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The United States Cavalry Association
Organized February 20, 1976

The aim and purpose of the Association shall be to preserve the history, traditions, uniforms, and equipment of the United States Cavalry units, including mounted support units, and to sponsor the U.S. Cavalry Museum and U.S. Cavalry Memorial Research Library for education's purposes and to preserve literature used by the United States Cavalry throughout its history.

Article IV, Constitution

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CAVALRY ASSOCIATION
"JOIN THE CAVALRY"

No Previous Experience Necessary

If you would like to become a part of an effort to preserve the history, traditions, and memorabilia of the US Horse Cavalry, you are cordially invited to join the US Cavalry Association.

We are a nonprofit organization made up of Cavalry buffs, former Horse Cavalrymen, Modern Cavalrymen, Air Cavalry men, relatives of Cavalrymen, historians, Cavalry reenactment groups, and commercial corporations, all with a common interest in the preservation of Cavalry lore. We welcome as members anyone and everyone having an interest in, or involvement with, horses, history or Cavalry heritage.

The U.S. Cavalry Association~

~ Sponsors the US Cavalry Memorial Research Library in its mission of collecting and preserving literature, photographs, visual and audio productions, and memorabilia of the Cavalry.

~ Has established a data bank of biographical sketches of Cavalrymen.

~ Assists Modern Cavalry units in fostering the esprit de corps, elan, and traditions of the US Cavalry, past, present and future.

~ Publishes The Cavalry Journal, a quarterly magazine providing members with information on Cavalry and the Association’s activities.

~ Encourages and assists in the formation of Memorial Cavalry Units (reenactment groups), who provide a living history of the Cavalry.

From across the country, there are hundreds who have "Joined the Cavalry." As members of the US Cavalry Association they have taken their places in history. They have joined the cause to preserve this colorful part of Americana together with its artifacts that help define our past.

This is your invitation to join these ranks and this cause. This is your opportunity to become a "Trooper", the time-honored title conferred upon every member of the Association. A title that you will bear with pride.

Please take the time now to round up new members.

BUGLE CALLS

To Horse

Very quickly

“Go to the picket line and get your horse.
You are to get him where 'er he may be of course.”

Boots and Saddles

Quick

“Go to your horses
Bridle and saddle them up
Surely cinches on them all.”

Mess Call

Quick

“Soup, soup, soup, without a single bean,
Coffee, coffee, coffee, without a bit of cream,
Porky, porky, porky, without a streak of lean.”

CHARGE

Quick
"Pages from the Past"
Confederate Cavalryman
1861-65
By Philip Katcher
First installment reprinted from "Confederate Cavalryman"
Osprey Publishing 2002

Introduction
“The Confederacy had from the beginning attached greater importance to the cavalry arm of the service than the North,” recalled Private Luther Hopkins, 6th Virginia Cavalry, after the war, “and many had been the daring raids that [Army of the Northern Virginia cavalry commander J.E.B.] Stuart made within the enemy’s lines, capturing thousands of wagons laden with military stores, and many thousand prisoners.”

The average Southerner of the mid-19th century had been bred to ride horses. The society from which he came was largely rural, with poor roads and a lack of available public transportation. Men rode horseback wherever they went. Added to this, the Southerner of the period had a long history of using firearms, either for hunting for food or simply sport.

It is also significant that a large percentage of the Southern officers who resigned their US Army commissions were cavalrymen. In fact, Robert E. Lee and Albert Sidney Johnston both came from the 2nd US Cavalry just before the war. As a result, Confederate cavalry was, somewhat inevitably, considered far superior to that of the Union.

Cavalry became even more popular as the war progressed, since duty there was perceived as easier than in any other branch of service. One infantryman wrote home advising that his younger brother should “by all means to Join the Cavalry – and bear in mind that a private in the Infantry is the worse place he can possibly be put into in this war – so if he wants to have a good time Join the Cavalry.”

Confederate cavalry was a unique branch of service. It was “… divided into four quite distinct classes, the functions of which differed completely,” explained German professional soldier Captain Justus Scheibert, a visitor to the Confederacy in 1863. Scheibert

continued:
1. Regular Cavalry. Combined into regiments, brigades, and divisions for skirmishes, battles and raids in force. Stuart’s, Van Dorn’s and Morgan’s cavalry belong to this group. 2. Partisan Rangers. A kind of free corps that was not limited with respect to numbers. Their raids under a well-known commander (Mosby is the most famous one) are the most adventurous and the most stirring events of recent times. Their pay was their booty, which they were required to sell to the War Department at a fair price. 3. Scouts. Drawn mostly from the Indian states of the West, they acted on their responsibility. They had to be in enemy territory from time to time and to report on all movements of the enemy. They usually rode through the outpost at night and hid in the daytime in dense thickets or in houses occupied by Southern sympathizers. They always had to be in uniform, and they differed from spies in this respect. 4. Couriers. Young, skilled, nimble horsemen on excellent mounts performed orderly service and were attached to headquarters, so that the commanding general had sixty [men], a corps twelve, a division six, and a brigade three, each ready for duty.

Captain William McDonald, ordnance officer of the Army of Northern Virginia’s Laurel Brigade of cavalry pointed out in his brigade history that, when seen in review, there were real distinctions among the different regiments. “Each regiment appeared different from each other, and in turn evinced some peculiarity that evoked admiration from the lookers-on,” wrote McDonald:
The Carolinians were easily distinguished. They rode with military primness and were mounted on steeds of delicately-shaped limbs with glistening eyes and full of fire and motion.
At their head rode Wade Hampton, then in the full bloom of manhood and looking every inch the soldier he proved himself to be. The Lower Virginians challenged attention by graceful nonchalance of their riding, and the easy with which they moved along, yet having the steady front of veterans. The Valley and Piedmont men, of which Jones’ brigade was composed, were from the blue-grass section, and the strong, well-limbed horses gave to their squadrons an impression of massive and warlike strength. The riders like centaurs appeared almost one with disdainful air, for he hated the “pomp and circumstance of war”.

Not all cavalymen were expert soldiers. Private Hopkins, 6th Virginia Cavalry recalled: Within every regiment there is a Company Q. Company Q is composed of lame ducks, cowards, shirkers, dead-beats, generally, and also a large sprinkling of good soldiers who, for some reason or another, are not fit for duty. Sometimes this company is quite large. It depends upon weather, the closeness of the enemy, and the duties that are being exacted. Bad weather will drive in all rheumatics; the coming battle will drive in the cowards; hard marching and picket duty will bring in the lazy. But then, as I have just said, there were some good soldiers among them – the slightly wounded or those suffering from disability.

**Regular Cavalry Recruiting**

At the outset of war in 1861 the Confederate government immediately authorized an army that included cavalry as one of the three combat branches of service. A handful of volunteer militia cavalry companies swiftly volunteered as units. Most of these were made up of wealthy, socially prominent members. The Georgia Hussars, from Savannah, Georgia, for example, had an initial outfit that cost $25,000, according to one of its members, Captain Alexander Duncan.

However, there were not enough militia cavalry companies to fill the total need. Local civic leaders began organizing new companies and regiments right away. Unlike the cavalry from any other civilized nation though, these men would have to provide their own horses, as neither central nor state governments had the ability to do so for them. Initially, men also had to supply their own weapons, clothing, and equipment. Each recruit was credited with the value of the horse and equipment he brought. For example, within the 4th Texas Cavalry, one private was credited with a black gelding worth $100, a rawhide skeleton worth $25, saddlebags worth $4, two blankets worth $7, a bridle worth $2, a double-barreled shotgun worth $25, underclothing worth $8, coat and trousers worth $16, a pair of boots worth $6, and a canteen, cup, knife, and belt worth $3. The private had come with a total of $196 worth of equipment from home. His horse was better than usual, as the 1861 tax rolls in his home county records that the average horse was worth only $40.

Although eventually the central Confederate government was to take over issuing all other items, horses had to be provided by the men themselves throughout the war. Consequently, as the war progressed, men had to be allowed to return home when their horses were either killed in action or died from disease to try to buy a new one. Texas officials solved this problem by rounding up wild mustangs, bringing them in herds to where prospective cavalymen could pick out one to buy and train. Generally, however, as a result of the personal owner requirements, most Confederate cavalry units were always understrength.

The policy of cavalymen providing their own horses was not universally approved of by generals in the field. “If the Government would furnish horses to cavalry enlisted for three years, or during the war, I think I could raise a battalion very rapidly of the best material. Men cannot buy their horses and equipments. That day has gone by,” wrote Brigadier-General H. Marshall to Richmond on March 13, 1862. “If I had the control, I never would mount a volunteer upon his own horse or have in cavalry service any animal but a public one. A long experience as a cavalry officer with volunteers has made this one of my fixed opinions.”

**TO BE CONTINUED**
"Pages from the Past"
Union Cavalryman
1861-65
By Philip Katcher
First installment reprinted from "Union Cavalryman"
Osprey Publishing 2002

Historical Background
In December 1860, when South Carolina seceded from the Union, the regular US Army contained only five mounted regiments. Considering the vast size of the United States (and of the new Confederate States of America, as the Southern states soon styled themselves), this was a wholly inadequate cavalry arm with which to fight a war. In addition to the five regular regiments, only a handful of volunteer cavalry companies existed; infantry had been preferred, due to the high cost of equipping and maintaining mounted units.

The 1st Regiment Dragoons had been raised in 1836; the 2nd Regiment of Dragoons had originally been raised as a mounted rifle regiment, and redesignated in 1844. The regiment of Mounted Riflemen dated from 1846. The 1st and 2nd Cavalry Regiments had been raised in 1855, under Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, who would become the President of the Confederacy. Seeing the need for more mounted troops to fight the Civil War, Congress authorized a 3rd Cavalry Regiment in May 1861; it was actually organized in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on 18 June 1861. To bring these six assorted mounted units under tighter and more uniform control, all were redesignated Cavalry Regiments on 3 August 1861: the 1st Dragoons became the new 1st Cavalry, and the other units were redesignated in order of seniority as the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Cavalry Regiments.

Since it was clearly apparent that six cavalry regiments would not be enough to serve on a front that stretched for a thousand miles, the US Army’s Adjutant General, Lorenzo Thomas, asked officially for the raising of 40,000 cavalrymen on 19 February 1862. Henceforward, each state’s governor was asked to raise a few volunteer units of cavalry as well as infantry and artillery. The numbers requested were not large: the Federal government was unable to equip large numbers of cavalry. Indeed, when the war broke out the government only had 4,076 cavalry carbines, 27,192 pistols, 16,933 sabres, and 4,320 sets of horse equipment, most of which were required for the regular regiments. In all, it took some $500,000-$600,000 to equip a single cavalry regiment, on top of higher pay rates for officers, and the cost of recruiting other necessary professionals such as saddlers and blacksmiths.

The basic unit of organization of the cavalry was the regiment. According to General Order 15, dated 4 May 1861, a cavalry regiment was to have three battalions, each with two squadrons, each of two companies. A regiment had a minimum strength on paper of 997 officers and enlisted men.

The following figures give some idea of the rate of expansion of the cavalry. On 31 December 1861 the cavalry strength of the Union numbered 4,744 in the regular army, as well as another 54,654 volunteers. By 30 June 1862 this had grown to 75 cavalry regiments totaling 71,196 men. The Assistant Chief of Cavalry reported on 6 August 1863 that the US Army mustered 174 cavalry regiments with 109,126 men. As of 13 February 1865 the Cavalry Bureau reported that there were 160,237 cavalrymen on its rolls, of which 105,434 were present and fit for duty. 154,000 horses had been purchased in the previous year, and there were 77,847 horses which were considered serviceable. The Cavalry Bureau was organized on 28 July 1863, to take overall charge of organization, equipment, and horses. Maj. Gen. George Stoneman was its first Chief, replaced by Brig. Gen. J.H. Wilson on 26 January 1864.

ENLISTMENT
The bombardment by Confederate artillery of
Fort Sumter on 12 April 1861 was the spark that finally set off the Civil War, and quickly brought thousands of eager volunteers for the Union cause. It proved especially easy to raise cavalry, since recruits naively believed that their military duties would be easier than in the infantry, and that they would be able to ride to war instead of having to walk. Few, however, were aware of the arduous chores inseparable from the care of cavalry horses. One Union officer later admitted that before the war he thought the ‘typical cavalryman was a swashbuckler, who rode terrifically with a sabre gripped by his teeth, a revolver in each hand, and his breath almost aflame as it spurted from his nostrils’. Such illusions were quickly dispelled by the realities of war. To raise as large a body of volunteers as quickly as possible, local civic leaders and other suitable men were empowered to raise a company, or occasionally a regiment. The new officers then spread out onto the countryside to find volunteers to fill out their units.

‘The method of obtaining enlistments was to hold war meetings in schoolhouses,’ wrote an Ohio cavalry officer. ‘The recruiting officer, accompanied by a good speaker, would attend an evening meeting which had been duly advertised. The latter did the talking, the former was ready with blanks to obtain signatures and administer the oath.’ Though their meetings were generally well attended, ‘sometimes it was difficult to induce anybody to volunteer’.

The government set a strict minimum for the size of a newly recruited company before it was accepted onto government payrolls and its officers received their official commissions. These minimums applied even to existing volunteer cavalry units organized, uniformed, and equipped long before the war began.

One pre-war volunteer unit, from just outside Washington City, volunteered for service in June 1861 and was accepted. But, according to one of its members, ‘there was still an obstacle in the way. The government would not muster a man unless a fully organized company, with a minimum aggregate of seventy-nine men, were presented to the mustering officer. Captain Wister and his gay troop rode all over the country, among the farmers’ sons, in quest of recruits; but all his efforts failed to raise the requisite number of men who were able and willing to find their own horses and equipments, not withstanding that the government had offered to pay the troopers forty cents per day for their use and risk; with the proviso, however, that, in the case the trooper lost his horse in any way, he must furnish another, or serve on foot. This proviso was the straw that broke the camel’s back. After three months spent in drilling, and in unavailing efforts to fill up, Captain Wister’s troop disbanded, on the 30th of June, and its members sought service in their commands.’

Despite these problems, the first call for volunteer forces was rapidly met. Although regulations demanded only physically fit men between the ages of 18 and 45, many volunteers who were unfit, too old or too young passed the cursory physical examinations which doctors were required to give each recruit. This was despite the recommendation that ‘A cavalry soldier should not exceed weight one hundred and sixty pounds, should be active and strong, physically sound, with a natural fondness for horses and experience in handling them.’

**The Recruit**

People looking at surviving period clothing today often comment on the small stature of Civil War soldiers. This is something of an oversimplification. In fact, over ten percent of the volunteers in e.g. the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry were over 6 ft. tall; while Captain W.W. LaGrange was 6 ft. 4 in. tall, the same height as Abraham Lincoln. The average recruit was in his early twenties and American born, though most were only one or two generations removed from their European heritage, and there were large numbers of German- and Irish-born citizens. In typical company – Co. C, 9th Pennsylvania Cavalry -- all but 17 men were born in Pennsylvania, while seven came from Germany, three from Ireland, two from England, and one from Wales.
In 1891 Secretary of War Redfield Proctor supported the concept of using Indians as regular soldiers, not just as scouts in the Army. In his Annual Report of 1891-92 he authorized the twenty-six army regiments that were serving west of the Mississippi to enlist one company of Indians. In every company they were to be enlisted in Troop "L".

"Casey’s Scouts" of Fort Keogh, Montana, were made up of Cheyenne Indians and led by First Lieutenant Edward Wanton Casey, a West Point Graduate. After Secretary Proctor’s Annual Report, First Lieutenant Casey was chosen to be a leader of an "L" troop because of his, “high character and who believed in the possibility of progress and civilization for the Indian and who were ‘imbued with the missionary spirit’.” While Casey trained his Indian troops, he was observed by Lieutenant Samuel C. Robertson, a West Point Graduate as well. Lieutenant Robertson learned how to recruit, train and command Indian troops from Casey. On January 7, 1891, right after Casey’s troop fought with distinction at Wounded Knee in December 1890, Casey was shot in the back of the head by a Brule Sioux named Plenty Horses.

In 1890 Robertson was recruiting Crow Indian scouts at Fort Custer, Montana. Soon after the Annual Report was given by Secretary Proctor, he was appointed as the Special Recruiting Officer for Troop L of the 1st Cavalry. He was assisted by the Crow Chiefs Plenty Coups and Pretty Eagle. They brought enlistment up to fifty-six by September 1891. After Robertson fell ill in 1892, the troop was taken over by Lieutenant William H. Osborne and the enlistment dwindled rapidly. The last known appearance of Troop L 1st Cavalry was in March of 1895. Turning an Indian into a soldier was deemed a failure by officials of the government.

Robertson details the success of training Indians as soldiers in an article he wrote for Harper's Weekly, Vol. 36, Feb. 13, 1892, pp 156-160 entitled, “Our Indian Contingent.” He and his mentor, Lieutenant Casey, were the leaders in this recruitment of soldiers, and with their guidance and leadership, the program was a success. Upton states, “It was successful under Robertson and Casey, but they were not around to defend it.”
"Cavalry Horses"
THE CAVALRY HORSE
Reprint from The Journal of the U.S. Cavalry Association December 1894
By Captain William H. Carter, Sixth Cavalry


The Tail.—The dock should be large and muscular. The tail should be carried firmly, and well away from the hind quarters. The tail is usually set on much higher and is more ornamental in well-bred than underbred horses. The hair of the former is fine and scanty; in the latter it is frequently thick, coarse or curly. When the horse has considerable slope at the croup and his tail is set on low down he is characterized as "goose rumped."
The Body.—If from want of proper length and convexity of the ribs the circumference decreases rapidly from the forehand to the rear (Fig. 3), the cincha, and consequently the saddle, will slip back to such an extent as to necessitate breast straps. Such horses are very unsatisfactory, and no amount of good points compensates for this defective girth. This form does not possess an aptitude for retaining flesh under short rations and hard work, very essential qualifications in cavalry horses.

Upon completion of this examination, have the horse led at a walk on a hard road bed, and view his action from in front and behind. Repeat this at a trot, viewed as before. Now have a saddle and bridle put on the horse, and note the disposition of the animal while this is being done. Have a rider mount and gallop the horse, so that he may be viewed as at walk and trot. It is usual at this time to have the horse galloped fast for several hundred yards to enable the veterinary surgeon to examine his respiration and wind.

The entire examination should be made without whips, noise or excitement of any kind. This is difficult to enforce at public stock yards and stables, but should be insisted upon.

In examining the horse in motion it should be observed if his movements at all gaits are regular, free and natural. The artificial gaits of the trained saddle horse are not only of no value to cavalry, but are an absolute disadvantage, for when animals with these gaits are ridden by guides it is impossible to regulate by them. It should be demanded that the horse walk, trot and gallop without defects or peculiarities of gaits.

If the horse is lame in the slightest degree, even from an apparently fresh and insignificant wound, the examination should not be continued.

If the horse throws his feet out of the vertical plane at a walk and trot—usually called "paddling"—or if he interferes sufficiently to cut himself, he should not be accepted. A horse which interferes when in good condition without a load is apt to be worse when thin in flesh and fatigued from packing a heavy weight on the march. The "paddling" movement is not only unsightly, but occasions fatigue and an unnecessary waste of energy. Some horses, apparently sound and without vice or fault, will still be far from desirable cavalry horses. If, for instance, a horse appears clumsy and rough, especially at a trot, the inspector should mount him and give him a thorough trial, else he may pass into the ranks a rough animal whose harsh gaits will cause more discontent than he is worth.

Disappointment may come because an animal whose form justifies the highest expectations may prove without the courage or ability to perform according to nature's gifts, but there will be some satisfaction in the knowledge that those whose forms indicated unfitness have not been made a burden upon the government.
The principal points of the horse, affecting his adaptability for cavalry service, are all that it has been attempted to portray. A more complete theoretical knowledge may be obtained from many scientific books on the subject, but it is best not to overburden the memory at first. To apply theoretically knowledge, examine the same horse repeatedly and at intervals; seek opinions and advice of those who already have acquired practical knowledge.

In examining horses your attention will always be called to the fine points, of which most horses possess some. After the eye has become trained, a horse whose defects of detail predominate will at once show a want of harmony of the whole. If, on the other hand, his defects are few, the impression conveyed will be harmonious. It is then only necessary to determine if any of the defects of form are such as to be a source of weakness when the horse is put to the use for which he is to be brought.

It has been the main object in this chapter to give the young officer a knowledge of the various forms of horses, and of the relative value of different points. Something more is desirable, for it is not always practicable to have the professional assistance of a veterinarian. Cavalry officers and quartermasters especially should be able to make an examination of the horse for soundness without assistance, except as to certain occult forms of disease. The method prescribed herein is in accordance with the best practice of veterinary surgeons, and if closely followed will generally give satisfaction.

In all examinations of animals for public service, it should be kept in mind that endurance is limited by the weakest part, and that while in private life such care may be bestowed upon a horse as to cause a weak member to last as long as the more sound ones, this must not be expected in actual service.

EXAMINATION FOR SOUNDNESS.

1. Examine the animal as he stands in his stall to see if he points either fore foot, or favors any leg. Observe the position of the posterior extremities when standing; move him from side to side and notice whether he steps upon his toe. Observe whether he cribs the wood work; holds on the manner or halter ropes or straps to suck wind; bites or kicks; weaves; or whether he exhibits any glaring unsoundness forbidding further examination. Notice the pupils of the eyes.

2. Lead the animal out into the light, and observe if both pupils contract evenly; if not suspect defective vision. Stand in front and compare the eyes, as to whether one is smaller than the other; whether there exist any signs of an operation having been performed; any signs of opthalmia, white specks in the corner, torn eyelid, warts or other abnormal conditions. Wave the hand gently to and fro in front of the eye; if the animal does not instinctively close the eye upon the approach of the hand, proceed carefully to determine whether or not sight has been lost. Examine the ears for cuts and slits made by sticking the head into barbed wire fences. If the ears hang flabbily, or do not move quickly and rigidly at intervals, something is wrong; observe carefully the base of the ear and vicinity for canker. Look the horse squarely in the face to see if there is any abnormal development about the head. Look for evidences of ulcerated teeth, as indicated by offensive odors, and swelling in the vicinity of the facial sinuses and of the bones of the lower jaw. Open the animal’s mouth, and observe if all the teeth, molars as well as incisors, are intact. Examine carefully for parrot mouth, lacerated tongue, abscesses, bit bruises on the bars, and the teeth to determine age. Examine the nostrils for polypi, healthy color, ulcers indicating glanders, and for offensive discharges. Feel under the jaw for enlargement of the lymphatic gland. Examine
the region of the parotid gland for evidences of inflammation, and also for fistula of its duct. Look for fancy buds on the neck and sides of the face. Raise the jugular vein to see if it is intact; observe if any inflammation if the vein exists. Pass the hand from the face down the neck to the withers for evidences of poll evil, bruises, or abscesses. Place the ear to the trachea, to observe if the sound of breathing is clear and even.

3. Pass to the left side of the animal and examine the withers for fistula (Fig. 12), and the back for skinfasts, or saddle sores. Observe the shoulder for signs of wasting away of the muscles, enlargement of the joint, heat or tenderness. Feel the point of the elbow for capped elbow. Examine the near fore leg with the hand, looking at the off leg also for broken knees (fig. 13), speedy cut, splints (Fig. 14), side bones, ring bones, brushing, sand cracks, seedy toe, false quarter, scratches, grease, windgalls, heat about the fetlocks or coronet, and scars from wire fence wounds. Take up the foot and examine for indications of laminitis, contraction, quitter or flatness; to see if the bars have been cut away; whether there is any offensive odor of the frog, and to see if there is any peculiarity about the shoe, made necessary by the form of the foot, or the action of the horse. See if there is any appreciable difference in the size or shape of the feet. Examine the tendons for evidence of sprains.

4. Listen to the heart to determine if its beats are regular. Observe the breathing to determine if the inspirations and expirations are equal. If inspiration is accomplished with one effort, and expiration with two, called “double breathing,” the horse is unsound. This may be observed by watching the abdomen. Examine the abdomen for hernia. Pass the hand along under the chest and abdomen to feel for cincha sores and shoe bruises occasioned by a faulty method of lying down. Have an attendant hold up a fore foot while an examination is made of geldings to see if castration has been properly performed, and that no sign of scirrhous cord exists. Examine the stifle joint, and pass the hand along down the near hind legs to the hocks, comparing at the same time the relative size of the hocks; examine for bone and bog spavin, thoroughpin, capped hocks (slenders). Examine the lower limb and foot as in the case of the fore leg, except, that some injuries of the fore are never found on the hind leg. The inside of the thigh should be examined for fancy buds. Pass behind and compare the hips, quarters, and buttocks; feel the tail, and observe the anus and vicinity for injury or disease.

5. Proceed to the off side and repeat such part of the examination as may be necessary for that side. Observe during the entire examination whether any parasites are attached to the skin.

6. Go to the horse’s head, take hold of the bridle and back him suddenly; if the tail is elevated and the hind legs do not respond, or the animal should partially sit down, or elevate one of his limbs suddenly, he is unsound. Turn him around suddenly and look for the same symptoms. The horse should be led at a walk, and then at a trot, his action being carefully noted for any inequality of movement, which, if discovered, must be critically examined.

7. Saddle the horse and observe if he gives in the loins when mounted, or shows any signs of weakness or flinching. Have him ridden at a walk, trot or gallop, and watch for indications of lameness and peculiarities.
of motion. Have him gallop rapidly, up hill if practicable, and then have him halted suddenly; put the ear close to his nostrils, and listen to his respiration for roaring, whistling or broken wind, and also observe if respiration subsides promptly to normal or not.

Opinions vary as to whether grunting is an indication of unsoundness, and many practical horsemen believe this trouble changes into roaring. To be on the safe side, regard it as evidence of unsoundness. To detect it, strike the horse a sharp blow with a whip or stick, and make believe to strike again, when the horse will grunt if affected with the ailment. It may also be detected by halting suddenly from a rapid gait.

The Real Story of Henry
Reprint from US Cavalry Journal
June 1994

By Frances Tully Clark, Patricia Johnson Finley, Dotsy Sumner Strand, Jeanne Ann Lambert Vanderhoef

The articles in the last two Cavalry Journals on the subject of Fort Riley’s Henry are delightful fiction but have little basis in fact. We’d like to have a straighter record of Henry and his importance to the youth of the 1930’s.

When some of us were at Fort Riley as very small children, Henry was not there. He must have arrived between 1925 and 1931 and it was our understanding that a cavalry family acquired him for their children to ride. When they were ordered away, they left him for the benefit of all small cavalry brats on the Post to enjoy.

If Henry had, indeed, been a “small horse”, we are sure our fathers, “purist” all, would have washed our mouths out with soap the first time we called him a pony. He was a round, brown, pony and the only thing “little” about him was his stature. He would have been insulted at having the word added to his name.

During the day he roamed Fort Riley from Forsythe Avenue to Schofield Circle. He waited at the school bus stop with us many mornings, he watched us roller skate or bat a ball on the tennis courts, he lifted his head as we pedaled by on our bikes and often he was there at the flag pole as we stood at attention during “Retreat”.

Henry and Howard W. Palm taken in the Spring of 1931 in front of F Troop, 2nd Cavalry.
Photo courtesy of the US Cavalry Memorial Research Library
At suppertime each evening he wandered to the stable of his choice. Whichever one he chose, and we understand it was usually the Staff Stable, he was fed and watered with the horses and, if he cared to, he spent the night.

It was true that the bachelors put him on the second floor of Carr Hall, but we don’t think it was to torment another young officer and most surely the Boy Scouts were not called out. We were easily impressed teenagers at the time and the Boy Scouts were our friends. They would have bragged of their prowess if they’d had anything to do with the debacle. We think the then junior officers were responsible for rectifying their own mistakes.

Since there was only one of him...Henry was always the most valuable item on any Scavenger Hunt list. The couple who found him first was the hands down winner. We all had him, if not in our living rooms or least on our screened in porches more than once.

There were a few flowers around the quarters in Henry’s day. The bridal wreath bushes across the front of the stone houses were the nearest we came to decoration. The guard house prisoners mowed the lawns then and flower beds would have been too much to expect from them.

There were certainly no flowers around the flag pole until General Nellie Richardson came in 1939 or ’40. He had them planted there and Henry could not believe his good fortune. He nibbled away until General Richardson ordered him confined. Henry was no longer young and his heart was broken.

It also, as the word spread, broke the hearts of cavalry brats the world over...but it was too late. He died.

Henry was almost as much a Post fixture as the flag pole and to those of us who spent our teen years at Fort Riley, he was an important part of our youth. Growing up, we saw his rotund, little, brown body and soft brown eyes nearly every day. We know he’s free now, but we’d like to know where he’s buried so we could take him the flowers General Richardson denied him.

In a previous episode, an American major, advisor to the Army of Vietnam’s 1st Armored Cavalry Squadron, was participating with one of the squadron M-113 armored personnel carrier troops in searching and eliminating Viet Cong presence in the extensive rice paddy area north and west of the capital area of Saigon. One day in early summer of 1964, contact had been made with an unknown-sized force of the enemy, and during the contact, the most unexpected had occurred; one of the M-113 armored personnel carriers had been destroyed by tank fire from an elevated rice paddy dike. No positive identification as to the ownership of the tank was possible, but the Advisor and Troop Commander were both of the opinion the vehicle was an M-24 light tank of American manufacture and possibly sold to the Cambodian army.

Early in the morning following the action, the advisor, unshaven and with uniform bloodied and torn, was picked-up by helicopter and taken to the Ton Son Nhut airport and further transported into Saigon where he was told to report to COMUSMACV (Commander, United States Advisory Command- Vietnam) an American 4-star general. We continue the story with the major’s arrival at MACV Headquarters.

Entering the building, the major immediately spotted a Sergeant First Class wearing the arm band of a military policeman, sitting on a slightly elevated platform. The major went to the sergeant and informed him that he, the major, had been told to report to COMUSMACV. The MP seemed to have already been informed of this for he immediately escorted the major up a short flight of stairs and into an office where several typists and other military personnel were sitting at desks. One of these individuals immediately rose, and speaking to the major, advising him to accompany him through the door in the back of the room. Inside this room, the escort departed and the major reported to the general sitting at a large desk. Also in the room, sitting in a chair next to the general’s desk, was a distinguished looking civilian. After reporting, the silence seemed to continue forever with both the general and the civilian staring at the major.

The person in civilian clothing spoke first, stating with a strong New England accent, that he was the United States Ambassador to Vietnam and as such, the personal representative of the President of the United States. He further stated that the major had, by his lack of competence the day previous, created a serious international incident, thus embarrassing the military effort in Vietnam and the President of the United States. The major was not asked to explain or comment. This one-sided conversation took some considerable time, and the look of contempt on the Ambassador’s face was an unmistakable message to the major standing with locked heels.

Following the diatribe from the Ambassador, the general stood, placing the knuckles of his closed fists on the desk in front of him and aggressively leaning forward, proceeded to express his utter dissatisfaction with everything he could think of concerning the major. The major’s unkempt appearance seemed to invoke a special torrent of criticism and led to a lengthy tirade about slovenly officers and particularly ones who have proved themselves unable to even read a map to know where they are operating. The general went on to state that any report about an American tank firing on an M-113 was simply too idiotic to bear repeating, and that the major was forbidden to include anything of the sort in any report he might be called on to prepare. Once again the major was spared having to explain anything about the previous day’s operation.

When the general seemed to have exhausted his anger, the major was told to get out and that he would soon be informed as to the outcome of his incompetence.
Proceeding back down the stairs and into the lobby, the major was approached by the same military policeman who informed him that the Deputy COMUSMACV wished to speak with him. The major steeled himself for another degrading hour and followed the sergeant to another office on the second floor. Entering the office, he was wordlessly met by an officer who escorted him into the adjacent room. There, behind his desk, sat a lantern-jawed four-star general. The general told the major that he had heard the conversation with the Ambassador and COMUSMACV via the intercom device on his desk. He further told the major that he, being newly arrived in country, had very recently flown in his helicopter over the area where the incident of the previous day had taken place. The general stated that he was fully aware that there was no way for troops on the ground, and particularly ones in contact with the enemy, to know a precise location in the midst of the many kilometers of rice paddies. The major was told to go back to the field, to continue his efforts to take the fight to the Viet Cong, and that he would never hear another word about the incident.

The major felt the impending end of his career fly out of the window, and he departed with a grateful and light heart.

An announcement was made later that week that a new ambassador had been assigned to Vietnam and that the President had confirmed General Westmoreland, previously Deputy COMUSMACV, as the new COMUSMACV.

CONCLUSION IN THE NEXT CAVALRY JOURNAL

"Guest Author"

Hardtack
By Sam Young, Fort Larned NHS Volunteer

When we think of hardtack, our thoughts go to one of the basic staples of a soldier’s diet, especially during the Civil War. A Union soldier could be issued nine or ten of the water and flour biscuits a day, the number depending on his regiment, along with his salt pork, sugar, salt, and coffee. Hardtack was often issued in one of four ways: fairly easy to crumble; so hard that it had to be shattered by a rock or rifle butt before it could be used; moldy or wet from either having been boxed too soon after baking or being exposed to the weather, but in either case would be replaced with the “good” hardtack; and fourth infested with weevils, in which case it was still issued unless the weevils had almost thoroughly infested the hardtack.

Hardtack has been a food source for soldiers and civilians for thousands of years because when properly baked, stored, and transported it would last for a very long time. Because of its long “shelf life”, some Civil War soldiers probably felt their hardtack came with Columbus on the Mayflower. During the early months of the Civil War, soldiers on both sides were issued hardtack left over from the Mexican War. Interestingly, hardtack is still used in many different countries around the world by both soldiers and civilians. For those who are concerned about storing food for emergencies, hardtack is a very good option as it is economical and easy to store.

Throughout the centuries hardtack has been known by many different names. If used by soldiers, common names included hard bread, hard crackers, and hardtack. Sailors called it pilot bread, ship’s biscuit, sea biscuit, and sea bread. Other names included teeth dullers, sheet-iron crackers, worm castles, and molar breakers.

Hardtack is very easy to make as it has three basic ingredients: flour, water, and salt or sugar (which can be omitted). While there are
numerous recipes, here is a simple one:

4-5 cups of flour
2 cups of water
3 tsp. of salt

Mix the flour, water and salt together, and make sure the mixture is fairly dry. Then roll it out to about 1/2 inch thickness, and shape it into a rectangle. Cut it into 3 x 3 inch squares, and poke holes in both sides. Place on an un-greased cookie or baking sheet, and cook for 30 minutes per side at 375°. Let it dry and harden (as hard as a rock) for several days before it is placed in an airtight container for storage. If it gets soft, throw it out and make a new batch.

Soldiers found many ways to eat hardtack. While it could be eaten as issued – plain and hard, soldiers usually broke it up and put it in their morning coffee to soften it. If the hardtack was infested with weevils, they would float to the surface and could be skimmed off. Now, if it was dark, and the soldier was eating his hardtack plain, he did not see the weevils and ate them! Other ways to prepare hardtack were based on what the soldier had available. The soldier could break up the hardtack, add water or milk, and cook it as mush or as a pancake. He could soften it then add sugar, whiskey, or molasses and make a pudding. It might be used to thicken soup just as we use crackers today. It could be toasted and eaten or softened and cooked in salt pork or bacon grease. But it was still hardtack. The following song will give you an idea of what soldiers thought about hardtack.

From John D. Billings in his book Hardtack & Coffee, The Unwritten Story of Army Life, is the following song: "HARD CRACKERS, COME AGAIN NO MORE", Anonymous

Let us close our game of poker, take our tin cups in our hand,
While we gather round the cook's tent door,
Where dry mummies of hard crackers are given to each man;
O hard crackers, come again no more!

Chorus:
'Tis the song and the sigh of the hungry,
"Hard crackers, hard crackers, come again no more!
Many days you lingered upon our stomachs sore,
O hard crackers, come again no more."

There's a hungry, thirsty soldier who wears his life away,
With torn clothes, whose better days are o'er.
He is sighing now for whiskey, and, with a throat as dry as hay,
Sings, "Hard crackers, come again no more!" - Chorus

'Tis the song that is uttered in camp by night and day,
'Tis the wail that is mingled with each snore,
'Tis the sighing of the soul for spring chickens far away,
"O, hard crackers, come again no more!" - Chorus

(Since their General heard their lament, he ordered the cooks to serve
Corn-meal mush, for which the soldiers added a new stanza to their song.)

But to groans and murmurs, there comes a sudden hush,
Our frail forms are fainting at the door,
We are starving now on horse feed that the cooks call mush!
O, hard crackers, come again once more!

FINAL CHORUS:
It is the dying wail of the starving,
Hard crackers, hard crackers, come again once more!
You are old and very wormy, but we pass
your failings o'er.
O, hard crackers, come again once more!
Augustus Corliss of Maine briefly served as adjutant of the 1st Rhode Island Cavalry in 1861. As Major commanding the “College Cavaliers” of Dartmouth and Norwich, he led his boys in the famous cavalry escape from Stonewall Jackson at Harper’s Ferry, and in the capture of Longstreet’s wagon train at Antietam. Lieutenant Colonel Corliss led the ill-fated 2nd Rhode Island Cavalry throughout the Port Hudson Campaign of 1863. His career reached an apparent nadir when he enlisted as a private in the 15th U.S. Infantry in January, 1865, following the forced dissolution of his former command. But Corliss persisted. A First Lieutenant by the War’s end, his army career spanned forty years. Critically wounded in Cuba in 1898, he commanded the 2nd U.S. Infantry during the Philippine Insurrection. Corliss made it to Peking in the wake of the Boxer Rebellion before retiring as brigadier general in 1904.

John Singleton Mosby – the famous “Gray Ghost” – was a thorn in the side of the Union for much of the War. The Yankees called him “That Devil Mosby”. And indeed, that assessment was shared by some military bureaucrats in the South who did not appreciate the value of what today would be considered normal guerilla activity. But for most Southerners, including adventuresome spirits already enlisted in the Confederate infantry, artillery and cavalry, Mosby and his Partisan Rangers represented the true spirit and dash of Southern chivalry. Mosby was a small man, an attorney, and did not project a physically imposing presence. But friend and foe alike soon learned that he possessed a clever mind, a strong constitution and iron will. Mosby’s 43rd Virginia Battalion ranged unchecked over much of “Mosby’s Confederacy,” Northern Virginia. The strict military value of Mosby’s harassment of Union supplies and communication was far outweighed by the boost in morale his exploits gave the increasingly beleaguered Southern people. Despite determined efforts to kill or capture him, Mosby consistently emerged triumphant. He survived serious wounds to live long into the 20th Century.
"Cavalry Personalities"
Reprint from PHOTOGRAPHS OF AMERICAN CIVIL WAR CAVALRY
BY HARRIS ANDREWS, CHRISTOPHER NELSON, BRIAN POHANKA, HARRY ROACH
A MILITARY IMAGES PUBLICATION FROM GUIDON PRESS

Musicians
Music meant far more to Civil War soldiers on both sides than mere entertainment, important as that was for morale. Cavalry buglers functioned as the 19th Century equivalent of radiomen, relaying the tactical commands of their officers. Federal musicians wore the issue shell jacket with parallel rows of braid or piping across the front, but as these images show, some adopted other forms of distinctive attire. Cavalry regiments, like their infantry counterparts, initially were authorized to enlist a full brass band. Generals like George Custer often required their bands to play under fire to inspire the fighting men.

The well-equipped bugle below is Levi Scott of the 52nd Pennsylvania Cavalry. The others are unidentified.

A classic photograph of cavalry bugler Thomas DePere and two of his comrades from the 113th Pennsylvania Cavalry.

The distinctive saber hilt and the man's dress uniform identify the central figure as a cavalry officer. The image below was taken by Matthew Brady's Washington studio.
Notes from the Editor

~It was brought to my attention that there was an error in the article "Cavalry organizations, A brief History of the Tenth Cavalry". Fort Concho was the regimental headquarters, starting in 1875, and kept it until 1882, when the 10th relocated its headquarters to Fort Davis.

~I have been cleaning out storage rooms and have found an abundance of US Cavalry Journals dating back to 1977. If you would like a copy of an old journal please let me know. They will be sold for $5 a journal. If you are interested email me at cavalry.archives@flinthills.com for more information.

~If you or you know of another member that has moved, please inform Linda of your new address. Linda can be contacted at cavalry@flinthills.com.

~We are currently trying to build up our artifacts room. If you have a donation of anything cavalry such as saddles, uniforms, sabers and equipment and would like it preserved, please keep us in mind! We would also like to add to the US Cavalry Memorial Research Library. We would love to hear stories, see pictures, and preserve these memories in the library for you!

Bill Tempero
Your Cavalry Headquarters
Gear, History, Traditions, News, Photos, Trivia & More

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