

THE RIO GRANDE RATTLER

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By the
New York Division, United States Army
with the authority of
Major General John F. O'Bryan
Colonel Harry H. Bandholtz
Chief of Staff

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September 20, 1916.

FUNSTON!

One of our leading statesmen has said: "I don't want men who are habitually unlucky, because in such cases 'unlucky' and 'incompetence' are synonyms." The converse is likewise true and we have one general officer whose habitual and chronic luck spells ABLE in capital letters. General Frederick Funston has been there with the "Insurrectos" in Cuba, against the "Insurrectos" in the Philippines, during the San Francisco fire, at Vera Cruz, and lastly under a tremendous load of responsibilities, has handled a most delicate international situation skillfully and successfully.

We understand young Mr. Funston was once rejected by the 71st N. Y. Infantry because he did not measure up to physical standards. All we can say is "Now look at him." We had hoped to see General Funston down here; he would have received a hearty welcome throughout the length and breadth of the Division, but we realize how difficult it has been to get away from one of the biggest military jobs since the Civil War.

The Rattler coils to attention and salutes General Funston with all five of its rattles!

HOME!

There is but one source from which an order returning the troops of the New York Division to their home station can come. That source is the War Department at Washington. No one here has been consulted, no advice on the subject has been asked for and none volunteered. This is as it should be, for we are soldiers.

The Guard has seen three full months of active duty—an interval of time that was prescribed as the full enlistment period of the Northern soldiers at the beginning of the Civil War.

Both officers and men have brought to the performance of their work a zeal, resourcefulness and intelligent application that have resulted in big accomplishments. That is the verdict of distinguished experts. The same intelligence which has so actively guided the Guardsman's work, is almost unavoidably employed in determining the need of his further stay on the Border. Not in the spirit of criticism or disloyalty does his mind work, but, as he has an operating mind, it operates.

For example, he understands that reasons other than those mentioned in the press may have contributed to the decision to mobilize the Guard. He understands that the same reasons may dictate a partial demobilization only, at the present time. He does not question the Government's decisions in matters of policy. But his active mind working with an intimate knowledge of the many circumstances affecting him and his organization is continuously asking the question, why not a partial demobilization conducted in a manner to give the Government the greatest efficiency from units designated to remain, with the least inconvenience to the soldiers who have already made so many sacrifices in supporting the policies of their Government?

Why for example is not the transfer of men authorized to be made to and from units designated to return? If the 100th Infantry is designated to return to New York, why should not the men of that regiment desiring to continue in active service be transferred to units to remain, while men having substantial reasons for returning, be transferred from such units to the regiments under orders to return.

At least this might be done to the extent of a "man for man" transfer. To accept the transfer of men whose homes are not at the regimental station should not involve difficulties for the returning regiment, because upon arrival at home station, such men could be placed on detached service for regular drills at their town armories. Upon return of a regiment from the Border its old men could be transferred back.

This method would give relief to many men whose absence from home, due to special circumstances, is a continuing hardship at this time. It would leave the Army on the Border largely evacuated of men whose active minds are dwelling on the circumstances which plead for their return—circumstances which through no fault of theirs they cannot control.

In conclusion The Rattler acknowledges its faith in the judgment of Uncle Sam and pays its compliments to his loyal and obedient soldiers—and to their active, intelligent minds, which make them so efficient in service, so resourceful in action, and so generous and reasonable under trying circumstances.

"WATCH YOUR STEP!"

A recent news dispatch from El Paso states that from the seat of a wagon Francisco Villa addressed the population of Satevo, Chihuahua, after his forces captured the town about three weeks ago.

"You see before you Pancho Villa, the bandit. But you also see that I am paying my soldiers in silver. You saw that neither the gringos nor the Carrancistas could catch me, even when I was ill. The gringos are harder fighters than the Carrancistas, but I bear them no animosity."

As a bandit, Pancho, we like you; you are more interesting and amusing and have more of the tinsel and glamor of a circus side show than any one we can think of excepting perhaps Geronimo, Aguinaldo, Felizardo and other gentlemen of their class, who have played with us.

Ordinarily we are not adverse to hearing your eloquence, and it is only when you approach wearing masks of admiration for us that we have misgivings.

Pancho, the glamor of your personality will not dazzle—nor your clap-trap oratory lead us from our original inclinations regarding your finish. Our natural modesty impels us to abstain from unnecessary discussion of the exact nature of what that finish will be. We feel, in passing, however, that you should procure from your bookseller all available literature touching upon the persons noted above, as sooner or later such data may greatly facilitate the labors of the person who undertakes the compilation of your biography.

PERSONALS

Our companion in arms, Major Edward Olmsted, Assistant Chief of Staff, I, determined to settle the question of certain insignia, even if the heavens fall. We applaud his enterprise even if we are somewhat pessimistic as to its accomplishment.

Colonel Andrews has threatened us with isolation. We hope he thinks better of it before this edition is circulated, otherwise he will miss all those precious pearls of wisdom which make The Rattler sparkle like the billows of a summer sea.

With the dedication of the mess hall and the installing of tropical plants, the Prado Bandholtz, at Division Headquarters, will be opened to the public. How long the occupants of the villas on each side of the proposed garden of palms will be in occupation is extremely problematical, as a matter of fact it would be hard to procure a lease for over a month from any of the tenants.

Lieut. Col. J. M. Wainwright of the Inspector General's Department, N. G., N. Y., who has been at Division Headquarters about two months representing Governor Whitman, has returned to New York City. He enjoyed many of the hikes with the various organizations and was delighted with his service with the New York troops.

Colonel James M. Andrews of the 2nd. Infantry and some of his staff officers enjoyed dinner at Division Headquarters Saturday evening after which the "peerless" 2nd. Infantry Band gave a delightful concert at our open air theatre.

Major J. M. Hutchinson of the 71st. Infantry did not return north with his regiment but has been attached to Division Headquarters, as Acting Engineer Officer.

Lieut. Elwood Groesbeck of Co. I, 2nd. Infantry, who has been ill in the hospital a few days, has returned to duty.

Major William E. Welsh of the U. S. Infantry, who has been one of the Instructor-Inspectors with the New York National Guard the past two years, has been appointed Lieut. Colonel of the 23rd. Infantry and has joined that regiment at Pharr. He came from San Francisco where he had been on Special duty. We are glad to welcome him back to the New York Division.

Major Walter G. Robinson of the 2nd Infantry, who has been very ill with paratyphoid, is improving. He is at the Base Hospital at San Antonio.

Captain Felix A. Donnelly, Adjutant of the 69th. Infantry, has been granted a leave of absence and has gone to New York City.

Chaplain S. Parkes Cadman and Major John R. Kevin of the 23rd. Infantry have been granted one month's leave of absence, beginning September 18th.

1st. Lieut. Eugene F. Connolly, Medical Corps, is relieved from duty with the 2nd. Infantry and assigned temporarily to duty at the Camp Hospital.

Lieut. R. D. Dumont, Aide to Commanding General 3rd. Brigade, has been granted a month's leave of absence.

Captain J. J. Daly of the 22nd. Regt. of Engineers is on leave of absence and has gone to California on business.

Lieut. S. F. Weaver and Lieut. C. R. Baines of the 12th. Infantry have been granted leaves of absence of one month.

Captain Rupert Hughes of the 69th., the celebrated author, has been granted a fifteen days leave of absence and has returned to New York City.

Lieut. Thomas E. Hitchcock, 1st. Field Artillery, has been granted a month's leave of absence, commencing today.

Lieut. Phillip B. Weed of the 1st. Field Artillery will go on a fifteen day leave of absence September 30.

Captain Clarence J. Walker, 23rd. Infantry, has been granted a month's leave of absence from September 15th.

Lieut. John G. Goetz, 2nd. Infantry, has been detailed to duty with the Division Quartermaster at McAllen.

Captain Joseph C. Fogarty of the 69th. Infantry has been granted a month's leave of absence from September 15th.

We are glad to hear our old friend, Captain George K. Wilson, of the 26th. Infantry, has been detailed as Division Adjutant of the 13th Division. Keep on climbing, George!

We learn our Coast Artillery companion, Major Charles Wylie of "ours", is building a summer home at Malibu-on-the-Sound. It sounds alright, Charlie, but oh, for a week at old Lake Mooselookmaguntie, with its snow and venison stew!

Post One—"Halt! Who's there?"
Voice in the dark—"Officer of the day."
Post One—"Oh H—! I thought it was the relief."

Our distinguished correspondent, D. D. S., of the cavalry, writes, in another column, of an old military axiom "that it is unwise even for the infantry to sleep in the middle of a battlefield". Well, as Gatling Gun Parker has said: "Because a man wears yellow facings is no reason why he should think like a horse."

"Charley, dear," said young Mrs. Turkins, "they have dog tents in the army, don't they?"
"Why, yes. You see, it's sort of a technical term—"

"You needn't trouble to explain. I guess I understand words of one syllable. What I wanted to say is that I'm glad that our faithful four-footed friends are provided for. Only I suspect the S. P. C. A. made them do it."
—Washington Star

ATHLETICS

Plans are being completed for the Frontier day on the parade ground at Headquarters, Saturday, September 30. The entries are coming in fast and a day of real sport is assured. In conjunction with bronco busting and horse racing there will be a modified track meet which will include a 100 yard dash, half mile and a mile and a half and a one mile relay race open to any troop or company in the New York Division. The field events will consist of high jump, broad jump, shot put, tug of war and wall scaling. These events are open to any men in the Division and entries should be forwarded to the athletic committee as soon as possible. A picked team from the 1st. Cavalry and Squadron A will play the 3rd. Regiment, regular Army, a short game of polo. This will be one of the biggest days for the encampment and will continue into the evening when a good program of fights and vaudeville will be given.



Captain Chas J. Dieges of the 22nd. Regiment Engineers, the well-known time keeper at athletic meets, is home on a two weeks leave of absence. "Charlie" was quite put out the other day while walking through Park Row when a street vendor almost insisted on his purchasing a copy of "How to Become an American Citizen".

A good card of fights was conducted at the 1st. Field Artillery arena Tuesday night. Jacques of the 1st. Field forced Cohen of the 12th. to stop in the third round of a six round bout. Sergeant Anderson won over Miller of the 5th. Regiment, U. S. Regulars. The main bout was between "Sailor" Burman and Private Williams, champion of the Army and Navy in his class, in a 10 round go for a purse of \$150. Burman was awarded the fight and forced most of the fighting throughout the ten rounds.

C Troop defeated I Troop by a score of 7 to 6 in the 1st. Cavalry baseball league. This leaves C and F to fight it out for the troop championship. A victory for F will put the three squadron winners in a triple tie, while a victory for C clinches the pennant for the latter troop.

As yet we have not heard of the challenge Squadron A has issued to the 1st. Cavalry for that game of foot ball.

Notre Dame foot ball team must believe in preparedness. They have scheduled a game with one of the Texas Universities.

Frontier day, Saturday, September 30th, and the 1st Cavalry Horse Show October 7th. Who said this was not an exciting life?

A fifteen round fight is being arranged between Sergeant Anderson of the 1st. Field Artillery and Barney Williams of the 2nd. Field for the championship of the Army and Navy.

WOMEN AND COURAGE

The men of a nation seldom will arise much above the standard of courage and unselfishness set for them by the women of the nation. Spartan soldiers did not leave Lesbian wives and mothers behind them, and Roman republican legionaries did not march out with their women running after them weeping and imploring them to remain at home.

If the women of the nation are weak selfish and timid, the men will reflect feminine attributes. A comfortable householder objects violently enough to being taken from safe pursuits and easy circumstances. His conscience might command him, but if the women of this household emphasize the characteristics from which he is trying to escape he is likely to accept ignominy and avoid danger.

A noble minded womanhood can make a courageous manhood not only possible but anything else than a courageous manhood utterly impossible. It is an unusual craven who can withstand the scorn of a woman's contempt for his lack of courage. The instinct of the male is to be esteemed brave by the female. It hardly matters how many generations of soft living have tended to break down the courageous impulses and hard muscles, the scorn of a woman will revive determination to be a man in a man's part.

A nation of good men is a nation of courageous women. It is that or it is a nation of unconsidered women. Women either are rejected from the scheme of the nation for other than breeding purposes, or being respected as thinking, influential parts of it, they effect its character.

The Soldier's "If"

(By "Mike" Kipling Driscoll, Troop D, 1st New York Cavalry.)

If you can wake at five bells in the morning,
And groping round can find your own oil shoes,
And as you slip them on start smiling,
While all the time you know you'd rather snooze;

If you can grab your curry combs and brushes,
And reach the picket line upon a run,
And in the darkness, half asleep, can groom your horses,
Yet make believe you're having lots of fun;

If you can wash in water that's all muddy,
Which you don't know because of lack of light,
And feel your face is all aglow and ruddy
While your neck and ears are really such a sight;

If you can take your mess tins to the cook shack,
And gulp down greasy spuds and old corned beef,
And at the table keep the boys all smiling
While all the time you're feeling half asleep;

If you can hear your name called for some detail,
Fill your canteen and start out on your way,
To hustle bags of oats and clean up picket lines
And still be glad you're getting fifty cents a day;

If in the afternoon you start a-napping,
When the flies begin to buzz around, don't curse,
Just start to brush, and keep right on brushing
And remember that they might be ten times worse.

If you have polished up your gun and pistol
Till both shine like a piece of burnished steel,
And then instead of having an inspection
The first lieutenant gives you a long spiel;

And if some day by chance your gun is dirty
And the only one that's looked at on the line
Don't say, "Gee! but I'm unlucky,"
Just say, "I'll fool them the next time."

And if you've counted on a lot of moonlight
And at eight or nine it starts to rain,
To rain,
Remember that the rain will make things cooler,
Don't say, "The weather here gives me a pain."

And as you hustle out to fix your tent flaps,
You're soaking wet and chilled through to the bone,
And the old Gulf breeze just tries to make you shiver,
Don't say, "Oh, Lord, I wish that I was home."

As you lay on your cot, the day's work over,
And Taps comes sounding through the cool night air,
Be happy that you're fit to serve your country,
And contented as you say your evening prayer.

If you can do all this and still be merry,
And from this lift just get a bit of joy,
When you go home o where you'll all be welcome,
You'll then know that you're a soldier, boy.

The Incinerator

Dame Rumor, that scandalous, fickle tongued sister of Mrs. Grundy, has worked her havoc among the boys in drab these past few months but of late she has been unusually agile in her steps, managing to cover the distance between Division Headquarters and the 2nd Field Artillery in ten flat. As always, when she rides rough-shod through the camps she leaves troubles behind her. The old lady is never at a loss to answer that infamous question: "When are we going home?" but she's about as truthful as a Campaign Manager before election.

We're beginning to feel much like the Ethiopian, who, after numerous appeals, disgracements and retrials, was again facing the charge of indiscriminately exercising his prerogative in the shape of a safety last razor. The jury was still deliberating on the verdict after forty-eight hours of locked doors. Finally Rufe, in desperation, sent for the judge. "Jedge, y'r honor am dey goin' ter hang me dis time?" "Why, that's what they're fighting about now, Rufe." "Wal, Jedge, Ah've dis much ter say. After waitin' dis long Ah doan't much keer which way dey settle it, so long as it am settled an' dey stick to it, for, Jedge, dis SUSPENSE am suttinly awful!"

One young lady up north would like more news in "The Rattler" about the 1st Field Artillery because—oh, well, because he belongs. Wouldn't it be an awful lesson to her if we should print her name right out?

Carranza, it seems, was holding a pair of trevs and a deuce when he called. Villa gave him the deuce. Japan may have been ready to slip him aces but Uncle Sam tossed his chips on the table in time. Now if the Commission will only raise the limit and Congress pass a bill with Jokers wild, there'll be something in this Army Game after all.

HOBSON'S CHOICE.

Between a bottle of grape juice and a stein of lemonade.

The silver lining of this especial cloud will be revealed about six months from now. The scene will be a parlor, a ballroom, a restaurant, or any one of a hundred places. There will be girls, lots of them; trim, dainty and demure. There will also be the mixed assortment of males. You will be there, too, trying not to appear self-conscious in your coat of Mexican tan. After a lull in the conversation, up will speak Archie, he of the vivid cravat and dazzling raiment, something in this wise: "Well, girls, when I was up at Plattsburgh—Figure out the rest of this painful scene for yourself. We trust you will show discrimination and not give Eddie too much work to do."

We wish to humbly apologize to the Govt. and to our readers for a misstatement of facts in last week's "Incinerator." We erroneously said that pay for July had been delayed two weeks en route. We were wrong in this and when one is wrong one should be honest and admit it, shouldn't one? The 12th N. Y. Inf. received their July "salary" last Thursday, Sept. 14th.

Perhaps after all the Border Patrol was only meant to be "psychological." Reflection on that point, however, gives one a creepy feeling like being watched by the Doctor for dangerous symptoms.

NEUTRAL ZONE FOR BANDITS URGES LANSING.

That Gargantuan chuckle we heard over the wireless 'phone could come

Monday—Great excitement in camp. Red Cross nurse walked through with Doctor. All the boys began to have symptoms. Climate is very dangerous for nurses. Wrote Mabel not to worry if I got sick. They say we'll get paid next week for last June. August's pay is due Nov. 19th, provided all regiments have received July's dinero. Just discovered I can be mustered out when I'm 64 years old. They can't fool me now.

While becoming alarmed over the apparent spread of paratyphoid among the soldiers the Medical Corps seems to have overlooked the great havoc wrought along the Border by a virulent disease among civilians, commonly known as "The Itching Palm."

And now we breathlessly await the call from Senby Baker that will be heard across the continent. "Turn out the Guard."

Do your wish to know what we really think
Of the army game in Texas?
Would you lend an ear to our humble thoughts
On Border Patrol and Mexes?
Since you ask of us we'll confide in you.
With apologies to Spencer,
All the true details of the Olive Drab—
It's Deleted
By
The
Censor.
H. I. Y.