

THE RIO GRANDE RATTLER

Published Weekly at Odd Places in Texas.
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

Letters and news items from the camps along the Border are solicited.
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September 27, 1916

BARNUM

One of the most salient traits of a great man is his ability to select and surround himself with able assistants. In Colonel Malvern Hill Barnum, Chief of Staff of the Southern Department, General Funston has one of the most modest and able officers of which the military service boasts. It has needed a man with the ability, the tact, and the poise of a Barnum to be chief adviser and representative of the commanding general during the recent parlous times on the Mexican Border.

Colonel Barnum is a courteous gentleman and represents the highest type of an officer. The Rattler, right here, as representing the New York Division with a rattling salute of all six of its buttons, announces that it admires and respects him immensely and wishes him the consummation of his ambitions.

GUARD ATTENTION!!

When we say Guard, we mean not only the New York Division, we include the entire U. S. N. G.

What are we going to do about a system which in this crisis has placed the entire burden of national military obligations upon the shoulders of the relatively few who were keen enough to have voluntarily engaged to qualify themselves to perform THEIR SHARE of the citizens' duty.

Why should the few who have equipped themselves to efficiently play their part perform the duties of all?

Why should the shirkers be exempt from the burdens and heat of the day, solely because they have elected to remain unfit to play the part which should be theirs?

The obvious answer is that the military obligations of the citizenry of the nation should not be imposed upon a small class made of the more dependable and unselfish, but should be apportioned among the entire population capable of bearing arms.

American "savez" is sharp enough to see the fairness of this, and the necessity for applying this principle in preparation for real war.

Our people, however, fear "militarism." They see what "militarism" has wrought in Europe. They view with suspicion any plans for national defense, which in their consummation may spell national offense. They hold misgivings latent but deep-rooted concerning the "man on horse-back," and his plans to save the country.

They are beginning to recognize the necessity for mandatory military training and service, but they want to know something of the application of the principle. Is it to be the German principle in disguise, or is it to be the democratic Swiss or Australian system? There is a vast difference.

If the friends of the principle of universal service would urge universal military training and service in THE NATIONAL GUARD, under direct Federal jurisdiction, the service requiring one month of field training and nine months of armory, garrison and theoretical instruction for three years, then furlough to the reserve for three years, our people would probably accept the plan and the principle would be established.

Such a plan would distribute the burden among the people. It would preserve the regular army as an expeditionary force. It would provide further promotion for its officers.

It would provide a greater mission for the National Guard and make of it an out and out Federal force. It would be less expensive than any other system. If one month in the field each year were found to be insufficient, Congress would be asked to add whatever additional period were necessary.

As a result of their experience in the Southern Department one thing is certain in the minds of the U. S. N. G., that is that officers and men have confidence in the military authorities on the Border and feel that this confidence is reciprocated. May this spirit in connection with the greater Federal powers created by the National Defense Act, under which we are beginning a new existence, be the basis for joint co-operative effort to provide adequate security in practicable form for our country and its institutions.

The First Illinois Cavalryman in last week's editorial "Record of the Middle West" says, "Again the West has made a record in supplying good material for the National Defense." The article goes on to give figures of the total number discharged from the national guard regiments mobilized for duty on the Border, either for dependency or disability. It divides the statistics in three departments—Eastern Central and Western. The Eastern Department shows a total of 10,334 Central, 2,916 and Western 341. The article goes on to state "This scarcely needs any comment." But then people from the Middle West will look over the figures and say: "We told you so."

We would like to add our "But" and ask what the percentage was as to the number of guardsmen furnished from the three sections of the country? New York State alone sent over seventeen thousand and left nearly 9,000 more at home ready to go but not ordered. We believe the Empire State's record for supplying both quantity and quality for the National Defense will measure up to any other standard of any other state, or section of the country.

The long summer on the Border has marked the formation of many lasting friendships among the men of the camps in The Magic Valley. It does not take long in an army camp to find out a man's worth, no matter what his former station in life. It's "What's mine is your's, brother, unless you try to pull something over on me." There are occasional breaches of trust but these are rare, and the breachers suffer.

The Oklasodak is the name of a very bright and interesting weekly newspaper published at San Benito, Texas. It is the official organ of Bullard's Brigade, which consists of troops from Oklahoma, Louisiana and South Dakota, hence the name. We wish a continuation of the great success this paper has received throughout the valley.

While a uniform may not make a man, it makes him conspicuous.

One kind of a progressive is a man effected with the speed craze.

PERSONALS

Lieutenant J. L. Donhauser, Medical Corps, 2nd Hospital, has returned to New York City on a thirty day leave.

Captain Charles C. Farmer, Jr., 19th Cavalry, U. S. A., has been assigned to the New York Division as an Inspector-Instructor and is on duty with the 1st Cavalry.

Major Leonard D. Wildman, Signal Corps, U. S. Army, attended the Review to Brigadier General Parker last Saturday, and made another short visit to the New York Signal Corps.

Brigadier General James Parker, commanding the Brownsville District, was the guest of Major General O'Bryan on Friday. He received a review of the detachment of the New York Division stationed at McAllen.

Lieut. John H. Knebel of Company I, 74th Infantry, one of the most famous riflemen in the State Guard, is on leave of absence at his home in Buffalo. Lieut. Knebel is an art instructor at the Technical High School in Buffalo.

Colonel Harry H. Bandholtz was the dinner guest of his West Point classmate, Colonel James M. Andrews of the 2nd Infantry, on Wednesday evening at Pharr. It was in the nature of a farewell party as Col. Andrews left the next day with his regiment for the State mobilization camp at Green Haven, N. Y.

Captain E. P. Robinson, the genial and efficient Topographical Officer of the 22nd Regiment of Engineers, has been busy the past few days assisting Major Waterbury, Ordnance Officer, New York Division, in laying out and building the large field firing range for the Infantry and Cavalry at La Gloria.

Captain Joseph J. Daly of the 22nd Regiment of Engineers has returned from Los Angeles, California, where he closed a five-year engineering contract with a large construction firm. He will commence his duties at the termination of his Border service. The National Guard will lose a valuable officer as California is too far from New York to permit "Joey" to continue his work with the regiment.

RULING ON GUARD AID

There has been received by the adjutant general's department a copy of a general order issued by the War Department regarding the act of Congress providing relief for members of the federalized militia who have dependent families.

This act carried an appropriation of \$2,000,000. It is pointed out in this order that only families of those men of the militia or the national guard who were brought into the service of the United States under the call of the president are entitled to the benefits of the act. The family of a man enlisting in the militia or national guard of Texas, New Mexico or Arizona after May 9, and that of a man enlisted from the other states after June 18, 1916, are not entitled to the benefits of the act.

The amount paid to the family of an enlisted man may be paid to the family of such soldier until his discharge from the service. The law is not retroactive, and its benefits, therefore, do not begin until the date of its approval, August 29, 1916.

THANK YOU!

The Rio Grande Rattler, a weekly newspaper published in Texas by the New York militiamen in the interest of the New York Troops, under date of September 6 published a three-column pen sketch on the first page of Brigadier General James W. Lester of this city, October 20. It was also stated that there was no time this year to pick the team out by competition, but that the War Department would decide where the team would mobilize for early practice. The make up of the team follows:

Major Fred M. Waterbury, Ordnance Officer Division, Captain; Captain H. E. Crall, 7th Inf. Spotted; Sergt. George H. Doyle, Supply Co., 71st Inf., Coach; Principals and alternates—1st Lieut. Leo P. Kurst, Co. E, 7th Inf.; 1st Lieut. J. H. Knebel, Co. I, 74th Inf.; 1st Lt. Elwood Groesbeck, Co. I, 2nd Inf.; 1st Lt. George E. Bryant, M. G. Co., 23rd Inf.; Captain E. H. Jones, Co. I, 12th Inf.; 1st Lt. W. K. Whitley, Co. L, 3rd Inf.; Sergt. F. M. Dardingkiller, Q. M. Corps; Q. M. Sergt. F. C. Smith, Co. M, 1st Inf.; 1st Sergt. C. C. Marjens, Co. D, 74th Inf.; Corporal Philip Drewsen, Co. G, 7th Inf.; Corporal Ralph Pollock, Co. F, 2nd Inf.; Corporal J. F. Enders, Troop I, 1st Cavalry; Sergt. Maj. Alexander Eakin, Squadron A; Sergt. Theodore Crane, Troop B, Squadron A; Sergt. F. J. Wallenberger, M. G. Co., 74th Inf.; 1st Lt. D. J. Cadotte, Bat. Adj., 74th Inf., Range Officer; Captain George W. Augustin, Med Corps, Surgeon.

NEW YORK STATE TEAM, NATIONAL RIFLE MATCH

The Adjutant General wired Major General O'Bryan Saturday to send in the composition of the team and officials to represent the state of New York at the National Rifle match at Jacksonville, Fla., October 20. It was also stated that there was no time this year to pick the team out by competition, but that the War Department would decide where the team would mobilize for early practice. The make up of the team follows:

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"GET THE HABIT"

The Rattler takes its hat off to this week to Elliott B. Roberts, manager of the Palace of Sweets, Mission. Although the youngest business man in the city, Mr. Roberts has made his ice cream parlor and factory one of the successful institutions of the Valley. Most any day you can see him covering the camps delivering his bulk ice cream in large shipments to the companies of the Division.

ATHLETICS

Troop C of the 1st Cavalry defeated Troop F last Tuesday in the play-off series of the 1st Cavalry base ball league. The game was well played from start to finish and afforded many thrills. Eddie Butler, an old Cornell Star, pitched a good game for C and was given excellent support. The hitting of Robb was the feature, also a double play, Lyons to Canon. The league was a great success and by good team work and all-round playing Troop



C is fully justified to the claim of "Champions of the First Cavalry."

The score and line up:

	L	F	A	B	R	P	O	H	A	E
Murphy	5	1	1	1	1	0				
Larkin	4	0	3	1	1	1				
Gunning	3	1	8	0	1	1				
Scully	3	2	1	0	1	0				
Butler	2	2	5	0	3	0				
Potter	3	1	2	1	1	0				
Miller	4	1	0	1	0	0				
Doyle	2	2	1	1	1	0				
Bobb	3	1	0	3	0	0				
Total	29	11	21	8	9	1				

	A	B	R	P	O	H	A	E
Canon	3	0	5	1	0	1		
Anderson	3	0	1	0	1	0		
Dahl	3	0	1	0	0	0		
McIntyre	3	0	1	0	0	0		
Lindsay	2	3	0	3	0	2		
Gieffer	3	2	0	3	0	0		
Deamont	2	0	0	0	1	1		
Smith	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Lyons	3	2	2	1	2	0		
Selmer	3	0	8	1	3	0		
Total	26	4	21	6	7	5		

One of the feature events of Frontier Day will be the rough riding contest between the 1st and 2nd Field Artillery Squadrons A and the 1st Cavalry. The 1st Cavalry squad has not been picked as yet and will be greatly handicapped as they have done no rough riding since arriving. Lieutenant H. Black of Troop D will take care of the 1st Cavalry entrants and will undoubtedly make a good showing. Lieut. Black is a wonderful horseman and fully capable of turning out a winning squad. Each squad will consist of eight men.

The annual rifle matches at the Florida State range, in which teams from the army, navy and various National Guard and Military academies usually participate, probably will not be held this year because of the presence of virtually all of the army and National Guardsmen at the Border and in Mexico.

Corporal Harold W. Wooster of Troop H, 1st Cavalry will enter several events in the coming horse show. Wooster is an exceptional horseman and will give a good account of himself.

COMING SPORTING EVENTS

Thursday night, Bowling, 1st Cavalry vs. McAllen Team.

Saturday, Frontier Day, Saturday night, 10 round fight, for Army and Navy championships.

Saturday October 7—1st Cavalry horse show.

The Iowa National Guard located at Brownsville will hold a field day this coming week, a good program has been arranged and much competition is promised.

Grove City College has cancelled their foot ball schedule for the coming season, the Grove City authorities state that it would be impossible to play owing to the fact that nearly every available foot ball player is in the army "somewhere on the Border."

Old "Peerless Mel" Shepard is now in McAllen with the 69th and will compete in several events next Saturday in the Frontier Day.

The Rattler is scouting around looking for a new cut for this column. Even though the world series have yet to be played we feel that a foot ball player would be more appropriate.

The 1st Cavalry are trying to arrange a foot ball game with Rice Institute of Houston Tex. This is an excellent idea and should be a good drawing card here in McAllen.

OUR LOCAL P. & T.

Clean stores and efficient service count even in a store down here in the edge of Texas. This is a simple and homely rule which has contributed considerably to the success of Halls grocery, which is a landmark in the city of McAllen.

Mr. A. P. Hall operates his store on the principle that has made Park and Tilford's in New York a by-word for store perfection. His goods are of the freshest, his stock is selected with an eye to meeting the discriminating demands of the local trade. Mr. Hall's clerks greet you with a smile and a cheerful word. The Rattler hereby dubs Hall's Grocery "The Park and Tilford's of the Valley."

The Cavalryman

(By Erwin Clarkson Garrett, Author of "The Dyak Chief and Other Verses.")

He was grisly, he was grumpy,
He was freckled, gnarled and tanned;
And his boots, they smelt of stables,
And his veins swelled on his hand,
And he chewed black plug tobacco,
And he spat into the sand.

He eyed me front and backward,
His glance was like a sword;
He frowned approval 'neath his hat
That bore the yellow cord;
He said, "You're no damn'd Dough-boy
Or Gunner or Engineer,"
And he showed a hardened hand at me
With an Arizona leer.

Said he—"The Dough-boys, they're all
right—
They're good old socks at that;
They're plugging, plodding, useful
guys—"

Again he paused and spat;
But, sure as a Rookie gets the boils
And rolls like a ship at sea,
A trooper of the Horse outranks
A colonel o' infantry.

"And then" said he, "there come the
Guns,
All polished up and swell;
And when they give a volley,
Believe me, they raise hell;
They pick you off a mile or more
And scatter you out to sea—
But a Trooper of the Horse outranks
The whole Artillery."

"The Quinine Corps, though sloppy,
Thank Heaven for the same;
The Ordnance and the Builders
All help along the game;
But—here he swore a dreadful oath—
The kind that rips and sears—
"A Trooper of the Horse outranks—
A General of Engineers."

The Incinerator

A sense of humor is a valuable asset to all men at all times but your 1916 Guardsman derives multitudinous benefits from its possession. If properly cultivated it can materially assist him in the performance of his soldierly duties such as smartly saluting the 563 officers that promenade Main Street, McAllen, cleaning the Major's boots, acknowledging the discontinuance of salary from nervous employers, and receiving wages two months late from a benign Government. But as the weeks roll on, we for one, (should that be singular or plural), find it increasingly difficult to conjure up jests. The frolicking fancies of jolly July become rough realities in sorry September. The quality of mercy may still be unstrained but humor cracks when forced through a sieve.

We used to laugh at our own expense but not since the cost of living in Texas soared to the empyrean and beyond.

And when the pursuit of jibes becomes as uncertain and arduous as the chase after the elusive Pancho, sometimes we are apt to forget one or two of the Articles of War and train our battle sight on Mount Olympus itself, loading with "bawl" cartridges. We tremble in trepidation when we propheticly envisage "The Incinerator," issue of November 8th.

We often wonder if the Judge Advocate is pasting these columns in his "scrap" book for future reference. But General Court-Martial has builded for himself a cozy home on La Avenida de Palmas at Division Headquarters and paying him a visit may not be such a trial after all.

"All this at McAllen, during the summer of 1916."

"And great was the Fall thereof."

After escaping strikes, sharks, infantile paralysis, and Excessive Humidity, some people still find cause for complaint. If it hadn't been Texas it would have been the outrageous hotel bills at the seashore. Funny, isn't it? No, it isn't.

Luke's notion of the Daintiest Detail is carrying entraining orders from Headquarters to the various camps.

Since the boys on the Border have had so much experience in trench digging, road building, and carpentering on mess-shacks, it is only right that they should be put to work repairing the fences around the various Congressional Districts.

Sweet indeed may be the uses of adversity but many obtuse individuals in olive drab crave the bitterness of luxury!

It takes all sorts of people to make a world. Even the girls who write "Why don't you come home? I don't see what you're staying down there for anyway"—must fill some naive niche in the Eternal Fitness of Things.

At least we won't have to scramble for seats at the Army-Navy Game. Watch for the score in "The Rattler."

PERSONAL.
It's a promise, Babe. We'll expect you at the station. Don't pay any attention to the officers. They get enough of that down here.

In reply to all inquiries, Secretary Baker declared the militia were on the Border for an infinite stay.

Brownsville Sentinel.
The Sentinel's proofreader may have nodded but we've reached the stage where "indefinite" and "infinite" sound somberly synonymous.

HIS DIARY.
Monday: Awoke at eleven o'clock. Oh, what a head. Must learn not to be such a good mixer. Felix served me my coffee and toast (and bromo) in bed as usual. Looked over the tape for an hour before lunch and then called off

work for the day. Took Mabel up the river road for a spin in the new bus. Had tea at Longue Vue. These Fall days are getting chilly but Mabel didn't complain. She promised not to travel around with Jim any more. Besides Jim drinks and flirts with all the girls. Called up Fay and we had dinner at Rector's. Fay had to hurry to the theatre so I took Elsie to the Follies. Met Mabel at the Midnight Frolic with Jim. Told her Elsie was my cousin from Detroit. Elsie got mad and beat it with George. Mabel said she was her own boss, so there. Finished up at the Club. I think Fitz took me home. This life is too strenuous. New York's out of joints. Guess I'll join the militia tomorrow. It'll be lots of fun to wear a uniform and carry a gun.

(One minute please. That's only a page from His Memoirs for Sept. 1915.)

Most newspapers are run by the Business Manager. The Rattler is no exception. We have received strict orders from the "man-who-sometimes-o. k's-our-expense-accounts" to lay off the jolly merchants of McAllen for a change. So as we haven't handed in the little bill for last week we'll lay off, as that l. b. means more than all the enigmas of Samuel J. Hopkins Adams. Now that the trembling tradespeople are destined to enjoy one night of perfect repose, we are troubled with qualms of conscience. In uriaheopic preparation for the biting things we've said about them in the past we cheerfully pen free of charge this little epiphany for the gentle children of commerce in the Magic Valley—in the hope that they'll be able to use it soon. "You Didn't Have to Hand it to Them. They Got it anyway." Now will you write us a check, Fred?

Intend to?..He's Got to Settle.
H. I. Y.

After reading your justly esteemed Bus. Mgr's, blarney on the Magic Valley the wares and cares of the shopkeepers we wonder if he intends to settle in McAllen when "Johnnie Come Marching Home Again"—just to prove that ministers' sons are always sincere.
S. J. S.

FINANCIAL NOTE.
Federal pay for June was received by the 7th Infantry on Friday, Sept. 22nd.

Latest advices from New London indicate that "all's quiet along the Connecticut." Beyond a cruise in a submarine and a wine supper for the Mexican Commissioners there is little to chronicle. Yet the correspondents speak weightily of the "solution of Border problems." Perhaps they're like Mg(OH)2—insoluble in water.

From "The Plunge" by W. B. Trites.

"She watched Jules with a disdainful smile. Then when he had shuffled away at last she said:
"It's impossible to get a decent manservant unless you're rich. These seventy-franc a month wretches are worse than useless."
"Is that all a manservant gets over here—seventy francs, fourteen dollars, a month?"
"Isn't it enough for such riff-raff!"
"Ruthven sighed his assent."

The inter-camp telephone line is now ready for Marathon conversations. You'd better start dating them up. You never can tell. Four regiments back already.

A w. k. brand in O. D. containers "travels incognito" and boasts of it. The man who can show us how to get by the watchful waiting M. P.s. in the same modest fashion and meet the aforesaid w. k. b. on friendly terms can draw the pay checks of 5,000 men.

"It's a long time between drinks."
H. I. Y.