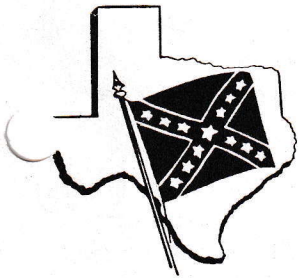


THE TEXAS RIFLES

"To The Tyrants Never Yield!"

Hdqtrs. P.O. Box 23344, Waco, Texas 76702



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COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Well, at least the weather didn't get bad at Vicksburg!?! For those of you who didn't make the Sunday battle, it really picked up the pace and ended the event with a bang. Literally! It was quite a surprise when a ground charge went off about 20 feet behind me, especially since I didn't know it was there. But it was harmless and certainly must have looked good. As the final federal assault was repulsed, the good Lord treated us to "Life in the Vicksburg Flood!" which, of course, made packing up our tents and equipment most enjoyable. The Ladies of the Texas Rifles presented us with our new flag on Sunday morning. It was a simple ceremony but still an emotional one for myself. The flag is quite impressive, and my appreciation is once again extended to the ladies who took part in sewing it.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the Battle of Franklin on December 1-3. This is our maximum effort event for the year. Everyone should start making plans now. **Notice: if you have not paid your registration fee for the Battle of Franklin, send your \$7 to Gill Eastland as soon as possible** (see masthead for Gill's address).

As you will see, this edition is devoted mainly to the non-Civil War aspect of our hobby. And as usual, Jon Butcher has done another outstanding job with this publication. I hope you enjoy it.

For God and Texas!!!

Scott

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[Notice: Most of the members, officers, and NCOs will be present at events in **bold type**, but you may be on your own at events in regular type.]

BATTLE OF ATLANTA: September 1-4 (Labor Day weekend). To be held on a 1,200 acre plantation known as "Woodlands" located in Adairsville, Georgia, near I-75 between Chattanooga and Atlanta. The event will include scenarios for New Hope Church, Kennesaw Mountain, Varnell Station, and the Battle of Atlanta. No registration fees are accepted after August 15, so you should have already registered pursuant to the notice in the previous newsletter. This will be a brigade event, but, as indicated by Capt. Swenson, not an "official" Texas Rifles event. Texas Rifles members who wish to attend will fall in with Cleburne's Brigade. Contact Vince Draa for more information since Vince plans to go.

FORT SCOTT, KANSAS, 1846 MEXICAN WAR EVENT: September 8-10, Fort Scott, Kansas. Excellent event at the restored Crack Outpost of the western frontier. Garrison duty and tactical demonstrations, dress ball, courtmartial reenactment, first-person impressions. Lectures on the Mexican War. Meals provided. Steve Abolt and Scott Swenson are recruiting

*Ki Chris!
you're in the photo section this time.
Hope all is well with you. Call me
Sometime just to chat. Hope to see you soon at
Some event. Friends, Jon*

men to portray U.S. Regulars, and Bruce Winders is recruiting volunteers for the Mississippi Rifles. This event offers a great location and an chance to do something exciting and different. More information on Mexican War impressions will be included in future newsletters. Contact Steve Abolt (817 535-2359) or Scott Swenson (see masthead) for more information about this event or the impressions. (See section on FORT SCOTT in this edition.)

THIRD ANNUAL BATTLE OF BAYOU BOURBEAU: September 22-24 at Washington, Louisiana. This event is similar to Pleasant Hill. It commemorates Gen. Bank's Bayou Teche Campaign and the fierce Southern resistance. It takes place in Old Washington, a town containing many period homes which were occupied by Union troops in '63 and '64. There will be authentic camps in wooded hills. Wood, hay, water, sanitary facilities (including hot showers for a small fee), and uncooked rations provided. Saturday night, there will be a dance with a cajun band and a cajun meal (about \$3 a person) with a free crock full of "Popskull" at the dance. Generous powder rations for all military participants. There will be a skirmish (and impromptu skirmishes) followed by a grand review on Saturday. The main battle will be on Sunday beginning at 2 p.m. There will also be Ladies' events, drill competition, mounted cavalry contest, musket live-fire competition, and a night battle cannon and musket demonstration. Lots of powder burning at this event. Awards and trophies will also be presented. Several members are already planning to go. Contact Vince Draa (see masthead) or James Hesse (713 480-7322) for more information. This might become an official Texas Rifles event if enough members want to go. Wouldn't it be great if we could go as a company or platoon to two combat events in Louisiana each year-- Pleasant Hill in April and Bourbeau in September! If you like Pleasant Hill, you'll enjoy this event.

FORT BEND COUNTY FAIR PARADE: Friday, September 29 at Richmond, Texas, (west of Houston). Parade starts at 10 a.m. Excellent public exposure. One-and-a-half mile march through downtown Richmond. Contact Don Drachenberg, 1014 Horace Mann, Rosenberg, Texas 77471, (713) 342-1360.

COME AND TAKE IT DAYS: October 7-8 at Pioneer Village in Gonzales, Texas. Texas Revolution event commemorating the famous confrontation between colonists and Mexican troops over a cannon. Excellent camp life, parade through Gonzales, reenactment of confrontation. Impressions: Texian colonist (men and women) and Mexican military (including pretty senorita camp followers). Excellent event for those of you with Mexican military impressions. Contact Dennis Hubbard (512 496-4759), Don Drachenberg (713 342-2477), or Jon Butcher (see masthead) for information.

TEXIAN MARKET DAYS: October 21-22 at the George Ranch Historical Park near Richmond, Texas (west of Houston). Maximum effort Texas Rifles event. Encampment under shade trees, drill and musket firing demonstrations for the public, demonstrate defense of earthworks, Saturday night dance for reenactors, one meal provided, great camp life (musical members bring your banjos, etc.) See Letters section for more information.

CAMP FORD: November 4-5 in Tyler, Texas. Reenactment of POW camp and refugee life, and the ladies will recreate life in Tyler during the war at the historic Goodson Home. The time will be November 1863. Impressions: Confederate militia and civilians, Union infantry officers, some enlisted men, and some Union sailors (from the gunboat Diana). Last year's reenactment was a great success, and Larry McMahan reports that this year's event will be even better. Details will appear in the next issue, but you can contact Larry now for information (see masthead). Larry's wife will be in charge of the ladies' activities, so interested ladies should contact Jo. And, yes, John Blackmon is planning to be there to add spice to the event. Mark this on your calendar and make plans to attend. It's great fun.

BATTLE OF FRANKLIN: December 1-3 near Franklin, Tennessee. This will be a maximum effort brigade and Texas Rifles event. This reenactment is put on by reenactors for reenactors. Scott Swenson said the site is the best he's ever seen, and that we need to put more members in the field at this event than any in the past. There will be three battles. Details forthcoming. Start making plans now to attend. DON'T MISS THIS ONE!!!!

TEXAS RIFLES "FIRST ANNUAL" BALL: December 30, Driskell Hotel in Austin, Texas. This is a living history evening ball sponsored by the Ladies of the Texas Rifles. See Event Information section for more details.

DADE'S MASSACRE: December 29-31, Bushnell, Florida. Pre-1860 event. For those seeking the action of a full-fledged battle in the 1830's. Two full-scale battles with military camp on the actual massacre site. Over 10,000 spectators attended last year! Contact Steve Abolt (817) 535-2359 or Vince Draa (see masthead).

BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS: January 5-7, 1990. New Orleans, Louisiana. The 175th Anniversary of the 1815 battle. Encampment on the original site. Mileage and some meals provided by the National Park Service. Contact Steve Abolt (817 535-2359).

CONFEDERATE BALL: January 1990 in Houston, Texas. The Albert Sydney Johnston SCV Camp annual debutant ball. Need members for color guard. Contact Gordon Gentry, 7325 Evans, Houston, Tx 77061 (713 645-1119).

BENTONVILLE: In Georgia third weekend of March 1990. Surrender of the Confederates will mark the end of the 125th Anniversary. Battle reenactment, encampment, and surrender ceremony. Brigade event. Details to come.

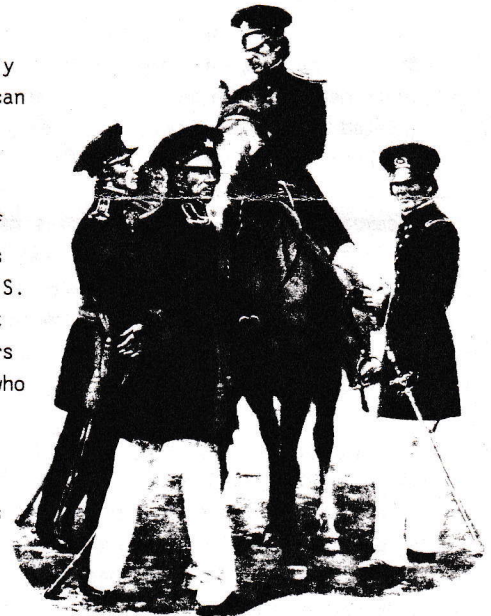
* * INFORMATION ON COMING EVENTS * *

INTRODUCTION TO REENACTING THE WAR WITH MEXICO

By Scott Swenson

The number of Mexican War reenactments is growing annually. This includes not only U.S. Regulars, but Mexicans as well. As a matter of fact, there is probably more Mexican infantry organized in the U.S. than there are U.S. Regulars (1840's). Marco Gonzales (who worked on the Alamo IMAX movie) has a battalion of Mexican Infantry in California at this time. Intelligence reports put their strength somewhere from 100 to 200 men. The Alamo IMAX movie provided a source of Mexican uniforms and subsequently a number of Mexican infantry "detachments" are even in existence in Texas. Our own John Keahey has done extensive research on Mexican Army uniforms of the 1830's and 1840's as well as U.S. Regulars. (John gave a very informative lecture at Ft. Martin Scott on August 19 about U.S. Regular Uniforms of the 1840's). Steve Abolt has also researched the U.S. Regulars of 1830-1840, and he too is a good source of information. Other Texas Rifles members who have done research in this are Mike Moore and Kevin Young.

Currently, Steve is massing a company of U.S. Regulars for Mexican War events. I will serve as his lieutenant. If you are interested in this impression, give one of us a call. Our next Mexican War event will be Ft. Scott, Kansas, September 8, 9, and 10 (see section on Fort Scott event). While Ft. Scott will be a garrison living history event, there are plans for a large Mexican War event within the next two years which will be a combat event. We would like to get Gonzales' battalion to come from California as well as other units, U.S. and Mexican, from around the country. The only obstacle that must be overcome is public opinion and Anglo-Hispanic relations. An event of this type must be perceived by the public as a way of learning about history and not something that will cause problems. The event site may be a big factor.



An 1840's U.S. Regular's impression is a period of living history that is of particular interest to me for a number of reasons. (1) Much of the strategies and military reasoning of the Mexican War greatly influenced many of the Union and Confederate officers of the Civil War who received their baptism of fire and training there. (2) The 1840's U.S. Regular's uniform is one of the sharpest in military history, and it is a fun kit to put together. (3) The U.S. Regular impression is quite different from our usual Confederate Volunteer impression. It is a nice change of pace. (4) There are more actual historical sites close to home. (5) It is a forgotten part of U.S. history and needs attention from historians. (6) Much of the equipment can be used for Civil War use as well.

The bottom line is that Mexican War reenacting is starting to grow in leaps and bounds, and if you are interested in getting involved, the time to start is now. Let me know if I can help. Texas Rifles members currently with the Mexican War kits or who have shown a definite interest (including me) are John Keahey, Steve Abolt, Mike Moore, Gill Eastland, Kevin Young, Jon Butcher, Jeff Hunt, Vince Draa, Lindsey Buss, Don Drachenberg, Dennis Hubbard, and David Waters.

FORT SCOTT, KANSAS: 1846 MEXICAN WAR EVENT

By Steve Abolt

The time is September 1846. War fever has swept the country! Stunning American victories over Mexican forces at the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma the previous May have galvanized the nation. Thousands of American troops are on the march to the army stationed in Mexico. General Zachary Taylor, "Old Rough and Ready," is on the march to the Mexican city of Monterrey. At Ft. Scott, Indian Territory, armed men are congregating to embark on the greatest adventure of their lives.

On September 8, 9, and 10 the excitement of this time will be recreated at Ft. Scott, Kansas. All members of the Texas Rifles, who are interested in expanding their living history impressions to an earlier time period, are urged to attend. What follows is a brief outline of what to expect at the event.

Location: Ft. Scott, Kansas, is located on US HWY 69 approximately 80 miles south of Kansas City. It is 475 miles north of Dallas/Ft. Worth. The fort is located 6 miles west of the Missouri state line. The town around the fort offers several restaurants, including an excellent steakhouse and several good motels for those who do not wish to camp. The location of the fort is well marked by signs, and plenty of participant parking is available.

Logistics and Amenities: Troops may begin arriving Thursday night, if desired. The fort, under the direction of the National Park Service, will be providing all meals, but these will not commence until Saturday morning. Those arriving early will be on their own. However, the period kitchen located in the dragoon barracks will be available for your use. Beginning Saturday morning, all meals will be prepared for you by fellow interpreters using this kitchen. The enlisted men will take their meals in the mess hall. Last year, the food was excellent and plentiful. Hay will be provided for bedding. It is located in ample supply in the dragoon stable directly across from the infantry company street. Fatigue details will be organized on Saturday to bring the required bales into camp. Modern air-conditioned restrooms are located directly behind the infantry street in the restored infantry barracks. These barracks will be available for the use of the ladies who accompany us. However, the ladies may wish to set up camp as the location of the dress ball Saturday night is scheduled to be in the barracks and all cots and personal items must be moved into the corner. A shower with hot, not just cold, running water is located in this barracks as well. As mentioned, on Saturday night a dress ball is scheduled complete with brass band, punch, and cookies. Following the ball, we hope to have an impromptu sing-a-long of 1840's songs. Some mileage is being provided by the National Park Service. We urge all participants to car pool so the money available can be more equitably distributed.

Impressions and What to Bring: This section should more properly be titled what not to bring! We are asking that all participants travel light. As the fort is providing meals that bulky Dutch oven can stay in the garage. A white cotton haversack with plate, cup and utensils, and perhaps a few munchies, should be all you need in that department. We also wish to portray troops on the march so if you can't carry it don't bring it. Enlisted men should be able to carry all they need in their knapsacks; however, each man will be allowed one period crate to place lanterns or to put farb items in. You must provide the crate. We are discouraging the use of cots. However, if you can't sleep without one because of back problems, then a cot will be allowed. Try to leave the ice chests at home. One large company ice chest will be provided for your use. (Mine. It will be located in the cook/guard tent. How you mark your beverages I'll leave to your limitless imaginations!)



The following impressions are needed (a complete list of uniform requirements for each impression will be sent to those who ask for the information packet). (1) U.S. Regular Infantry: The unit we will be portraying is Company B, 1st. U.S. Infantry. These poor fellows were relegated the duty of garrisoning Ft. Scott while their comrades made for the action in Mexico. The company commander is Steve Abolt. Scott Swenson will serve as 1st. Lt. Other Texas Rifles members who have joined this branch are Gill Eastland, Jeff Hunt, and Kevin Young. (2) U.S. Dragoons: The glamour boys of frontier service will be commanded by Lt. Rollie Shafer. Unlike those of us in the infantry, who must sleep on the ground, the Dragoons will have a nice cozy barracks to stay in. Before you all get too excited and wish to serve in this branch, you'll need a horse bunkie! (2) Volunteers: For those of you who don't have a horse and refuse to submit to the required discipline of Regular troops, then maybe this is the place for you. The Volunteers are under the extremely able command of Lt. Bruce Winders. There should also be a good deal of animosity between the Regulars and the Volunteers, whom the Regulars considered nothing more than an undisciplined and armed mob. However, if altercations do occur, you will be arrested, confined to the guard house, court-martialed, and if found guilty, punished. (Last year, this proved quite a popular event! Some soldiers stood in line to take or witness punishment. I guess we're still as morbid as ever!) (4) Civilians: The civilians are being handled by Ana Draa, whose husband, Vince, has joined the Volunteers. For those of you who know Ana, you know she has immersed herself in her work and is planning some interesting scenarios including a meeting of the Ladies Literary Society to discuss the literature of the day, a ladies' tea, and decorating for the ball. As a final note on what to bring, I recommend some mosquito repellent. Last year, the little devils almost flew me back to Texas!

Schedule: The weekend plans to be a very busy one commencing on Saturday morning with a hearty breakfast! After our repast, all tentage and crates will be placed in an Army wagon in preparation for our "march." After the baggage is loaded,

we will assemble at a point to be announced, and we will begin our march to occupy the fort. Now you see why we asked you not to set your tents up early. However, you may do so, but you must strike them for the march. We will march in a column of route through the downtown area of Ft. Scott. The order of march will be dragoons, infantry, artillery, baggage, and volunteers. We will march into the fort where we will be greeted by the Post Commandant, Kyle McGonigle, and the Post Adjutant, Jeff Sheets. We also hope the band will be there to play. After formal ceremonies, we will be shown our campsite, unload the wagon, organize fatigue details, and begin the work of establishing camp. Instruction in School of the Soldier will follow. After lunch, the volunteers will be officially inducted into U.S. service. Speeches will be made, with perhaps a parade around the post perimeter. Ongoing throughout the day will be camp life, guardmount, close order drill, fatigue duty, etc., etc., etc. Evening colors are set for 5 p.m. followed by dinner and the dress ball. There is also the possibility of a candlelight tour. After breakfast on Sunday, church services will be held. Those not wishing to attend will stand at attention and listen as the Articles of War are read to them. (This process takes about 2 hours, so I recommend you go to church!) After services, bi-monthly inspection will be held followed by company drill, pay day, and any courts-martial not done on Saturday. After lunch, we will prepare for our mini-tactical which will coordinate the activities of all branches of service present. Following the tactical will be a final dress parade and then dismissal. The possibilities for different scenarios are endless. Authenticity for the event is high, and the first-person format will be stressed!

If this brief description has peaked your interest, and you are willing to join in the fun, please write or call: Capt. Steve Abolt, 1856 Carl St., Ft. Worth, Tx 76103, (817) 535-2359. An information packet is available on request. FOR INFORMATION ON FORT SCOTT, **CALL IMMEDIATELY** SINCE TIME IS SHORT. ON TO MEXICO!"

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

By Bruce Winders

Volunteers are needed to portray members of a rifle company at the upcoming Mexican War event at Ft. Scott, Kansas. The dates for the event are September 8, 9, and 10. The company will be based on the Mississippi Volunteers, known to most as the Mississippi Rifles. Mississippi was called on to send two regiments and one battalion of five companies to fight in Mexico during the years 1846-1848. During its twelve months of service, the 1st Regiment of Mississippi Infantry successfully participated in both the battles of Monterrey and Buena Vista. The regiment was one of the most colorful and best known volunteer units of the War with Mexico.

The impact of the Mississippi Volunteers was felt for years after the Mexican War. The role the 1st Mississippi played in General Taylor's army was largely responsible for elevating Colonel Jefferson Davis to the Presidency of the Confederacy in 1861. The Mississippi Regiments, the first volunteer units to be armed entirely with long-range percussion rifles, were the prototype for volunteer regiments of the Civil War. If you would like the opportunity to participate and learn more about the experiences of volunteers in the Mexican War, COME JOIN US AT FORT SCOTT!

Required Items for Riflemen at Ft. Scott: M-1841 Rifle (altered percussion musket of 1842 is acceptable). Cartridge box and cap box. White buff waist belt with U.S. buckle. Sky blue kersey trousers (white duck trousers are acceptable). Red overshirt (this should be boatman style; remove the bib if you have a fireman's shirt). M-1839 forage cap (a dark colored civilian wheel hat will do, but no straws or slouches). Hard pack (if you don't have one, a blanket roll will do). Blankets should be red or blue. Mexican blankets or quilts will work fine). White haversack (bring fork, spoon, knife, plate, etc.) Wooden canteen or water gourd. Period belt knife (no modern looking Bowie knives, please). Shoes of the period. Drill for the volunteers will be conducted according to The Recruit, a manual by Captain John T. Carnes first published in 1844.

Please contact me as soon as possible if you have any questions. Bruce Winders, 1402 Colonade, Arlington, Texas 76018, (817) 465-6104.

THE TEXAS RIFLES "FIRST ANNUAL" BALL

For years it has been the dream of many men and women in our avocation to experience in person the pagentry of an authentic period ball with authentic music, attire, and dances. It now appears that the Ladies of the Texas Rifles, under the leadership of Ana Draa, will achieve this dream on December 30, 1989 at the historic Driskill Hotel in Austin, Texas.

The Driskill Hotel, built in 1876, is the perfect place for such an occasion. The ballroom, gentlemen's bar, and the beautiful Hogg Room are perfect settings for a formal dress ball set in December 1861.

Brief summary: At 7:30 the men will retire to the bar for drinks and poker while the ladies retire to the Hogg Room to arrange period hairstyles, put on home-made perfume, and have tea. The ball will begin at 8:30 with period dances commencing at 9:00. Period dances will be performed by an authentic orchestra. Dinner will begin at 11:00 with food prepared by the Driskill Hotel according to an 1864 recipe book. The dancing will recommence at Midnight and last until 2:30 a.m. As you can see, this is not just a dance, but it is going to be a living history experience, and the organizers hope that everyone will come away with a better appreciation of history. Registration is open to only Texas Rifles members until September 20, 1989. After that date, registration will be open to other reenactment groups. Participation is limited to only 100 people (or 50 couples). The cost is \$35.00 per person. The Driskill Hotel is providing rooms to participants that night for \$45 (reduced from \$85), and couples may share room expense which also includes breakfast the next morning. Your registration fee for the ball should be sent to Gill Eastland before September 20 (see masthead for address). Ana Draa reported that there has been much interest shown by members of other reenactment groups, so you must act soon to get your reservations in before open registration begins. Room reservations must be made through the Driskill Hotel which has reserved a block of rooms for ball participants. You can call the hotel and reserve your room using a credit card, but be sure to say that you are with the Texas Rifles and you are coming to attend the Texas Rifles Ball so you will get the special rate.



This promises to be a very remarkable and memorable event. Remember, however, that this is not merely a dance, but it is a living history event in every respect. There is a dress code. Contact Ana Draa (see masthead for address and phone number) for copies of the dress code or if you have any questions -- Editor.

* * * T R I D B I T S * * *

A LITTLE HESSE IS COMING: James and Lisa Hesse are pregnant!! Lisa is pregnant with a child, but we're not sure about James. X-rays reveal an object that resembles a 20 lb. cannon ball! Lisa's due date is the end of March. This is wonderful news! Congratulations to James and Lisa.

CONFEDERATE CANTEEN: If you are tired of rust in your canteen, and you would like to have the best Confederate canteen on the market, Rapidan River Canteen Company has maple, cherry, or cedar canteens. Cost is \$65.00 post paid. Write to Don Polifka, Rt. 2, Box 5-B, Beaver Dam, Virginia 23015. (By Scott Swenson)

CHARLES CHILDS: Charles Childs of Country Cloth, the primary supplier of jean material (a period wool-cotton blend) has a new phone number. If you want to order cloth, dial (216) 482-5131.

TAILOR FOR HIRE: If you need someone to sew uniforms, Steve Abolt is making his services available. His work is guaranteed and high quality. 1856 Carl, Fort Worth, Texas 76103, (817) 535-2359. (By Scott Swenson)

SOURCE FOR BRASS BUTTONS: Brass buttons for Mexican War (U.S. or Mexican uniforms) are available from James Townsend & Son, Inc., 106 South First Street, P.O. Box 415 Pierceton, In. 46562. Order toll free 1-800-338-1665. The catalog says "slightly domed solid brass buttons with hand soldered loop on back. They come ready to use with old looking patina, or you can easily buff them to a bright shine. 5/8", 7/8" or 1" diameter. \$1.50 each." They also have appropriate cotton webbing for canteen straps, etc. 1 1/2" heavy at .59 cents a yard; 1" heavy at .40 cents a yard, and 1" medium at .35 cents a yard. They also have patterns for shirts. Write for a catalog. (Information provided by John Keahey).

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Edward Grandie of Houston, Jerry Keller of Spring, Dr. Arnold Huskins of Ft. Hood. We also want to welcome back past members Gordon Gentry and Scott Curran who have re-enlisted. WELCOME YA'LL!!!!!!

GET READY FOR NEW ORLEANS: Anyone interested in going to New Orleans as a U.S. Regular should start putting together their uniform and kit NOW as it is somewhat elaborate. Contact Steve Abolt or Scott Swenson for assistance and information. (By Scott Swenson).

BANDANNAS: As all of you know, the modern "railroad" bandannas are not correct for the Civil War period. Paul McDermott sells correct period handkerchiefs/bandannas for \$25.00, or you can make your own. To do so, first find some woven (preferably hand woven) material in a plaid or striped pattern. This can be found at some fabric stores or quilt shops. Cut out the size you want (period handkerchiefs were longer than modern ones), then hand stitch a seam around the edge, and you have a good home-made handkerchief. Sometimes you can find small linen hand towels that make good handkerchiefs as well. Whatever the case, please stay away from modern "railroad" bandannas. They really look bad, and they can ruin what would otherwise be a good physical impression. (By Scott Swenson.)

PAUL McDERMOT STATIONERS sells reproduction labels, paper goods, handkerchiefs, etc. His quality and turn around time is excellent. Fabulous nic-nacs for reenactors. Send \$1.00 for catalog. I recommend him. Address: Paul McDermot, Wholesale Stationers, 64 Linden Ave., Somerville, MA 02143. (By Scott Swenson.)

BUTTON HOLES: Remember the little things you can (and should) do to improve your physical impression. For example, one-button holes were hand-sewn before and during the Civil War. This is especially noticeable on your tunic. If your button holes are already machine sewn, take a similar color of thread and hand sew over the machine sewing. If you take your time and do a good job, no one will know the difference, and your appearance will be more impressive. You can also do this for the buttons on your trousers. (By Scott Swenson.)

LOST & FOUND, FOR SALE OR WANTED

For sale by **Scott Swenson**. See masthead for Scott's address and phone number if you want to contact him about purchasing any or all of these items: (1) M1855 .58 cal. cartridge box with tins - \$30. (2) Black waistbelt with snake tongue buckle - \$6. (2) U.S. Regular type white shirt 15 1/2 X 33 - \$8. (4) Civilian 3-button plaid shirt 15 1/2 X 33 - \$10. (5) White cotton drop-front trousers 32" waist - \$9. (6) Civil War period wool brownish color trousers 32" waist - \$10.

Gordon Gentry needs patterns for a Zouave uniform and cap. Each January the SCV Albert Sydney Johnston Camp hosts the Confederate Ball in Houston, and Gordon is the Color Sergeant. He would like to have a Zouave impression in the color guard next year. If anyone has patterns for the uniform, or if you have a uniform you can loan Gordon, please contact him. Gordon Gentry, 7325 Evans, Houston, Texas 77061. (Editor)

Contact **Vince Draa** if you are interested in purchasing these items (see masthead): (1) Repro Colt navy revolver (never fired). (2) Savage Model 170 30.30 rifle (rarely fired). Has Weaver 4X scope with leather sling. (3) Remington bolt-action 30.06 rifle. Wanted: hard-frame knapsack, wooden canteen, Charleville, Brown Bess, or Mississippi rifle.

* * R E P O R T S * *

[Here are two reports by Ana Draa on the activities of the Ladies of the Texas Rifles at the Battle of the Wilderness and the Siege of Vicksburg. Vince Draa also provided a copy of the journal he kept during the Vicksburg event. Thank you, Vince and Ana, for your contributions -- Editor.]

WILDERNESS

By Ana Draa

Except for the very unauthentic, and very welcome, cold water provided by the buffalo near the civilian camp and the incessant cries of the children in the camp as they played Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, the ladies of the Texas Rifles could have easily imagined themselves back in 1864 as we were always busy cooking something, sewing something or putting something back together.

Rhonda Hall, Jo McMahan and I operated a camp kitchen. The most memorable meal occurred on Saturday night when several of the men helped me carry a pot of Hopping John and jalapeno cornbread into the trenches past perilous hoards of hungry

soldiers from other units. The men of the Texas Rifles greedily ate their rations and quickly settled down for a fitful night's sleep in anticipation of an early morning attack [see Vince Draa's Wilderness report in the last newsletter -- ed.] We worked hard to portray an authentic camp kitchen with period food, and we received many thanks from the men who met every request for assistance with overwhelming compliance. We were provided enough firewood to make the burning of Atlanta look like a campfire! Although the distance between the military and civilian camps made the planning and execution of meals a little difficult, and although we ended up with too much food as unexpectedly few persons ate with us, we were able to turn out three good meals more or less on schedule -- we'll try to improve our timing.

The brigade formation on Saturday was a spectacular sight as seemingly endless rows of soldiers came together in one long line. The mounted brigade staff circled behind the troops waiting to lead the unit into battle. Instead of watching the battle, Jo and I retired to the McMahan's tent fly to work on the flag and ponder our husbands' fates. As we labored, the tent fly collapsed due to the high winds. We immediately rescued the flag and ourselves from underneath the mass of broken poles and canvas. We were able to erect a lean-to of sorts -- enough to provide shade from the blazing sun. Like our period counterparts, we made do with what we had.

Rhonda Hall and I submitted ourselves to the authenticity judging on Saturday afternoon. We both earned at least a grade of "authentic" which I found impressive since it was Rhonda's first event. While I don't think we should take such subjective analysis too seriously, I feel they provided a rough gauge by which we can judge the authenticity of our impressions. We ran into some hardships such as \$5 bags of ice and poor signage leading to the campsite, but overall this event was a success.

VICKSBURG: OUR BELOVED FLAG MAKES ITS DEBUT

By Ana Draa

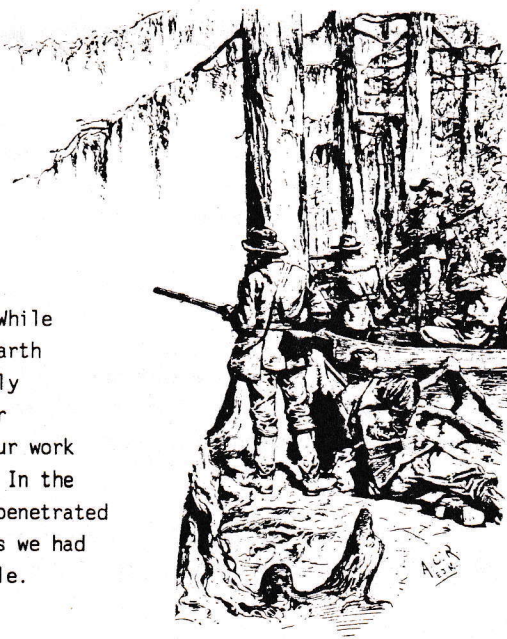
Vicksburg was a productive event for the Ladies of the Texas Rifles. In attendance were Rhonda Hall, Jo McMahan, Kate Payne, Peggy Jones, Deanna Andriola, Tammy Tigert and me. The main focus of our weekend was to present the long-awaited Texas Rifles flag! On Saturday afternoon, we gathered in a restaurant to discuss various aspects of reenacting, complete the flag and compose a dedication. We planned to make the presentation that afternoon, but due to a minor "finger-slaming" incident, the ceremony was moved to Sunday morning. I cannot accurately describe how I felt at the time; suffice it to say I had difficulty speaking as I read the ladies' dedication. The mens' undivided attention reflected their understanding of the hard work and pride that went into sewing the colors. After the presentation, Jeff Hunt, proudly bearing the new flag, lead the unit down the road. All the ladies had a difficult time keeping up with the swift strides taken by the men -- we had never seen them march so fast or so proudly. Although we received a wall tent in return for our efforts, it's hard to put a price on such a project. The best "payment" we received was the continual string of thanks showered on us all weekend long. We are certain that on future battlefields, we will be able to locate the Texas Rifles by searching for our flag flying defiantly in the front rank.

VICKSBURG JOURNAL

By Vince Draa

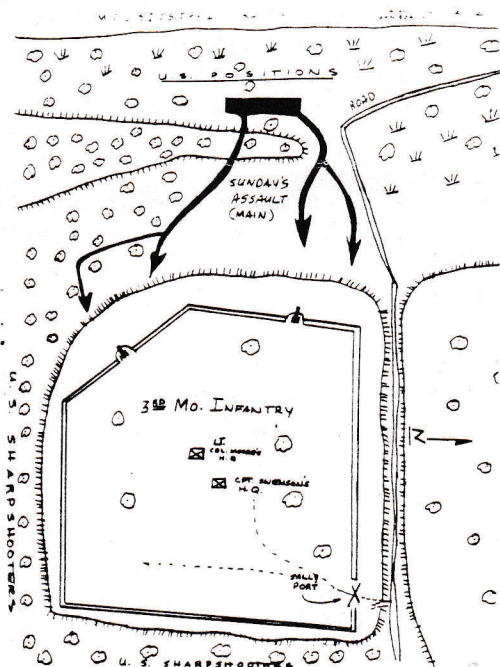
Friday Our regiment arrived at its newly assigned position south of the City of Vicksburg and a few hundred yards east of the Mississippi River. Although weary and disheartened by our defeats at Champion's and the Big Black and the resulting disorderly retreat to the environs of this city, we were immediately put to work improving the existing fortifications at this place.

Saturday Work on the redoubt continues after sleepless and rainy night. While rainfall has made it easier to break through the top-soil, once disturbed the earth takes on the consistency of taffy candy, making each shovel full of mud seemingly weigh a ton. Federals extended their picket lines within a hundred yards of our fortifications during the night and sharpshooters kept up a harassing fire at our work parties until they were driven away by a platoon commanded by Captain Swenson. In the p.m., a general assault on our position was undertaken by the Yankees. Attack penetrated to within a few yards of our sector of the line and caused much consternation as we had exhausted our supply of minie projectiles, although we still had powder available.



Muskets were loaded with rocks, tompons, etc., and fired with telling results due to the close proximity of the enemy. Attack was repulsed. Anguished wails of one Yankee struck by such a makeshift projectile continued for hours. Desultory sharpshooter fire and artillery fire from gun boats and field pieces continued until nightfall.

Sunday Constant sharpshooter fire and counter-sharpshooter fire throughout a.m. Ammunition supply replenished -- quality questionable as many muskets fouled including mine, 1st. Sgt. Hunt's and 2nd. Sgt. McMahan's. Company received new flag. Hand-made and presented in stirring ceremony by ladies -- Jo McMahan, Rhonda Hall, Tammy Tigert, Kate Payne, and Ana Draa -- who managed to get through enemy lines at great risk to themselves. Flag did much to improve morale of the company. Church service followed. Lt. Eastland grievously wounded by enemy sharpshooter in early p.m. Yankee picket captured by Pvt. E. Hutton; soon thereafter, picket killed by Hutton in escape attempt. Picket's muddy and mangled body kept in view as warning of the fate of all those who would invade our homeland.



Rations exhausted after noon meal (goobers and dried "beef"). Shortly after 1:00 p.m. numerous artillery pieces and gunboats began firing on redoubts. Barrage lasted almost one hour. Few casualties resulted. Infantry attack by Federals followed -- primary thrust east along road skirting the north side of redoubt. Yankees brave, but attack hopeless due to strength of our fortifications and long approach over open ground. Hundreds of Federals cut down as wheat before scythe. Four separate assaults repulsed, although a few valorous souls reached parapet before being killed or captured. Captain Swenson and Pvt. Jerry Keller of our company were killed during final assault. Tremendous thunderstorm commenced following repulse of Yankees as if the heavens were trying to wash the blood of the dead and dying away. All company soaked and miserable. Overheard conversation among Col. Moore of our regiment and other regimental commanders. Conjecture is Yankees will not risk direct assault on our positions again but will attempt to reduce the city by siege. Confident we can hold out until Gen. Johnston formulates plan to relieve pressure on our garrison. Rations and ammunition still a concern, however.

[James Hesse submitted this candid account of some of the things that happened at Vicksburg. James also took some nice photographs at the event, and some of them appear at the end of this edition -- Editor.]

REMEMBRANCES OF VICKSBURG!

By James Hesse

Rain, rain, rain, thanks to a tropical depression. It many have been wet, but the excitement of the event and the yelling by Jeff Hunt kept the reenactors motivated. You know Jeff -- short, thin fellow, vast knowledge of history, good with a joke now and then. Well, any way, the event was unique in several ways. For example, one of our patrols captured a Yankee and brought him into camp. Earl Hutton had to knock him down and make him sit in the goeey mud to keep him from escaping, so by the time Earl got him under control, the Yankee was covered in slimy mud. Earl kept him trapped in a lean-to, and with typical Hutton style, kept us amused by hassling the poor Yankee with jeers until, to everyone's surprise, the Yankee suddenly jumped up and ran. Earl dropped him with one shot, and the Yankee did a beautiful belly flop right in the mud. (We didn't know it then, but Earl and the Yankee had secretly planned the escape attempt.) But it wasn't over yet! Earl drug the "dead" body back to the lean-to and got a lot of mileage out of showing off the poor guy to anyone who'd look or take a photograph. Earl had a rag over the guy's face, and whenever anyone came along, he'd lift the rag so the spectators could see a "dead Yankee!" At the time of his demise, the unfortunate Yankee was wearing more mud than a Zaa Zaa Gabor facial pack! This was "vintage Earl Hutton" at its best!

Gill Eastland played a role I will long remember. Gill was distributing ammunition to "us fight'n boys" when he came to the bold decision to take a hit. His act was great! He let out a little yell and collapsed over a wooden fence just in front of him. The crowd loved it. Jeff shouted, "They shot the lieutenant!" So, as great fighting men do, we decided to save his life. Jeff and I pulled Gill off the fence, and Gill's body fell on top of me. There I was under this six-foot,

two-inch man who was playing limp! It wasn't long before I realized that we had fallen into a drainage ditch filled with muddy water and I was on the bottom! Of course, I stayed in character (they cursed in those days too!) and struggled to help the men carry the big guy to shelter. Gill, if you're wondering why I handed you that ear of corn while you laid there wounded, it was my critique of your performance (corny!).

Many of the fellows will remember a cute young girl we fondly called "Miss Biscuit" because she distributed, what else, but biscuits. She had other redeeming qualities -- she was quite pleasant to look at. War should be so rough! Speaking of "rough," the meal that was served by the sponsors was beyond belief. It was tough to decide between the slab of ribs and the delicious fried chicken. So I made no decision -- I ate both! It was a far cry from beans and rice.

As I was reviewing my pictures from the event, I came across a good shot of Edward Jablonski. You all know Ed (kind of reminds you of Icabod Crane). He lives to fight battles! The final siege ended in a tremendous down pour of H₂O that got everyone soaking wet. Well, Edward was flying to Chicago, so he packed up his kit and gave it to me to take home. His gear must not have been very dry when he packed it because when I got back to Houston and opened his crate, his shoes walked out! They were green and growing long hair and looked rather mean. I wrestled them over to the sink and cleaned them. A little longer in that crate, and I could have gone into business selling Penicillin!

In case everyone doesn't already know it, Edward is bucking for corporal. In order to demonstrate his capabilities, he led a detachment of new recruits in a surprise attack on the enemy camp, and he talked me into going. We formed up on the muddy road that led to the enemy's camp and marched in. Then we opened fire on ole Ed's command. We fought bravely and fired round after round. It was a great fight. If only we'd known the Yankees had left, we wouldn't have wasted all that bravery attacking an empty camp!

Vicksburg proved, not only to be a unique reenactment, but a great history lesson. The battlefield was very well maintained and marked. Part of the fun of reenacting is visiting historic towns in which actual battles happened, and Vicksburg was a very historic city. Can't wait till next year!

* * L E T T E R S * *

[This is part of a letter to me from Don "Gabby" Drachenberg. I'm sure Don won't mind if I reprint a portion of it for your reading pleasure since it discusses three events you might be interested in -- Editor].

"I'd like to get at least a dozen of us to march in the Fort Bend County Fair Parade on Friday morning, September 29, in Richmond. These people (thousands and thousands) would absolutely LOVE us. We need a group like we had at the Houston Livestock Show Parade, only maybe a little larger. It would be really classy if we could pull this off (for those of us hams who like to be in parades and show off to "civilians"), and it would be superlative to have both colors (Texas and Confederate) and a drummer. So far, I've gotten a "yes" vote from Jim Lamkin, Otto Hardt, Mike Drachenberg, Troy Fogle, David Agee, and Earl Hutton. Double this number would be super-duper. The parade is about 1.5 miles long, starts at 10 a.m. that Friday morning (over 300 entries!), and I could arranged for us to be in the first 1/4th of the parade so we could finish up and already be heading home by 11 a.m. This way, people could still get back to their job (if they work about an hour away) and still work half a day if they had to. Obviously I am real excited about this.

Gonzales Come and Take It Days will be Dennis Hubbard's baby again this year. I'm going because I want to be in the parade and enjoy the fantastic Saturday night campfire antics which always accompany that event. What entertainment from the Crossroads bunch.

As for Texian Market Days, October 21-22, we have our own shady oak grove. We have the entire area of trees around the cemetery with no vendors, no concessions, and no craft booths to interfere. We have two water spigots in our area, hay provided, and our parking area is right next to us. Saturday night meal will be provided by our ladies, paid for by the event sponsors. Adequate gunpowder has been donated for TWO cannons (Gordon Gentry's gun has already been secured, with a George Ranch trailer picking it up from Gordon's home and delivering it back again), and there's a good chance I've got us a second gun. The earthworks are ours to do what we want -- guard duty, defensive firing like last year, etc. Jim Jones is trying to arrange for a mounted contingent to be with us. There will be a weaver and a spinner (2 ladies) provided for our camp by the museum, working on Confederate cloth. Period dance Saturday night for reenactors only, but keep in mind that the time periods reenacted cover 1830 to 1900. Jerry Martin in the Pioneer's Camp will be providing breakfast on Saturday and

Sunday morning for a cheap fee. The event sponsors want a printed program (activities schedule) of our camp for the two days to be handed out at the two gates so as to let the people know of the times of the cannon firings, drill, musket firing, earthworks defense, camp musicians (I've got 3 so far, not counting Joe Walker, whom I haven't contacted yet), so we need to put together some type of schedule we can abide by.

They had almost 15,000 people attend last year, and they expect 20,000 this year. They've got a much better group of people in charge this year and there's a buzz of excitement in the air. They also want the "soldado bit" each day (going over to antagonize the Texians -- Steve Abolt will expect it this year -- he's Stephen F. Austin again), and then be arrested and taken back to the Confederate camp, then executed at the earthworks as deserters. About six Soldados should do the trick."

[If anyone is interested in the parade on Friday, September 29, please call or write Don and let him know. He really wants to see this happen, and it would be shameful to let him down. I might add that there is talk of getting five or six volunteers to change into federal uniforms and attack the breastworks during Texian Market Days to liven things up! We can always say we are reenacting Vicksburg. Scott Swenson could reenact getting blown up, James Hesse could let Gill Eastland fall on him again, and Earl Hutton could reenact shooting a Yankee prisoner in the tail. I'm Ed Jablonski would volunteer to be the Yankee! -- Editor.]

[Here is a letter from Larry Richardson. Larry didn't mention a date, but I assume it's in the near future -- Editor.]

"I would like to alert the membership about an event that might be coming up soon. I was contacted last year about putting on a living history camp for the Rawlinson Family Reunion in Nacogdoches County. I have not been contacted as of yet this year, but expect to be at anytime. This is not, however, a for sure event. The Rawlinson Family had a number of members who fought for the Southern Confederacy. If you would be interested in helping me set up a Confederate camp, please drop me a line for more information as it develops. Thanks." By Larry Richardson, Rt. 5 Box 272, Caldwell, Texas 77836.

[This is an excerpt from a bulletin addressed to Southeast Region members from Vince Draa, the Southeast Region Director. I'm reprinting it in case someone missed it -- Editor.]

"If you don't have a sponsor or new member's packet, let me know. Contact your sponsor before buying uniform or equipment. He or she will help you make sure you're getting the right items for the right price. I'm here to help meet your reenacting needs. If you need or can provide a ride to and from an event, please let me know and I'll spread the word. I'm more than willing to pass along any comments, suggestions, or complaints to the elected leaders. Let us know how the events we attend can be made better."

[This is a letter dated July 24, 1989, from Barbara Neeper, Programs Volunteer of the Fort Bend County Museum Association. Barbara gives us a glimpse of the big plans being made for this year's Texian Market Days -- Editor.]

"Dear Confederates:

On October 21-22, 1989, the Fort Bend County Museum is sponsoring its 6th Annual Texian Market Days. During these years it has grown to the point that in 1988 we had over 300 volunteers present tours and programs for over 10,000 visitors in one day alone!

This special event is held 20 miles southwest of Houston at the George Ranch Headquarters, the center of a 20,000 acre ranch whose history dates back to 1824. As with last year, the museum will present programs that trace the four generations of the family who owned the ranch: the Austin Colony era; the Confederate era; the 1890's Davis Town House (now relocated to the ranch); and the 1911 George Ranch House, barns and livestock. Appropriate demonstrations, wheeled vehicles, livestock, and living history portrayals will be on view in each area.

We are excited about the new Confederate Encampment Area for Texian Market Days, which will be under the shade of the live oak trees by the Davis Mansion. We will be depicting the year 1861, after Frank Terry has distinguished himself at the battle of Manassas and has returned to Fort Bend County with the commission to raise a brigade of men to join the Confederate Army.

You will be joined by a spinner and a weaver. We are looking for a knitter. Any of you Confederate women know how to knit socks? Please give me a call. (No phone number was provided in the letter, but you might reach Barbara by calling the museum -- 342-6478.) This year we will provide a Saturday night meal followed by a dance. We will contact you again in September with detailed information on our favorite year."

ARTICLES FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

[John Keahey submitted this article on the Mexican soldado of the Texas Revolution, but it also applies in many ways to the War with Mexico. This is a combination of two parts of a three-part series. I hope John will complete part 3 for us.]

THE MEXICAN ARMY 1835-36: WEAPONS AND ACCOUTERMENTS

By John Keahey



As with most underdeveloped nations, both then and now, the Mexican Army of the 1830's copied much of its uniform and equipment designs from the armies of current world powers. Mexican practice followed both France and Britain with a strong favoring of Spanish tradition. However, the fact that Mexico was suffering a revolutionary change in government every six months on the average prevented an orderly military establishment. An inconsistent supply situation became chaotic in 1835 when the army was reorganized, increased in size, and shoved out into the long winter march to Texas.

According to regulations, the Mexican soldado received the following issue: tailcoat, wool winter trousers, summer white cotton jacket, summer white cotton trousers, dress trousers, shako, musket, cartridge box with tin liner and sling, bayonet, bayonet sling and scabbard, shirt, neckstock, shoes, sandals, breast plate, whisk and pick, canteen and sling, barrack cap, blanket, haversack, blanket carrier, overcoat, and knapsack. This was the ideal. We know from contemporary sources that some Mexican battalions in Texas lacked items such as knapsacks and wore summer issue clothing and mixed uniform styles.

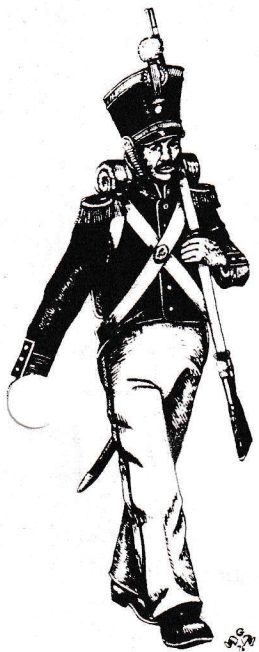
Over the course of the Texas Revolution, Mexican soldados used two patterns of wool tailcoat or coatee. Uniform regulations published in 1832 described the new coatee as a cobalt blue tailcoat with white piping, red collar, cuffs, lining, and turnbacks on the coattails. This coatee probably had epaulets for sergeants and contra epaulets (fringeless) for privates and corporals. The front of the coat has a plastron of red trimmed in white. Fifteen months after making this coatee issue, new regulations were published on the 1833 pattern coatee. The 1833 model coatee was a much simpler garment with a button front, shorter tails, and no epaulets. It was probably a reaction, one or two governments later, to the relatively high cost of the more elaborate 1832 pattern. Happily for researchers, the 1833 coatee was clearly depicted front and back in a contemporary Mexican painting "The Battle of Tampico", done in 1836. There is a little doubt as to its appearance. It was still of cobalt blue wool with red collar, cuffs, lining and turnbacks. The shoulder tabs were blue piped in red.

Both in 1832 and 1833, the coatee remained issued through the Texas Revolution period. In the reorganization of 1835, Mexican battalions were re-combined and changed from numerical titles (i.e., 10th Regiment) to geographic titles, such as Battalion Matamoros. The battalion initials were ordered to be embroidered upon the uniform collars.

Each soldado purportedly received three pairs of trousers: white cotton for summer, blue wool for winter, and "dress" trousers. In theory, few white trousers should have been seen on a winter campaign as in Texas. However, given the current conditions, both summer and winter trousers were probably being worn. The winter issue were a dark sky blue kersey color with red piping on the outer leg seams. All trousers would have been drop front. Issue shoes were black leather, but sandals are also mentioned in orders. Shirts would have been of cheap white cotton worn with a black velveteen neckstock. Shakos were described as made of cowhide. No mention is made of felt. One surviving original in Mexico City is entirely of

leather. Each shako would have had functional chinscales, national cockade, and a colored pompom. Pompoms may have been the three national color bands or they may have been coded to branch of service. No one really knows. Consecutive regulations are inconsistent on whether branch of service cords and color bands were worn on the shakos. Battalion men (fusiliers) wore yellow cords; grenadiers wore red, and riflemen wore green. Each battalion was composed of three types of infantry. It is clear from contemporary art that the Mexican Army followed current military fashion in wearing shakos much taller and broader than those used during the Napoleonic Wars of 1789-1815. The shakos made for the IMAX movie "Alamo: The Price of Freedom" are of Napoleonic dimensions.

As most of us know by now, the principle weapon of the Mexican Army was the .75 caliber Brown Bess musket purchased from Britain. These muskets were probably of the 3rd model and India patterns. The reproductions on the market are 2nd model Besses of the American Revolution period. The post American Revolution 3rd model and India patterns had shorter browned barrels, stronger locks and simplified furniture. Responsible contemporary and modern artwork often show Mexican infantry muskets with barrel bands (similar to the Charleville reproductions). These could have come from several sources. One source may have been in Mexico itself. Mexico had at one time its own weapons factory, but it had been allowed to deteriorate into uselessness prior to the Texas Revolution. It may have manufactured banded muskets based upon Spanish models.



A second intriguing theory has been proposed by Phil Haythornethwaite, author and British military historian. He believes that the Mexicans purchased mixed lots of Napoleonic Wars surplus muskets from the British, not just Brown Besses. These mixed lots could have included older patterns of Brown Besses and miscellaneous European models. Thus, while purchased from official British government sources, the muskets bought were not entirely of British manufacture. This theory explains why parts from obsolete 1st and 2nd model Besses have been found at La Bahia. The Mexicans also purchased Baker rifles from Britain and issued them to the Chasseur (rifle) company in each battalion.

Whatever infantry weapon was issued would have been supplied with a bayonet. Mexican officers were great believers in bayonets since Mexican ammunition was of uneven quality, weapon maintenance poor, and shooting ability low. Mexican ammunition used crudely cast copper musket balls and approximately 180 grains of black powder. This huge charge was designed to ensure proper bullet velocity with poor quality and/or damp powder, but Lord help the poor soldados who chanced to be issued the occasional batch of good cartridges! Then, the musket recoil could knock them flat on their backs and split the gunstock. For this reason, the soldados are documented as often firing their muskets literally from the hip in combat, not from the shoulder. Soldados enjoyed little target practice and recruits were sometimes sent into combat without having fired their weapons while formed in a line of battle.

Little is known about Mexican infantry cartridge boxes other than that they were of black leather, had a tin liner, and were carried on a white buff strap. No records exist which document the purchase of British accouterments along with the shoulder arms. This should not be surprising as Mexico was a cattle producing country rich in leather. There existed a native leatherworking industry and the Mexican army often substituted leather for textiles in clothing and equipment. I have seen a replica cartridge box similar to the Civil War period Enfield style. This box is based upon an original Mexican cartridge box supposedly dating from the 1830-40's and is in a collection back east. While certainly possible, I have doubts about such a box being from the flintlock period. First of all, try putting 180 grain musket cartridges in one. Second, they are much smaller than cartridge boxes depicted in contemporary Mexican artwork such as the "Battle of Tampico" painting already referred to. Finally, I suspect that if the Mexicans were using predominately .75 cal. weapons, then their accouterments would parallel (if not outright copy) British cartridge boxes designed to accommodate .75 cal. ammunition. In summation then, the Mexican infantry cartridge box was of black leather with a tin line. It was probably large enough to hold 30-40 rounds of 180 grain cartridges and was suspended from a white buff shoulder sling.

At least the flank company boxes carried insignia. Grenadiers wore the bursting bomb device on the box flap and probably the chasseurs (riflemen) had a bugle horn on theirs. Box insignia for fusiliers, the common soldados, are questionable. Oval brass breast plates were worn on the cartridge box slings when issued. Suspended from beneath these plates was the whisk and pick on brass chains. The bayonet carriages were of whit buff leather and non-adjustable as to its length. Bayonet scabbards were of black leather with brass throats and tips. The scabbards buttoned into the frogs with a brass stud. Unlike U.S. Army practice, Mexican wore the cartridge box sling over the bayonet carriage, i.e., they put the carriages on first. Mexican sergeants and all grenadier soldados would have needed double frog bayonet carriages because they carried swords as a symbol of their status.

[Due to lack of space in this edition, the continuation of the account written by M. A. Ryan (Chapter 1-2 appeared in the last issued) will be printed in the next edition. Thank you, Dennis Hubbard, for making Mr. Ryan's account available for publication -- Editor.]

As stated in previous newsletters, music is very vital to any living history interpretation of the War Between the States. It is very impressive to see a battalion of Confederate "by God" infantry, with muskets at right shoulder shift, marching in step and singing "Bonnie Blue Flag" with the conviction of true veterans. But whenever we sing as a company, we sound terrible! Here are the words to two famous period songs. This is a shortened version of "Bonnie Blue Flag" which should be easy for everyone to learn. Please memorize these two songs so that when we sing as a company, marching down some lane on a battlefield, we will sound like those veterans -- Editor.

THE BONNIE BLUE FLAG

WE are a band of brothers and native to the
soil,
Fighting for our Liberty with treasure, blood
and toil;
And when our rights were threatened, the cry
rose near and far:
Hurrah for the Bonnie Blue Flag, that bears
the single Star!

CHORUS

Hurrah! Hurrah! For Southern Rights, Hurrah!
Hurrah! For the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears
the single Star!

First, gallant South Carolina nobly made the
stand;
Then came Alabama, who took her by the hand;
Next, quickly Mississippi, Georgia and
Florida,
All raised on high the Bonnie Blue Flag that
bears the single Star!

And here's to brave Virginia! The old
Dominion State,
With the young Confederacy at length has
linked her fate;
Impell'd by her example, now other States
prepare,
To hoist on high the Bonnie Blue Flag that
bears the single Star!

Then here's to our Confederacy, strong we are
and brave,
Like patriots of old we'll fight our heritage
to save;
And rather than submit to shame, to die we
would prefer,
So cheer for the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears
the single Star!



THE YELLOW ROSE OF TEXAS

There's a yellow rose in Texas that I am
goin' to see,
No other darkie knows her, no darkie only
me;
She cried so when I left her, it like to
broke my heart,
And if I ever find her, we never more shall
part.

CHORUS

She's the sweetest rose of color this darkie
ever knew,
Her eyes are bright as diamonds, they spa
like the dew;
You may talk about your dearest May, and sing
of Rosa Lee,
But the Yellow Rose of Texas beats the belles
of Tennessee!

Where the Rio Grande is flowing and starry
skies are bright,
She walks along the river in the quiet
summer night;
I know that she'll remember when we parted
long ago,
I promised to return and not to leave her so!

Oh, now I'm goin' to find her, for my heart
is filled with woe,
We'll sing the songs together, we sang so
long ago;
We'll play the banjo gaily, and sing the songs
of yore,
And the Yellow Rose of Texas shall be mine
forevermore!

The Texas Rifles is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of history, with special emphasis on the War Between the States, the Mexican War, and the Texas War of Independence. Annual dues are \$12 per year, pro-rated monthly. The Texas Rifles newsletter is published on an as needed bases, but usually appears bi-monthly. For more information about the Texas Rifles, contact Scott Swenson or any of the members listed on the newsletter masthead. Members must promptly notify the unit commander of any change of address.

PHOTOS TAKEN AT
VICKSBURG
JULY 1-2, 1989
By James Hesse

Capt. Scott Swenson (left)
behind the firing line.
Pvt. Robbie Chiles is facing
the camera by the parapet.



The fence or "breastworks"
held by the Texas Rifles.
Note the muddy condition of
the ground and the improvised
lean-to.

Earl Hutton (standing) and
Mike Powell take aim at
approaching federals.

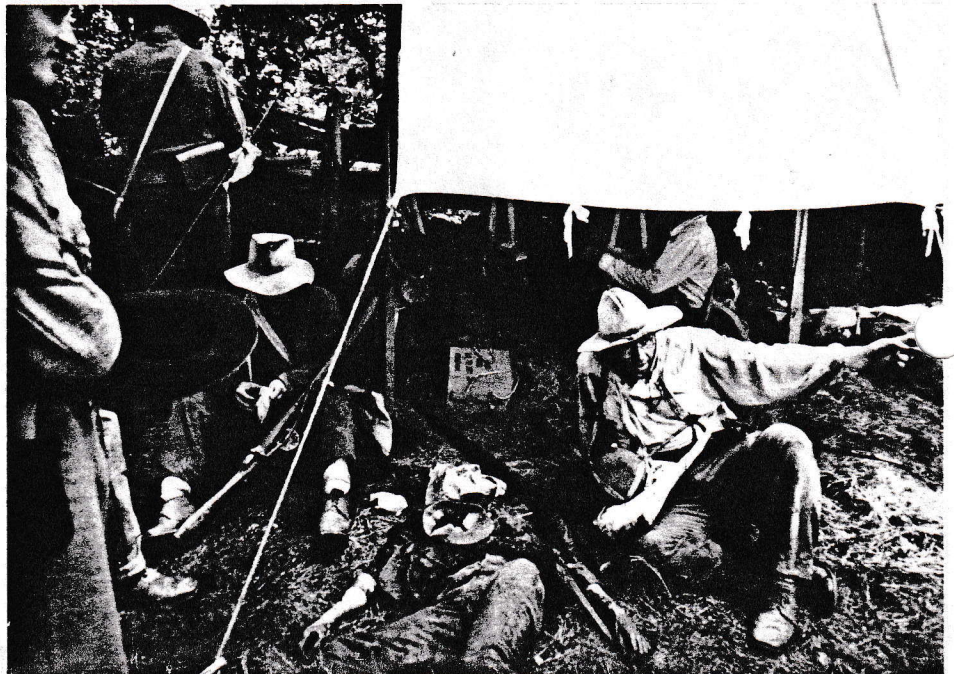


PHOTOS TAKEN AT VICKSBURG JULY 1-2, 1989
by James Hesse



Earl Hutton with his Yankee prisoner.
(read report by James Hesse). Earl
offers the prisoner a drink from
his canteen while Lt. Eastland and
Capt. Swenson (behind prisoner) watch.

After Earl shot the prisoner, who
tried to escape, he called to
passing spectators to, "Come see a
dead Yankee!"



When Earl could entice someone
to come look at the Yankee, he'd
lift the rag so everyone could see
"What happens to varmints that
invade our Southland!" It was
"vintage Earl Hutton at its
best!" That's Cpl. David Agee
(left) searching for any money
that might have fallen out of the
prisoner's pockets!

Lt. Gill Eastland distributes ammunition to members of the Texas Rifles manning the breastworks. That's 1st. Sgt. Jeff Hunt on the left, but his image is somewhat blurred.



One of the tents in the Texas Rifles camp. Looks just like the period photos and drawings!



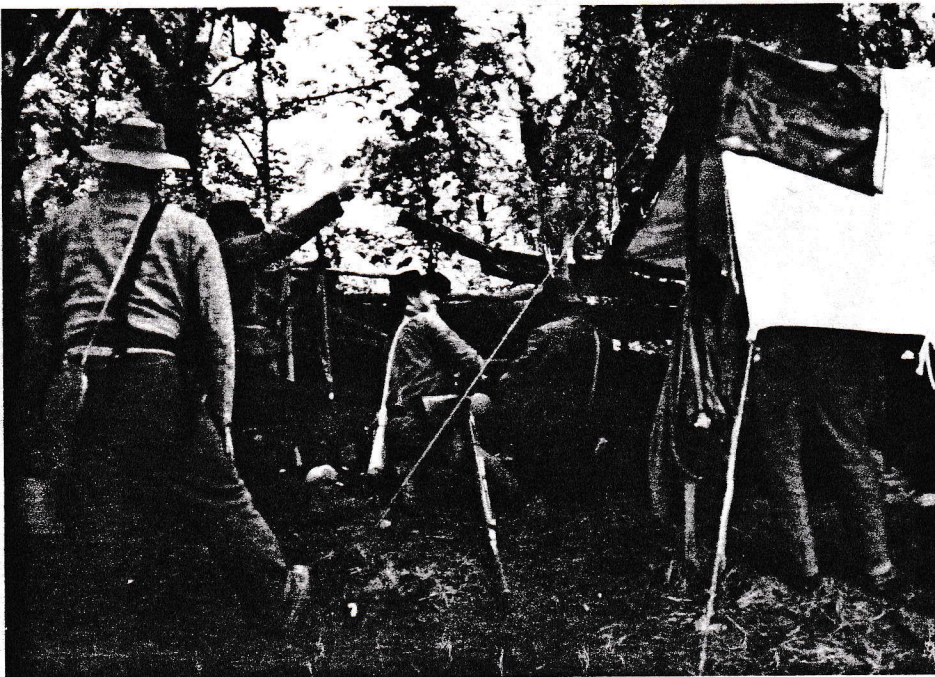
The hallowed Texas Monument on the Vicksburg Battlefield.

PHOTOS TAKEN AT
VICKSBURG
JULY 1-2, 1989
By James Hesse

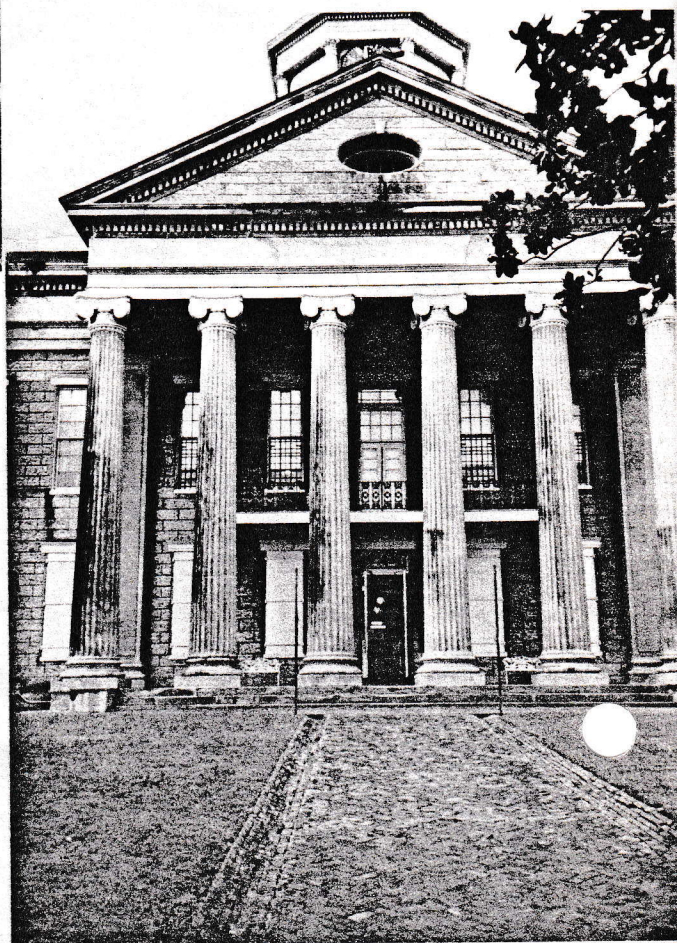
Two more views of
the front line defended
by members of the
Texas Rifles.



PHOTOS TAKEN AT
VICKSBURG
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The famous courthouse
in Vicksburg (now a
museum) that is so
prominent in photos
and artwork showing
Vicksburg at the time
of the siege.



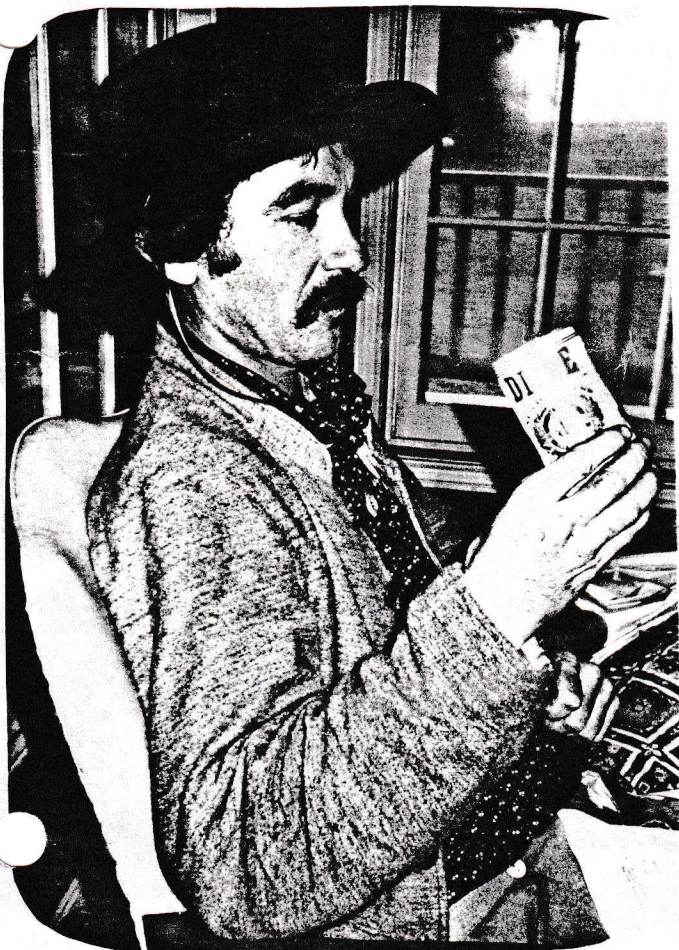


Edward Jablonski (left) and James Hesse (middle) with an unidentified member of the Texas Rifles skeet shooting at the 1989 Winedale muster.

MISCELLANEOUS PHOTOS BY DON DRACHENBERG



"But, will you still respect me in the morning?" says Earl Hutton just before Gay Frazer punched him in the nose! (Gay is the lovely wife of Bruce Frazer)



Larry Richardson singing and sipping Dixie at the same time! (1989 Winedale Muster)



"But Tom, if we buy your stuff, do we really have to pay for these fleas too!" Left to right: David Waters, Joe Walker, and Tom Kerly. (Winedale 1989)



Bruce Frazer, who is known to most of us as a good friend and supplier of sutler goods.



A Confederate scientific experiment: "Well fan my brow! If the ants will eat Draa's beef jerky, so can you!" says Joe Walker. Left to right: David Agee, Chris Strzelecki, Joe Walker, and David Waters.

PHOTOS TAKEN AT PLEASANT HILL
BY DON DRACHENBERG, APRIL 8-9, 1989
(See Issue No. 16 for more photos)



Battalion field music at Pleasant Hill. Chris Payne, a new member of the Texas Rifles, is second from the right, middle row. (That's your editor trying to get some sleep on the front row.)



Battalion battle flag and color guard. David Agee is on the right.