

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'Ryan
Colonel Harry H. Bandholtz
Chief of Staff

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August 30, 1916

Our compliments and best wishes to the "First Illinois Cavalryman," an excellent newspaper, published by an excellent regiment. May their tribe increase!

Too bad the Prohibitionists have nominated already. Gen. O'Ryan's demonstrations in practical prohibition and booze busting along the border entitle him to their Presidential nomination.—N. Y. World.

A MESSAGE TO OUR BROTHERS AT HOME.

This newspaper, in its humble way, speaks for the eighteen thousand New York soldiers stationed here on the Border, and also it begs to bespeak a most generous word for our brothers in arms who did not come to the border—for those who marched out of their homes, their armories and their cities, actuated by the same patriotic impulse to forsake everything and give everything for their country, just as we will try to do if the flag goes forth against the southern sky.

You were a part of us in the beginning and you are a part of us today, just as much as if you were here among the gnarled mesquite and the parched sage-brush. You were ready and willing and anxious. You knew the cheers that sent us all away, as well as the tears and fears we all left behind.

You fully expected, just as we did, that you were to face a test of strength with men who fight in the brush and in the night. You would have come uncomplainingly to where the temperature in the sun mounts to 120 degrees, where there is sometimes a shortage of water, where there are hurricanes and days of dreary, drenching rain, and drouths, and venomous insects in every part of the land.

You were just as ready to endure the inconveniences, the discomforts and the disease if you came, as we were—and we know you are ready to do it today.

That you are not here is not your fault, and to you, brothers, The Rio Grande Rattler sends its message of most cordial remembrance.

SOME EMPLOYERS!

Perhaps nothing in this human existence of ours is more entitled to the contempt of mankind than that state of mind and that form of action which are characterized by the adjectives "hypocritical" and "fake."

What are we to think of those corporations and firms that at the time of the President's mobilization order, made public and well advertised the announcement that they would continue the pay of their employees in the National Guard throughout the period of their service on the Border, and who would now repudiate their agreements. It is to be remembered that many men of the Division were in a position where they need not have subscribed to new federal oath and assumed the military obligations supported by that oath, and that these men relied upon the good faith and common honesty of their employers and dedicated their wages to their families and themselves to their country for any service it might require.

It is not given to a soldier to question the character of his work—military service is not all shooting and killing. In modern service there is such a principle as strategic prophylaxis, just as in a sanitary way we seek to fight the arrival of disease disaster, instead of awaiting its coming to engage it under more disadvantageous conditions.

We have made some reference to the hypocrisy of employers who would repudiate their self-assumed obligations, and form of their proposed repudiation is typically hypocritical. There is no bold and brazen announcement that obligations toward employees are to be repudiated, but such as they may obtain their discharges by order of the Secretary of War and are at liberty to come home, further payments of salary will be discontinued after a fixed date. We have seen such an announcement sent out by the controller of one of the largest life insurance companies in the country. It is hard to believe that officers of that company did not know that many of their men serving in the Division are not entitled to discharge under the most liberal interpretation of the Secretary's order. Yet this company includes this class with all other employees. No wonder the soldier is sceptical of the good faith of "big business."

How well it read in the New York newspapers that such and such a company would pay all its employees in the National Guard while serving on the border! How that announcement stimulated public investment in the corporation! A few weeks elapse and the influence of the mighty dollar begins to assert itself. Repudiate? Certainly, but in a plausible form. Hence we have this evidence of commercial patriotism in such sharp contrast to the real patriotism of hundreds of employers who are paying their employees absent on the border without question and who have announced their intention of continuing such payments without reserving the right to dictate to the Government the manner in which he roops shall be used.

We expect in a later issue, after an investigation which will enable us to avoid injustice, to publish the names of firms and corporations which have capitalized counterfeit patriotism, with the hope that our esteemed contemporaries of the Metropolitan Press will join with us in an endeavor to give them deserving publicity.

OUR BRIGADIERS

Each of the infantry brigade commanders now on duty with the Division on the Border have served as privates in the ranks of the National Guard of New York and have reached their present grade solely through personal military merit and hard work.

Brigadier General James W. Lester, Commanding the 1st Brigade at Mission, Texas, enlisted in the 22nd Separate Company, at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., on November 25, 1884, served as a private, corporal and sergeant until January 15, 1892, when he was promoted Captain. On March 29, 1898, he was promoted Major of the 14th Battalion and upon the organization of the 2nd Infantry in November of the same year was transferred as a Major to that Command. On March 31, 1899 he was promoted Lieutenant Colonel and on December 11, 1903 became Colonel of the Regiment. On June 6, 1911 he was promoted Brigadier General and placed in command of the 3rd Brigade, with headquarters at Albany. General Lester served during the Spanish War as a Major in the 2nd N. Y. Volunteer Infantry from May 2, 1898 until Oct. 25 of the same year.

Brigadier General George R. Dyer, Commanding the 2nd Brigade at McAllen, Texas, enlisted as a private in Company K, 7th Infantry, New York City, on June 10, 1889. He was promoted 2nd Lieutenant of Company G, on May 16, 1892 and became 1st Lieut. on March 7, 1893. He was promoted Captain on May 2, 1893 and on June 28, 1899 became a Major in the 12th Infantry. On September 7 of the same year he was promoted Colonel of the regiment and served as such until February 28, 1912 when he was promoted Brigadier General and placed in Command of the 1st Brigade, with Headquarters in New York City. During the Spanish War, General Dyer served as Captain in the 12th N. Y. Volunteer Infantry from May 2, to May 13, 1898 and Major in the same command to April 20, 1899.

Brigadier General William Wilson, Commanding 3rd Brigade, at Pharr, Texas, enlisted as a private in the 34th Separate Company, at Geneva, N. Y., on January 21, 1880. On February 23, 1882 he was promoted 1st Lieutenant and on October 6, 1884 was promoted Captain in which grade he served until December 22, 1898, when he was promoted Major of the 2nd Battalion. He was Aid-de-camp to the Governor from January 17, 1900 until January 1, 1901. On March 30, 1907 he was assigned to the 3rd Infantry and was promoted Colonel of the Regiment on May 9, 1907, in which grade he served until February 10, 1915, when he was promoted Brigadier General and placed in Command of the 4th Brigade with Headquarters at Buffalo. During the Spanish War, General Wilson served as Major in the 3rd N. Y. Volunteer Infantry from May 1, 1898 until December 10, 1898.

Brigadier General William S. McNair, Commanding Artillery Brigade at McAllen, Texas entered the U. S. Military Academy as an cadet on July 1, 1886. He graduated in the class of 1890. On June 12, 1890 he was commissioned additional 2nd Lieutenant and assigned to the 3rd U. S. Artillery. On June 15, 1891 he was appointed 2nd Lieutenant in the 5th Artillery and in August of the same year was transferred to the 3rd Artillery. Promoted 1st Lieutenant March 8, 1898. Promoted Captain, Artillery Corps on May 8, 1901. On the separation of the Coast Artillery in 1907 he was assigned to the 6th Field Artillery on June 6, 1907. On November 15, 1910 he was promoted Major, and assigned to the 2nd Field Artillery. On June 5, 1911 transferred to 6th Field Artillery. On November 5, 1914 he was detailed to the Inspector General's Department. Promoted Lieutenant Colonel June 3rd, 1916 and Colonel July 1, 1916, remaining on detail as Inspector General until relieved to accept appointment as Brigadier General of N. Y. Artillery Brigade, July 7, 1916. General McNair served in the China Relief Expedition in 1900. He also served in the Philippines from 1900 to 1903. Graduated from the Army War College in 1914.

Tom Pence was discussing the penurious proclivities of a senatorial statesman.

"Why," said Pence, "he's so stingy he wouldn't pay fifteen cents to see the Battle of Gettysburg staged with the original cast."

Sunday School Teacher—"Now children, what lesson may we learn from the death of Absalom?"
Tommy (son of the village barber)—"Please, sir, to get our hair cut."—Ex.

ATHLETICS

Kid McCoy, of the 71st Regiment, former middle weight champion has given several exhibition bouts and acts as third man in the ring for the important fights.

If the Giants can play good ball (No joke) after a short training in Texas what can a troop team do after spending the summer here?

The Rattler will not cover any hockey games this fall.

Speaking of track meets and athletic records, why not? Throwing the ball? The twenty yard ditch with shovel. 100 yard picket line with broom.

Squadron A. claims the championship basket ball team of Columbia.

Base ball is flourishing in all the different troops and now and then a good game comes over though as a rule the score is about 27-18.

PERSONALS

Brig. Genl. Louis W. Stotesbury, The Adjutant General of New York, left last Thursday for his home station. Keen disappointment was expressed on all sides that his work at home made it impossible for him to remain here long. It has been many years since the state of New York has had a more popular Adjutant General. Much of Genl. Stotesbury's popularity, however, is caused by his long service in the Guard and the number of friends he made during his service in the 7th Infantry, and as Inspector General. With his usual energy and efficiency the A. G. was at work paying off the troops before his own quarters were provided, and what had seemed to be the well nigh impossible task of making corrections in payrolls, so that they would follow the new requirements of the War Department, was promptly solved.

In less than three days organizations were being paid with all the promptness and dispatch of the regular army paymasters. The pay clerks have been busy from early morning until late at night and the modest office in the Osborn building has been the center of activity and interest. Lieut. Kerwin remains to continue payments under plans which Genl. Stotesbury completed before his departure. The Rattler is sorry to have the A. G. leave, but wherever he is, there will be something doing for the Division, in whose interest the General recognizes no hours of recreation or of respite, and in no better way could Governor Whitman have indicated his consideration of the forces in the field than by sending Genl. Stotesbury here, nor could any other so well have represented the Governor's interest and solicitude.

There is no truth in the rumor that Major Cornelius Vanderbilt has purchased a large track of land near McAllen and will try his luck in the citrus fruit raising industry.

The yearly subscribers in the order of subscriptions received are: Major Cornelius Vanderbilt, Div. Staff.

Lieut. Leo K. Kunst, 7th Infantry. Major S. F. Corbett, 2nd Field Art. Col. George Albert Wingate, 2nd Field Artillery.

Major George E. Roosevelt, 12th Inf. We will not guarantee weekly deliveries for that full period, still, speaking from a business standpoint, "it is ours not to reason why!"

Although the pen is mightier than the automatic, "silent" Reg. Foster of the 12th Infantry has absolutely refused to forsake the latter for the former. Perhaps later on he may say a few words about the use and abuse of alcoholics and nicotine products.

"David Crockett" (Captain Jaekel) and "Daniel Boone" (Lieut. Molyneux), after practicing for several days on a little silver ball dancing on a fountain, went forth into the corn fields and picked several brace of Mexican white-winged doves. They reported that they were all sporty shots as they had to let them fly before shooting to make sure their wings were white. They tasted all right but we didn't hear of any one at the mess table finding a "shot."

Captain Charles E. Fiske was missed at the Sharyland rifle range Thursday. He was ill for the first time since he arrived in Texas. "Mother" Fiske developed so much "pep" lately that his absence from the range is most noticeable.

Captain N. W. Thompson of the 14th Infantry, did not march out of Mission with his regiment, but he has plenty to do since returning from the ordnance school at Harlingen with his four machine guns principally in trying to find out why Lewis made so many parts to this effective piece of ordnance. He has been able to put them together with less than the regular number of parts several times.

Colonel H. H. Rogers and Lieut. Col. George H. White were dinner guests of the Division Staff Wednesday.

Captain David I. Mohler of the 3rd Infantry, Pharr, paid a visit to the editor of The Rattler on Friday. "Dave" is not only one of the crack rifle and pistol shots of the State of New York but he's a rattling good fellow. Come again!

Major Edward Olmsted and Major Leslie Kincaid enjoyed the week end at Corpus Christi.

MEETING OF THE HARVARD CLUB OF McALLEN

On Saturday night, August 26th a reception was given by the officers of the 12th Regiment who are Harvard graduates to all the Harvard men of the New York Division. There were about 75 men present. Captain Roosevelt of the 12th acted as toastmaster. A committee was named to consider the feasibility of erecting a small building near McAllen to be used by the Harvard men stationed in this district.

The 12th Regiment band handed out some old Harvard football snaps from the bottom of the pile and gave a serenade outside the Headquarters mess shack where the reception was held.

LINES FROM THE DOUGHBOY'S PIBLE

A cavalry charge can accomplish little against infantry, even in inferior numbers, unless the latter are surprised, become panic-stricken, run away or can not use their rifles.

In any situation, to try to escape the issue by running is the worst and most dangerous course the infantry can adopt.

Artillery when limbered is helpless against infantry fire. If caught at effective range while coming into action or while limbering, artillery can be severely punished by infantry fire.

The Ruling Passion.—Mrs. Bargains—"What is the next train for Winter-ville?"

Ticket Clerk—"Two forty, madam." Mrs. B.—"Make it two thirty-eight and I'll take it."—Boston Evening Transcript.

THE NEW YORK DIVISION

By Private Casey.

Here we are, gentlemen,
Here's the whole gang of us,
Ready for anything under the sun;
Just take a look
At the whole blooming line of us—
Cannoneer, trooper and man with the gun.

The oath of allegiance,
[W]ill how many failed of it?
The nation called, "guardsmen!"
And up went the hands,
A fight or a frolic, is both 'bout the same to us
We're waitin' for orders from old Uncle Sam.

They roasted and hammered,
And laughed at the crowd of us,
Called us "milish" that would fail at the call;
But when there is trouble,
Why everyone's proud of us,
Lord what a change has come over them all.

The heat is intense—
And the grub don't appeal to us
The goin' away was a little bit hard;
But now that we're here—
In this cactus-bound wilderness,
Just wait for the reports from
New York's National Guard.

The Incinerator

HIS DIARY

Friday—Stood guard last night. Everything quiet. Got to thinking about New York and when Officer of the Day came up to post I said "Advance Mabel" and he was mad. Why do they call them Officers of the Day when they come sneaking around at night? Called out Corporal of the Guard to ask him if my turn was up and he said some mean things.

Caught tarantula and a scorpion this morning and put them in a bottle. Hid bottle under my pillow. Hour later they had both disappeared. Thought maybe they ate each other up. Didn't get to sleep for quite a while after that. Thought maybe those critters didn't eat each other after all.

Saturday—Found scorpion when I put on my breeches. On Kitchen detail today. Found out at last what they put in the coffee. Scoured thirteen pans. Sherman must have taken his turn in the mess shack. Read where the General says we're all having a fine time. Good news, General. A postal from Brighton Beach today just signed "Mabel." Jim must have mailed it. He wrote some lines on it—

"You save the country—I'll take care of the girls." They started to build some more houses in camp. Bought a year's subscription to "The Rattler" and got a second on the coffee. Peter was right. Fitz found the tarantula in his blanket and was real mean about it. I feel better now. Wonder why Alice doesn't write any more. Somebody else is winding the Victrola now. Hope Jim is spared for me. Glad I learned bayonet exercises.

"As we gallop to press" is no more than a facetious figure of overworked speech with your metropolitan copy-cribbers and eolum conductors but with us it's a literal expression of miles from the press-room. Copy-boys do not enlist in the army and only Majors ride in Flivvers so we leap trustfully upon a real hide-and-hoof Pegasus who has shed his wings and sporadically gallop to press. We had half a mind to christen our caballo Roainante (after Don Quixote) because he usually comes to a sudden halt whenever he spies a windmill. But we're so independent that no matter how suddenly he stops we generally keep right on going. The steed has always answered to the name of "Philip" which may be a good handle for kings but not for horses. Suggestions as to a more appropriate and dignified appellation will be gratefully received and earnestly considered. Come on!

Old John "Moose" Taylor, late driver of the American Ambulance in France and still later rookie in the Seventh and chapman of our Q. M.'s "Artful Dodger," was a genial, jovial caller yesterday. John, who has won the War Cross of France and who knows a great deal about the inside works of everything on wheels, says there's one thing lacking in "The Incinerator"—a self-starter. Just when we had blamed all the trouble on the gas mixture.

H. I. Y.,
Sir:
Some people think this trip to Texas is the Swan Song of the National Guard. Oh, well, that was a straight tip about two months after the Spanish War started. It's about time to chuckle a bit—or perhaps to begin—the black laugh.—F. W. W.

The employers who reneged when it came to paying the salaries of absent militiamen ought to adopt a suitable slogan to express their sentiments. We beg to suggest: "Never Mind the Guard."

VERY GOOD, EDDIE

H. I. Y.,
Sir:
Penning a column on the Border is not always a b. of r. but you have nothing on General Pershing—who ran a column right down into Mexico.
EDDIE R.

"VILLA—DEAD OR ALIVE."
We'd like awfully much to know which.

BORDER DECORATED BY MILITIA CAMPS

Our idea of a Decorative Border is a frieze of Mexicans prone, Guardsmen rampant.

Exercising may benefit the mules but it certainly doesn't qualify the drivers for positions as Sunday School Superintendents.

There is only one safe way to catch a mule says old Bill Kennedy—be sure to always look him straight in the eye.

BANDITS DISAPPEAR WITH COMING OF SOLDIERS

They all seem to have entered the canteen business but they haven't reformed much.

Adjutant Despard of the Seventh Infantry is still looking for the Sergeant who sent a rookie over to the office for six rolls of red tape. The Sergeant should have known that all the red tape is still held in Washington where the demand greatly exceeds the supply.

Our est. contemp., F. P. A., sings the praises of "frosted sarsaparilla." We who yearn with childish longing for the common or canteen variety of ginger pop must admit that "frosted sarsaparilla" is going some—but then there always was class to The Conning Tower's predictions. Which urges us to pen, a la Adams;
A harmful drink is ginger pop.
I like it.
It makes your tummy go ker-fop,
I like it.
The doctors all pronounce it vile,
To ginger pop there ain't no style,
The verdict's "guilty" at each trial,
I like it.

Just when we get our rumor-sight adjusted on Sept. 1st someone comes along and pushes it up a month or so. We wonder if the General will really ask us what we'll have for Christmas.
The only rumor you can safely believe is—it's going to rain next Saturday.

"Prepare for a rainy day" is a sound maxim all right, but no one in camp can figure on hurricanes. The wind has been blowing so hard lately that the local forecasters have invented a new term: "Chautauqua Weather."

"We'll Have a Hot Time in the Old Town To-Night" will be the marching song when the boys start up Broadway on their last hike—if it isn't snowing too hard.

Our idea of a pleasant way to spend the week-ends after the Grand Exodus is to hire a bugler to blow "revellie" and then shy rocks at him. What's your idea? Join the "What-We're-Going-to-Do" Club.
Uncle Sam's nephews feel lonesome without his nieces. But steady, men—the Red Cross may yet enter the field.

It's time to draw the fires, haul the ashes and otherwise close up The Incinerator for the week.

We don't hanker after mixt-mets ourselves but we've hunted high and low for a file-closer to our column.

At last—
"On the Line, Men!"
H. I. Y.