

# 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'Ryan  
Colonel Harry H. Bandholtz  
Chief of Staff

Letters and news items from the camps along the Border are solicited.  
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October 4, 1916.

## BUNDY.

Telegrams, orders, letters, bulletins, memoranda, et cetera, ad infinitum, all signed "Bundy" have come down in swarms, schools, flocks, and droves, upon this devoted Division since it became mixed with the mud and dust of the "Magic Valley."

Colonel Omar Bundy, Adjutant of the Southern Department, could give our biblical friend, Job, two to one odds and beat him to a frazzle in the game of real patience. We know because we have tried him to the limit. No matter how grotesquely ridiculous some of our questions or conduct, he invariably treats us like a reasonable human being. But beyond all this we know he is one of the ablest of Uncle Sam's officers and gentlemen, so The Rattler twines itself around this opportunity and to the accompaniment of its seven button rattles thanks Colonel Bundy for his unfailing courtesy to the New York Division, and wishes him all the success he so richly deserves.

## BOOZE AND ITS BY-PRODUCTS.

In another column General O'Ryan has summarized some of the beneficent effects of the order prohibiting the use of liquor and frequenting places of prostitution. It has kept the soldiers healthy, and this is the most important part of any military operation because sick soldiers are of no use to themselves or to the army. They fill the hospitals, make work for the surgeons and destroy the fighting efficiency of their regiments.

If it was necessary to justify the issuance of this order, which some may have regarded as interfering with their personal right to take an eye-opener and a night-cap or two, the sick reports have justified it. Every other mobilization of troops which the United States has ever undertaken has been noted for the number of sick soldiers it produced. The men were so busy dodging fever that many of them were poorly trained or not trained at all. The ratio of sick and wounded men in the Spanish-American War was "fever and bullets, 14 to 1."

The mobilization of the New York Division on the Mexican Border in 1916 has been different. There have been less sick men than in any other mobilization camp of the United States troops that was ever established.

Why?  
Because the American Army has learned some things about taking care of soldiers, and the New York Division put them in practice, added additional prophylactic measures and got results. About the most important factor in making and keeping the men healthy was the Boozie and Prostitution order, that was issued about the time the first man stepped off the train at McAllen.

It inconvenienced some of us. We missed the brass rail, and the water down here was no good any way, and we wanted a cold bottle more than anything we could think of after unloading freight cars all day. But the hard uncultured fact remained that boozie and the tropics, and boozie and military efficiency don't mix.

The Division Commander knew that. He issued the order, the military police more or less closed up the saloons, and what is more important the men obeyed the order because they were soldiers, and the health of the Division is better than that of the regular troops who have had about six times as much Border experience but who are permitted to drink.

The same order prohibits the patronizing of houses of prostitution. The men of the New York Division do not patronize prostitutes when they are at home, and there is no reason why they should when they are in the field as soldiers. But commercialized women go hand in hand with liquor. Therefore prohibition against prostitutes was added to the prohibition against boozie, and the military police drove the prostitutes out of Mission, McAllen and Pharr.

The result of this is that we have only four cases of venereal disease in the entire Division. We brought forty-one cases down here among 17,800 men, all but two of these have been cured, and only two new cases have been contracted.

In addition to this, the conduct of the men has been better because of this order. Summary court records show that three quarters of the cases brought before those courts had their inception in violation of the liquor prohibition.

But the best part of it all is that the men obeyed the order not because they were threatened with disciplinary action if they disobeyed, but because they played the game like trained soldiers. They obeyed because "orders is orders." There have been some offenders, but eighty per cent of them, by official count, were rookies who enlisted after April 1, 1916, and who did not appreciate what was expected of soldiers, officers and men, who belong to the New York Division.

This is a real record. It is what the General refers to when he says we have been making history in greater measure than any of us appreciate at this time. We have demonstrated that United States soldiers can live three months in camp without losing more men than they would lose in three months of fighting.

Now in the parlous times of union strikes let the entire union of independent and liberty-loving American citizens strike for real preparedness and accept no shilly-shallying compromise. If we need an army at all we need an effective one. The federalization of the National Guard as at present constituted is a step in the right direction but it is only one step. The sooner universal service in the Guard is adopted the quicker will America be thoroughly equipped and prepared to stand her ground against all conquest seekers and disturbers of world peace.

If Washington or Lincoln had only been pacifists we wouldn't have to worry over the problems of American defence today.

Seven rattles this week—and they said we couldn't live!

## PERSONALS

Lt. Col. William S. Terriberry, M. C., Division Surgeon, has gone on a leave of absence for twenty-one days. He has returned to his summer home at Fisher's Island.

Lieut. Col. Frank H. Hines, 2nd Field Artillery has been relieved from duty as commanding officer of the Military Police and Lt. Col. Reginald L. Foster, 12th Infantry, has been detailed to such position.

Our popular Division Aide, Lieut. Francis J. McCann, was assigned as counsel for the defense of three privates of the 12th Infantry who were called before the General Court Martial Friday. Lieut. McCann is not a disciple of Blackstone but he's some "defense artist" despite that.

Lieut. Robert R. Molyneux, our other popular Division Aide, who has several pet names and holds the position of C.O. of the Headquarters Detachment, has been designated as Summary Court Officer for such detachment.

According to latest advices from New York City, the condition of Colonel N. B. Thurston is improving daily.

Captain Joseph C. Fogarty, 69th Infantry, has been granted a leave of absence for one month.

Major James M. Hutchinson of the 71st Infantry, who has been Acting Engineer Officer at Division Headquarters since his regiment returned to New York, has been relieved to join his regiment for mustering out of the Federal service. Captain Joseph J. Daly of the 22nd Engineers has been detailed as Acting Engineer Officer of Division.

Captain James R. Howlett of the 1st New York Cavalry will go on a thirty day leave about October 7th.

Lieut. Frank J. Murphy of the 7th Infantry has been granted a thirty day leave of absence.

Major Fred C. Ringer, Quartermaster Corps, is serving as camp quartermaster at Camp Whitman. Capt. Raymond T. Moniz, Quartermaster Corps, is acting as assistant.

Lieut. Harry H. Barnes, one of the "good shots" of Troop D, 1st Cavalry, has returned to Syracuse on a thirty day leave.

Lieut. James Houghton, Medical Corps, attached to the 69th Infantry, was a dinner guest at Division Headquarters Thursday evening. Lieut. Houghton was one of the few survivors of the Lusitania, being enroute to take charge of one of the Belgian Red Cross Units.

Lieut. Wm. J. Gillispie, Troop B, 1st Cavalry, has left for his home in Albany, having been granted a thirty day leave of absence.

Lieut. John T. Prout, 69th Infantry, has been granted a leave of absence for fifteen days.

Captain H. C. Woodward, 22nd Regiment Engineers, has been granted a ten day's leave of absence.

The New York State team for the national match has added Capt. Ernest F. Robinson of the corps of Engineers and Sergeant Alexander Joke, Company H, 74th Infantry to its membership.

Lieut. R. H. Dunning of the 4th Ambulance Company has returned to Syracuse on a month's leave of absence.

Lieut. H. R. Fast of the 74th Infantry has been detailed in charge of the Military Police at Pharr, relieving Lt. D. J. Cadotte of the same regiment.

## WE THANK YOU!

Under the heading "A Welcome Exchange," The Advance, a Chicago weekly says: "We welcome to our exchange list The Rio Grande Rattler, published in the field by the New York Division of the National Guard, encamped in Hidalgo county, Texas. The managing editor is Major Franklin W. Ward, assistant chief of staff, and the business manager is Corporal Fred B. Barton of the First New York Cavalry. The paper is an eight-page, six column sheet, well written and well edited, and with advertising matter well displayed. It is printed on the presses of a local paper at Mission, Texas, and is a credit to that office and to the boys who publish it 'weekly at odd places in Texas.'"

We are in receipt of a military newspaper, published at McAllen, Texas, by members of the National Guard. The editor is Major Fred M. Waterbury of this city. It is classy, clean, bright and spicy. It demonstrates that our National Guard is composed of men from all walks of life capable of filling any position in any community.

We salute The Texas Rattler and congratulate the boys on the Border for the chance they have of knowing the happenings about them.—The Saratoga Eagle.

## ANOTHER ELECTRIC SHOCK!

Major Olmsted, when interviewed by our reporter on the subject of the objectionable "Static," (that ruthless ruffler of radio) mentioned in the September 20th Rattler under Signal Corps news asserts that the Chief Signal officer must have "crossed his wires" somehow.

While "Static" was discussed (and cussed) incidentally as it always must begin a conversation on Signal topics—the recipe of Old Doctor Munson was mentioned as being a very satisfactory diet for flies, as effecting their prompt, complete and ample demise.

This has no application in the Radio and Wire companies of Major Hallahan's command as we have it on the authority of none other than Major Wildman, the well known inventor of the WIRELESS BIRD CAGE that there are no flies on the N. Y. Signal Battalion.

## MAJOR GENERAL O'RYAN'S MEMORANDUM TO THE ENLISTED MEN OF THE N. Y. DIVISION

On September 28th the Division Commander issued a statement direct to the enlisted men of the Division in the form of a memorandum which was required by General Orders to be read by every company, troop, battery and similar unit commander to the men of their commands, at retreat on three successive days.

The statement referred to the fact that some soldiers were carrying off grape fruit and oranges as souvenirs from nearby orchards and called attention to the fact that "the small value of a single fruit has, perhaps, led some of the newer men to commit a serious military offense without full realization of its gravity. Some offenses regarded as trivial in civil life become of grave consequence in a military command on account of the number of men constituting such command. If one soldier may pick an orange, all might do so and orchards would be stripped.

The statement also set forth that "the penalty in the military service for stealing property of nominal value, such as an orange, is dishonorable discharge forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement at hard labor for one year. The Division Commander feels that every man should have specific warning that this penalty will be enforced against soldiers who transgress in the manner referred to.

The Division Commander then goes on to say that he "takes this opportunity of stating directly to the enlisted men that he has reason to believe that the health record and the conduct of the soldiers of this Division have never been equalled by an organized body of troops of similar size in this country. The soldiers of this Division have been making history in greater measure than any of us can appreciate at this time.

All reports indicate that violations of the rule prohibiting the use of liquor and trespassing upon property are limited to two or three hundred men out of the 12,000 now here, and that the same men constitute the list of offenders.

"The men should know this and have pride in what is being accomplished by the Division as a whole. The relatively few who have fallen down in these matters should be mainly enough to suppress their appetites, resume command of their bodies and 'play the game.'"

"The sentiment of the ninety per cent and more, who are playing the game should be brought to bear effectively upon the weaklings who are impairing the record."

In view of the really marvelous record being made by the men of the N. Y. Division in the matter of disciplined conduct, The Rattler believes that ordinary decency and sportsmanlike spirit, wholly aside from any threatened disciplinary punishment, should prompt the relatively few men who are violating the booze prohibition to practice the self-denial involved in obeying the rule. As the Commanding General says, "the soldiers of the Division have been making history in greater measure than any of us can appreciate at this time," and it is certainly up to every last man in the big Division team to do his bit.

## SOCIETY FORMED TO AID GUARDSMEN.

A committee on military relief has been organized at Tarrytown with the following officers and members: Miss Anne Depew Paulding, chairman; Frank A. Vanderlip, treasurer; N. R. Bishop, secretary; Mrs. Howard Carroll, Mrs. Finley J. Shepley, Mrs. Wm. Rand, Miss Gertrude Schuyler, John D. Archbold, Irving T. Bush, Winthrop Cowdin, Chas. C. Paulding, John A. Dix, Col. John B. Bollinger, U. S. A.; Major Charles W. Farr, U. S. A.; Edwin W. Fiske, Mayor of Mount Vernon; James T. Lennon, Mayor of Yonkers; and Col. J. Mayhew Wainwright.

The New York Central has given the use of a furnished office in the Grand Central Terminal for the committee work.

A special khaki comfort kit for Guardsmen, modelled after the regular army kit, has been made for the chapter, and more than one thousand have been ordered for the troops.

Under direction of the committee the eighty-five cases of surgical and hospital supplies necessary for one base hospital unit are to be furnished by the chapter members. The organization of a refreshment station unit is being worked out by a sub-committee. It will be the first of its kind to be installed under the Red Cross in this country.

## OUR HONOR ROLL

Yearly subscriptions in the order received:  
Maj. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Div. Staff.  
Maj. S. F. Corbett, Corps of Engineers.

Lieut. Leo F. Knust, 7th Infantry.  
Capt. Edward P. Dillon, 69th Inf.  
Col. George Albert Wingate, 2nd Field Artillery.

Maj. George E. Roosevelt, 12th Inf.  
Capt. Charles E. Fiske, 1st Cavalry.  
Lieut. Hamilton H. Barnes, 1st Cav.  
Maj. Scott Button, 2nd Infantry.  
Lieut. Col. Henry S. Sternberger, Div. Q. M.

Capt. Guy Bates, Engineers.  
Horatio J. Brewer, Spokane Wash.  
Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., Newport, R. I.

Lieut. Col. J. M. Wainwright, Insp. Gen. Dept. N. Y.  
Capt. Prentice Strong, N. Y. City.  
W. J. Constock, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Lt. Joseph A. Pitts, 2nd Infantry.  
Sgt. Herbert T. Slingo, Co. B, 7th.  
Lt. W. B. Lester, M. G. Troop 1st Cav.  
Homer G. Bell, Motor Truck Co. 35.

## INFANTRY, CAVALRY AND ENGINEERS TO PARTICIPATE IN FIELD FIRING PROBLEMS.

The range at La Gloria for the field firing of the infantry, cavalry and engineers has been completed, the engineers and signal men having worked on the range construction for a week past. Each battalion will go into camp near Sterling Ranch and march to La Gloria range, about five miles, each day. The practice will probably cover two days and the problems will be the work of Major Chandler, Brigade Adjutant, who will act as control officer. A platoon of thirty engineers under Lieut. Palmer will man the range and keep it in repair. It promises to be one of the most enjoyable features of soldier training on the Border.

# Bugs, Big And Little

O the genral raised the devil with the kernel, so 'tis said,  
About a little hitch in the formashun at parade;  
An' the major told the kernel that his handlin' the battalion  
Resimbled Ward McAllister a-leadin' a cotillion;  
An' the major hauled the cap'en up about some oversight,  
Manooverin' the company while breakin' from the right;  
An' the cap'en gravely caughoned the lieutenant, bar in mind,  
An' keep the rear rank well closed up and properly ali'ned.

O them big bugs hev bigger bugs  
Thet jump on 'em and bite 'em;  
An' the bigger bugs hev other bugs,  
An' so on—ad infinitum.

The sargent made a break, an' the lieutenant collared him,  
Politely intimatin' that he didn't know a dem;  
An' the sargent soon an error in preservin' distance spied,  
An' got a shot at Darringer, the corpril who wuz guide;  
But Darringer said nuthin'—he just waited for his chance,  
An' promptly gev some scorchin' views, on tactics to the lance,  
Who opened fire on Private Dean fer spillin' all the wheels,  
An' Dean cussed Smith, his rear-rank man, fer walkin' on his heels.

O them big bugs hev bigger bugs  
Thet jump on 'em and bite 'em;  
An' the bigger bugs hev other bugs,  
An' so on—ad infinitum.

'Twas all wound up in barricks when the reg'mint was dismissed,  
An' Dean's eyes rayther funnily ran foul o' Smithy's fist,  
An' we stud on chairs an' tables, an' we backed 'em fer the beer,  
While the clamor o' the battle waded the echoes far an' near.  
It was just a rough-an'-tumble, but a most instructin' fight,  
Till a sargent an' a detail o' the yard hove into sight,  
An' they tuk 'em, blown an' bloody, an' they locked 'em in the mill,  
An' thet's all I remember o' the big review an' drill.

'Cept thet big bugs hev bigger bugs,  
Thet jump on 'em and bite 'em;  
An' the bigger bugs hev other bugs,  
An' so on—ad infinitum.

# The Incinerator

Well, well! So this is October!  
And there's a line with which we never expected to start "The Incinerator" fires. October on the Border was something like Old Age in the Poorhouse, often predicted but never expected.

In the words of the old song: "We're here because—we're here—BECAUSE."

"A Mid-summer Night's Dream" closed a few weeks ago with all the S. E. O. signs out. It is rumored that the "U. S. Stock Co. will next present 'A Winter's Tale' to be followed soon after by that charming little cneddy, "Much Ado About Nothing."

"Thousands at his bidding speed,  
And post o'er land and ocean without rest;  
They also serve who only stand and wait."  
—John Milton.

Did "the blind poet" have a vision of the N. G. U. S. when he penned that?

Sure enough, "they're going to let us poor soldiers vote, right here on the Border. With an eight-foot ballot to juggle, exercising the franchise will take on all the appearances of the morning's calisthenics.

Now that they have decided we are still American citizens we really should study up on the political questions of the day before the fides of November. Now there's the initiative, referendum and recall. We don't pretend to become excited over the first two but knowing what the recall sounds like when blown on a bugle, we declare ourselves heartily in favor of it. And that's as far as we dare go in expressing our political preferences. We're in the Army now.

In the midst of a heated campaign which has even made things warmer for us on the Border, we stand at attention and salute the greatest of them all—a man whose memory will never die while Lares and Penates exercise their benevolent sway. We beg to nominate, as the guardian spirit of the Boys on the Border, John Howard Payne, whose pen carved out a few ineffable lines that all the swords of "Christendom" can never obliterate.

We wonder if there will be any seconds on the ballot-box.

It is rumored that our Division is to be thoroughly overhauled and that would mean weeks of absence from the trenches. But I never believe this kind of rumour. I believe we shall go back to the trenches and keep on doing so.

From the letter of a British Lieutenant, now at the Front, "somewhere over there"—which proves every camp and every battlefield is on speaking terms with a certain doleful Dame.

The Ubiquity of Border Merchants.  
The Hayes-Sammons Co. of Mission advertise an exclusive line of Gasoline Engines, Stoves, Harness, Windmills and Jewelry.

ADD — THE GULLIEST FEELING.  
When you fold one pair of socks to look like two for inspection.

When you hear the Captain telling the Major a rumor you yourself started.

When you present arms on post and find out it was only the Sergeant Major who passed by.

When you discover on the 1st of October that Her Birthday was the 19th of September.

This Tempts us to Take a Chance.  
H. I. Y.: If you had printed right out the name of the young lady who wanted more news of the 1st Field Artillery, she would have come all the way to McAllen and boxed the ears of The Rattler, the editorial staff, and the

entire Wolf Pack. The Young Lady.

We wonder what that Young Lady had to say when she heard the First Field drew the lucky number and was going to find the range of West 72nd Street!

The International Commission, it is special despatched, will shortly pack up their "inalienable rights," "internal reforms," and "neutral zone," and wing southward with the White Dove to Atlantic City. As soon as the rigorous Autumnal breezes blow the one-piece suit from the strand the odds are all on Palm Beach. Perhaps they'll reach McAllen by next Spring and then we'll discover what it's all about. We're very curious to know. And, to misquote a popular song, "There's a hundred million others like us."

Some of the troops ordered home have already started the formation of Veteran Societies. We're anxious to find out just what kind of Veterans we are. Something tells us we ought to have enlisted in the Order of Deserving Democrats before we joined the army or else signed up in the brigade commanded by General Electric, who knows more about strategy than Joffre himself.

What the Man Will Wear.  
Olive drab, the suiting that enjoyed such a vogue this summer, will continue in popularity with the smart set during the Fall and Winter. The younger element, who always seem to dress a notch above the prevailing mode, took up the light tan shirts that were first displayed by the "extreme" shopkeepers on the Avenue at McAllen and they soon became so common, being worn even by the muleteers and others of the lower classes, that Fashion placed the ban on them. They are no longer to be seen, except down by the Ticket Lines, where the lower social orders congregate. We add with pleasure that the recherche black cravat, always in good taste, continues to be worn by your Man-about-the-Border.

A man that works on a newspaper might well be likened to a "galley-slave."

AH, WHAT INDEED?  
H. I. Y.

Sir: After Lieut. Schelling of Troop A, 1st Cavalry, read the order giving permission to those of Jewish faith to take a three days furlough for religious purposes last Tuesday Privates Burke, Powers, Hanlon, McCaffery, McKinney, Cox, Magee and Sullivan reported immediately. As Shakespeare would say, "What's in a name?"

The bugler won't have to blow "the call to arms" when the boys pile off the tourist sleepers at the Grand Central. They'll just naturally fly into the outstretched ones.

The easiest way to fill a column is to write poetry—if we only knew how to go about it. The Drill Regulations and Manual of Interior Guard Duty appear to avoid the subject. Vers Libre also takes up a great deal of space, but although we haven't looked it up, we'll wager there has been a general order issued restraining enlisted men from indulging in it.

The "Incinerator's" fires are burning low. Did you notice how carefully we laid the fuel on and how the cinders were restrained in their swirling flight? That's all on account of the anti-smoke ordinance and repeated instructions from them not to rake things over the coals.

We've read the writing on the wall and freely translated it means: "It looks like an Olive Drab Christmas."

H. I. Y.