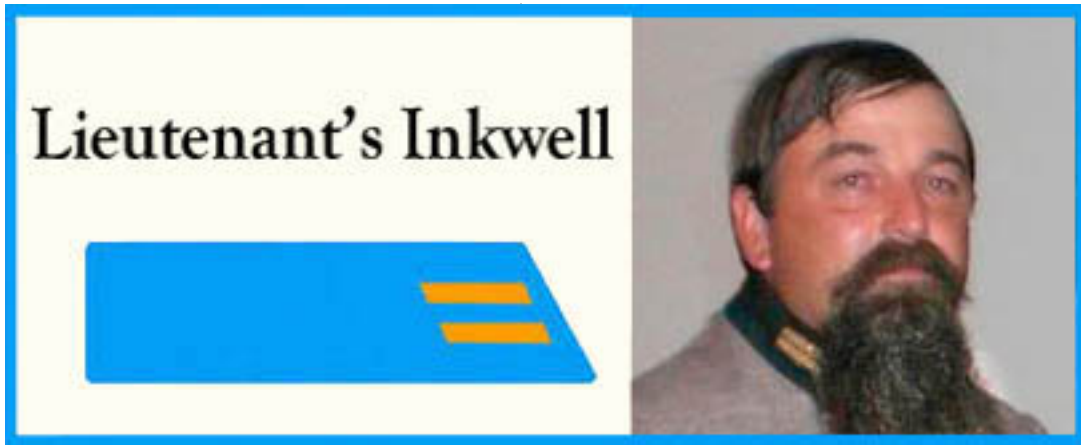
Ok on to other things. I have confirmed we are a go for Pioneer Farms civilian event. We will be having a few new guest civilians coming out. The scenario is 1866 reconstruction era. We still have a lot of space available for people to come. If you have never been to the farms, it is a very magical place. It would be a great time to kick back, do some living history for the folks and just have fun. I will be there Friday evening. As always I will provide Friday night food for us. Frank will be running a tavern and will bring a cooked brisket for us to eat. Plus Sara will bring a few things. Saturday morning I will bring the fixings for breakfast. Its pot luck after that so chip in. Come out, have fun, enjoy yourself and educate the public on history in Texas.

Lastly we discussed future events on the phone last night. There were only three events the battalion will attend right now. The others are up in the air. First is the event at Camp Mabry, the Guns of 1863. We voted not to attend that event last year. We need to vote again this year on the event. The second is a national event in Virginia in June. It is

sponsored by the same folks who did the last one there. The Battalion will be the 4th Texas. We will do what they actually did, storm and take guns, be counterattacked by cav and run them off and have friendly fire. It could be a fun time. There is also a conflict with two events we can vote on later. The events are a Shiloh sponsored by Jack King Tennessee and a national event at the Fort Blakley in Alabama. Plus as always we will have Liendo.

We have some fun stuff coming up folks. With us paying for vans to events and paying registration I hope it will encourage more of you to come out and support the events.

I Remain Your Humble and Obedient Servant.....Captain Dusty Lind



The Spring season is on us with excellent opportunities to fall in with friends. Most notably is Perryville Kentucky. The middle of October is a great time to be in Kentucky. Nice weather, pretty country and delicious bourbon. The event is calling for a campaign impression so be prepared to travel light. We will be bringing the fly for some shelter and I highly recommend that we stop at a farmer's market closer to the site and get vegetables to supplement our rations.

We will also have a new recruit with us. Rion Braddock is from Atascocita and is making strides to get kitted out. This is a fairly new hobby for him so hopefully his enthusiasm will be a boost to us jaded vets!

I hope to see plenty of you at Pioneer Farms next weekend. I am bringing the brisket that was leftover from muster so if you miss out, no complaints!

FJMarek
Dios, Libertad y Tejas!



First Sergeant Says So

With the addition of new members and ongoing research into the material culture of Confederate supply, I am taking this opportunity to review our unit impressions.

The primary Confederate impression of the Texas Rifles is Army of Tennessee. As the Eastern theater and to a lesser extent, Texas has the advantage of supply from England via blockade runner, this source of supply seldom was in evidence in the AoT. Thus, the general appearance of the AoT was less uniform to almost giving the ragged rebel look. The depot system had to make do with lower quality materials than were to be had for other Confederate armies.

The distinguishing feature of this impression is the "Columbus Depot" jacket, being made of jean cloth, six piece body and single piece sleeve, usually featuring a medium blue collar and cuffs. Other depots across the region would supply jackets of similar construction without the blue collar and cuffs. Issued trousers would also be of jean cloth probably cut on a more civilian pattern – meaning no yoke in the seat, and more likely the belt in the back with a buckle to adjust fit. Left over cloth resulted in some quantity of kepis for headgear. Shirts, drawers, socks and shoes were in short supply from the depot system, so we would expect to see large quantities of civilian clothing.

The strain on the supply system would be evident in the equipage provided in addition to the clothing. There should be a number of 1816 muskets converted to percussion and

some 1842 Springfields. Early in the war, Enfields would be to be had, and After Shiloh, some captured federal gear, but the subsequent battles tended to leave the Federals in possession of the battlefield, so there would be limited opportunities to acquire federal gear. We could see a number of painted cloth cartridge and cap boxes, white cloth haversack, and tin drum or wood canteens.

Our other Confederate impressions would center on Trans Mississippi or the Texas Brigade of the Army of Northern Virginia. The Richmond and Houston Depots had access to quantities of English blue gray cloth run through the blockade. From the few extant examples of production and a letter from the head of the Houston Depot, practice was to use the English cloth to make jackets, and regionally produced jean cloth for trousers, in the hope that better quality cloth would later become available. As a man was supposed to draw one jacket and two trousers per year, the better quality cloth was used in the clothing item that was supposed to last longer. These depots did a better job of producing shirts, drawers and socks, but still were in short supply. In addition to civilian items, there is some evidence for British shirts being proved via Richmond.

As production of leather goods struggled to meet the demand, many leather goods and knapsacks are imported from the British Isles. Recent research indicates much larger quantities of such goods than previously thought. Current thinking is that haversacks would be non import items, tin drum canteens common, and mix of belts and cartridge / cap boxes.. Overall the appearance should resemble some 65% of a unit wearing the same style of jacket, another 35% wearing trouser from the same issue, and a small percentage of civilian trousers, and everything else a mix.

We notionally have 13th Maine as or Federal impression.. However, it is really a more generic western Federal look that we are striving to present. With exception of the widespread use of the slouch hat, this means use of the issue sack coat, trousers, shoes and equipment. The main challenge to improving our impression here is the availability of quality items and the fact that a company would typically have the same type of musket in use. As the shirt was universally despised, volunteers could substitute some non issue items for underclothing.

In summary, we do a good job of giving the desired unit impression, and as long as we keep these thoughts in mind when making new purchases, we should continue to do so.

Tommy Attaway,
1st SGT



From the Home Front



Civilian maximum event at Pioneer Farms in Austin on September 17th.



Commander's Corner



Concerning the Civilian Event September 17th

During the early stages on reconstruction in Texas, they appointed ex confederate soldiers as Texas Rangers. In 1866 they were all fired and anyone who had served the Confederate Service in any way was fired. After reconstruction, every Texas Ranger was fired and they

were filled with ex Confederate Soldiers. Consequently anyone in any position of Government in any capacity cannot be an ex rebel.

Consequently Vonn would have to be Ex-Home Guard and not present Home Guard. As a scenario we could have people fleeing from the collapsing frontier as the Indian uprising kicks into high gear. We might also have a few men trying to sign on with the cattle drives heading north. Finally we might have a few fellas looking for work south of the border to fight in the Mexican Uprising down there.

These were some hard times in Texas. Money was useless, jobs were scarce, Indians were on the warpath. Federal Soldiers were in the towns and cities patrolling the streets. The Government for the state of Texas was broke, and had little if any authority or respect by its citizens. Rather than have a fiesta in the streets of Sprinkle Corner we should almost be in mourning. Our dreams of a new republic has been shattered, our lands laid waste, and the iron hand of Uncle Sam is on our throat.

Lastly the Federals Troops can come and go as they please when ever and where ever they want and desire, and we cannot do a thing about it. If Frank bars a Yankee from his tavern, they might just consider it an insult to the Union and close it down for good.

There is a true story about a female doctor in San Patricio County Texas. Right after the war she was the only doctor for 50 square miles. Her son, who had served in the Union Army during the war came home to live with his mother. One night a crowd gathered outside the doctors house and ordered the doctor send out her son so he could be lynched for serving in the Union Army. The Doctor said if you hang my son, I will leave here for good. Not wanting to lose their only doctor the crowd dispersed.

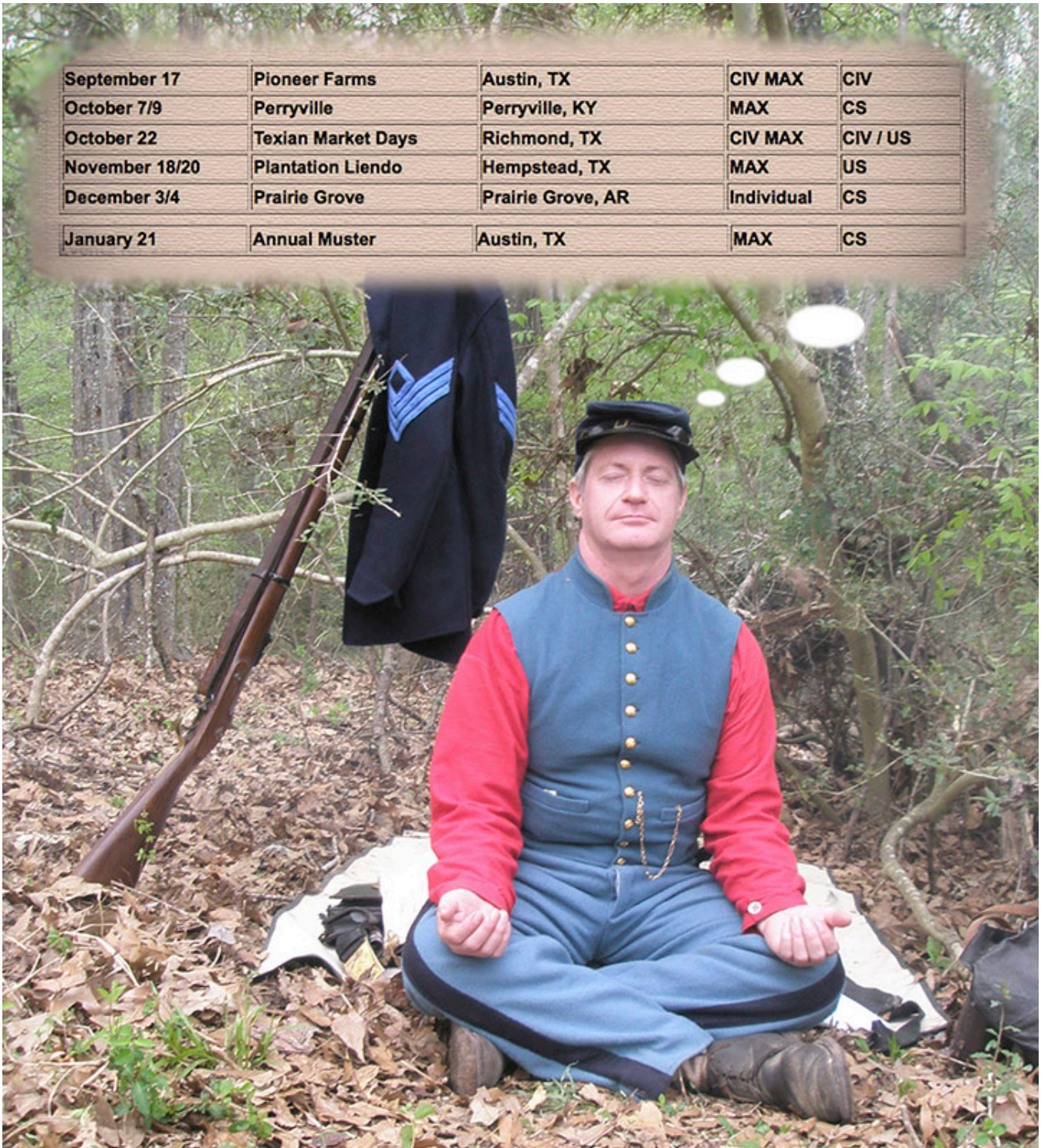
In Refugio Texas, three black soldiers came up missing. The Union area commander marched troops into the town, and gathered the town folks with troops. The Officer told the citizens if the soldiers did not turn up he would burn the entire town. The citizens had no idea where the troops were. The Officer told his men to make ready to burn the entire town. Right before the first match was lit, the three missing soldiers came wandering out of the brush, they stated they had got lost. This is the kind of hatred on both sides we will be dealing with. But we as ex rebels will always be on the short end of the stick.

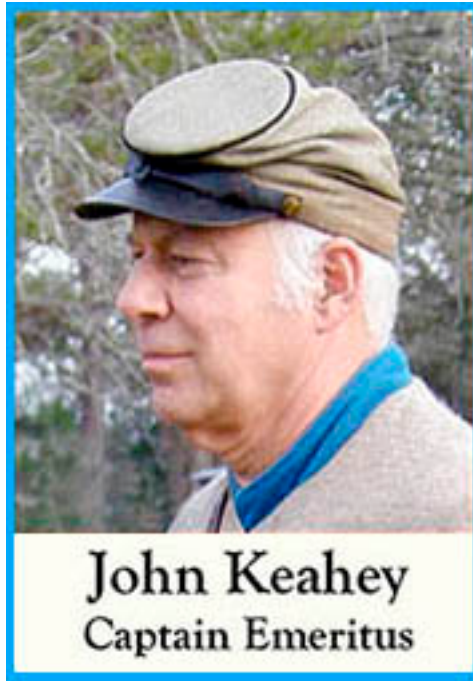
Capt. Dusty



Tommy Meditating on Upcoming Events

September 17	Pioneer Farms	Austin, TX	CIV MAX	CIV
October 7/9	Perryville	Perryville, KY	MAX	CS
October 22	Texian Market Days	Richmond, TX	CIV MAX	CIV / US
November 18/20	Plantation Liendo	Hempstead, TX	MAX	US
December 3/4	Prairie Grove	Prairie Grove, AR	Individual	CS
January 21	Annual Muster	Austin, TX	MAX	CS





WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT EXPORTED FROM ENGLAND TO NORTH AMERICA DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

As we all know, English arms and equipment makers sold large amounts of military goods to both the United States government, Confederate States government and individual states from both governments during the “late unpleasantness” called the American Civil War.

I recently purchased a book at the Daughters of the Confederacy Museum in Fort Worth (which, by the way, is worth the trip to see) named, “Suppliers to the Confederacy” by Craig Barry and David Burt. Both men are reenactors and their book is short; 191 pages. Half the book deals with the individual histories of some of the Birmingham, England gun makers, which I found to be personally not very interesting. The other half summarizes the terms and military gear sold to both North and South from 1861 to 1865. THAT was interesting; and it destroyed many of the accepted ideas about what North Americans got from England during the war.

Small Arms

The British Empire was not at its zenith in 1861, but it was getting there. It had defeated Napoleon and fought Russia to a standstill. Imagine the shaken pride of the British Army Board of Ordnance in 1851 at the London “Chrystal Palace” Exposition, promoted by their own Prince Albert, when those upstart money grubbing Yankees showed-up with some of their production line army weapons such as the M1842 Percussion Musket, put chairs in a circle, had their churlish workers strip each weapon done to the stock, throw all the parts into a pile and then reassemble completely functional weapons from randomly chosen

parts! In short, those clever Yankees had discovered the benefits of Interchangeable Parts made by machines, not craftsmen.

This wake-up call resulted in a Royal Commission. All military small arms at that time were generally made on contract by private gun makers located in Birmingham. In England that meant dealing with craft guilds, each of which controlled its specialty. It took the efforts from sixty (60) different guilds to make one P1853 Enfield Musket; almost all of it by hand. Birmingham makers defended their products before the Royal Commission and promised that their hand crafted methods could produce quality weapons in sufficient quantities to rearm the British Army with P1853 weapons for the Crimean War of 1854-57 and Sepoy Rebellion in India. They were wrong and they failed. In response the Board of Ordnance purchased American made gun making machinery and set-up its own factory at Enfield Loch. One privately owned firm which saw the future more clearly than its Birmingham compatriots also purchased American machinery to make arms with interchangeable parts; London Arms. Small arms made for the British Army came from only these two factories. Only isolated guns made with interchangeable parts by machine found their way to the Northern or Southern forces. Birmingham's gun makers with their hand built methods were about to go extinct when the Confederates fired upon Fort Sumpter in 1861. The only guns for sale that were comparable to the M1855 and M1861 Springfield weapons were the P1853 Musket (three band) and Rifle (two band) weapons made by hand in Birmingham with no interchangeable parts. So that is what the Americans got. About one million weapons were purchased from Birmingham and shipped to North America during the war years. Some may have gone to Canada for her defense. The best estimates seem to be that the North got 500,000 Enfield weapons and the South 400,000. Birmingham's reprieve only lasted a few years; by September 1863 the North had sufficient domestic musket production to cease foreign purchases, and the South was running out of credit. By late 1864 the Birmingham arms trade had collapsed, never to return. They got no more British government contracts and the war in the US was nearing its conclusion. Of the arms makers who once supplied the teeth behind the roar of the British lion, the few who survived now made such things as high end sporting guns and bicycles.

Probably everyone reading this article is familiar with Joshua Lawrence Chamberlin and his 20th Maine Infantry's defense of Little Round Top during the Battle of Gettysburg. What you may not know is the sequel to the battle. After its defense of Little Round Top, the 20th Maine had been re-positioned behind the Union center. The 20th Maine was a "mixed armament" regiment; it carried both Springfield and Enfield muskets. After the failure of Pickett's Charge, Chamberlin ordered any of his men equipped with an Enfield to go out on the field and scavenge Springfield pattern weapons, whether made in the North or South didn't matter, from Pickett's dead. What did matter is that they had interchangeable parts!

Accoutrements

As in the case of weapons, the Southern purchasers got good, but mostly 2nd quality accoutrements from England, primarily because the highest quality leather supply was rapidly used up in the early contracts and for the British Army needs. The US government did not purchase English equipment because they could supply their own accoutrement

needs from the beginning of the war; the South could not and purchased large quantities of British design accoutrements and knapsacks. Only two Union infantry regiments were known to have been issued English made accoutrements, and those came from a captured blockade runner.

The South got what the British Army Board of Ordnance had designed for its soldiers; what we call the Enfield pattern equipment. It consisted of a 50 round cartridge box, cartridge box sling, cap box, waist belt with a “snake” buckle, ball bag, bayonet scabbard and bayonet scabbard frog. The cartridge box, ball bag, bayonet scabbard and bayonet scabbard frog were of black dyed leather. Most of the British Army used white rough-out cartridge box slings, waist belts and cap boxes. Only regiments with a tradition of skirmish work received black slings and belts, such as the Rifle Regiments. Many British volunteer (militia) units also used black accoutrements; but a significant proportion, if not the majority, of cartridge box slings and waist belts sent to the South may have been made of white buff leather. The book mentions no concerted Southern effort to dye this white leather to black. Plenty of period photographs show white leather accoutrements in use; it wasn't just an early war affectation.

Musket slings in the British Army were in transition in the early 1860's, several types were in use and all these types were sold to Americans. They included white buff slings with slides, russet leather slings with buckles, and black smooth-out slings. All were designed for the P1853 weapons, which required a longer sling than US pattern muskets for the three band muskets.

British training differed from American practice. The cap boxes were simple envelopes of leather with an angled back loop and were worn on the cartridge box sling in the center of the chest. British infantry were trained to draw cartridges from the ball bag worn just to the right of the waist belt buckle, where Americans were trained to put their cap boxes. The ball bag held only ten rounds. After ten shots it was replenished from the cartridge box. English sergeants got slightly smaller cartridge boxes holding only 20 rounds plus an oil bottle and cleaning gear. Southern soldiers were trained from manuals assuming the cap box was on the waist belt and to draw their cartridges directly from the cartridge box. Original ball bags with American Civil War usage are rare; many were shipped back to Confederate arsenals and were cut-up to make American style equipment. Later accoutrement orders simply did not include the ball bag. Some original Enfield cartridge boxes are found with cloth CS made slings. Enough are encountered by collectors to indicate that the leather sling supplied with the box from England was removed and used to make other accoutrements such as harness or waist belts. The cloth slings were the substitute since British cartridge boxes were not designed to be worn on a waist belt.

Knapsacks

Known contracts to ship knapsacks to the South total 34,000 units. These are usually called “Isaac and Campbell” knapsacks, but I&C was not the only distributor; Ross made a similar product. ALL were shipped with the “D” Mess Tin strapped to the back in its case. Port of entry for most English goods was Savannah, Georgia. From there these goods went west to the Army of Tennessee and north to the Lee's army. Therefore “D” Mess Tins

were not rare, they were common. Many original Confederate made knapsacks of various designs also had the fittings to carry a mess tin; another indication that they were common. Many contracts with English suppliers specify that the “boards” be not included; Southern agents had learned that the wood board sets making the knapsack ridged, were not wanted in Southern service.

To summarize, both US and CS forces used large quantities of P1853 Enfield weapons, the South used large quantities of Enfield accoutrements, many with white buff leather slings and belts; and many more CS soldiers were issued a British knapsack and mess tin than previously thought.

Jmk, 5/14/2016



From the Editor

Thanks to everyone who helped contribute to the making of this edition of the Tyrants' Foe Newsletter. Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is January 8, 2017.



To Tyrants Never Yield