The UNION STANDARD

December, 2001 *Vol. 9, no 12*

The Newsletter of the 1st United States Infantry, The Regulars

Dispatch from the Board

In this last issue of the Union Standard in 2001 I thought I would recap where we've been this past year and introduce where we're headed next year. Our biggest change this year was a result of our biannual elections held in March. No one wanted to stand for election as Major or Adjutant. Other members of the board picked up their duties and there has been minimal impact on the unit.

Our activities this year were a mixture of old traditional events and first time scenarios. We had local drills in January, June, and December. In February some of us made the trek to San Antonio to participate in the recreation of Twiggs Surrender while others held a cartridge rolling party. In March the annual Battalion Muster was held in the field at Honey Springs where the "Smurffs" of Co. D first appeared. I think all will be glad that next year it will be back at Fort Washita. April began the campaign season. First up was Kaufman. A first time local event. May brought us Raymond MS. A National level event that was also a Brigade max effort. This campaign event had high expectations but short water supplies and a shooting incident put a damper on things and most of us left early. In July we had a good showing, to include Bob's wagon for the Arlington 4th of July Parade. Winning honors again! In August Keith Brazile took top honors at the annual live fire. September found us performing with "alacrity" for our new Battalion Commander Gregg Benefiel. In August the unit voted to change the schedule for the last three months. In October we went to Granbury for the first time in four years. Some stayed overnight but most treated this as a drive by reenactment. Last month we were at Liendo for the immersion scenario, 24 hour advanced picket duty. As it turned out this was probably the event of the year.

It wasn't all play. We did more than our share of living history to justify our status as a 501C (3) non-profit corporation. Under the direction of Clark Kirby we spent a weekend at the Grapevine Main Street days, a week at 6-Flags over the 4th of July, and another weekend at 6-Flags in September. Of course we also took these opportunities to recruit under the guidance of Conway Barton. In addition to these major living history efforts Clark, always conducts living history presentations at the local reenactments and other one-day events that are too many to mention. Well-done Clark.

I would be remiss if I didn't congratulate men of the 1st who have moved up the food chain. First of all Mark Dolive. In September he took over as interim Brigade Commander, in October he became the First Federal Division Commander – talk about battlefield promotions! As Mark moved up Gregg took over the Battalion, Tom Mabry became Major and Kip Bassett is now Battalion Adjutant. In Kip's case I don't know if congratulations or sympathy is in order.

Which brings us to next year. There are some exciting events on the table. Full details will be provided prior to our voting on the schedule at the January drill. January drill will be at Arlington. Traditionally we've had the largest turnout in January and I hope to see ***All*** of you there. In February the Battalion Muster returns to Fort Washita. In addition to the normal garrison training we will take this opportunity to make (or at least get started) our own authentic Federal Issue shirts under the able direction of Bill Hathcoat. In March and April Pea Ridge, Shiloh, and Kaufman (with an expanded and improved scenario) are possibilities. May has the Glorietta campaign in New Mexico, significant because of the number of Regulars who took part, Bellmead (Waco), and Grapevine Living History. Sometime this year we're planning to go out to Fort McKavett. This reconstructed fort at one time had five companies of the real 1st stationed there prior to and after the Civil War. October 4-6 is Perryville (KY). A First federal Division event this should be a great one – especially since Gregg is involved in the scenario planning. You won't want to miss this. Honey Springs (OK) is in November and December brings Prairie Grove (AR). All this and live fire, drill, NCO School, and possibly the parade. Onward to Richmond err 2002.

God Bless The Regulars
Don Gross

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Lessons From Lincoln

"Do you know, General (Meade), what your attitude toward Lee after the Battle of Gettysburg reminded me of?…I'll be hanged if I could think of anything but an old woman trying to shoo her geese across a creek."

1st U.S. Calendar

2001

JANUARY

12	Drill	Veterans Park, Arlington

FEBRUARY

8-10	Muster	Ft. Washita, OK (Ouchita if you spell it properly)

ROLL CALL!!!!!!! Roster Additions

Let's be square, there ain't no new additions as of the time this goes to the typesetter for printing. But we should all be encouraged by the fact that over the last few months (which has nothing to do with my installation as editor I might add) we have seen new names appearing in the roster list section. This is an encouraging sign I think. We were well received at Old City Park during the Candlelight celebration so I'm hopeful that soon more staunch Unionists (Fresh Fish) will step forward to fill the gaps left by fallen comrades (where they fell we're sometimes not sure, but McFuddy swears he intends to find out. I suspect he's going to go through their pockets but his intentions may be good this time.)

E-Roster Changes/Additions

As you may all be aware some small company recently got 'excite'd and decided to cut the telegraph lines to several members of our illustrious company. This is just a durned shame and I think bears looking into from the War Department. In the meantime some of the lads have informed me they have new wire strung. Here's their new handles. We'll keep you informed on the others as they come back on the line.

George Hansen beast1st@attbi.com
Ted Cross tcross@iopener.net

COMPANY ASSIGNMENTS

1st Sergeant Bowen
Co. A, 1st US Infantry

The following are hereby assigned to A Company, 1st Regiment, U.S. Infantry. These new privates will report to you when Company A is next assembled. Ensure they are welcomed into the ranks, presented their company letter, and properly instructed in their new duties and responsibilities. Please determine if any of these new men have cooking (or at least clean up) experience.

Pvt. Tony Durant
Pvt. Andy Yuhas
Pvt. John Roten
Pvt. Matt Torres
Musician Jonathan Jones
Musician Mitchell Yuhas
Pvt. Scott Jones
Pvt. David Hewell
Pvt. Jerome Levy

Don Gross, Capt. Co. A
In Garrison
Fort Worth
November 27, 2001

1st Sergeant Sanders
Co. D, 1st US Infantry

The following recruits have attained the rank of Private and are now, hereby assigned to D Company, 1st Regiment, U.S. Infantry. These privates are ordered to report to the 1sr Sgt. when Company D is next assembled and will be presented with their company letter.

Pvt. Byron Gillory
Pvt. Darin Jeans
Pvt. Scott Johansen

These men appear to exhibit fine grit and their countenance shall make them fine soldiers, and hopefully, their stead in battle can be counted upon by others within the ranks.

Geo. Hansen, Capt. Co. D
In Garrison
North of Dallas
November 15, 2001

2002 Events Reminders

Drill at the Veterans Park in Arlington will be the first event of the year for us. Come out and wish your comrades in battle a Happy New Year. It could be cold, it could be warm (This IS Texas) and it will probably rain (If it's not raining, we're not campaigning) but this is a chance to polish up on the drill and tell lies about what deviltry you were up to over the holidays.

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Directions to Veteran's Park, Arlington

From I-20: North on Green Oaks Blvd. from I-20 in Arlington. Green Oaks is about 8 miles west of Hwy 360 and 3 miles east of I-820. Go to Arkansas and turn right (east). Turn right onto Spanish Trail; the park entrance is on the right.

From I-30: Take East Chase Blvd. south from I-30 (2 miles east of I-820). East Chase will become Dottie Lynn and then becomes Green Oaks. At 3_ miles turn left (east) on Arkansas. Turn right onto Spanish Trail; the park entrance is on the right.

Recruiting Update

by Conway Barton

Our recruiting efforts are paying off as we had Bill Blackford fall in with us at Old City Park. Bill saw us at Granbury, and he had a great time learning 19th century rank and file tactics with the stalwart soldiers of companies A and D.

New member Jerome Levy attended his first drill and thoroughly enjoyed himself as well. Doug Wood who we met at Six Flags, could not make it to Old City Park because he was meeting with two veterans from Easy Company, 101st Airborne Division.

Doug has obtained fourteen signatures of such men for his copy of 'Band of Brothers'.

Five other men signed our prospect sheet at Old City Park, and one of them immediately asked for enlistment papers. All in all, we have a fine group of men considering membership in the First US Infantry. They will all be invited to January's drill in Arlington. Thanks to all of you for making them feel so welcomed to our wonderful hobby.

Letter from Liendo campaign

Schooner Darrow
December 1, 1862

Dearest brother Willie

As we have put to 'sea' again for our return to New Orleans I find myself with time and the inclination to write to you concerning our most recent foray into seecesh territory. There are observations that I have hiteruntonow not thought to make, but this last adventure has been the cussedes time I have had to endure so far. Many of the men in my company thought getting their sea legs to be the worst, but that has hardly been a concern to me as you may imagine. Two voyages on the Lord Tim round the Horn have shown me real foul weather and what we've had on our jaunts with the Navy have been to that as a lucifer is to a barn fire. First there is the knapsack I was issued. What man designed this I cannot imagine. Surely someone who was never going to have to wear it other than to show off his craft for the inspectors of ordinance or whomever approves these things. It rides too low on the back most times and drags you back much like grandmother used when we'd try and slip cookies from the kitchen. For what little I carry in it you'd think I was lugging the mainsail for the Lord Tim myself. A candle or two, a canvas ground cloth, a rain slicker, an extra pair of socks and a shirt, which I can hardly describe as clean. Cleaning kit for my musket, which I shall continue to cuss about, though it did serve me well in the close quarters we lately found ourselves in. My blanket of course, and there's one article that I shall keep when others are lost, I can promise that.

That fairly covers the contents of the pack. You'd not think that much, nor did I before this jaunt. I would sooner carry five sea bags than that ratty thing now! How I hate it! But I cannot rid myself of it, for fear of the fines. They fine a man for any lost thing. I don't suppose dead men are fined, but it would not surprise me. Were I to lose my pack, and pick up another mans in it's stead, I would still be fined for losing mine even though the Army was square by me insofar as how many packs they had.

As I am running short of paper I will forego the musket tirade, though you know it is unfair for the other men in the company to have fine Enfield rifles and me to have

this tired old musket. Were it not for the use of buck and ball though I think I would not be writing this.
Our company served as picket and outpost for the advance across Texas towards a city called Houston. Firstly it is not a desert, as we have always thought. It is very flat though, and sandy soil, and reminded me very much of the area around Cape Cod. I have no idea, as ever, of what we were trying to accomplish, other than perhaps to stir up a nest of seecesh hornets. That we did, I can promise. Perhaps next time I will describe what it is we are expected to do.
This time, I should like to tell you that your thoughts concerning the southrons is true. During one action I had a bead on an officer and would have dropped him I think were it not for my cussed musket misfiring. I tell you Willie, he could have dropped me clean and clear, for he raised his pistol but withheld his fire. We had taken two of his men prisoner, and he allowed as how since he had spared me, he should be due back one of his men. Our captain saw the way of it, and made the 'exchange' and so I am here to write the tale. Clearly they are not all hotheads and murderers, and I felt badly that only a moment before I had tried to kill him and he should spare me.
The next day we managed to capture an entire company of them. They had no pickets posted themselves, and we were able to sweep in just before sun rise and gather them all in. We ourselves were in a rush to clear the area, since other companies of theirs were hot on our heels and spoiling for revenge. One of the fellows we caught napping had no shoes on. Our First Sgt suggested he remain behind and thereby remain free, but the fellow continued to put on his brogans. Neither one of us was inclined to shoot an unarmed man in such a brazen and silly way so despite our orders for him to stop he went on with the venture. I think I was the last one to leave their camp area, and since I could hear his still free fellows trampling the brush to take us in turn I told him to never mind he could go free and I left him. Damn me if the fellow didn't walk out of his camp after me, with his shoes finally on. I told him that was very gentlemanly of him, to come to captivity that way, but he told me his 'pardners' would never let him live down the shame if he were to go free that way while they were captured. We don't keep them long any way as we cannot adequately handle that many prisoners. They are interrogated, sent up to the main body, and I presume paroled some time after we leave the area. Our thoughts that they would eat better with us were dashed, and it looked as if they had a veritable moving feast, while we were forced to eat half cooked sweet potato, the usual salt bacon and ships biscuits. The only area our provinder surpassed theirs was in the area of coffee. Several fellows I know made swap for tobacco but of course if the officers find that out they are usually furious.
The queerest conversations happen while on outpost duty, and one night we had a dilly of a talk. I cannot help but wonder what sort of men I am going to be living amongst when this ill starred war is over. They must be men of education I suppose, but their good sense seems to have been completely left behind in Vermont. The talk had started with respect to what we would be doing with all the 'Contraband' once the war was over and we had restored the Union, and to make the abolitionists happy I suppose, free them all. Some suggested we return them to Africa, some suggested they be allowed to stay. One wag suggested they might make good eating. I wondered how they would make their way if we allowed them to stay, for surely while they are free, they won't be allowed to vote and I wondered if that might make them angry over time. Somehow the question of women being allowed to vote came up during the talk. Damn me if many of these fellows don't think women should be allowed to vote just like a man! I allowed as how I'd sooner see free black men voting before I'd see women with the vote. One fellow told me I could feel free to go and command the tide not to come in but it would prove as futile as trying to stop women from having the vote. I cannot imagine what these men are thinking but I wondered if maybe I am fighting for the wrong side. Surely the men of Rebeldom won't allow their women to vote when this war is over. What a peculiar idea, and from men of letters too! It is all like some badly written theatre and if that is how it is going to be I don't see how the Union will ever be the same after we drag Johnny Reb from the stage and run the curtain down on this miserable act of a war. Well, like my remaining space on this paper my hope for life to return to the way it was before this dadblasted scuffle began has run short.
Give my love to Mary Elizabeth and tell mother I am doing well and will write her from New Orleans. I beg you do not tell uncle Waterman he was right about my joining the Volunteers but of course you can see he WAS….

Your faithful brother
Jered Chase

Lessons From Lincoln

"The most interesting news we now have is from Sherman. We all know where he went in, but I can't tell where he will come out."

Knitting Up the Raveled Sleeve of Care or 'Dud Dementia'

Capt./Col. Kautz's The Company Clerk (1863) pp 18-19 has a statement of the cost of clothing. He lists flannel shirts at $1.46 and knit shirts at $1.30. The Smithsonian Civil War Uniform video does not show a knit shirt (dad drat it!), but describes it as a "rough, knit shirt." The knit shirt in their collection came from the Quartermaster Museum put together at Schulkill (pronounced school-kill) Depot during the War of the Rebellion.

Kautz's list also includes flannel drawers at .95 and knit ones at $1.00

And for the "what the devil is that" department, he lists flannel sack coats (unlined) $2.40, flannel sack coats (lined) $3.14, followed by knit jackets $2.70. Knit jackets?

Is this last mystery item a sweater, a piece of uniform outer wear? I know of one chap in the Good-Douglas or Texas Battery who wore a knit, red trimmed jacket throughout the war. But rebs, famous for their nonconformic "multiforms" do not exactly blaze a trail for us loyalist types.

The late, lamented Abraham Lincoln was wearing a machine knit shirt the night he was foully murdered. I've seen the bloodied cuffs that were cut from it.

I'm afraid this raises more questions than it answers, but the more we learn, the more we learn we need to learn.

Hargis G. 5 A-1

AFTER ACTION REPORTS

20 Nov
To: Capt Gross, Co. A
From: Sgt Bowen, Co. A

After Action Report, vicinity of Liendo plantation, TX, 16- 18 Nov

1. The following individuals of Co. A, 1st US Infantry, participated in the events of said location: 1st Sgt Bowen, J. Cpl Brown, W. Pvts. Bowen, S., Doughtie, K., Durant, T., Fogerty, G., Hargis, G., McGinnis, K., McGinnis, A. Pendergast, A., Quigley, T., Thomas, B.
(Note: Pvt Quigley volunteered and was detached to support Co. D as their ranks required augmentation. He is to be commended for this selfless act but his presence did indeed have a noted positive affect on improving Co. D's performance.)

2. The company was continuously employed throughout the duration and had little to no time for rest or relaxation. During the initial stages of erecting breastworks and fortifications on the 17th inst, they were regularly harassed by enemy attacks, making the constructing of fortifications all the more difficult. Probes of the enemy's positions revealed that they had not taken the same precautions in building any works which proved fatal to them as the days progressed. It seemed they relied on strength of numbers (3 to 1) to ward off any action on our part. In any case, by noon on the 17th, we had established our position opposite the enemy with 2 fortified outposts and a grand guard. A reconnoiter of the enemy lines late on the 17th, provided intelligence that they had no sentries posted. Therefore, a surprise attack on their camp at 0630 the following morning netted 12 rebel prisoners, including one officer, with no casualties in the attacking party. The enemy tried to retaliate throughout the remainder of the day but to no avail. Each of several attacks on outposts 1 and 2 were repulsed with few casualties from our ranks but heavy losses from the rebel ranks. Additionally, 2 more rebs were captured during these attempts to penetrate our lines. Captain Benefiel commended the men and suggested promotions would be in order.

3. Rations consisted of 12 pieces of hard tack, 1/2 pond of salt pork, 1 apple, 1 orange, 1 ear of corn, and 1 yam per man for the duration. Water was rationed as the supply was at a considerable distance from the outpost. Commendations should go to the quartermaster who helped with water supply (Horse support from Lt.s Zelinski and Fuhrman) Although no one voiced complaints, rations were probably on the short side for this campaign and consideration should be given to improving the rations for follow-on campaigns. If it was not for the excellent condition and amount of hard tack supplied, the men would have been in serious want of provisions. It appears that some of the required rations failed to reach our position in time.

4. The company requited itself in an exemplary manner and did honor to the regiment. The commander cited the alacrity with which the men deported themselves throughout the campaign. After a rest and replenishment, the men will be ready to take to the field in short order.

YMOS,
J. Bowen
1st Sgt, Co. A

In a more contemporary vane, if it were not for the immersion scenario, Liendo would rank right up there with Granbury. The afternoon battles were beyond a doubt, laughable, to say the least. The 3 to 1 ratio was typical, and the field was filled with farbs! The 1st did its typical exemplary job as did the 9th.

The immersion went off very well. Everyone did a super job of staying in character for the most part. Brother Hargis was always helpful in gently nudging the conversations back to an appropriate vane. I saw absolutely no vestige of modern materials and only the highway sounds detracted from that aspect. The 1st and the Austin mess did an outstanding job adhering to the immersion objectives as far as building and manning the outposts throughout the weekend. The rebs on the other hand, blew that part off and paid for it in our attack. I do think they learned from the experience though and should be more serious about it the next time. Both sides did excellent jobs of staying in period during prisoner situations. (I know, I was over there once!)

I think the salt pork was a great idea for this occasion, it gave a very good impression of life on the line. Having said that, I do not think any one of us will be anxious to go that route again. The meat-to-fat ratio was a little to o realistic and I think a majority would say that once is enough! I know some of it went to waste. I think it would also be safe to say that we could have used a little more rations- I think we got less than what was planned. More fruit and some cheese probably was in order. (Speaking of rations, who do I owe money to, Kevin or Don??? Let me know, I'll send it.)

We did not figure on expending as many rounds as we did and since we did not have the company rounds, we were running on short supply. Part of the reason for this is that the rebs kept harassing our lines all day Sat instead of building their works. They played it more like a giant tactical instead of an outpost scenario. And a giant tactical without defined rules or judges gets a little silly at times! It was suggested that the sides be more evenly matched next time to prevent one side from using this approach. Thanks go to Steve Sanders for supplying over 100 (to 150)of his own rounds to make up the short fall.

All in all, it was a good weekend. Hats off to our newest men, Tony Durant and Gene Fogerty would acted like seasoned veterans throughout the weekend. If you can have fun at Liendo, you can have fun anywhere!

Any other suggestions, feel free to forward.

John

UNIFORMITY

Within the last year Major/Col. Dolive asked the First to conduct themselves in a *Stoic* manner – "show austere indifference to joy, grief, or pain; calm and unflinching manner even under suffering conditions." At Cabin Creek Lt. Col. Benefiel employed us to exercise *Alacrity* – "quick, lively action, briskness." In other words exert a sense of emergency when appropriate actions dictate.

The latest theme as inspired by Capts. Gross and Hansen is *Uniformity*. This means everyone is to use the same execution during Manual of Arms commands. Our source is from Casey's Infantry Tactics – the 1st US bible. If command executions are conducted the same by everyone, then our impression is enhanced and we will also look like the best-drilled unit in the Brigade.

The below four commands are not presented in their entirety. You will have to use Casey's, or maybe Hardee's to find the entire instructions. Rather, what are described here are key phrases which gets everyone "on the same page"; i.e., doing so the same way. In some instances they are paraphrased for better understanding. You are encouraged to practice these commands before the next drill and especially before the February muster. One small disclaimer: the Stack Arms command is not according to the book. The latest drill revealed that the #2 man's bayonet projects itself closely and squarely between his eyes if done by the book ("rifle butt placed behind the right foot of the man on the left" - try it and see). So, the following Stack Arms command is used for safety considerations. The captions in parentheses are meant to provide better explanations and are not used in any manuals.

Present Arms - Left hand between gun sight and lower band, thumb on barrel….the (right) forearm horizontal and resting against the body, the hand as high as the elbow (above the cap box).

Stack Arms - Rifle butt placed next to left foot with the butt even with the front of the foot, barrel to the front…. *The rear-rank man of every odd file will pass his piece into his left hand, the barrel turned to the front and sloping the bayonet forward, rest it on the stack.* (in case no one notices THIS it's very different from how we did it prior to these new Orders from the War Department)

Inspection Arms -Left hand between gun sight and lower band, lock to the front, left hand at chin level, rifle opposite left eye…. Rifle to be taken back with right hand.

Parade Rest -Barrel to the left, muzzle center of body, left hand above top band, right hand just below…. Carry the right foot six inches to the rear, the left knee slightly bent (command executed in two motions).

To The Infantryman

The infantry soldier should bear in mind that, with whatever exultation the cavalry or artillery pass him in advancing upon the enemy, the grand result cannot be achieved without him, and that the presence of the musket and its proximity is what enables them to precede him in the fight.

Brig. Gen. August V. Kautz

Customs of Service for Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers, 1864

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Twist and Shout

By Glenn Hargis

You must remember this, a twist is still a twist, a cry is still a cry; the fundamental things apply in times gone by. (Thank you Dooley Wilson.)

The TWIST is one of the finer points of mayhem. Whilst executing any thrust, lunge, or lunge out with the bayonet or or some of the strikes with the gun butt (stock to right, stock to the rear) remember to twist.

In the position of Middle Guard the right hand grasps the handle (small of the stock), the left hand grasps the barrel and stock between the middle and lower band. THE COCK OF THE HAMMER POINTS AT YOU. At the end of your offensive movement, THE COCK OF THE HAMMER POINTS STRAIGHT UP. This simple twist of the wrist brings ALL the muscles of the arm into play for a smoother, stronger, and faster thrust. All else being equal, the faster man is the one left standing.

The torso twists to the left , thrusting the right shoulder foreword. The body leans forward and the right (back) foot pushes against the ground. All movement occur at once with the aim of putting all the body's mass and might behind the bayonet point.

One of Aries' ironies is this - you are most vulnerable to attack when you commit yourself to an offensive action.
If you are going to get stuck, it is when you are making your own jab.
Now the body is more susceptible to the shock of being shot, slashed, or stabbed when drawing in a breath. So what we want to do is avoid inhalation as we attack and at the same time make our target gasp. A very good way to accomplish both aims is to go in with shout.
Your loud, bloodcurdling shriek will tighten all your abdominal muscles, not only will stiffen your upper body, aiding to put all your weight and power behind your blade point, but it will squeeze down your capillaries. Like a living tourniquet, this will help protect you from shock should you take a hit going in.

Unit Manuals at January Drill

Unit manuals will be available for purchase at the January drill. New members who have already paid for a manual may pick them up at Veterans Park, January 12. There are new slight revisions, but no major changes within the last year. If you don't have one, "then you need one!"

What they probably learned at West Point

By A. McFuddy

Since a goodly number of the decent generals who fought on either side were educated in a style reflecting more archaic weapons than were used during the war it might prove interesting to see what they were probably taught by their elders during their tenure at the Military academy.

The following is a modern description of French/British tactics as they evolved during the lengthy Napoleonic wars that upended the European continent at the beginning of the 19th century. The text is taken from the book 'WATERLOO, New Perspectives' by David Hamilton-Williams, Brockhampton Press, 1999.

For anyone who wonders why skirmishers worked so well, read on. Bold lettering added for emphasis.

"…Among the monarchial armies it was the custom of the period to draw up for battle in two lines, each consisting of regiments or battalions deployed two or three men deep. The soldier muskets were smooth-bore weapons that fired around ball. They could not be aimed in any meaningful sense at any target beyond 25 yards' distance. This of course was the reason for the tactic of massed fire. Commanders would wait until their troops closed to about 100 yards of the enemy or less before giving the order to open fire. The volley delivered by 400-600 muskets had the effect of a great shotgun, cutting down many individual soldiers within the large target presented by the enemy formation.
One of the reasons for the considerable early success of the French mixed-order form of attack was that **skirmishers** were able to approach often to within 20 yards of the enemy lines. At that range they were certain to hit someone with almost every shot. Apart from thinning the enemy ranks, this point-blank sniping had a demoralizing effect on the enemy, who had to stand shoulder to shoulder and take it, without being able to return fire. **In the early campaigns the armies of France's enemies did not themselves deploy skirmishers and their commanders refused to allow individual fire in return or to waste a volley on such a widely dispersed target as skirmishers**…"

Any of that sound familiar to anyone who's drilled in company or battalion formations?
Wellington's counter to this, given he was usually outnumbered by his French counterparts was to take as much advantage of terrain as possible to shield his main body and to use his own skirmishers and light troops in the following way.

"…After the preliminary barrage the French would advance and Wellington would deploy his light infantry well in front of his line, usually fronted by several companies of **riflemen** in skirmishing order.
His better armed skirmishers would generally outshoot the French skirmishers, making the no man's land between the armies untenable for French light forces or horse artillery. Wellington's light screen would give ground slowly in the face of the advance of the French heavy assault columns, inflicting sniping casualties on them all the while…"

When we skirmish drill, and when we use them in reenactments, we're usually fairly close to our own line, AND the enemy line as soon as the 'battle' starts. I had the opportunity to go down field at Washita two muster's ago as part of Kip's demonstration of how large a man size target appears at 400 yards. Had I been a skirmisher, I would have been MUCH more comfortable that day with my rifled musket and my file partner out by my lonesome than I would have been to stand in a battalion formation. From my vantage at 300+ yards the battalion was a LARGE blue wall, that I could hardly have missed. When I had the opportunity to switch position I could see a prone skirmisher presents about the same target surface as a large watermelon does at 300 yards. Not impossible to hit, but significantly harder than that blue wall I saw. So the next time you find yourself out there on the leading edge of the attack, remember that the skirmish activity displayed in an average reenactment is probably NOTHING like what you would have done in a real brawl.

Muster & Annual Dues

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It's time again to pay annual dues, which are $25. The muster fee is $10 per person and it must be delivered to George Hansen by Jan. 21st. You will be held responsible anytime after 1/21 (no exceptions) to mail the fee to Whit Edwards in Oklahoma City! If you don't want to pay both amounts all at the same time, then just bring the $25 annual dues to the Feb. 9th muster. Whit is asking that the muster money arrive on time so he will know how much food to buy. Four meals are included at the $10 price - a heck of a deal. That's three meals on Saturday and breakfast Sunday morning.
Please use the 2002 Registration form found below.

NTRS

2002 DUES & EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

FEE TYPE	*Cost*		*# of people*		*$ Totals*
NTRS Dues	$25				$ 25
Muster Fees	$10	x	_____	=	$ **(Jan. 21 Deadline)**
Unit manual	$5				$
TOTAL					$

NTRS Member Name(s)

_____

_____

_____

_____

Muster Attendees

_____

Feb. 9, Ft. Washita, OK – muster fee(s) due January 21st

2002 NTRS dues is $25 per family and the muster fee is $10 per person, which include four meals. Unit manuals available at January drill.

Make check payable to **NTRS** and mail this form to:

George Hansen
3407 Palmtree Dr.
McKinney, TX 75070

Remember, check or money order should be made out to the

NTRS,

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