

AVIATION TRAINING CAMP, HEMPSTEAD

First and Second Aero Companies of New York National Guard Assist

WOULD BE GREAT ASSET ON BORDER

Work at the Hempstead Plains Aviation Camp has progressed as fast as inadequate facilities and equipment would permit. Until the Army Appropriation Bill was passed and signed almost no money was available and training at the Hempstead Plains camp was greatly handicapped. Now things should be better, though airplanes, proper personnel and organization cannot be obtained immediately. One of the most difficult problems is to obtain an adequate force of expert aviation mechanics. There are no great number of such men in this country, and they are high-pay men who cannot often be enlisted on army pay but must usually be engaged as civilian employees.

In the organization of the Hempstead Plains Aviation Camp the First and Second Aero Companies of the New York National Guard have quietly performed a very valuable service. Except for them this army training camp certainly could not have been started this summer—probably not before next spring. The part played by such men as Captain Bolling cannot be too highly commended, for these men have done things on their own initiative, not waiting for nor receiving encouragement from the authorities. Even with the small amount of equipment available and the inadequate facilities at hand, twenty men have been trained to the point of flying alone, and some twenty more are well advanced in their training. Many of these should progress to the point of passing the reserve aviation officers' tests before autumn is over. Already three or four have passed these tests and are doing cross-country flying.

The experience of the two New York National Guard Aero Companies should prove of great value in the development of an aviation reserve. Much that could hardly have been foreseen has been learned from their experience.

BRIEFS.

The Rattler is in receipt "with the compliments of the authors" of a sheet of music entitled "For Our Great Big U. S. A. (Soldier, Soldier, Soldiering). The words are by P. P. Blackburn, Lt. U. S. Navy and the music by J. F. Kutz, paymaster, U. S. N. The editorial force hopes to be able to sing it by Christmas day when we celebrate the holidays on the Border.

Division Headquarters has moved into the new mess hall, which is most comfortable and a great improvement on the hurricane scarred old tent and screen affair.

The field firing range at La Gloria for the infantry, cavalry and engineers has been completed after a week's work by Lieut. Palmers company of the 22nd Regiment Engineers and a squad of electrical artists from the Signal Battalion.

The regiments of the First Brigade will commence hiking in the range this week. They will go into camp and spend several days with the first field firing problems of any account the New York Division has been privileged to enjoy. "Back home way" we cannot get enough wild country.

The New York State team will probably leave for Jacksonville Florida, this week. All the preliminary team practice will take place there on the state range, where the national match will be shot October 24 and 25th. The organizations which will be represented on the team are the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 23rd, and 74th regiments of Infantry, 1st Cavalry, Squadron A, 22nd Regiment Engineers, Ordnance Department, Medical Corps and Quartermaster Corps.

The Second Regiment did not go to Camp Whitman when they reached New York State but proceeded to their home stations. Troy, Schenectady, Cohoes, Gloversville, Amsterdam, Saratoga Springs, Glenn Falls, Hoosick Falls, and Whitehall, where they are to be mustered out of the federal service.

The 3rd Infantry and 71st Infantry have been mustered out. The first companies former separate company organizations in Western New York and the latter has headquarters at Park avenue and 34th street, New York City.

In order to comply with telegraphic instructions from commanding General, Southern Department, under date of September 21, 1916, and upon the recommendation of the Division Surgeon, a Board of Officers is appointed for the purpose of having individual finger print records made of all the members of the command. Detail for the board: Major William H. Steers, Division Sanitary Inspector; Captain Charles A. Brown, 1st New York Cavalry; First Lieutenant Lefferts Hutton, 7th New York Infantry; First Lieutenant James T. Houghton, 69th New York Infantry; First Lieutenant John W. Abbott, 12th New York Infantry. The board is authorized to act by means of one or more members at a time under the option of the President of the board.

D. GUERRA & SONS, McALLEN

We welcome to our advertising columns the firm of D. Guerra & Sons, general merchandise, of McAllen. The Guerra store is one of the landmarks of the "Mexican Village" and its proprietors are known throughout the country. Just now D. Guerra and Sons are catering to a large proportion of the 10,000 New York troops stationed in McAllen.

"I am sorry to hear of the loss of your husband Mrs. Maggs."
"Oh, twas no loss, ma'am. He was insured for one thousand dollars."

News Sent in by Our Division Units

12TH INFANTRY.

Books which have been written about Famous Rivals of History are no longer up to date. Another chapter has been written in the history of famous rivals, and it awaits the master pen of a great historian. The 12th Infantry numbers the two most famous rivals of to-day. Needless to add, they both are in that liveliest of all companies—the Supply Company, and it goes without saying that theirs is the most picturesque and romantic calling: mule-driving. They are not rivals for the hand of some fair lady; indeed we doubt whether in the heat of competition they have time to think of fair dames or any other dames. The prize each is after, the trophy each thinks he has within his grasp, the honor to which each thinks he is already entitled is the coveted title of Best Teamster in the 12th Regiment. Close is the race, and great the interest it arouses throughout the New York Division. The result is uncertain, but we may safely predict that Tommy Mae will get the blue ribbon. Now, reader, if you are so ignorant that you will need to ask the names of these renowned masters of the lines, you will learn that they are Tom McEntee and Tom McNaughton.

At last the Hospital Corps of the 12th have buried the hatchet, and now, like gentle lambs, eat off the same dish. In other words, Cook Goddard runs the whole double mess—and a damfine mess it is!

Somebody sprang the rumor (rumor, rumor—what does that strange word mean?) that you get pie at least once a week in G and F. This accounts for the rush of applicants to be transferred to these two companies. We never heard of any such rush, but we heard the rumor and therefore explain what must be the inevitable consequence.

Talking about rumors, it is an interesting fact about the 12th that no wild rumors about going home originate there. The men of our regiment know what a serious thing it is to give false hopes, or to dash justified hopes, when the length of our remaining Border service means so much to most of us. Nevertheless, nowhere do rumors, once they are born, travel faster than in the 12th. Let something be said in the 7th, on one side of us, and exactly 14 minutes, 59 1/2 seconds later, the 69th, on our other side, will be discussing it. A sergeant in G was saying that it took just a quarter of an hour, but his watch is slow.

Social note—Quite a number of the summer residents on the shore of Lake Quackenbos (shown on the map by a dotted line) left the attractive colony of Col. Johnston's last Friday evening for Brownsville, where they remained until Sunday evening. The road between "Dandy Dozen Hollow" and the seashore were crowded with their Rolls-Royces and Fiats. Perhaps some of these machines broke down on the return trip, for several of the excursionists failed to answer check roll call at taps on Sunday evening.

Another social item—Thomas McNaughton, Esquire, of West Fifty-some-odd Street, drove a team of six in the gentlemen's events on Saturday afternoon at Division Field, in a way that would make some of the east-sixty-some-odd-between-Madison-and-Fifth young bloods whose pictures adorn the pages of "Town and Country" take notice. The fashionable assemblage who witnessed the exhibition did NOT include Thomas McEntee, Esquire. This well-known M. F. H.

Pugilistic note—See current biography of Sammy Berger.

Obituary—The rumor that we are going home a week after the 2nd and 3rd Infantry.

Birth—A new hope every time a new rumor strikes camp.

Wedding—Sergeant Major Martin Ryan, to Miss Certainty—that we're staying-here-one-year. Best man: the god of joy; bridesmaid: the goddess of jubilation. (We've just putting this in as an experiment. Please omit flowers at our funeral.)

Financial item—Important financial transactions took place in the last tent of a certain company street. The scene was as animated as the Chicago wheat pit last July. One glance at the excited group revealed nothing but posterior portions, as all were crowded close, facing toward the center, whence peculiar sounds of clicking and rolling proceeded, accompanied by mysterious exclamations as "Shoot a dollar," and so on. We've purposely headed this "Financial item" in the hope that some fiscal expert will tell us why a dollar should be shot.

Literary note—The correspondents of the 12th have (or has) formed a union, for the purpose of securing working hours, if we can't get working hours, we'll be satisfied with a few working minutes that we can give to The Rattler.

Journalistic note—Hereafter, companies will have to send in their stuff, through a company correspondent. Don't tell us that in this famous regiment, every company cannot produce its star reporter!

M. F. B.

TROOP "A" NOTES, 1ST N. Y. CAV.

Bill Olsen better known as the "Slippery Swede," has just completed his latest novel "Why I Don't Need Work." Bill has requested that his esteemed contemporaries, Private Russell, Heatherton and Ettelson (all of whom have received their degree of D. D.) be given due credit also. We refer them to Sergt. Brewster for same.

Much credit is due to Private "Bill" Coppenger, Ed Durney and Jim Balen for the splendid work they did in building the saddle house at the foot of the troop street. As a result the atmosphere is not so full of x x x (censored words) so often heard when we used to carry the saddle equipment down from the tents in the morning.

William Stegman, or rather Pinochle Bill, played a good one the night of the recent heavy rain storm. It was his turn to go out and put down the flaps. Bill foxed his corporal. After the squad searched for 2 hours, some one else had to do it. When reveille blew next morning, everyone had their eyes peeled to see where he was. All of a sudden one of the gun boots fell over and out crept our hero from its depths. Moral: "It pays to be short, sometimes even in the

army."

A very pleasant trip to Corpus Christi was enjoyed by Mess Sergeant Hughie Oram, Corporal Carl Busch, Private Alfred and Arthur Busch. Judging from some of the remarks one of the party made during his sleep, bathing at the resort with the ladies must be worth the trip alone. Why even Hughie is off his feed since the trip and seems to be able to take liquid refreshment only. What kind of a place is this Corpus Christi? Resolved that a committee be formed to take it up with our captain that the next hike be there,—and eyes right.

Rumor has it that Sergt. "Bill" Grange has worn out 2 pairs of riding breeches sitting up nights practicing his "Fifth Ave. Gimp." It is reported that "Doc" Powers when asked about Bill's injury, made the remark that the hamstring was injured. Perhaps we know now what was meant when "Doc" said, "Bill, don't tune up too fast when you get back to the city."

Private Schoenberg better known as "Skinny" had a very rare experience a few days ago. Skinny stands about 6 ft 2 inches and tips the beam at 111 pounds. The evening being dark Skinny stood in the center of the tent debating whether to go down to curry his horse or keep out of the kitchen police. During this lapse of unconsciousness, in rushed the 5th squad from a heavy detail. Taking Skinny for the tent pole they piled gunboots, sabres and canteen on his perfect thirty-six. Why continue this sad episode. Look at his field glasses. The left support is broken and a new pane is needed.

INTRODUCING MOTOR TRUCK CO. NO. 35

While we are not technically a unit of the New York Division, the fact that we have been closely associated with it since our arrival in Mission, July 26th, has led us to take a more than casual interest in the Division and its affairs.

So we did not feel that we were trespassing when we asked the Editor for a little space in the Division's official publication. The fact that our general and efficient commanding officer, Lieut. J. W. O'Mahoney, comes from the Corps of Engineers should alone secure our recognition.

Motor Truck Company No. 35 came to the Border with the intention of making a record for itself, and at the same time demonstrate that motor transportation can be just as efficient as any other branch of the service. And we take pride in saying that so far we have lived up to our ideal.

Our success in transporting the Second and Sixty-ninth Infantry and their supplies to Sterling's, and again transferring the Second to Pharr and the 69th to McAllen, was notable, although part of the time we worked under adverse difficulties and suffered greatly from lack of proper equipment, which was no fault of ours. The fact that we did so well was due to the ability of Lieut. O'Mahoney, and the efficiency of the company as a whole.

September 24th, we moved our headquarters from Mission to McAllen, and are now comfortably located in our new camp across from the First Field Artillery. Our health report is excellent, and we are as jolly and contented a bunch as you could wish to meet, and work—that's our middle name. We work every day in the week and some more on Sunday.

Lieut. J. W. O'Mahoney is our commanding officer; H. H. Beeson, is truckmaster; W. J. Burgess, assistant truckmaster, in charge of section One; David Barclay, assistant truckmaster, in charge of Section Three; James Lee, assistant truckmaster, in charge of Section Two, which is located at Pharr; and Robert King is company clerk.

CONVENIENCE SOMETIMES MAKES UP FOR PRICE.

Yesterday one of the staff of The Rattler dropped in over at the Division Camp Exchange to see how things were progressing.

He was surprised to find such a complete stock of just the things the men in camp need and have needed since being here but could not get heretofore. The layout of the store impresses this on the mind of the visitor as being arranged especially for his convenience.

While there the Rattler reporter overheard a conversation which Manager O. K. Schwind afterwards told him occurs fifty times a day. As nearly as we can remember it, the conversation was like this:

Mr. Schwind in his customary affable manner approaches the P. P. (prospective purchaser) with, "What can we do for you today?" "What do you get for your locker trunk?" "\$9.50 sir." "Holy smoke, the Government issues them for \$4.03, you must want to make a peachy profit (only peachy was not the word he used) over here." We noticed a peculiar expression come over Mr. Schwind's face, but he kept right to the same line of affability and answered, "Do you for a minute think that we can buy as cheaply as the Government? And besides that just stop to think for a minute that the Government charges you men no profit and no overhead for handling. We have to pay today more than twice what the Government does for everything you see here and have to pay the freight and then make a small profit, so you see it is really unfair to compare our prices with issue prices on anything."

The prospective purchaser, after this explanation, saw the difference and left his order before going out of the store.

TONY'S MENU

Tony Orlick, the chef of Troop D, 1st Cavalry, whom the boys brought down with them from the Farm in Syracuse, has found that goat makes a fine substitute for roast beef. It's just a theory as yet for Tony hasn't the nerve to try it on the tired troopers. When he gets back to Syracuse where the trains leave town every ten minutes he may experiment by selling "ticklers" for a venison banquet and then tell the diners they "got his goat" as he leaves the door open for a grand sprint to the R. R. station.

"Courtesy is Currency"

Perhaps you too have been surprised at the courtesy and the efficiency of the First State Bank of McAllen.

Back in Massachusetts or N. Y. such a bank might be expected - - though I've seen some mighty disobliging Banks down East.

But here in Texas--

Do you know that the banking laws of Texas make a small bank just as safe as if it were insured? Ask the bank about that Guaranty Fund. Find out what it means.

Do you know you can get a check cashed here without red tape--without paying exchange, an almost unheard-of thing?

Do you know that this bank is handling dozens of short term, small balance accounts on which it does not even earn its extra clerk hire, and does it willingly?

Consider how the State Bank of

McAllen makes the town.

Judge Glasscock, the President, is an irrigation specialist who knows land values. When he lends money on a land mortgage, that money is safe.

Frank G. Crow, the Vice-President, is a figure among McAllen business men and a man of rare keenness. R. E. Horn, the Cashier, is a man hard to find in a small town, a man who knows banking and who knows the depositor's side of the fence as well.

This Bank has extended every courtesy to officers and men of the New York Division.

It requests but two favors: **Treat it Honestly**, for every individual man controls the reputation of the entire Division. **Put your account here** of one hundred dollars or over. For details call and see Mr. Horn.

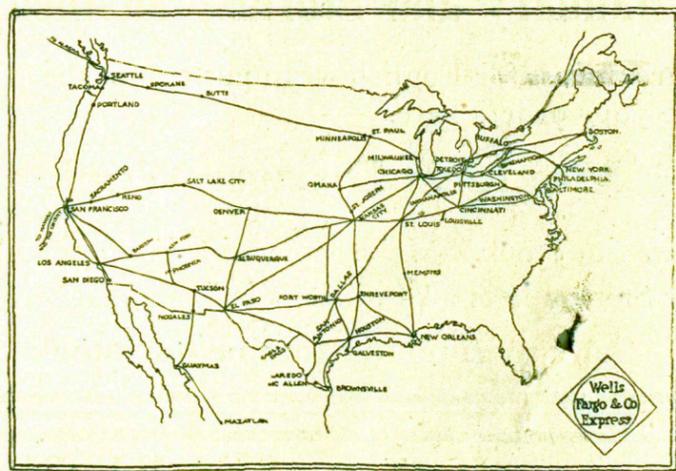
First State Bank of McAllen

A Guaranty Fund Bank
C. D. Zachry, Asst. Cashier

R. E. Horn, Cashier
J. R. Glasscock, Asst. Cashier

Wells Fargo Follows The Flag

It reaches all points on the Border



Wells Fargo takes this opportunity to extend its good wishes to the boys at the front.

Wells Fargo, too, is in the field.

Wells Fargo is here to serve you, not only with speedy, responsible, efficient transportation service, but with its specialized, personal service as well.

Do you want to send a package--a souvenir perhaps? Wells Fargo will carry it for you swiftly, safely, and at low rates.

Do you want to know how money can be transmitted in the safest possible way? A Wells Fargo Money Order is both safe and convenient.

Do you want to carry money so that no one but you can get it, and yet so that you can always get it? Wells Fargo Travelers Checks are issued for this purpose.

Do the folks at home wish to send you a package? Wells Fargo will bring it to you quickly and safely. Tell them to ship it via the Fargo Way.

Send by Wells Fargo--Have It Come Wells Fargo