The Cavalry Journal
The Journal of the United States Cavalry Association

Volume XXXX, Issue 4  December 2015

In This Issue

- Cavalry is Different
- Mounted Review and Inspection
- The Cavalry Charges On
- Saddles & Mountain Warfare
- The Rat and His Rifle
- LTG Samuel L. Myers, Sr.
- Why Use a Surcingle?
- Vast could Gallop Backwards
- Commissary Sergeants
- Cavalryman, Sailor, and Judge
- Garrison Life on the Plains
The United States Cavalry Association
Organized February 20, 1976
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preserve the history, traditions, uniforms, and
equipment of the United States Cavalry, including
mounted support units, and to sponsor the
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The Cavalry Journal
Published Quarterly
The United States Cavalry Association
Volume XXXX, Issue 4, December 2015
ISSN 1074-0252

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The Cavalry Journal is dedicated to
the memory of all cavalymen.

Contents
1 Cavalry is Different
2 Mounted Review and Inspection
3 The Cavalry Charges On
5 Saddle Up for Mountain Warfare Training, Part 1
7 The Rat and His Rifle
8 Lieutenant General Samuel L. Myers, Sr.
9 Why Use a Scurcingle?
10 Vast, The Horse that Could Gallop Backwards
11 Post & Company Commissary Sergeants
13 Cavalryman, Sailor, and Judge
15 Garrison Life on the Plains
16 Book Review
17 Research Library Update
18 USCA Museum Update
18 Editor’s Notes
19 Specials from the Sutler’s Store

Join the Cavalry
See page 21

Editorial/Publication offices: U.S. Cavalry Association, 7107 W. Cheyenne St., El Reno, OK 73036
Cavalry Journal published four times a year; 1 March, 1 June, 1 September, 1 December
Subscriptions included in Annual Dues; Individual Annual Dues, $40.00; Family Annual Membership
Dues, $55.00; Individual USCA Life Membership, $400.00; Overseas Annual Dues, $60.00.
Membership year: Jan 1st to Dec 31st - All dues are payable in advance
Extra copies of the Journal are available for $5.00
U.S. Cavalry Association’s Museum and Memorial Research Library
7107 West Cheyenne Street, El Reno, Oklahoma 73036
www.uscausalry.org 405-422-6330
By its nature, the Cavalry is different. It requires a mindset which is at the same time both defensive and aggressive. Why would anyone want to risk life and limb on a horse? It is an uncooperative, often stubborn, beast; it is unpredictable. It smells. It must be fed and watered and washed. It requires a clean bed, fresh straw, new shoes, a good blanket and saddle. It begs for rewards but never cuddles. It is expensive to maintain, and difficult to transport. To be fit and happy, it needs to be exercised. That means riding when it rains, when it snows, and when it’s a steaming August day, and the mosquitoes are feasting on horse and human flesh.

For the horseman, there was something special in his life which the horse brought to him. Certainly there was a bonding of man and mount. But that was a singular thing. The horseman instinctively understood the meaning of camaraderie, the excitement of a good horse—or even a bad one—when it came time for the chase. He knew the world from a different perspective from that of the man on the ground. He saw things, and he saw them differently. He came to love the interaction with an animal he had trained, the move to take a jump, the synergy that flows from the rider to the horse, from the horse to the rider.

6th Cavalry Winter Picket Line

The Infantry figured it out generations ago. When they went back to their barracks, their day was over. For the Trooper, there were chores to do and weekends filled with horse-related activities. Troopers suffered the slings and arrows of their fellow [soldiers]; they smelled of horse sweat and manure; yet they endured—and kept going. Somehow they knew they were part of some mysterious brotherhood which transcended the reasoning of the average man.

The horseman is part of a fraternity whose membership is based on talent and skill. Wealth and position are important, but not the be-all or end-all admission ticket to ride the hunt, enter the show, or race the race.

"Democrat" at U.S. Cavalry School
Mounted Review and Inspection at Fort Bliss
By General Lucian K. Truscott

There was never a week without some parade, review, or inspection by regiment or brigade, but the truly thrilling spectacles were the mounted reviews and inspections of the entire division. These were held on occasions when General Krueger made an inspection and for other important dignitaries or visitors. General Swift was not at all backward in his desire to show off the division to these VIPs, for his pride in the division and its state of training was boundless.

All parades and reviews of large units are impressive and thrilling sights, but the mounted review and inspection of the First Cavalry had a very special fascination; it was without doubt one of the most thrilling and inspiring of all large unit formations.

Picture the scene: the huge drill field on the mesa north of the area of the First Cavalry Brigade and east of the area of the Second Brigade. The hard-packed soil, caliche-like in its consistency, cleared of all vegetation. Beyond the drill field, the mesa stretched for fifty miles, thinly covered with patches of greasewood and cactus; a beautiful clear winter morning, characteristic of the border area. The sun midway in the morning sky has burned off the morning chill but has not yet started the “dust devils” – the desert whirlwinds – scurrying across the landscape. Not a trace of a cloud in the whole, vast dome of the brilliant blue sky; a crystal-clear desert day.

The troops, with their red-and-white guidons fluttering, have come forth from their respective areas and are now assembled in line of masses, formed up, sabers drawn, in readiness for the ceremony, the center of line opposite the reviewing stand, directly across the parade ground. The division band is facing the troops just to the left of the reviewing stand. The line of troops, with the two brigades from right to left, in order of the rank of their respective commanders, for this was the tradition of the army; then the massed Artillery Regiment, the Reconnaissance Squadron, other combat elements, and the division Squadron. Well to the front and centered on this mass formation between the troops and the reviewing stand, a small group stands – the commander of troops and his staff. Immediately in the rear a dozen yards, the line of regimental commanders, with their small staffs and the standards of their units, the national and regimental standards showing flashes of color in the bright sunlight.

Then, along the line of massed horsemen and troops, was the line of squadron commanders, and behind them, the line of troop commanders. Last-minute adjustments have been made; final words of caution have been passed back through the columns. There is a hum of voices as troopers are patiently waiting; bits and curb chains rattle; occasional sounds of caution or command. There is a tossing of horses’ heads, the occasional testing of a bugle note. All is in readiness.

A caravan of automobiles, with general-officers’ flags fluttering from the bumpers, escorted by military police mounted on motorcycles, approaches from the direction of the post and draws up just in rear of the reviewing stand. After a few moments the reviewing party has arranged itself in position on the reviewing stand, the guest of honor on the right, the division commander on his left. To their rear, in order of rank from right to left, stand the members of their respective staffs.

There is a stir as the commander of troops faces the massed troops and his bugler sounds “Attention” followed by a single blast, which is the signal for execution for presenting the command. Four thousand sabers flash in the
sunlight and point skyward in front of troopers’ faces; standards, guidons, and all officers salute in unison. The commander of troops faces about and, with his staff, salutes. The drummers sound the "Ruffles" while the buglers sound the "Flourishes." The band sounds “General’s March.” Then the commander of troops faces about, and on command, the troops “Carry Saber.”

The guest of honor indicates that he will inspect the command. Mounted on horseback, or in an open vehicle if not a horseman, accompanied by the division commander, he moves to the right of the line, passes along the front rank, circles to the rear, and returns to his position. All the while the band plays.

Then the command “Pass in Review!” The commander of troops takes position in advance of the column of masses and passes in front of the reviewing stand, saluting as he passes. Then the march passes, with sunlight gleaming on polished sabers, red-and-white guidons fluttering as they dip in salute, standards rustling as the bugles sound “Flourishes,” the columns pass, wheel to the left, and wheel again, and sweep past the reviewing stand at the trot as the band plays. Around once more, this time at the gallop amid swirling clouds of dust. And as troops and trains pass the last time, they move off toward their respective areas. The mounted review of the Cavalry Division was indeed an inspiring spectacle.

The Cavalry Charges On
By Hanson W. Baldwin

Reverse the stirrups, turn out the mounts to pasture; the Cavalry has gone. The crepe is on the pommel, the mourning bow upon the sword hilt; the Cavalry has gone.

No more the glint of sunlight on the saber, the sweet music of the creak of the saddle harness, the champ of bits. The sound of “Boots and Saddles” sings no more across the Great Plains; the horse has retired from the field of battle. The “Yellowlegs,” who won the West with carbine and with Colt; the “Garry Owens” of the famous Seventh, who died with Custer at the Little Big Horn, ride no longer, for the Cavalry has gone forever.

Even the gallant name...

Today, for the first time in a century and a half of progress, there is no Cavalry in the United States Army. A signature last week – that of Harry S. Truman – was its requiem. But the President’s endorsement of a bill reorganizing the Army, abolishing the Cavalry as an arm and substituting Armor for it represented merely legal recognition of historical fact.

Nostalgia for the past, melancholy pride in great achievements, and all the panoply of jangling harness and troopers at the charge could not hide the doom of the horse on the field of battle. Inanimate mechanisms made by men were his undoing; the machine gun, the tank and the plane were the robots which inherited his world.

Not since the Twenty-sixth Cavalry, harried and bloody, tired but gallant, who covered the rear guard of the Army from Damortis to Bataan, had the Yellowlegs straddled their mounts. The First Cavalry Division, a fighting outfit, was in the van of combat from Australia to Japan, but it fought dismounted. Improvised horse commands, and

Reference:
mule pack trains toiled in small units over the bitter mountains of Italy. In World War II, the horse, in the United States Army, had but a small role. And so the Cavalry, like all things mortal, has died.

But its soul goes marching on.

For the soul of the Cavalry is elan, aggressiveness, the will-to-fight, dash, the debonair, reckless but ordered discipline that took The Six Hundred into the Valley of Death at Balaklava, that rode with Stuart and with Sheridan, with Custer and with Lee. The spirit of the Cavalry is the spirit basic to any army, a spirit not exclusive to this arm alone, but one of which it was peculiarly possessed.

For the Cavalry had a sense of tradition, an awareness of its responsibility to history, to the men who have gone, to the standards of the past, to those that died that the way of life we want, the things for which we fight, might live.

It has been popular in these times of fatalism and doubt to impugn tradition, to cast aside as worthless the bright heritage of valor and hope the past has given us. No more fatal mistake to Army or Nation is possible, for tradition, sound tradition, both civic and martial, is the inspiration from the past which must light the future.

The history of the Cavalry, gone in name but never in spirit, provides some of the finest of our Army’s traditions. The lilt of von Borcke’s songs, he who rode with “Jeb” Stuart, long has been stilled; Pelham’s guns thunder no more; “Light Horse Harry” Lee, and Marion, “The Swamp Fox,” are long dead; the dragoons with brass helmets and horsehair plumes who fought with Wayne at Fallen Timbers, live only in old prints.

Resaca de la Palma and the wild charge with sabers are but an incident in the history books now, and the Indian Wars, when the Yellowlegs fought from Red River and the Rio Grande to Montana and the Rockies, are but dates and figures. The Cheyenne, the Sioux and the Apache are mere ghosts from a dim, forgotten past.

The men are dead, the graves grass-covered, the horse gone, even the monuments weather-stained and strange, a bronze or marble charger oddly out of place in this mechanized age.

But the tattered battle streamers and the silver battle rings bear the great names of the past into the future; Bull Run, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Comanches, Oklahoma, the Admiralties, Leyte, Luzon, Tokyo. And the great names will not die. From Henry Dodge, the first colonel of the “American Cavalry Service,” to George Patton, the roll call of the Cavalry will live on.
At approximately 6,800 feet above sea level rests one of the Marine Corps’ most unique training centers. Although its main camp is relatively small compared to other bases, it occupies 64,000 acres of Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest for training. It is one of the few places units can train for mountain warfare and the only base in the Department of Defense that still teaches the lost combat art of handling pack animals, transporting gear, supplies, and wounded across rugged terrain too difficult for aircraft or vehicles.

The mission of the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC) is to conduct unit and individual training courses to prepare USMC, Joint, and Allied Forces for operations in mountainous, high altitude and cold weather environments, and the development of warfighting doctrine and specialized equipment for use in mountain and cold weather operations. Its courses test the mental and physical strength of units and personnel who train there.

According to Marine Corps Task (MCT 1.6.9 Conduct Mountain Warfare Operations):

*To conduct combat operations as a component of a MAGTF (Marine Air Ground Task Force) or other task force in mountainous, high altitude, and cold weather environments. The complex, compartmentalized nature of mountainous terrain changes the fundamental nature of tasks, techniques and procedures across all six of the warfighting functions.

*These operations are both physically and technically demanding and require specialized warfighting doctrine, training, and equipment. Mounted operations may be impossible, limited to specialized vehicles, or sharply canalized by terrain. Air and fire support may be limited by terrain and/or weather. The planning and execution of operations must consider fire support limitations, weapons employment, mountain patrol techniques, movement, control of fires, intelligence gathering, sustainment, communications and force protection.

“Units and personnel may require specialized training in technical climbing, military mountaineering, snow mobility, field craft, survival, CASEVAC (casualty evacuation), navigation, use of pack animals and high angle marksmanship. Medical challenges include treatment of high altitude and cold weather illness and injuries, and casualty transport in a snow covered mountainous environment.

The MCMWTC base is located 21 miles northwest of Bridgeport, CA, 100 miles south of Reno, NV, and occupies Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest under management of the U.S. Forest Service. A letter of agreement between the Forest Service and the Marine Corps permits the use of the area to train Marines in mountain and cold weather operations.

The Marine Corps’ use of the area began in 1951 when Camp Pendleton activated the Cold Weather Training Battalion, Provisional Staging Regiment, Training and Replacement Command. The Marine Corps redesignated the training camp as the Cold Weather Battalion, Staging Regiment, Training and Replacement Command, Camp Pendleton, and relocated it to Pickel Meadow, CA. The training of units aboard the base started November 1951 during the Korean War.

“This is one of the most dynamic and hazardous terrains you’ll encounter,” said Gunnery Sgt. Levi Stuart, staff non-commissioned officer in charge, Horsemanship Cadre. “We’re not operating in favorable conditions and the enemy wants to go to the worst areas imaginable because that is a deterrent for forces trying to find them. We have to operate and train in terrain like this to better prepare [service members] going through our courses for what they may encounter on deployment.”
Although a number of name changes occurred in the 1950s, by 1963 the facility was officially named the “Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center”, and was operated on a year-round basis. MCMWTC conducts six Mountain Exercises (MTX) annually to train Marines in the winter and summer months. The purpose of the MTX is to provide a training and limited assessment package that challenges its training audience to plan and perform critical tasks in cold weather and high altitudes in mountainous terrain.

Elevation throughout MCMWTC and its training areas range from about 6,800 feet to nearly 11,500 feet above sea level, making it an exceptionally dry climate with 15 to 30 percent humidity. Winters typically provide six to eight feet of snow while the summer months can reach temperatures in the 90s.

The early 1980’s saw the evolution of the basic training syllabus and battalions, in some cases, Marine Expeditionary Units, of up to 2000 Marines began rotating through MCMWTC. The training center became critically important due to the increased role of Marines in cold weather operations. The regular battalion rotation caused the formal creation of the Unit Operations section, responsible for the training of units in the summer and winter seasons.

It was during the 1980’s that Tony Parkhurst, Director, Horsemanship Cadre, took on the Marine Corps’ animal-packing experimental program. “In 1983, the Marine Corps saw animal packing as a useful skillset that should be cultivated, which started a five-year experimental program,” Parkhurst said. “I took the program over in '87 as a sergeant in the Marine Corps and it is still in effect today because it’s a viable means of logistical transportation in areas where some vehicles or aircraft can’t go.”

The Animal Packer course is a 16-day training evolution, which includes five days of unit training.

The course concludes with students integrating into the current MTX they are contributing to and supporting their unit for up to seven days by transporting food and equipment through the training area utilizing the skills they learned in the weeks leading up to it.

During the 1990’s, MCMWTC continued training units for world-wide contingencies. With the end of the cold war and designation as the Center of Excellence for mountain and cold weather operations, the base began preparing for the full spectrum of mountain warfare. Satellite courses in support of unit training were the assault climber’s course, animal packing course, engineer package, and communication package.

“Any Marines that come to [MCMWTC] to become an instructor, with the exception of Military Operational Specialty courses, go straight to the Unit Training Section to get fully qualified, which takes approximately a year,” Stuart said. “At the end of the qualification process, instructors become ‘basic instructor’ qualified and are evaluated to see if they could operate independently and become part of one of the formal schools, which includes Mountain Leaders, Assault Climbers, and Animal Packing Courses. These schools pick from the same pool of instructors to build their individual staffs.”

As more military personnel from international units and units across the Department of Defense began taking the Animal Packer Course, the request to have a portion that teaches horse riding became more abundant. Although the cadre’s personnel had the skill to instruct riding, they did not have the assets to teach it, according to Parkhurst. “It wasn’t until 2010 that we began seriously speaking about providing a course for horsemanship,” said Doctor Steve Gardner, academics director, MCMWTC.

The personnel and staff of the cadre saw an
opportunity to provide training for a skillset that was in high demand from the operating forces and could build on what they already had to accommodate the demand.

"I saw that there was an area of opportunity in the training and we had the area and infrastructure to do it, with the exception of the amount of horses and other equipment we would need. The thought process was “If you build it they will come” so to speak," Parkhurst said. "I began speaking with Doctor Gardner and we wrote a Plan of Instruction in 2010 which is also when we hosted our first [horsemanship class], which helped build the structure of what would become the official course."

The cadre hosted an experienced U.S. Army detachment, which consisted of a 12-man squad of operators, in 2010 which they used as an opportunity to create the baseline of what would become an official course for Special Operation Forces in 2012 when their POI was approved.

"Beginning with that first group, the goal was to get as much feedback as possible which has helped us refine more and more each [iteration] since then," Parkhurst said.

Today, MCMWTC continues to refine its training for units and emphasizes development of both individual and unit mountain skills with primary focus on enhancing overall combat and tactical capability in mountainous, challenging terrain.

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The Rat and His Rifle
New Mexico Military Institute
By Trooper Niven Baird

Artesia, NM was just down the road about 45 miles, but on that September afternoon in 1946, home seemed a long way away. As I got out of the old ‘41 Dodge, leaving my parents to watch me walk through the Sally Port, the sight of people running everywhere, being shouted at and lined-up in groups and ‘marched’ away was sensory overload. [Ed. note: Freshmen are Rats.]

Soon we had been assigned to something called a "Troop", and addressed by guys who, for some strange reason, were all very angry. We did all the things that succeeding generations recognize—short hair cut, an awkward manner of sitting while trying to get some of the food in the mess hall, learning who and when to salute, and most of all, running everywhere when not actually in formation.

In just a few days, however, we were marched by Troop over to the arms room/rifle range, and each of us was issued a Springfield 03-A3, .30 caliber rifle. For most of us, that was the only pleasant thing that had occurred in over a week! We kept the rifles in our room wall lockers. We quickly memorized the serial number and nomenclature, and started learning the manual of arms. Who would ever have thought an inch of error in arm position would be “rewarded” with screams of rage, and if repeated, many, many push-ups. But, we learned to field strip and clean the thing twice daily, and actually started to gain some feeling of pride as we marched and performed the manual of arms flawlessly.

Despite all our private doubts, the Christmas break actually did arrive, and we returned to the arms room to turn in our rifles prior to heading home. We knew we would be re-drawing them in a couple short weeks.

Upon returning in January, we once again headed for the arms room to retrieve our 03-A3s. Instead, we were each handed a long block of cosmoline, with assurance that somewhere inside that greasy mess was a rifle. We had heard the rumor the Springfields were gone and we were to get the famed M-1 Garand, and for once the rumor mill was correct! We headed back to our barracks area, and were told by our squad leaders that the rifles would be inspected the next morning, and of

Part 2 MCMWTC, Horsemanship, continues in the March 2016 Cavalry Journal.
course, anything less than sterile would be dealt with severely.

We were not given anything with which to clean the mess, so T-shirts were sacrificed. It had been made quite clear that taking the rifle to the "sinks" for emergence in hot shower water was punishable by death or some such thing, but as I have thought about it over the years, it was obvious that was exactly what we were expected to do, even though the Regular Army NCOs would have been very displeased should they have learned of the act. I think our TAC officers, and perhaps even the Commandant, as he walked to his quarters at the apex of HQ and A Troops, each chose not to look into the sinks after Taps on nights before inspections!

So, the next morning we brought clean M-1s to formation, and with them, the need to learn the new Manual of Arms—and especially Inspection Arms, which required the bolt to be opened and closed. We need not go into the hazards and accompanying pain of getting an M-1 thumb, but at some time, sooner or later, most of us acquired a new nail on our right thumb!

Writing this brings back the indelible memory of two-hour Saturday morning inspections in ranks on the concrete walks of the Quadrangle. As the heat of the New Mexico sun beat down, the grease captured in the pores of the rifle metal and wooden stocks started seeping out.

It was simply no use to try to tell the inspecting officer why his hands were getting greasy, and it took a huge quantity of hot water over numerous weeks of cleaning before the rifles stopped “sweating” grease when exposed to the sun.

I think many of us entered a life-long love affair with our M1s. I know I did, and many years later found myself on the Army high-powered rifle team in Germany, plugging holes in a target 1000 yards down range. It just doesn’t get much better than that.

2016 Dues!

It’s that time of year again to send in your membership dues.

Membership year is from January 1 – December 31.

Contact the office at 405-422-6330 or go to www.uscavalry.org to renew your membership for 2016. Your support as a member enables us to keep the spirit of the cavalry alive!
him to serve in II Corps. He was again transferred as an Armor officer. He made the initial landings in North Africa and Sicily and served as deputy chief of staff for Operations under Generals Patton and Bradley.

When General Bradley was assigned First Army, he took Sam as his Deputy Chief of Staff to help plan the invasion of Europe. Sam landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day and fought all through Europe until V/E Day. On his EAME ribbon were eight battle stars and an arrowhead. When First Army deployed to the Pacific under the command of General Hodges, Sam was aboard the USS Missouri for the signing of Japan’s surrender.

Following cessation of hostilities, Sam graduated from the Industrial College with credit for attending the National War College. He was assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and in 1949-51 he commanded the 3rd Armored Regiment until assigned as Chief of Staff III Corps.

In 1952, he was ordered to CINC-NEIM (Commander-in-Chief Naval Forces Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean) and was promoted to brigadier general. This promotion resulted in his being assigned as deputy commanding general of the 3rd Armored Division at Fort Knox. In 1955-56 he commanded the Armor Training Replacement Center at Fort Knox. In 1956, Sam was ordered to Vietnam to be deputy chief MAAG, and was promoted to major general. Next he was assigned to the Pentagon as assistant Deputy Chief of Staff of Logistics. In 1961, Sam realized a long-time dream to command the Armor School and Center at Fort Knox, but the dream was short-lived, for he was ordered to Korea as deputy commanding general of Eighth Army, at that time the largest field Army in peacetime, and promoted to lieutenant general. This was to be his last active-duty assignment, for he decided to retire in 1963 and become chairman of the board of the Fort Knox National Bank.

His decorations included the Distinguished Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart, French Legion of Honor, Croix de Guerre with Palm Leaf, Luxembourg Ordre Grand Ducal Couronne de Chine, and the highest medal of the Republic of Korea to a foreigner.

"Sam truly lived “Duty, Honor, Country.”

*From his Obituary

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**Why Use a Surcingle?**

*"Managing Risk - Lessons Learned"*

By Trooper Sam Young

Risk assessment should be applied every time a horse is ridden when it comes to serviceability of the saddle used. The following explains why.

Have you witnessed a rider fall from a horse due to a break of any of the straps that hold the saddle on the horse? I saw this happen when a living history cavalry unit was demonstrating close order mounted drill before a live audience. All of a sudden a trooper disappeared from his horse and landed on the ground with his saddle and blanket beside him. The ranks and files of troopers were able to avoid him as they passed. Embarrassed, he led his horse from the field while carrying his saddle and saddle blanket. Although he could have been injured or killed, only his ego was hurt.

When he saw me he asked me to fix his girth so he could ride in the next demonstration. The girth webbing was rotted, which I cannot repair. I had an extra stirrup strap and used it to make a girth. The trooper and his fellow troopers were happy when he returned to the team.

After the event, I joined them for an informal chat with two focus areas: maintaining their equipment (each trooper’s responsibility) and using the surcingle, used by dragoons and cavalry from well prior to the Civil War through World War II. None had a surcingle.

I see too many riders not maintaining their horse equipment from which I could tell many stories. Whether it’s a horse or a truck, if you do not maintain it, it may fail you when you need it. The same goes for saddles and bridles; most are NOT maintained. Lesson one: maintain your equipment for serviceability, longevity, and safety.

Lesson two: A surcingle is a web strap about 5 inches wide and long enough to pass over the saddle and be snugly buckled under the horse by the girth strap. Its purpose is to keep the saddle in place and the rider on the horse in the event the girth or a leather strap breaks. I call it a “seat belt for a horse” because, if properly used, it will keep the seat on the horse.

Since something could break on even the best maintained saddle, a surcingle, which costs about $70.00, is highly recommended for all riders, regardless of saddle used.
Vast was an American Thoroughbred, foaled in 1927, sired by Infinite, out of Ming Toy, she by Uncle. He was a chestnut gelding standing 16-1 and weighed 1,100 pounds. Vast, so-named because he was sired by Infinity, was a racehorse. Col. Hiram Tuttle purchased Vast in 1934. Vast responded very rapidly to dressage training and at the time was one of the very few horses in the world, if not the only horse, that could gallop backwards.

“The first four months I had Vast off the track,” Col. Tuttle said, “I did all my training with him at a walk. He walked for four months, learning to respond to the shifting of weight, faint pressure at the mouth and so forth. He’s the perfect pupil.” It was during that time that Col. Tuttle gained Vast’s confidence. “In starting the training of a horse, the first job is to build up his confidence in you, so he won’t try to run away.”

Vast learned remarkably fast. One-half hour a day from October until August and he was entirely converted and ready for show, whereas normal schooling was four years. Col. Tuttle said that Vast was placid, deer-like, a smooth and fluid worker—all business and the only time he ever showed any symptoms of reverting was in Detroit where he raced. When we arrived at his old stamping grounds, he perked up his head as much as to say, “When’s the gong? I’m ready.”

Vast made his first show within eight months after he was purchased off of Riverside Race Track in Kansas City, MO. Vast had been raced for four seasons and was thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the thoroughbred. The ability of Vast to perform in such a short time was due to his very tractable mentality.

Vast learned the “gallop in place” early—the backward gallop came suddenly as the Colonel leaned slightly backward in his saddle. Of Vast Tuttle said, “Vast is a Lord Fauntleroy. He can do no wrong. If you show him he’ll try—even if it means standing on his head.”

Vast had such a sensitive mouth and such a remarkable understanding of his rider’s desires that he could be ridden with only a single thread of sewing silk for reins. Vast for many years was one of the very few horses in the world, if not the only horse, that could gallop in reverse. Then he could not only gallop backward but in addition change his lead. Observing witnesses of this unusual feat could easily detect a distinct three-beat gait and also detect the very definite change of leads. Vast first performed this feat publicly at the National Horse Show in 1938. As far as Col. Tuttle had been able to determine, no other horse had ever performed a backward gallop changing leads.

Silk Thread for Reins

Col. Tuttle told a writer from the New York Sun in 1935 that the backward gallop was not a difficult trick. He said that a horse did it to help his master and rider. It was done, he said, simply by shifting the weight back in the saddle while the horse was in the gallop. It was his opinion that the horse felt that his rider’s weight was too far back and to help him right himself in the saddle he galloped backward in an effort to make his pilot right his position.

When Tuttle with Vast was performing at the National Horse Show in New York City the New
York Herald Tribune reported that “Lieutenant Colonel Hiram Tuttle made his customary great hit with his dressage exhibition. This year, with three horses to choose from, he opened with Vast, and his mount’s extraordinary rhythmic movements, unlike anything any horse was ever born to make, drew their usual awed silence from the galleries, in which one could hear an oat drop.”

Col. Tuttle employed not only his hands, legs, and weight in controlling his horse but also his voice. It was his firm conviction that a horse could be made to understand the meaning of sounds. As a demonstration of the effectiveness of this theory on one occasion he put another rider on Vast and instructed him merely to hold the reins. Col. Tuttle then stood in the center of the ring and directed the horse through the entire complicated routine merely by the use of his voice. Col. Tuttle believed that his horses were capable of understanding a vocabulary of about fifty words. The first one on the agenda, of course, was “whoa.”

In December of 1942, Vast and his ability to gallop backwards was featured in newspapers across the United States in both Ripley’s Believe It or Not and Strange As It Seems.

Vast died in 1949 and is buried alongside Col. Tuttle’s other two mounts Olympic and Si Murray near the West Riding Hall at Fort Riley. The marker reads about Vast, “The Only Horse in History Who Could Gallop Backwards and Change Leads While Doing So.”

There have been very few horses in the world that could execute perfectly the movements of the gallop while going backwards, but Vast was one of them and his proficiency in this difficult maneuver stood as a guarantee of the skill of his rider and trainer.

The Post and Company Commissary Sergeants
By Trooper Sam Young

For the purpose of this article I again refer to Fort Larned, Kansas, when it was an active military post, 1859–1878. According to the Fort Larned National Historic Site Chief Ranger, post and company commissary records from the frontier period western Army posts are not available and probably no longer exist. Thus, by consulting August V. Kutz’s book, The 1865 Customs of Service for Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers, we can learn the duties of the commissary sergeant.

Post Commissary Sergeant

Fort Larned was built as a four-company-size post with an average garrison strength of 250 soldiers, although at times that number could have been significantly more or less depending on the requirements of the Army. The post commander was usually the senior company commander unless there was a field grade officer (major, lieutenant colonel, or colonel) in command. The post commander appointed who he felt was the most qualified non-commissioned officer to serve as the post commissary sergeant. The commissary sergeant was paid the same as the post quartermaster sergeant.

In addition to issuing food to the companies stationed at Fort Larned, the commissary sergeant had to be prepared to issue rations to companies passing through or near Fort Larned. For those companies in transit, this included food for immediate meals as well as ration resupply requirements for the units to meet their missions.

According to Kutz, the commissary sergeant “has the immediate control of the commissary store-house, and receives and superintends the issues to the companies. He assists the clerks in making up the returns, or may do the duties of clerk himself where the issues are not numerous.”

“Where the issues are frequent and large, he has more the duties of a foreman to perform, as he will have a great number of men under his direction. Where the beef is butchered by the commissary, the care of the cattle and the slaughtering involves an increased force that will also be under his direction.”
“The duty is a responsible one. Much property of a kind calculated to tempt the cupidity of a dishonest man is placed in his charge; and, even where the sergeant himself is strictly honest in the discharge of his duties, he is under the necessity of watching the employees, who frequently take opportunities of disposing of provisions for money or appropriating articles which they are not allowed to their own use. Frequent inspections are, therefore, necessary to see that no deficiencies occur in this way.”

“Those men who have charge of particular issues should be held responsible for all deficiencies and be required to account for losses. Consequently, when a man is placed in charge of stores, a memorandum should be made of the amount, so that at any time that an inspection is made it may be correctly ascertained what should be on hand.”

“The commissary sergeant should keep an account of all receipts and issues daily. Then, if the stores are systematically stored, there is no difficulty in making an inventory of them at any time, and correcting or discovering any delinquencies. Unless great vigilance is kept up, and a correct system pursued, deficiencies are sure to occur.”

“Some complication arises in returning for subsistence stores which are temporarily left in the commissary store, as where companies leave their savings. In such cases, memorandum receipts should be given, and also an account of it should be kept; but at the end of each month every account should be squared up.”

“Issues are usually made to companies for ten days in garrisons or permanent camps, and for five days or less on the march. Consolidated returns should be made, as they save a multiplicity of papers. Each company renders a return, and they are consolidated in the adjutant’s office and signed by the commanding officer.”

“The sergeant should be thoroughly acquainted with the regulations for the subsistence department; otherwise he cannot superintend the details of his office with confidence. The care of the stores requires simply common sense, and a practical knowledge of the properties of the various articles issued as subsistence stores for the army, and the causes that usually produce deterioration; also, the means usually adopted to prevent stores from spoiling and to keep them in the best possible state of preservation.”

“There is little difference between the field and garrison duties of a commissary sergeant. In the field, he has the stores in charge the same as in garrison, receives and issues them, but has a more limited means of taking care of them, and, consequently, rarely has more on hand than is absolutely necessary.”

“The commissary department furnishes scales, weights, and measures, which he should always keep on hand; for without them he will be unable to give satisfaction to the troops without running the risk of exceeding the authorized issues.”

“As the quartermaster takes charge of the transportation of the stores, they are necessarily, whilst in his charge and in transit, out of the control of the commissary department for the time-being; but it is the sergeant’s duty to note the amount he turns over for transportation, to give invoices and take transportation receipts. These should be signed by the quartermaster and commissary.”

**Company Commissary Sergeant**

Each company had its own commissary sergeant. Per Kutz, “his duty is to make out the provision return, attend to drawing the rations for the company, and superintend their cooking and distribution to the men. He takes care of the company savings, and keeps the account with the commissary.”

“He is required to know the drill, and attend the exercises the same as other non-commissioned officers, except where they would interfere with the performance of his legitimate duties. He should also be familiar with all that has been prescribed for the duty-sergeants of the company.”

“The utmost impartiality should be exercised by the sergeant in the distribution of the provisions, to prevent discontent among the men. They should all be served alike, as far as it is possible. Close attention is necessary in the care of the stores; and none of the men should be permitted to help themselves. No one except the cooks should have access to the provisions, and these only when the sergeant is present.”

“The provisions for one meal only should be issued to them at one time to be cooked;

Continued on page 15
Cavalryman, Sailor, and Judge: How Ya Gonna Keep 'em Down On The Farm, After They've Seen Texas?
By Trooper Edwin L. Kennedy, Jr.

I first learned of Judge Arthur J. Stanley, Jr. when I was assigned to the 3rd Armored Division as the G3 Operations Officer in 1987. Stanley was a visitor to our division in Germany, primarily there to visit a family member. My boss, Division G3, LTC John Abrams, was the son of a cavalry officer and an armored cavalry officer himself, so I thought the visit was somewhat coincidental with a very neat cavalry “tie”.

Judge Stanley had served as a cavalryman in WWI along the Mexican border. He was coming to Germany to visit a grandson who was an officer in our division cavalry squadron, 3-12th Cavalry Regiment. The division’s newspaper, “Spearhead”, featured an article about the visit which I have buried somewhere in my files. The part I found fascinating is that Judge Stanley presented his grandson with his Patton sword--apparently the same one that he carried on active duty 70 years prior.

Unfortunately, I was not able to meet Judge Stanley during his visit in Germany even though we were both horsemen and members of the U.S. Horse Cavalry Association (now the U.S. Cavalry Association). When I was assigned to Fort Leavenworth and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in 1989, I finally made contact with him as he resided in Leavenworth, Kansas. He was an avid historian and a member of the Fort Leavenworth Historical Society.

I joined the Fort Leavenworth Historical Society and finally met Judge Stanley through that organization. He had written an excellent history for the Fort Leavenworth Historical Society which was published in 1976. The book, “Fort Leavenworth: Dowager Queen of Frontier Posts” is still sold at the military museum bookstore on the post and considered to be a best short history of the fort.

After speaking to Judge Stanley and relating my interest in horses, he generously invited me and my friend, LTC Jim McKissick, to be his guest at lunch. Jim McKissick not only enjoyed history but was a fellow tactics instructor at the staff college. As an armor cavalryman, Jim appreciated Judge Stanley’s horse cavalry perspective.

We met for lunch at a well-known diner on Metropolitan Avenue that is no longer in business and had a great lunch with Judge Stanley. Best of all, however, were his stories of his military service. We started questioning him about his experiences and were surprised to learn of his stint in the Canadian Army before he became a U.S. soldier.

In 1916, the war in Europe had been going on for two years when high school junior and 16 year-old Arthur Stanley decided that he should get involved personally. Leaving Kansas City, he rode the train east. His parents were frantic as they had no idea where he had gone. Stanley, undeterred, went to Canada. Unlike draft dodgers of a future war, Stanley didn’t go to Canada to avoid service but instead to sign-up to serve. Just short of two weeks of shipping-out from Newfoundland, Canada to Europe, Stanley’s parents “found” him and notified the Canadians that their new recruit was under-age. Promptly discharged, he was shipped home to Kansas.

Stanley was determined if nothing else. No sooner than he returned to Kansas, he figured that he could try enlisting again--perhaps under an alias. This time he made it only as far as St Louis before the police collared young Stanley and shipped him back to Kansas City.

Exasperated, Stanley’s parents sat the young man down to discuss his future. Stanley was not yet a high school graduate but the parents knew that they could not keep him home if he wanted to really leave. Stanley’s father decided that if Arthur was dead-set on becoming a soldier, he would become an American soldier. He had grown-up in rural Lincoln County until high school and knew how to ride horses. He liked horses so becoming a horse soldier seemed as if it would be a “natural fit”. The elder Stanley took his young charge to the local Army recruiting depot--run by the 7th Cavalry Regiment. That’s all it took. Arthur Stanley officially became Trooper Stanley, U.S. cavalryman in 1917 with the promise to return home after his service and finish high school.

The year prior to Stanley’s enlistment, the 7th Cavalry had been sent to the Mexican border to fight the Villanista guerrillas who were raiding into
the U.S. and murdering U.S. citizens. The Punitive Expedition, led by cavalryman Brigadier General John Pershing, had just ended its operations in Mexico and returned to the U.S. side of the border when Stanley joined the regiment. War with Germany was still two months away but what was happening on the border was the biggest thing happening for the U.S. Army at the time and Stanley was glad to ride with the famed regiment.

Stanley related how he had a rough start as a soldier, not amenable to Army discipline initially, he found himself on perpetual stable duty. It finally occurred to him that if he “shaped-up”, he might not only be promoted, but be able to lead other soldiers and have them perform stable duty. In short order, he became an outstanding soldier and after a year, was the orderly sergeant for the regimental commander, Colonel Tommy Tompkins. He was a character, known for his huge, cavalry mustache. Stanley admired Tompkins and was honored to be selected as his orderly sergeant allowing him frequent, close contact with the famed commander.

This was quite an accomplishment for a young man who was not even a high school graduate and only 17 years old. Stanley loved his time in the cavalry and rode all-over New Mexico and western Texas with the 7th Cavalry, taking part in mounted combat against Mexican bandits at Juárez—even participating in a mounted charge and along the border, he provided the narrative, explaining what was really happening despite what the captions said. It was an entertaining and interesting evening with the old soldier.

Some of the few momentoes he left the Army with in 1919 when he was honorably discharged as a sergeant were a Mexican sombrero, a Winchester carbine, and a Mexican serape. These items were garnered from his service on the border fighting the Villanistas…or were they? For years, he told audiences he had shot the bandits and taken their possessions a la Lieutenant George Patton who strapped his dead bandits to the hood of his car. Sounded plausible and who would question Judge Stanley’s veracity? Not us! Anyway, he stood up to relate the story of the artifacts once again for an appreciative audience. As he cleared his throat and slowly began to relate the story again, he gave a disclaimer. Essentially, he stated he did not know how much longer he had on this earth and he wanted to make a “clean slate” before he departed. To his astonished fans, he related the items really did come from a Mexican bandit, but not from being shot. He had actually won the items in a craps shoot. The crowd roared in laughter and after almost 75 years, the truth was known!

Judge Stanley honored his parents’ wishes and after his discharge returned home to finish high school. Like the popular WWI song, “How Are You Going To Keep Them Down On The Farm?” intimated, he had developed the wanderlust and after one year of law school in Kansas City, he enlisted as a sailor in the U.S. Navy. Assigned to the Asiatic Fleet, the young trooper-seaman found his way to a Navy craft on the Yangtze River patrol in China.

The U.S.S. Pidgeon was a wooden-hull mine sweeper used to patrol the back country of south-central China and Stanley’s new home. It was during his three years in China aboard the Pidgeon that Stanley garnered the ideas that he and fellow sailor-writer, Richard McKenna, developed into a novel. The novel became the basis of the famous 1966 movie starring Steve McQueen—“The Sand Pebbles”.

A well-rounded Stanley returned home to complete law school, served in the Army Reserves as an infantry officer, and deployed to Europe to be a ground liaison officer with 9th U.S. Army Air

Trooper Stanley

In 1992, the Fort Leavenworth Historical Society invited Stanley to be its guest speaker regarding his experiences with the 7th Cavalry. As we showed period photos of the regiment in Texas...
Force. After a successful legal career, Judge Stanley was appointed to the Federal bench by President Eisenhower and continued to serve the rest of his life as a Federal District judge.

Judge Stanley was extremely proud of his service as a sergeant in the cavalry and was awarded a red-numeral bumper sticker for Fort Leavenworth (NCO auto bumper sticker).

Stanley went to Fiddler’s Green on 27 January 2001 in Leavenworth, Kansas----just two months shy of being100 years old. The distinguished old cavalryman is now resting in the National Cemetery at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas with his wife, Ruth.

On 2 May 2013, Judge Arthur Stanley was inducted into the Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame and is memorialized in the foyer of the Lewis and Clark Command and General Staff School academic building, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Garrison Life on the Plains
By Trooper Sam Young

Most Army life is garrison life, even on the western plains. What was it like? Unfortunately, virtually every book written by officers, soldiers, and civilians centers around them, life in the field, and the battles fought by soldiers. So, how do we learn about garrison life?

If you do living history or reenacting, you will probably spend time in a garrison environment. Or you could be asked questions about living in a garrison. This became important to me as a living history volunteer at Fort Larned National Historic Site where I portray either an officer or a soldier of the late 1860's Fort Larned Army garrison. I was constantly having to relate to visitors Army garrison life.

Nancy Case in her introduction to the Fort Leavenworth Frontier Army Museum publication "The Girl I left Behind Me" gives examples of garrison life.

"A typical Frontier Army wife came from the middle class of the settled East. She adapted to the harsh, often hostile environment and the frequent separations and moves. She brought her civilizing influence to bear on isolated posts and to the men stationed there."

"Despite having to endure low pay and near constant indebtedness, being ranked out of quarters on little or no notice and lack of fresh food and accustomed comforts, the Frontier Army wife is aptly described as 'a kind of tough, weather proof, India-rubber woman. Serene and unruffled in all situations.'"

"There was more to life than inadequate housing and torturous journeys. Life on an Army post was filled with diversions (entertaining new arrivals, visitors, and neighbors; parties; gardening; riding; picnicking; hunting; fishing; teas; and card games)."

The books listed in this article were very helpful to me in my research of garrison life and are a sampling of those written by wives, children, and others who experienced the Army garrison life during the Indian wars period.


Cox-Paul, Lori and Wengert, Dr. James W. *A Frontier Army Christmas*. Nebraska State Historical Society, 1996.


Other things you will learn from these books include:

- Frequent moves by officers and their families which the Army did not reimburse;
- Selling almost everything you owned before moving because of lack of transportation and buying used items at your new station that were being sold by those moving;
- Being called "camp followers" as the Army did not recognize dependents - only laundresses;
- Massive grasshopper swarms; high winds with massive dust storms that broke windows and covered everything with dust, to be followed by heavy rains turning the dust to mud;
- Lack of adequate medical care; giving birth in a covered wagon; and cholera epidemics;
- Hiring a male Indian, who wore almost nothing, as the cook--and a good one--when no other cooks were available for the formal dinner you were hosting.

Then there was the Post commander who was ordered to take his entire command, less those in the hospital and guardhouse, and the guard detail, many miles to an Indian reservation as a show of force. He left the post funds with his wife and orders to the Sergeant-of-the-Guard to report to her daily for instructions. She is probably the only Army wife ever in command of an Army post, and she was very glad to relinquish command on his return.
Reviewed by: Trooper Sam Young

Several years ago while browsing through books on a discounted price table at a major book store I found this book, and am so very glad that I purchased it. I enjoy reading the life story of any individual, especially those rarely recognized for their contributions to the world we live in today. Cornelius C. Smith was one such person. From his extensive notes his son wrote this very informative and exciting life story.

Born in April 1869 in Tucson, he was at once exposed to the military life. His father was the Chief of Commissary of Subsistence for the military district so his family had short tours at many different posts.

Corney, as he was called, had an exciting military career. As a 6th Cavalry Corporal he earned the Medal of Honor in 1890 at the Grass Creek fight. In November 1892 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the 2nd Cavalry. He served in the Frontier Army’s final years before accompanying his regiment to Cuba in 1899. From there it was multiple tours, mostly combat, in the Philippines in increasing challenging command and leader positions.

In 1912-1914 he served with the 5th Cavalry on the U.S. Mexican border, then as Military Attaché in Columbia and Venezuela. Like many career officers he longed for service in France during World War I, but spent that time training raw recruits and two new regiments, 341st Infantry and 314th Cavalry, for combat. He was recommended for promotion to brigadier general, but, like many other such colonels, he was caught in the Pershing/March feud and not promoted.

Following his retirement, he served as the military technical director for several Hollywood movies. In 1928 he was president of the Electoral Board of Granada, Nicaragua, as part of a U.S. team to ensure fair presidential elections.

The last few years before his death he labored tirelessly to challenge and correct the extensive misinformation in the Army-Apache Controversy. This is a must read book.
USCA Museum Update  
By Trooper Sam Young

The museum displays looked terrific for the 2015 Annual Bivouac and National Cavalry Competition (NCC), with many positive comments. The Vietnam display room is shaping up thanks to several items brought in by Vietnam veterans. And more display and picture descriptions have been added throughout the museum.

We still lack Eighteenth and Nineteenth century actual and/or replica cavalry items. We need your help to fill that void. We would also like to acquire items used by horse-mounted U.S. Special Operations forces that fought with the Afghan Northern Alliance against the Taliban after the 911 attacks.

If you would like to volunteer in our museum, please call the office at 405-422-6330. Volunteers should be willing to donate their time and energy, and have a good knowledge of U.S. horse cavalry equipment since all of the displays relate to that cavalry period.

Although there are four types of U.S. Cavalry – horse, mechanized, armor, and air – our museum lacks the space to showcase all types. Several members of the 1st Squadron 180th Cavalry Regiment, Oklahoma Army National Guard (OKARNG), attended the Annual Bivouac and NCC.

Editor’s Notes  
By Trooper Sam Young

Thank you for the positive feedback on my first ever effort as a journal editor. Thank you also to those who contributed articles, and a special thank you to Bill and Karen Tempero for their mentorship. The Journal is truly a team effort.

We hope you are enjoying this issue. We have two new authors who provided terrific articles, as well as several returning authors whose articles should grab your attention. There already are several articles in the queue for the 2016 March and June issues. But don’t let that stop you from contributing your articles – we want them because the queue articles can be used as needed in future issues.

Many of the pre-1950’s Journals are in bad to very bad condition, even the bound ones. They are to the point they should not even be handled. If one of you has information on how we could get them placed into a digital file for both preservation and availability for research, that would be awesome. Whatever we do, it will cost. If one of you could research grants, please do. I will be the point of contact for this effort and can be reached at journaleditor@uscavalry.org.

If you would like to write an article or articles for the journal here are our guidelines:

The Cavalry Journal publication months are 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Sep, and 1 Dec.

Deadlines for article submission to me are 1 Jan, 1 Apr, 1 Jul, and 1 Oct.

The targeted audience is the membership of the U.S. Cavalry Association. The main topics of interest include cavalry history, equipment, personalities, units and organizations, posts, and training.

Length of articles varies greatly. Very long articles can be continued in the next journal, but we prefer between 2000 and 3500 words. Please include pictures.

If you have ideas to enhance The Cavalry Journal, please send them to me at journaleditor@uscavalry.org.
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