

# News From Our Division Units

## 2ND FIELD ARTILLERY

Naturally the very first subject to which the correspondent's mind turns for material this week is "Thanksgiving" and it was a big Thanksgiving for the Second Field Artillery. It passed all expectation both in the little matter of "Turkey" and in the big matter of "Spirit." To have perceived such a generally successful holiday so far from the accustomed home atmosphere, and after these long months of hard and disagreeable work was well nigh impossible; but the day came and went with a spirited rush of holiday activity, with cheerfulness, even with a certain amount of Thanksgiving.

The day was made, a real day of pleasure and only necessary duties hindered complete abandonment of work. As Major DeWitt C. Weld, in command of the first battalion announced, the day was to be made as nearly an occasion of Thanksgiving as circumstances would permit. And it was so. Aside from the care of the horses, there was but little in the way of details or fatiguing work. All morning the kitchen fires burned merrily and those delicious things to come, pervaded the atmosphere about the mess-shacks. With relief from the burdens of the regular fatigues, came a rise of spirits among the men and as the day wore on noisy demonstrations evidenced the holiday.

A football game filled in the morning. C. Battery's second team defeated A Battery by a score of 6 to 0. The game was played on the field at the South end of the camp. To witness a football game on Thanksgiving day, is a regular thing for us of the big town, and most of the regiment turned out to see the playing.

And the dinners that followed! No one, apparently had really expected such a complete lay-out of the good big "eats." I saw the list of the menus which were presented to each battery mess-table, and it would be impossible to print them all on account of the space it would require.

- However, here is a sample:
- Oyster Cocktail. Cream Tomato Soup.
  - Turkey. Cranberry Sauce.
  - Oyster Dressing. Baked Virginia Ham.
  - Mashed Potatoes. Creamed Corn.
  - Sweet June Peas. Celery and Olives.
  - Chow Chow. Pickles.
  - Chocolate and Coconut Layer Cake and Fruit Cake.
  - Mince Pie. Pumpkin Pie.
  - Ice Cream. Mixed Nuts, Fruit, Coffee Tea, Lemonade, Punch, Bevo.
  - Cigars. Cigarettes.

Has Broadway ever seen anything more complete?

The evening brought a concert and entertainment by the excellent talent which has been uncovered in the regiment during this campaign and of which the regiment is justly proud. Lead by Edward Zitman, the Second Field band, whose excellence has drawn much comment and praise from the entire New York Division, played the opening selection and special band numbers and filled the gaps between the singing and vaudeville acts, with its usual artistic perfection. Among the entertainers were Privates Zahn of F Battery, Lehman of E Battery, Harrigan of D Battery and Corporal Greaves of D Battery in an instrumental quartette consisting of zither, guitar, mandolin and Banjo. It was a very pleasing novelty in the music line. Sergt. David Allen was called upon to "do his bit" and his singing, as in every previous entertainment, brought much applause. The hit of the evening, however, appeared to be a sketch by Sergt. Churlo and Bender who gave us "A Little Bit of Coney Island, or On the Midway." Their never-failing humor "brought down the house," (which of course was a physical impossibility because our stage has no roof but the Texas sky; but still the expression conveys the idea intended.) Thomas Hicks of D Battery with his comic songs and Doyle, the Irish dancer and Cowles of E with his recitations completed an excellent and well arranged program. Supply Sergeant Love, was at his usual post of manager.

And so passed the Thanksgiving day of 1916, and the untroubled night brought peaceful slumber and contentment, in spite of the more than 2000 miles which separates us from the place where we have found our happiness on all previous Thanksgivings, in spite of present privations and restless longing for certain expected orders.

The football season in the East is over. Down here it is hardly cold enough to begin playing. Yet the "stars" have been shining. C Battery has developed the championship team of the regiment.

A notable game was played at Sterling's Ranch between C Battery and the Champs of Texas who hail from Fort Ringgold, Rio Grande City. The whole regiment turned out to see the game, not only because it was an involution—considering the dreary life of the ranch, but because it signaled a meeting of the far South with the far East, and all of us wanted to see what these Texans were like in action.

The bold fact that they won by a score of 12-0 is not as significant as it seems at first, for the game was very well contested and there was no scoring until the last quarter, when by means of the forward pass, the Texans were able to get within striking distance of C Battery's goal. Thus it happened in the case of both touchdowns—no goals were kicked—in the last period when C's men were exhausted by a mighty struggle against overwhelming weight, that the men of the South were able to push the ball over. They had 600 large pounds of advantage, not to mention superior training and practice, for while they have had a working, organized team, and having been playing regular games since the beginning of the season, the Second Field Battery have had only a few games and virtually no practice. The continuous work in camp at McAllen and at Sterling's Ranch permitted of no preparation. The regiment may be justly proud of the result of this meeting.

The men of C are now endeavoring to meet the teams of other regiments—regimental teams—and thus establish a regular representative football organization for the Second Field Artillery.

It should make an organization that will shortly be recognized in the world of sport at home as well as in Texas. The line-up of C Battery in the Sterling's game follows. The line-up of the Texans was not secured.

- R. E.—Veazie.
- R. T.—Maged.
- R. G.—Duryea.
- C.—Klinger.
- Lt. G.—F. C. Smith.
- Lt. T.—Mason.
- Lt. E.—Cowan.
- Q. B.—Frugone.
- R. H. B.—Sackman.
- F. B.—O'Donnell.
- Lt. H. B.—Court.

Substitutions were: Barclay for Mason; Millsbaugh for Cowan; Gersbach for O'Donnell; Blaze for Barclay. Captain Booker, refereed the game. Lieutenant Spencer of the Second Field did the umpiring and the head linesman was Lt. Andrews.

Saturday afternoon, December 16, GALLEY ELEVEN . . . . . RAT . . . there will be a fight between Bernie Williams of the Second Field Artillery and Johnny Glyn of the 22nd Engineers which promises well in spite of a difference in weights. Glyn, according to our information fights at 135 while Williams weighs 122. The latter says he will not defend his title of feather-weight champ of army and navy because Glyn is in the lightweight class. The fight will be staged at Pharr in the camp of the Twenty-third Infantry. There will be four preliminaries; three of six rounds and one of four rounds.

R. W. F.

## 2ND FIELD HOSPITAL

The "Battle of Too Soon" played by the 2nd Field Hospital Dramatic Club, is now an assured success. Its initial appearance on the spur of the moment on Halle's was received with roars of laughter and many favorable comments. Since then it has been polished up and the various actions cemented together in such a way as to make the piece, as now presented, something very entertaining, and something that will merely drive away the glooms.

The management has received an urgent request to put the piece on at Pharr and is now arranging to do so. The actors in the play are Jimmie Dean, as General Delivery; Joe Waugh, Willie McGill, Frank Nerney and Mike McCormick, and all are commended for their clever acting.

The orchestra has also made a name for itself and has been invited and requested to play at numerous entertainments about the camp and also among the civilian population. Hop to it, boys, and keep the pot a-boiling. Joe Crook and Ray Greenwood at the Mandolins, Middie Cook, violin and Joe Harrison, guitar, make a gallant galaxy of musical melodiousness much mentioned by many mouths and memoried of many minds.

As is the case throughout the camp in general, we have acquired the ebony craze, and if our ambitions are fully realized, each and everyone of us will be fitted out with an ebony swagger stick of some design of other. Not content with swagger sticks, some of us are making canes for future use. That's just the beginning. The next step after taking the new cane out for an airing, in Albany, will be the discovery that a Prince Albert and a silk hat are the only proper clothes, with which to properly set off a Texas ebony cane. Well, there is no telling what wild ideas six months in the wild and woolly west will put into a man's mind's eye.

Sergeant "Mochus" Folsom has hopped right to it, and got a beautiful skin full of Texas sunburn in December, just to show it could be done. Cheer up, Sergeant, wait 'till the jiggers get you. Even at that, worse things have happened to a man.

Sergeant Burton is receiving congratulations on the arrival in his home of a bouncing baby girl. Serg. I'll take a Bevo, but I insist that you buy a real drink, sometime in the future. We understand that Sergeant Colton is seriously considering the purchase of a ranch and remaining down here. That's the spirit Serg., show 'em that a few of us like it down here anyway.

We understand that Jimmie Denn's picture, in a rather compromising position, appeared in the Albany papers. Cheer up, Jimmie, we know down here that it was just a lark and done in the spirit of deviltry, and when they wake up on the Albany end, they will see it in the same light.

We are looking for a deaf and dumb man with a strong arm and a stony heart to make official time keeper. If he is deaf, he won't have to listen to the virtues and values credited to the various makes of watches we carry. If he is dumb, he won't be able to hurt anybody's feelings by telling him that his watch "Ain't NO Good," and he will be able to keep out of arguments. If he has a strong arm, maybe he will be able to wallop into a few of us that idea that possibly some one else might have the right time. And if he has a stony heart, he will make the time what it should be in spite of our musicians and our desires for ten minutes more or less, as the case may be. I don't think you'll find this man in McAllen.

Our Thanksgiving on the Border was a culinary success. Our "eats" were bountiful, various and tastily cooked. The only thing wrong with the whole show was the "stag" effect and the absence of those near and dear to us whom we would have liked to have with us on Thanksgiving Day. In spite of the fact that we are a natural bunch of growlers, we all had much to be thankful for, and the worst kicker in the outfit gave thanks that things were not worse.—G. W. P., Jr.

## THE QUARTERMASTER CORPS

In Tennyson's masterful words, "There was not to reason why. There was but to do and die." may be found the maxim of the Quartermaster Corps.

The Corps spreads no rumors and is too busy to listen to them. It is always busy during business hours and resting during the hours of rest. It does not

try, and could not by its very existence, depend upon the sometimes playful activities of the average soldier to feed, supply and convey the troops.

After the Commanding Officer, the Quartermaster Corps, is at once mobile, restless until the C. O.'s directions are completed. Then they rest not, merely pause while the regular daily business, a Hurelean task at times, is set in motion and the tea, bread, etc., are being delivered to keep the army alive.

The Quartermaster Corps is the palm of the hand on which are the fingers representing the different branches of the service. For into the palm go all the necessities of the soldiers life—the food, the supplies, the pay, the material, the clothing, yes, even the coffin for the faithful hero is supplied by it.

At McAllen Lt. Col. Sternberger is in charge. The Depot Quartermaster is Lt. Col. W. H. Bertsch; then one may find in charge of transportation, Capt. Purcell; Commissary, Capt. J. H. Steger; Property, Capt. W. H. Conklin; Paymaster, Lt. Kearns.

Here are the intricate problems of dispatching the clothing, commissaries and other material. From early in the morning until late at night goes a rumbling battery of trucks, automobiles and wagons. In all directions to Sam Fordyce, Penitas, Ojo de Agua, Sterling and La Gloria, Monte Christo and Granjeno, Habana, Mission and Mamie.

The wagon supply train has augmented the supply service gigantically. Plenty of wagons and mules to haul all visible supplies have made the transportation problems one of technicality only.—C. W. L. Special Duty Q. M. C.

## 2ND AMBULANCE COMPANY

The Second Ambulance Company is once more a reunited family. The La Gloria detachment has returned, covered with glory, whiskers and other souvenirs of their sojourn in the chaparral.

When the detachment pulled into camp headed by Lieut. Willis Linn and Sergt. Daniel C. Hysner there were many shouts of welcome and greeting. The boys were soon after seated in the old mess hall and feeling quite at home. Some thought that a new man had been picked up somewhere as on the seat of one of the ambulances there rode a man with a large jowling black beard, but later in the night the new man made some passes over his face, with a razor, and before us stood our own Frank H. Vetter.

Another pleasant incident was the return last week of Joseph W. Meredith who has been for several weeks at the Base Hospital in Brownsville.

To celebrate Thanksgiving, a six course banquet was served in the mess hall. Much credit is due to the kitchen detail for the success of the dinner. None better could have been had in any hotel in the country. The cooking was done by our own culinary artists, C. Benjamin Bemis and Myron E. Wilder. They were assisted by Jesse Palmer, Fred H. Hild, Chester Bebee and G. Mack Tarbox. The menus were four page folders and contained a roster of the company.

Word has been received that the foundation of the new armory, in Rochester, for the Second Ambulance Co., has been completed and that construction of building will be rushed as rapidly as possible. This brings to mind a talk given by Captain Boswell, just before the company left Rochester, in which he said "We may never come back to the Main street Armory." There seems to be more truth than fiction in many of the Captains observations.

All were sorry to lose the popular musician William S. Melville who has transferred to the Seventy-fourth regiment band. He is assistant leader under Sergeant John H. Bolton and holds the grade of Sergeant. "Bill" was well liked by the boys, but though all are sorry to lose him, they are pleased to see his ability recognized.

Since the La Gloria "branch" has come back the old tent squads have been reorganized, the men having gone back to the squad they were with at the beginning of the Border service. Bernard T. Flannery the genial corporal of tent 9 is still at Headquarters so that squad is without their leader. All are hoping for the early return of their "Barney."

The Spanish class is making great progress. The first written examination was given last week. Captain Boswell still remains at the "head of the class" with Lt. Cassebeer a close second.

Privates Emery and Ramsey of the Third Ambulance Company were guests of the Second Ambulance last week Sunday. All were pleased to have them with us and hope they will pay us a visit again. E. M. O.

## 1ST BATTALION SIGNAL CORPS

Brigadier-General George P. Scovien, Chief Signal Officer, U. S. Army, visited the Brownsville District last week. The buzzer station at McAllen camp, with Privates Evans, Forsythe, Keener, and Minsar has moved back across the "big ditch," so that all the stations, radio, buzzer and telephone central, are now on Radio Island, with the rest of the camp.

Sergeant Best has returned, looking almost as well as when he left.

Company A, Signal Corps held its Thanksgiving eve dance Wednesday. Sergeants Childs and Dreste, and Cook Miller worked hard to make the dance a success.

The Signal Corps is still reconstructing the Border military line, and the following buzzer message has become a byword: "Have finished this work, what next?"

Private Ferrand, at Hidalgo, reports that that city is still flourishing.

Corporal De Wolf gathered a large, ebony tree for our plaza, but there will be little left of it if Sergeant Halton keeps on pruning it.

1st class Private Mullen says that he missed New York Election Day, as he usually helped carry his district for the successful candidate.

1st Class Sergeant Helton left Tuesday to represent the College of the City of New York at the inauguration of President Vustin, of the University of Texas, at Austin.

## 3RD AMBULANCE COMPANY

In order that the "folks back home" may know that the Day of Thanks was in no way overlooked because of the fact that we are marooned in this "Magic Valley of Cactus and Thorns" we will describe in detail the scene which would have been vouchsafed the onlooker in a position to command a view of the 3rd's mess hall on Thursday of last week. That usually bare and horny structure might have been taken for a banquet hall of some English Baron with its lining of palms, flags and other native and military decorations, and its tables covered with white and arranged in the shape of a horseshoe. The two officers who are still with us, Lieut. Silleck and Lieut. Smith, dined with the men and ate helmets and blunderbuses, one might have mistaken the gathering for Capt. Miles Standish and his little army of the early 17th century.

The menu—but let that speak for itself:

- Grape Fruit with Cherries
- Tomato Soup
- Celery
- Lettuce Salad
- Roast Turkey
- Baked Sweet Potatoes
- Mashed Whites
- \*Asparagus
- Pickles
- Ice Cream
- Chocolate
- Mince Pie
- Cake
- Coffee
- Cigarettes

Lieut. Smith acted as toastmaster and introduced Lieut. Silleck who commended the boys in the interest taken in trying to make the camp a model for others to go by. He was followed by such sterling orators as Sergt. Wilson, Larrp, O'Neil, Sgt. Tracy, Arch Manning and others. Each and every speaker, as he rose to address the company, found difficulty in complying with the rules of table etiquette as regards the "top button." One speaker in fact declared he would speak longer but that he must sit down again in order to again make himself comfortable.

The 3rd's two veteran waiters, Barry and Fasnfeld, were called back to their former posts in honor of the occasion and assisted by Manheim, Helfer and Calahan treated the company to that "Broadway Service" so well known during the days when "Fas" and "Frankie" were on the Kitchen Police Force.

The boys will all look back upon at least that one day of their Border service with some degree of pleasure and those unable to be present will live to regret that fact. Here's hoping that on the next, that greatest of all holidays, we will all be describing the scene of last week to the home-folks in person.

"Tony" DeLisio is filling most competently the position vacated by Newfield, that of Mail Orderly. While we rather miss hearing the final "Thank you, Maurice" we all enjoy getting a good long daily look at "Tony's" rapid growing whiskers. It might be added here that of late, since the Thanksgiving bundle season commenced, Handy our Flivver Pilot, has done fully his share in the mail line.

The 3rd has now a permanent feed trough for its animals, a vast improvement over feed bags which are found to become, torn and therefore unsanitary.

Someone (we think it was our Q. M. Sgt., Paseo) said we ought to celebrate because a "Certain Party" finally got a pair of pants that fit. Well, we'll bet our December pay that "Certain Party" feels like celebrating anyhow. Manheim, Rose, Hubbard, Boyce and many others are making ebony canes to take home for Christmas. TAKE HOME! Well, the evening before election! "It's a good proposition to hope on but a poor one to bet on."

"Of all sad words of tongue or pen. The saddest are these, "Inspected again!"

THAT'S US. D. E.

## DIVISION COMMANDER'S STENOGRAPHER BACK

William Moore, of New York City, Major General O'Ryan's private stenographer, is back "on the job." He came down with Headquarters early in July and the latter part of that month was taken very ill and sent north to convalesce. If he could have regained his health as fast as he "Eats-up" work, his absence would hardly have been noticed. While his many friends are glad to welcome him back he has been informed that the review of the Division Wednesday morning was not in his honor, but for a United States Senator.

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TO AUTHORITY

A bets B that the Barber shop Jack Madison runs in McAllen is the best place to go to get a hair cut or shave. B bets, it's not. who wins?

ANSWER

A Wins hands down.

McAllen, Texas.