



The Rio Grande Rattler.

"Bon Voyage"
2nd NEW YORK
Welcome
2nd TENNESSEE!

What They Say About Us.
'That corking newspaper published by New York Guardsmen at the Border.'—N. Y. Sun.

Published in the Field by the New York Division

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"The Strength of the Wolf is the Pack, but the Strength of the Pack is the Wolf"

NEW YORK DIVISION CARRIES CROSSING OF THE RIO GRANDE AND CAPTURES REYNOSA

Not Really, But in a Field Exercise—What was at the Bottom of the Row

The real situation which called for the hurried movement of a substantial part of the New York Division from McAllen early this morning can best be explained by quoting the Division Commanders memorandum on this subject. "The Rio Grande River separates friendly countries, Blue, North—Green, South, Green in harassed by hostile Red forces. The Blue Government is co-operating with the Green Government in the defeat of the Red forces. On the morning of 17 Sept. 1916, Reynosa was held by a Squadron of Green cavalry. Nearest Green supporting troops a detachment of all arms at Monterey and Saltillo—approximate strength 1500. "A Blue Division is at Edinburg with detachments at nearby points. "Red forces of all arms occupy most of the State of Tamaulipas, and threaten Monterey."

The war correspondent of The Rattler is in possession of information concerning the plans of the Brigadier General assigned to capture the river crossings, but the censor forbids the publication of any details at this time. They will, however, be reserved for the next number. It is known in a general way, however, that the Green commander at Reynosa with his small force of cavalry, has fallen back on Monterey before the Red advance coming from the direction of Matamoros and points south and hence the activity of the Blue reinforced brigade of the New York Division, which is co-operating with the Green forces in the defeat of the Reds. Many interesting points will arise in the solution of this problem. How will the Blue infantry be disposed in its attempt to cross the river? Where will the secondary attack be made? How will the crossings be defended? The cavalry are wondering about the depth of the fickle Rio Grande on the day of the exercise. Will they be sent across first or will they be withdrawn to a flank? The artillerymen are pondering over their many problems. Will the artillery battalion be kept together. Will it bombard Reynosa. Will their team work with the infantry be such as to render effective aid without inflicting unintentional injury. And the versatile engineers—what is to be their part? Are they to make a flying ferry, are they to fight as infantry, or are they to cut ways through the thicket for the placing of the artillery? The ever efficient signal battalion which is the talk of the Border will do its part like a machine. Wire communications will be established between all fighting units and the Commanding General, while radio service will keep Army Headquarters advised of the progress of the action. The Ambulance company will establish its dressing station and its station for the slightly wounded. The entire exercise will be controlled by the Division Commander, assisted by a corps of control officers, who will be identified by white hat bands.



Brigadier-General William S. McNair,
Commanding New York Artillery Brigade,
McAllen, Texas

PERSHING'S WITHDRAWAL CONSIDERED BY COMMISSION

(Special to The Rattler.)
New London, Conn., Sept. 19.—Although Major General Tasker H. Bliss, upon his appearance before the American and Mexican Commissioners last week, strongly advised against the withdrawal of Gen. Pershing's army from Mexico at the present time, there is every reason to believe that the American Commissioners will soon reach a point upon which Carranza's representatives insist. It is plainly evident that no other course of action will be considered by the Mexicans on the Commission Agreements as to the ordering out of Mexico of the punitive expedition and a plan of adequate border patrol will undoubtedly be reached before the end of this week. Ambassador Designate Arrendondo, although he had little to say to newspaper representatives that gathered around him at the close of today's deliberations, admitted that he and his compatriots on the Commission hold no sympathy for any plans that would postpone the withdrawal of Pershing's forces. He stated emphatically that the Carranza troops are in a position to cope with the situation and neither need nor wish the assistance of American forces. The proposed plan of a neutral zone along the border in which the operations of both Mexican and American troops against bandits on each side of the international line, has not yet been abandoned by the Commission although some military experts have expressed their doubts as to its effectiveness. According to all indications tonight, however, this method of border patrol will not form part of the final recommendations of the Commission. The American Commission, although anxious that General Carranza assume the bulk of the patrol burden, will not stand on technicalities but will use every effort to agree upon some definite, workable plan at the earliest possible date. Upon the results of the conferences or the International Commission depends the early demobilization of the militia. There is little doubt but that the Government is awaiting the report of the commissioners before deciding on the disposition of the National Guard.

SPECIAL BOARD TAKES UP POST PLANS

A board of officers appointed by General Funston to prepare plans for the general supply depot and terminal facilities, to be established at Fort Sam Houston by expenditure of \$750,000 made available for that purpose in the army appropriation bill, held its first meeting last week to discuss the big improvement with which it has been commissioned. General Funston's action in setting the board to work is the first step toward giving the post warehouses and terminals which will constitute by far the most complete establishment of its kind in the country. The board delegated with responsibility for the improvements consists of the chief of staff and the heads of various supply corps of the Southern Department. As the scheme contemplates warehouses for all of the supply branches, these officers all have an interest in the work. It is intended that this board shall remain in general charge until the improvements have been completed. It may take three years. The board is so formed that if there are changes in the personnel of staff officers before the work is finished, officers who succeed the present heads of departments will also take their places on the board. As now constituted the board has the following members: Colonel Malvern-Hill Barnum, chief of staff; Colonel Harry L. Rogers, chief quartermaster; Colonel Walter D. McCaw, chief surgeon; Colonel William C. Lankitt, department engineer; Lt. Colonel C. C. Williams, chief ordnance officer, and Lieutenant Colonel Edgar Russell, chief signal officer. Captain Hugh A. Drum, aide to General Funston has been appointed recorder of the board.

BITS OF GOSSIP

Headquarters Division is to have a new dining hall and kitchen. Chef Dobard is preparing to dress up in a new white uniform in honor of the latter. The new "baby blue" bands of the M. P.'s are some noise! The Division Hospital at McAllen is growing into quiet a village. It's a larger city now than Ebenezer. Lieut. Molyneux, Division Aid brought home some game Monday. Major J. Scott Bitton would rather be chief of police in the Magic Valley than a private citizen at home. September is supposed to be the hottest month in the Valley. Everything goes by contraries in this section since the troops arrived. "My son was rejected, Mr. Pyke, because his teeth didn't fit proper. The doctor said 'e might 'ave' em knocked down his throat and be choked if 'e got one of them cannon balls in his face.'"—Punch.

RESULT OF THE NAVY-PLATTSBURGH

Three Hundred Enjoy Uncle Sam's Training Cruise

THEN 22 WOULD SERVE IN WAR

Some of us have seen in the movies pictures of the rookies aboard the U. S. S. Maine, labeled "Splendid Work of These Patriotic Americans", steaming away on board their twenty thousand ton home to enjoy the breeze along the coast thus to avoid the heat and noise of a summer in town. How many others, shall we say, "equally patriotic Americans" envied their trip; their cool white uniforms; their protection from the elements and their comfortable temporary quarters, we do not know, but from the torrid plains of Texas, we feel sure that the thought of a yachting trip appealed to many. The results of the cruise are interesting; on its conclusion 22 out of the 300 have signified their willingness to volunteer in case of war!! Yes, indeed! Just think of it! Three hundred amateur sailors went to sea on the battleship Maine for the training cruise August 15 and at its conclusion just twenty-two of them signed papers signifying willingness to volunteer in case of war. The 278 had only one reason for their refusal. It was "because". All of the rookies enjoyed the cruise, the handling of the guns and the ship's routine, but the great majority of them, Commander Montgomery M. Taylor said, seemed to prefer to determine for themselves the time when their services might be needed by their country.

DEATH ROBS THE DIVISION OF TWO GOOD SOLDIERS.

During the past week there have been two deaths in the Division. Private Fred E. Bishop of the 1st Ambulance Company while visiting a relative in the 1st Field Artillery on the 13th inst. accidentally shot himself in the head with a .45 calibre automatic pistol. He was immediately taken to the Camp Hospital where he died after arrival. Private Bishop was a native of Johnstown, N. Y. He was 23 years old, married and leaves a wife and two children. The 1st Ambulance Co. escorted his body to the R. R. station with fitting military ceremonies. The second death was that of Private Joseph Cohen, of the 12th Infantry. Private Cohen was a well known light-weight boxer and a few nights before his death participated in an exhibition bout at the 1st Field Artillery camp. He complained of illness on the 12th inst., on the 15th inst. he became worse and was taken to the Camp Hospital, where he died the following day. He suffered from an acute intestinal obstruction, which was due to local peritonitis of long standing. Private Cohen was accorded a military funeral by the members of his company and many friends.

CAVALRY HORSE SHOW.

The 1st Cavalry will conduct a horse show Saturday, October 7, at their new camp site. This event promises to be a big affair for all horse lovers and many prize winners will compete. The different classes are open to the entire New York Division, also to any of the regular army in this vicinity. Prizes have been offered by Major Vanderbilt and other officers. Also "The Rattler" has offered a prize for the class for enlisted men, horse equipment and appearance to count. The list of events will include the following classes: Officers' chargers, light and heavy, for officers of the regular army and National Guard. A class for enlisted men, horse only to count, and another class for enlisted men in which horse, equipment and appearance will score. A light and heavy class of jumpers for officers and enlisted men. A class of polo ponies. A relay pony express, a rescue race, and a driving contest for mule teams, mules, equipment and handling to count, will be added features. Captain King of Troop D, Captain Backhouse of Troop C and Captain Howlett of Troop E have charge of the arrangements. Entry blanks may be procured at an early date.

BOYS AND GIRLS WORK FOR SOLDIERS

Active Service Literary Distribution Committee Accomplishing Much

CORNELIUS VANDERBILT, JR., CHAIRMAN

This newspaper is in receipt of a very interesting communication from Newport R. I., containing a description of the work of the Active Service Literary Distribution Committee, whose purpose is to supply reading matter to troops along the Border. The Committee is headed by Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., son of Major Vanderbilt of the Division Staff, and is made up entirely of boys and girls averaging about 17 years of age. The Committee is surprisingly well organized and has several branches along the Sound and the New England Coast. Headquarters have been opened at the corner of Prospect Hill Street and Bellevue Avenue, Newport, with four branch depots at advantageous points in other sections of the city. Help has been engaged to sort and wrap all literature received and to forward it to New York City, where it is shipped to the different military units in Texas. During the four weeks the committee has been at work upwards of 20,000 pounds of literature, or approximately 20,000 magazines, 1,500 books and 1,500 newspapers have been sent to the regular or militia troops, and shipments will continue daily. Recently a "Fund Day" was held at Newport by the young people comprising the active part of the committee at which the sum of \$1,030.31 was collected. The collecting of the funds was conducted by classes and suitable prizes awarded to those making the largest collections. Following are the winners, with amounts collected by each: Division 1. For girls under 15. Winner: Miss Fifi Widener, 14, amount \$134.00. Division 2. For girls over 15. Winner: Miss Marion Tiffany, 18, amount \$137.65. Division 3. For boys. Winner: Frederick R. Haynes, 14, amount \$74.74. There were twelve contestants in Division 1, nineteen in Division 2 and sixteen in Division 3. In addition to Fund Day, a Yachting Day collection netted \$336.00, while the sum of \$410 has been received through private contributions. The money is being used for express and freight charges, magazines, newspapers, advertisements and circulars regarding literature and necessary plant expenses. The officers and members of the committee and its branches are as follows: Chairman, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr.; Vice-Chairman, Grace Vanderbilt; Secretary, Harry Taiter; Treasurer, Gordon Lippert. Among the Newport members taking an active part in the work are: Alix Dolan, Carolotta Havemeyer, Helen Moran, Suzanne Pierson, Jane Sanford, Anna Stillman, Marion Tiffany, Katherine Drughart, Fifi Widener and Dorothy Willard; Phelps Clauson, William De Rham Amos French and Girault Thach. Branch Committees are located as follows: Northeast Harbor, Maine, Chairman: Beatrice Byrne; Lenox, Mass, Chairman: Alexander Morgan; Larchmont, N. Y., Chairman: Paul Willard; Glen Cove, L. I., Chairman: Juliana Ferguson; Cedarhurst, L. I., Chairman: Elsie Saltus, Lake Forest, Ill., Chairman: Carrette Foley; Harbor Point, Mich., Chairman: Jackson Johnson, Jr.

ARMY GEOMETRY.

A second lieutenant is one who has position, but no magnitude. An obtuse officer is one more stupid than a commanding officer, but less so than two staff officers. A trench is that which has length, breadth and stickiness. An observer and a pilot who are in the same line meet in the same plane. If things are double the price of the same thing obtainable elsewhere, it is a War Department contract. A survey report lies equally on any point. A soldier equal to a doughboy is equal to anything.—Mathematician.

SECOND INFANTRY IS ORDERED HOME

To Leave for Mobilization Camp Today—Second Tennessee Coming

REGIMENT HAS PROVED EFFICIENCY

Orders have been received from the War Department sending the 2nd Infantry back to their New York mobilization camp September 20th and they will probably entrain today if the railroad transportation is available. Their place will be filled in the N. Y. Division by the 2nd Tennessee, ordered from their mobilization camp to Pharr. The 2nd Infantry has been located at Pharr, Texas, quartered in the camp formerly occupied by the 3rd Infantry. This regiment is the only one on the Border equipped with a portable electric lighting plant. The entire equipment weighs approximately 1,000 lbs., and furnishes 100 25 watt lamps. The plant was presented to Col. Andrews by the General Electric Company before the regiment left home station and has been used successfully through out its field service. The members of the command feel highly elated over the praise bestowed upon them by the Division Commander, General O'Ryan as indicated in a letter received by Col. Andrews, relating to the recent hike of the regiment. Gen. O'Ryan says: "I write to commend the high standard of efficiency of your regiment as indicated by the practice march just completed. For ten days your regiment was on the march with complete packs over bad roads and trails, with water to be had only at the designated points of bivouac. On the last day the regiment marched seventeen miles and apparently with little effort. Orders were zealously carried out, your men were well cared for, there was no straggling, your train came in fit to resume the march, and your men to engage in combat, while at all times, the condition of the army was a model demonstration of the manner in which rifles should be cared for in the field. It was noticeable that in every character of activity your officers and men gave to their work the best that was in them. Yours is a fine regiment—the whole 1700 of them, and a tower of strength to the New York Division. Please convey this expression of commendation to your command." Another letter commending the work of the regiment has been received at Division Headquarters from A. J. Robinson, Trainmaster, U. S. Army, in charge of Pack Train No. 19, the letter follows: "Pursuant to orders I have reported to Brigade Commander 1st Brigade, September 2nd, and was assigned to 2nd Infantry. After making thorough inspection of their transportation, I find it in very good condition generally, considering that they have just finished a 10 days march. I find many bruised shoulders from large collars. The Quartermaster has taken steps to remedy this fault by ordering small collars to be shipped by express. This regiment made their entire trip with seventeen wagons, this shortage due to the fact that five of their four line teams had not been equipped with harness. I consider this a record considering the teams were driven by men unaccustomed to this kind of work. The Command, which is an exceptionally large one, was caused absolutely no inconvenience, nor did it at any time have to wait for supplies which the train was supposed to carry. I have nothing to say but praise for the Quartermaster, Captain Fred A. Thiessen and his assistants. He has been generously assisted by Col. James M. Andrews, who is very much interested in his transportation."

COLONEL THURSTON IMPROVING

The following telegram received at Division Headquarters will be read with joy by Colonel Thurston's legion of military friends on the Border: New York, N. Y., Sept. 18, 1916—Col. H. S. Sternberger, Headquarters N. Y. Divn., McAllen, Texas. Col Thurston's condition good; leaves for seashore in a day or two. Captain J. W. Farrell.

THE SMALLER DALLIES AND COUNTRY WEEKLIES ARE HAVING THE BATTLE OF THEIR LIVES NOW FOR EXISTENCE.

It is going to be a survival of the fittest. Print paper has gone soaring, and the end is not yet. Fortunately The Rattler is at present well supplied and for a time, at least, the price of print paper will be the least of our troubles.

A rattling good Rattler, this!