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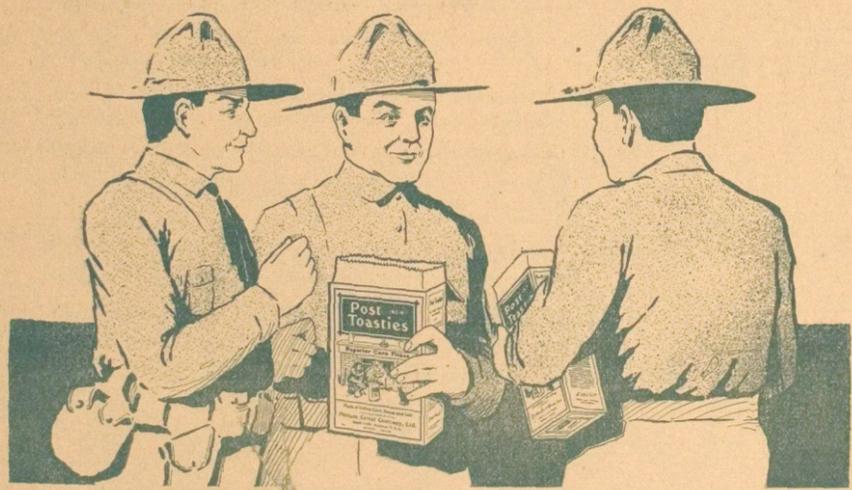
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# New Post Toasties

At Commissaries, town grocers and restaurants.

## NEATH THE SHADE OF THE GRACEFUL PALM

The Cactus Fields of Hidalgo County Turned into Tropical Gardens

### BUSY SOLDIERS BEAUTIFY CAMPS

You may recall how the wise ones laughed when, July rapidly nearing its close, certain regiments and companies began to invest in palm trees and ferns, with a view to making their new summer homes more attractive and habitable. "What a foolish waste of time and money. No one knows how long we will stay in this spot", the knowing brothers chuckled.

But now the foresight of the palm growers has borne fruit, for their camps have become the most slightly and picturesque places in the Magic Valley. Within the space of a few months the palms have grown, until, in some places, they spread out over the tents and form an inviting shelter from the sun's ardent rays.

At McAllen, practically all of the camps have become tropical garden spots and one regiment vies with another in the planting and cultivating of beautiful Southern vegetation along their streets. Division Headquarters has its Avenida de Palmas, where palms, cedars, and ferns grow in profusion. But a few weeks ago the members of the Commanding General's staff lived in a row of tents on Mud Boulevard, for that was its name then. With the advent of the comfortable frame buildings and the structure that houses the Division offices, came a desire to beautify the spot as much as possible. Small cedars were set out and the plaza in the center was planted with tall and stately palms. It now reminds one very much of the Prado at Havana except that the dusky-eyed señoritas are nowhere to be seen. Rumor hath it—but no one should believe rumors.

Both the 1st and 2nd Field Artillery have gone to considerable trouble and expense in setting out their palm groves but the completed result more than justifies their patience and liberality. Combining with the trees and plants that grow naturally on their camp-sites the transplanted palm-trees help to make a pleasant and attractive spot. The effect of this verdure is to keep the artillerymen much more contented with their lot than they would be if living on a bare, sandy waste.

Unfortunately for the 1st Cavalry, they had no more than succeeded in turning the swamp in which they were camped into a charming oasis than they were moved to a new camp-site. But their new home proved to be a much better location, so they gladly dug up their palms and cedars and brought them along with the mess-shacks and rumors. All were transplanted together and are beginning to thrive again.

Each officer in the 12th has his own private little palm tree alongside of his tent until Commission Row has taken on the appearance of Palm Drive at Monte Carlo. Let us add, parenthetically, that the resemblance to the Joy Capital of the Riviera goes no further.

The 69th found a few palms when they moved into 71st camp but have decided to order no more until that consignment of shamrock arrives from the "ould counthree." No amateur botanist in the 69th can foretell how palm trees and shamrock will mix, when planted in the same soil.

Say what you will, there's a charm to the graceful fronds of a slender palm and when the night breeze sways them gently to and fro and the magic beams of the moon shine through on the boys strumming mandolins and guitars, Texas doesn't seem such a bad place after all. The man who brought the first palm tree to camp planted better than he knew.

### CAVALRY FIELD DAY IN BROWNSVILLE.

Arrangements are under way for a cavalry field day to be held sometime during the month of October, probably the latter part of the second week, or first of the third, in which all the mounted troops in Brownsville, including the First Illinois cavalry and the second squadron of the Third Cavalry, will participate. The events, the program for which is now being worked out, will be interesting to witness, as daring feats in riding will be performed by daring riders. The events will include, among others, a test in handling led horses at fast gaits, two troops of cavalry, under full equipment, including wagons, etc., in a competitive race across the lake at Fort Brown, and running at heads with sabers.

### CONVERTS TO TEXAS.

The Rattler knows a lot of school-boys who hated arithmetic and spelling but grew up to be college professors, and it believes that on the same principle many of the men who pretend to dislike Texas will swing around some day and possibly settle here.

Capt. J. B. Ridley, ex-commander of the 2nd Field Artillery, is the first convert to Texas. Capt. Ridley is taking a 30-day furlough and is trying out as sales manager for the Rankin-Hill Co. of McAllen and Corpus Christi. (See advertising columns.)

Should his plans materialize, Capt. Ridley will stay in Texas for the remainder of a long and prosperous life. So far three enlisted men have volunteered to stay with him, at substantial salaries.

The Rattler will be glad to hear additional testimony along this line. Let's see if it is worth while for us to be a booster.

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Greece and the Giants have this in common—they got into the game too late—N. Y. Sun.

## News Sent in by Our Division Units

### 7TH INFANTRY.

"The National Guard" was the topic Colonel Fiske discoursed upon at the Y. M. C. A. on Tuesday evening, Sept. 28th before an audience which packed the hall and overflowed three deep outside the building. After tracing the interesting history and derivation of the word "National Guard", Col. Fiske proceeded to explain its present status, and what its future would probably be, thus clearing up many misconceived opinions hereto existing. High praise of the personnel and unselfish devotion of the members of the Guard to their country evoked much enthusiastic applause.

A trio from Company A rendered several vocal selections, the parodies on current events being extremely clever.

On Friday Sept. 29th, at about 7:30 A. M., the Machine Gun Company under command of Capt. Gardner, departed for the town of Harlingen, after being roundly cheered as it passed each company street. The town of Harlingen is about 35 miles distant and the Machine Gun Company intends to march this entire distance. Two weeks will be spent at this place and maneuvers with a machine gun detachment from the regular army is part of the program. A range has also been constructed at this latter place and much valuable practice in handling the machine gun under war conditions will ensue.

On the same date Col. Bandholtz, accompanied by Major Vanderbilt, made a thorough inspection of the mess-shacks, kitchens, streets and quarters of the men of the entire regimental camp. The visit was entirely informal and all the companies were at drill at the time.

The Border town of Madero has become as well known to the members of the 7th Regiment as has the town of McAllen. On Sept. 29th Company C departed for the pumping station at Madero to relieve Company D which had completed its tour of duty at that place. All the men who have been detailed for the duty are universal in their praise of the locality and its wonderful surroundings. The experience is one none would have misad for anything. Breast works have been constructed and a creditable company street laid out. Lieut. Von Roeder has been caring for the health of the men, and has made himself extremely popular by administering to their ills, and discouraging them from using patent medicines, for which they are easy dupes.

A Division Review, on Saturday, Sept. 25th, the Regiment lived up to all its former traditions of military precision in marching, perfect alignment of companies, and trim military bearing of its members. Each company had a 28 file front, this being rendered possible by details from Company B, which company, although performing regimental guard duty, detailed every available man.

Major Mazet of the 3rd Battalion is on a thirty day leave of absence in order to attend some pressing business matters. In his absence Capt. Corell of the 8th Battalion is commanding the 2nd Battalion.

Major E. W. D. C. Falls departed on Sept. 28th on a 30 day leave of absence and Capt. Barnard of Company K is commanding the 3rd Battalion in his absence. Capt. Barnard is conducting daily maneuvers, working out problems of minor tactics which are thoroughly enjoyed by the companies of his battalion.

On Sept 29th Lieut. Murphy of the First Company departed for New York on a leave of absence. The entire First Company gathered at the head of its street and bade its popular 2nd Lieut. good-bye.

Lieut. Latham Reed of Squadron A has been accompanying Companies I and D on their morning drills, preparatory to receiving a commission on the staff of the 69th Regiment.

Accompanying the regiments which went out from Pharr on maneuvers to Hidalgo last week, were Col. Fiske and Major Schuyler, who acted as observers. The route covered by these regiments was probably the same as that of the 7th Infantry.

A very comprehensive plan for the October drills has been formulated under the direction of Division Headquarters. The first drills will be mostly squad drills wherein the corporals will play an important part. This will be followed up by platoon and company drills, and will conclude with battalion and regimental drills. Regimental and battalion maneuvers will be worked out meanwhile, and on Oct. 7 and Oct. 21 inspection of battalions will be held by battalion commanders. On Oct. 24th and 28th there will be a regimental inspection by the regimental commander.

The Ladies Auxillary of the 7th Regiment has been very active during the summer months and has already planned several social activities for the fall. An entertainment and dance will be held at the Armory, Park Ave. and 66th Street, in the early part of this month. The men on the Border have already enjoyed the fruits of the good work of the Ladies Auxillary, and take this opportunity of expressing their gratitude.

J. T. M.

### 3RD. AMBULANCE COMPANY.

Friends of Martin DeForest Smith, both in the 3rd and out, will be interested to learn that he has risen to the rank of Lieutenant, receiving his commission on September 27th.

A private when the outfit left New York, Lt. Smith was made a sergeant shortly before leaving Camp Whitman late in June and has since had full charge of the sanitary management of the 3rd's camp, making it a model of cleanliness under the most adverse conditions. Beside this he has done much toward giving the boys the medical aid that has seemed necessary for the welfare of the company.

This remarkable rise of a private from the ranks is due not only to Lt. Smith's untiring faithfulness to duty, whether pleasant or otherwise, but to the fact that he is a physician of much ability and experience, having left a

profitable practice in the neighborhood of 25th Street, New York City, to serve as a militiaman at the beginning of the present crisis.

Congratulations from all the boys, Lieutenant, and may your rise in rank continue as rapidly in the future.

An examination for Privates 1st Class was held on Thursday, September 28th, in the 3rd's mess hall. Fifteen men passed the test and will go on the pay rolls as Privates 1st Class, beginning with October 1st. Those successful in the examination are as follows: Al Manning, Archie R. Manning, Ralph Barrows, Richard Barrows, Clarence O'Neill, George Rose, James Leahy, Anthony DeLisio, Alfred Handy, Thorn Many, Henry Strebe, Harry Bachmann, John Decker, William Driscoll and Laurence Wilson.

The boys will be glad to know that Gustav Bolin, who was appointed acting sergeant some weeks ago pending the time of his examination, has successfully passed the same, and now wears the 3-stripe chevron.

Some one remarked that the new-issue shoes of olive drab hue and suede finish are creating a distinct impression all around, especially on Texas highways. Well, let us hope they soon create that same impression (what-ever our friend may mean) on the asphalt pavements of Fifth Avenue.

### 23RD INFANTRY

Company I held its second dinner at the Pharr hotel last Saturday evening, September 25, and among those present were Major Sawyer, Adjutant Cook, Lt. Worthing, Capt. Langer and Lt. Ireland.

The dinner included four Mexican dishes which did not seem to be appreciated by some of the boys. We noticed Sigs Cook, Scholl and Vette looking very carefully at the contents of the corn tamales and Vette did not seem to be able to get water enough to cool his throat. Never mind Eddie, we will see that the next spread will be a-la-Americano or Ted will have to explain. A very pleasant time was spent and everybody got in for taps.

Company I hiked to Hidalgo with the 3rd Brigade on Monday, returning the following day with the loss of but one man, a record unsurpassed by any other company. We intend to be known as the hiking company of the terrible 23rd.

Driver Chitug showed his skill again on the Hidalgo hike, driving a pair of green mules like old timers. These Greenporters are some boys. Corporal James Gilmartin received an honorable discharge last week and left here for New York last Sunday where no doubt he will receive a large reception from the one who has sent him at least five letters daily since we have been on the Border. Happy days, Jim, but we will certainly miss those pink envelopes. Private Halley also left for New York today on a disability discharge. A pleasant trip to you, Slim Jim.

Corporal Griffiths is always anxious to carry his bed sack on the hikes. Cheer up, Griff, we will try you out with a cot on the next one.

Cook Tibbott is still trying fancy stunts with the corn beef, Willie but we manage to get through with it. The 23rd base ball team played the 74th team last Sunday and on by the score of 1-0. Company I furnished the catcher, shortstop and fielder, still holding up the old reputation of former years.

Old Pop Wescott is the latest addition to our non-coms staff and our best wishes go with your promotion. Did you buy that tie for the occasion?

Almost time for Private Heitman's annual bath. Look out for the B. of H. Don't get lost on the next hike, Griff, or the first squad may never see New York again.—L. H. B.

### 2ND AMBULANCE COMPANY

The Second Ambulance Company is about to start on the two day hike "somewhere on the Border." The men are all in fine shape and are pleased at even this chance to get out of camp for a while.

With election time drawing near of course political debates begin to be more the order of the day. Tent 9 has the honor of having as their squad leader the only nominee for office, so far as is known, in the company. Corporal J. H. Cameron is a practicing dentist in Caledonia, N. Y., and since coming to the Border has been notified of his nomination for county clerk of Livingston county on one of the tickets. If all the members of the Second Ambulance voted in Livingston county, Doc Cameron would be as good as elected now.

The boys have received some very appropriate verses written by Mrs. Helen M. Smith, wife of George H. Smith of the Second Ambulance Co.

### NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

All correspondence should reach The Rattler at Division Headquarters not later than 8:30 on Saturday mornings. Care should be taken to write legibly and thus minimize the chances of errors in print. If your regiment is not represented in our columns do not complain but write some news yourself and send it in for next week's issue. We desire to hear from all. Articles of general interest are also requested.

### LAPSUS CALAMI

We note that on Sept. 22nd some member of the 12th broke into the New York Tribune with a three column story headed "Camp Life on the Mexican Border," said story being deleted of all company and proper names.—But—somebody spilled the Boston Baked, and jammed the works, for in his story he has caused to mention that all important personage, the company chef, and the name Rex slipped the eye of some astute copy reader, so his pains were for naught, for who in the 12th doesn't know Paul Rex, popularly known as "The Greasy Cook of Company L."