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George Patton and the Cavalry Journal

A Shaky Trim

The Great Experiment

USCA: Happy 40th Anniversary

Saddle UP MCMWTC Part 2

Bugler Charles Clarke
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, including mounted support units; to sponsor the U.S. Cavalry Association’s Museum and Memorial Research Library for educational purposes; and to preserve the literature used by the United States Cavalry throughout its history.

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The Cavalry Journal

Published Quarterly by
The United States Cavalry Association
Volume XXXXI, Issue 1, March 2016
ISSN 1074-0252

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

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Editorial/Publication offices: U.S. Cavalry Association, 7107 W. Cheyenne St., El Reno, OK
The Cavalry Journal is published four times a year; 1 March, 1 June, 1 September, and 1 December
Journal subscriptions included in Annual Membership Dues; Individual, $40.00; Family, $55.00;
Overseas, $60.00. Individual Life Membership is $400.00.
Membership year is 1 January through 31 December – All dues are payable in advance.
Extra copies of the Journal are available at the Publication Office for $5.00 each.
U.S. Cavalry Association’s Museum and Memorial Research Library
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www.uscavalry.org 405-422-6330
Validation in the Desert
By Staff Sgt. Patrick Caldwell, Oregon Army National Guard (ORARNG)

Innovation, initiative help unit succeed where others scuffle at the National Training Center

Nearly 12 months before the Oregon Army National Guard’s 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry, deployed to the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, Calif., its commander, Lt. Col. Brian Dean, recognized that success against arguably the world’s best opposing force hinged on innovation, not pure doctrine.

He said his desire was to meld tactics from existing doctrine and best practices that fit into the NTC’s unpredictable environment. Leadership and training would also play critical roles during a high-profile three-week exercise in August.

“I wanted to have what I called an armored fist, one company that was not task organized with mechanized infantry,” he said.

At first, Dean planned to combine his units. For example, his two tank companies, C and D, were married to the battalion’s two mechanized infantry companies, A and B. The fold in this blueprint revolved around the tanks in C Company and the mounted infantry from B Company.

When the battalion kicked off its first major action in the Mojave Desert, a movement to contact, Dean separated B and C companies so that he now had a “pure” tank unit.

Confidence in his leaders was the impetus for the move from the combined matrix, he said.

“B Company’s commander, Capt. Kevin Beckley, has a personality that is very aggressive, which transferred to his troops. So his company was chosen to take key terrain, infantry strong points and protect our rear echelons,” Dean said.

That left C Company as a ready, pure-armor “fist.”

“C Company boasts an outstanding, mature command team and disciplined, lethal troopers,” Dean said. “I was very comfortable I could put Capt. Chris Miller and his company into any situation and he would provide an aggressive yet measured response.”

In the first scenario, the battalion started from a wadi complex, a dry series of deep ravines, and moved until it met the enemy. It also was the lead element of its parent organization, the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team.

Dean sized up the terrain and did not like what he saw.

“The wadi complex would significantly reduce my ability to quickly gain contact, seize the initiative and allow me to fight the OPFOR on my terms,” he said.

Terrain features known as Iron Triangle, Hill 800 and Mouse Gardens were the key battalion objectives.

“Based on the situation, I took a gamble,” Dean said. “I directed my combat units to bypass the wadis, roll through inferior OPFOR outposts without stopping, bypass what they could in order to get to and tie into the Iron Triangle, Hill 800 and the Mouse Gardens complex.”

Once his battalion reached its objectives, Dean ordered a hasty defense. “That would allow the OPFOR to fight at a disadvantage,” he said.

Problems occurred, including a vehicle accident and units arriving late. Yet those miscues were of little consequence when the battalion’s “tank pure” C Company made contact with lead enemy elements, quickly bashing through initial resistance on the way to securing its objectives.

“We actually got [to the objectives] before the OPFOR,” Dean said. “When the OPFOR began dying in large numbers in front of our tanks, the tide of the battle and my personal concerns subsided.”

Miller said C Company moved out in front of the battalion expecting at any time to encounter strong enemy forces. “We got to the point where we expected to make enemy contact and nothing,” he said.
Miller said C Company’s M1A2 System Enhanced Program Abrams main battle tanks moved quickly toward the battalion’s objectives with little difficulty.

“We got to the major terrain features, the key terrain where everyone wanted to defend from, and then we started to see the enemy coming in,” Miller said.

But the battalion already held the key ground. From there, C Company and the rest of the battalion formed up and began to destroy the opposing enemy force.

“From everything I heard from coaches and trainers, this is where the brigade was supposed to be embarrassed. That never happened,” Miller said.

Miller said the battalion’s performance and that of C Company sent a message.

“We validated our training as a National Guard combined arms battalion. And I think we vindicated ourselves in that, hey, we really can train to standards and we deserve these combat platforms,” he said.

The brigade is one of only two in the Army Guard with the Army’s most advanced tank.

Dean said, “The single most important thing I learned during the rotation is confidence in Eastern Oregon’s own. Specifically, that our soldiers are trained and so lethal that they will figure out a way to win if we can get them to the right place in the battlefield at the right time.”

The battalion is one of three maneuver elements of the Army Guard’s 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team based in Boise, Idaho, which consists of units from Idaho, Montana and Oregon.

This was the Army Guard’s first force-on-force brigade tank exercise since before 9/11.

Request Your Assistance
By the Journal Editor

Recently USCA received the following:

“Hello, I’ve attached a picture of the letter that I have found in my father’s 201 file. It is a letter of recommendation from his Captain (CO) mentioning him being a troop presser. My father was a Horse Soldier from 1936-1940 stationed at Ft Riley. I have reached out to several historians in the past but no one seems to know what a Troop Presser was. If possible maybe you or another Cavalry Historian can assist me on my information quest.”

This is the letter he found:

Troop E, Second Cavalry
Fort Riley, Kansas
May 31, 1940

To Whom It May Concern:

Pvt 1/class Nael E. Vinson has been my troop presser for a period of almost three years. During this period his work has been of an excellent nature. I can heartily recommend Pvt 1/class Vinson as a troop presser in whatever organization he may be assigned to.

A.A. Frierson
Capt., 2d Cavalry,
Commanding Troop E.

We sent this out via email to several old cavalrmen to find the answer. But have been unsuccessful. If you have an answer, please send it to journaleditor@uscavalry.org.

Thank you.

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George Patton was undeniably one of the great captains of the Second World War, and is regarded by many as one of the greatest combat generals produced by the United States. But Patton was more than the simplistic hell for leather cavalryman of popular culture, including the popular culture mythos dear to the heart of many a military history buff and avocational historian. Patton was an immensely deep and complex character with a knowledge of art and literature, who wrote poetry in the Kipling style. He also wrote clear, well-constructed prose that quickly captures a reader’s interest, whether Patton was describing a war game or a horse show. He wrote detailed special orders, after action reports, training guidelines, papers revising military doctrine, and even prayers. Among his many writings were some 16 articles that appeared in the *Cavalry Journal* beginning in 1913 (*The Form and Use of the Saber*) and continuing to the fall of 1942 (*The Desert Training Corps*). During that time, Patton went from second lieutenant to major general, converted from cavalry to armor, then back to cavalry, and finally to armor and complex combined arms operations.

The evolution of the articles over 29 years parallels the evolution of military thinking during the critical years of the First World War and into the early stages of American involvement in the Second. The articles are thus invaluable documents for the military historian purely in that context. For modern readers of management literature, be they military or civilian, the articles may serve as a text documenting the effects of rapidly developing technology on institutions and those who serve in them, especially notably conservative institutions, such as the military and law enforcement. The articles are uniformly well written in the clear prose that marked the educated person of Patton’s times, but are clearly marked with Patton’s impatience with the superfluous.

Patton’s seemingly innate writing ability as well as sheer volume and diversity of writing are all the more notable as he was unable to read until he was twelve years old, and may have been dyslexic. However, by the age of seven, he was able to recite long passages of the Iliad (in English translation), as well as the King James Bible and other respected contemporary and classical works. His father, a brilliant, well educated man, did not believe in the formal educational philosophy or techniques of the time, thinking, perhaps quite rightly, that it narrowed young minds and made learning a chore rather than the pleasure it should be. Patton Senior instead surrounded his son with cultured, erudite adults who instilled in him a lifelong love of knowledge, and the Patton children spent their evenings listening as these adults read and discussed the great books.

When Patton was finally enrolled in Dr. Stephen Cotter’s Classical School for Boys, a preparatory school near the Patton estate in California’s San Gabriel Valley, he quickly learned reading and other skills (but not so quickly math; something that would later cause problems for him at West Point). He developed a writing style part classical and King James Bible with strong overtones of Kipling, and part technical—with the technical actually being the
interesting and readable sort rather than the modern prosaic and purely instructional. For comparison, think in terms of the best military history compared to a computer manual. Patton’s style was of the best sort. Although his style may have been exemplary, his spelling was not—in which vein he joked that: “I have trouble with that A, B, and what do you call that other letter?” (Farago, Ladislas. Patton: Ordeal and Triumph. (1970).) a perceptive reader will note a subtle sense of humor comes through in many of Patton’s writings, while the General’s sense of humor is frequently overlooked.

Patton’s writings for the Cavalry Journal can be roughly divided into three, somewhat disconnected topical areas. His first articles pertained to the saber and its use in contemporary warfare. Two articles published in 1923 address the Army Polo Team and the performance of the Army at the National Horse Show. The bulk of his articles pertained to modernization and mechanization and their impact on the cavalry, the Army, and the future of warfare, as well as associated war-games and reports on actual field operations.

The Saber

Three of his first four articles in the Journal dealt directly with the saber and its value and application in modern warfare. The fourth article, a review of the Pershing Expedition into Mexico in 1916, mentions that the saber was not used in that campaign but observes that neither was artillery. When Patton participated in the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden, he placed fourth in a field of 42 in fencing, and after the Games attended the French Cavalry School at Saumur where he studied fencing under Charles Clery, the adjutant and master of arms of the school. Patton later returned to the school for the advanced course after he began revision of the doctrine for deployment of the saber in the cavalry. In light of these experiences, he designed the model 1913 saber around the new doctrine he developed and then expounded upon in these first articles. These accomplishments led to his appointment as the Army’s first Master of the Sword and fencing instructor at the Mounted Service School at Fort Riley, his extensive training and experience as an instructor giving credence to these articles for the Journal.

Polo and Horse Shows

His reports on the Army Polo Team (Cavalry Journal, April 1923) and the Army at the National Horse Show (Cavalry Journal, January 1923) would seem to fall under society reporting. The report on the national Horse Show is straight reportage of the performance of Army personnel and horses in various events; the same could be said for the report on the Polo Team, although Patton does emphasize here and in other articles that polo is excellent training for cavalry operations—both pursuits requiring quick action, with polo developing the élan necessary for a trooper. It bears noting that Patton was a frequent judge at horse shows nationwide and an accomplished polo player (one time captain of the Army Polo Team), who thus possessed as much expertise on these matters and their relevance to cavalry training and spirit as anyone in the Army at the time.

Modernization

For much of his career, Patton found himself in the ambiguous role of a cavalry officer whose combat experience occurred in the fledgling Tank Corps of the First World War, thus leading him to be an advocate of both horses and tanks. It was shortly after the end of that war that he concluded his future as an officer would be limited as a tanker. It appeared there was little future in the post-war Army in such an organization. Mechanization was new, and the deployment of tanks in combat had brought mixed results. Congress regarded tanks as an expensive luxury of little utility. In the Army itself, there were far more officers advocating the future of cavalry than for any present or future role for tanks. And yet
everyone realized the truck and tank had changed something and that things could never quite be the same again. Thus, the future of cavalry and mechanized forces became a topic of discussion and in professional literature in Europe and the United States for the next several years.

While J.F.C. Fuller in Britain, Heinz Guderian in Germany, Charles de Gaulle in France, and others committed themselves wholly to mobility through mechanization, Patton was among those who most often wrote of mechanized forces as supporting the cavalry rather than replacing it during the 1920s and 1930s. As a result, many of his writings are an attempt to develop a tactical and operational doctrine for cavalry, armor, and mechanized infantry utilizing the unique mobility inherent in each arm. For example, although he would much later write that there was really no such thing as tank country, with tanks being merely better able to operate in some types of terrain than others (Patton, George, S. War as I Knew It. (1947)), in his 1920s and '30s articles for the Journal, he expressed the belief that tanks and other vehicles were severely limited in mobility by roads, road conditions, and terrain, stating that for cavalry, there were no such limitations. Cavalry could operate anywhere on land. In a moment of humor he stated that had horses webbed feet, they would also be effective in naval operations. Patton also noted the self-sufficiency of cavalry during field operations, whereas mechanized units required elaborate logistics trains and support units, a fact still true today. Bear in mind that the internal combustion engines of the 1910s and ‘20s suffered from reliability problems, an issue rarely affecting horses.

As the 1920s and ‘30s passed, it became increasingly clear in Europe that improvements to motor vehicle technology were limiting the role of the horse on the modern battlefield, the cavalry no longer being the most mobile force available. One solution was portee cavalry—horses deployed to an area of operations by rail or truck then deployed as traditional cavalry for actual operations. German writers condemned this concept as overly complex while Patton noted it a “strategic success but a tactical failure.” The outbreak of war in Europe and the German Army's use of mechanized units made it abundantly clear the role of cavalry would be most restricted in that conflict.

A generation before the outbreak of the Second World War, Patton concluded there was only a limited future in armor. His conclusion was just the opposite by 1941, during April of which he accepted command of the 2d Armored Division. In March of 1942, he was charged with developing what became the Desert Training Center, which he commanded until August of that year, departing to command Operation Torch, the seizure of Vichy French colonies in western North Africa. Patton’s final article for the Journal was a descriptive article detailing the development and operations of the Training Center.

Conclusion

Patton’s articles for the Cavalry Journal cover the evolution of cavalry and mechanized units over the course of three decades, from 1913 to 1942. They begin with his enthusiastic explication of the role of the saber in mounted warfare and end with his equally enthusiastic discussion of training for the mechanized warfare of the Second World War. Patton’s writing style, always interesting, skillful, and showing passion for the topic, however diverse those topics may be, provides insight into the development of modern mechanized warfare and the effects of technological innovation on institutions. The articles also provide insight into the man and his personal evolution from young second lieutenant to mature major general. In addition to their historic and social value, they are a delight to read.
The Great Experiment  
By Janet S. Todd, Retired Librarian

By August, 1935, so many prospective soldiers wondered about the future of the horse cavalry that the Fort Bliss recruiting office requested a statement from the Chief of Cavalry. Maj. Gen. Leon B. Kromer, U.S. Army Chief of Cavalry, assured prospective recruits that the horse would continue to play an important part in war, and that mechanization would supplement, but not replace, the horse cavalry. He also stated, "Our present horsed cavalry regiments respect the machine gun, the airplane, and the armored fighting vehicle in enemy hands, but do not fear these implements of modern battle and are prepared to cope with them." ("Horses Keep Place in War," El Paso Herald-Post, 8 August 1935)  
The continued use of horses by the cavalry appeared secured when plans were announced in early 1936 to build six new stables at Fort Bliss for the Seventh Cavalry. ("Bliss Building Plan Outlined," El Paso Herald-Post, 21 February 1936)

On December 26, 1935, Brig. Gen. Hamilton S. Hawkins, commander of the First Cavalry Division, announced plans for the greatest peacetime cavalry maneuvers in the history of the U. S. Army to be held in April of 1936. All four regiments of the division were to march to Marfa, Texas, to conduct exercises in the rough Big Bend area. The maneuvers were expected to provide a test for the comparison of horses and motorized equipment. ("Announce Huge Army Maneuvers Along Border," El Paso Herald-Post, 26 December 1935)  
Fort Bliss officers later reassured the press that the maneuvers were not a test to determine whether the horse was to stay or go. Rather they were to see what improvements could be made on the mechanized units. ("Bliss Officers Map Problems for Maneuvers,"El Paso Herald-Post, 8 April 1936)

What was not announced along with the maneuvers was that an experimental training program for new recruits and new remounts would be conducted prior to the war games. Gen. Kromer may have authorized the experimental training because prospective recruits and newspaper reporters were not the only people questioning the continued use of horses in war.
If the senior officials in the War Department decided to greatly reduce the number of horses, or to eliminate the horses entirely, Gen. Kromer may have wanted to know if the horse cavalry could be reinstated in short order, should that decision prove to be wrong.

The “Recruit and Remount, Twelve Weeks of Training” experiment (aka “The Great Experiment”) had as its mission the training for field duty of recruits, who had never had any military training, on horses, under five years old, that also had never received any military training. The experiment ran from January through March of 1936.

Training was conducted in three phases. First Phase covered the training of the individual recruits and remounts. Second Phase covered marksmanship, close order drill, and extended order drill. Third Phase covered squad, platoon and troop training; as well as skirmishers and fox holes. Reviews and final assignment were conducted during the Third Phase. There were 108 recruits and remounts organized in four rifle platoons, and 56 recruits and remounts in one light machine gun platoon, for a total of 164 recruits and the same number of remounts in the experiment. All but four recruits completed the training. It is unknown how many, if any, remounts failed to complete the training. Final inspection was conducted by BGen. H. S. Hawkins, Commander, 1st Cavalry Division.

The experiment was conducted by the Provisional Troop (aka “The Cadre”) of the 8th Cavalry Regiment. The officer in charge was Major Charles S. Kilburn. His assistant was Sgt. Sylvester Aloysius ("S.A.") Merritt. The commanding officer was Captain J. L. Ballantyne. The first sergeant was Arthur J. Goodreau. Platoon sergeants were William J. Bretton, Ruben Vona, John Rogers, and Sanders (from Troop F). The mess sergeant was Sgt. John Kennedy; and the cooks were Coleman and Doughty. The stable sergeant was William Fishman. The troop clerk was George Hildebrand. A group photograph was taken of the Provisional Troop. [U. S. Cavalry Memorial Research Library, Fort Reno, Oklahoma: S. A. Merritt Collection, 8th Cavalry Regiment, Photos III Box, unlabeled folder 13th from the front.]

Provisional Troop (The Cadre), 8th Cavalry, Fort Bliss

There was no mention in the press of the Great Experiment during the three months leading up to the planned April maneuvers. All of the information about the training experiment mentioned above came from two items in the S.A. Merrill Collection. [U. S. Cavalry Memorial Research Library, Fort Reno, Oklahoma: S. A. Merritt Collection, 8th Cavalry Regiment 1910 - 1940 Box, loose paper titled “The Provisional Troop”.] The experiment ended on March 31st, however, and a short news article on April 6th noted that Maj. Gen. Leon B. Kromer, Chief of Cavalry, visited Fort Bliss that day and that he was scheduled to leave at midnight to return again on April 14th for the maneuvers. Perhaps Gen. Kromer stopped by for an update on the Great Experiment. [“Visits Ft. Bliss,” El Paso Herald-Post, 6 April 1936.] Authorship of the “The Provisional Troop” report is unclaimed, but it contained the following conclusion which was probably communicated to Gen. Kromer: “I would hesitate to state whether or not the training was sufficient in all cases.” Since the newly trained troopers and their remounts participated in full scale, long-term war games just two weeks after they completed the experimental training, Gen. Kromer probably observed enough during the maneuvers to reach his own conclusion. [“Troops Leave For Games April 13,” El Paso Herald-Post, 21 March 1936.]

Perhaps a reference to the experiment appeared when an April 11th sports page article about the polo horses participating in the planned maneuvers mentioned that each regiment at Fort Bliss had young polo remounts which had just received “special training.” [“Ft. Bliss Polo
Mounts Expected to Shine In Big Bend Army Maneuvers,” El Paso Herald-Post, 11 April 1936.

Of the 164 recruits who participated in the Great Experiment, I only know the name of one -- my father, Carl William Stapleton. He was 18 years old and fresh out of high school. Since he had a Marksmanship Badge with a Machine Gun bar, he was probably one of the 56 men in the light machine gun platoon. The Great Experiment did not turn him into an equestrian. In 1938, he entered West Point, and served as the manager for the cadet polo team. During World War II, he flew a P-51 Mustang. Carl Stapleton retired from the U. S. Air Force in 1973 as a major general.

The information in this article is from the U.S. Cavalry Association’s Memorial Research Library. If you have additional information or know of any other participants in the Great Experiment, please contact me. [Janet Todd, 6008 SE 57th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73135; janettodd@aol.com]

2016 National Cavalry Competition
Fort Reno, Oklahoma  21-25 September 2016
The wooded areas of South Vietnam are frequent, dark, and deep. The M-113 armored personnel carriers assigned to the South Vietnamese 1st Armored Cavalry Squadron managed to move through the rice paddies, but some of the heavily wooded areas, mostly triple-canopy, were more than the tracked vehicles could handle. Thus, the cavalry squadron searched the wooded areas dismounted when leaders believed the Viet Cong were using the woods for concealment, resupply, and retraining.

In May, 1964, one such operation occurred near the huge Michelin rubber plantation east of Tay Ninh province, north and west of Saigon. Two cavalry troops, less a small detachment remaining behind to guard the vehicles, moved through the virtual jungle of trees and bamboo, searching for the elusive enemy. The area was huge, and the operation lasted almost two weeks with very little to show for the effort. The area clearly belonged to the Viet Cong.

The squadron senior advisor, an American major, had managed to convince the squadron commander to leave his headquarters in Cholon, just outside Saigon, and to join the dismounted operation. The troops subsisted exclusively on rice, with each man carrying a twenty pound bag of it. Each trooper looked forward to the night when his bag would be used for the unit’s meal, thus lightening his load.

The major had been in the field with the two cavalry troops, conducting operations through the rice fields near the Cambodian border for the previous six weeks. Uniforms were washed in the streams whenever possible, but nothing stopped hair from growing, and the major was very displeased with the mop under his beret. After the dismounted operation had been going on for about ten days, the major told the squadron commander that if they came across a hamlet in the woods, he intended to get a haircut. The commander explained heatedly to the major that if he were to be killed, then he, the commander, would be put in the island penal colony of Con Son for the remainder of his life—clearly an unpopular concept! He then told his two troop commanders of the major’s intentions, and both of them looked at the major as if he had lost his mind. However, when it became clear that the haircut caper was going to occur, the commander stated, “nguoi my dien!!” (crazy American). He called for his personal bodyguard, who was armed with a Thompson submachine gun, to go into the hamlet, and to find the local barber. The squadron commander had a chair set out in the road next to the barber’s hut, and had the barber’s mother, wife, and three children come outside and stand near the chair. One of the troop commanders, an unusually westernized captain whom his troops secretly and affectionately dubbed “The Cowboy,” saw the humor to the situation and came along with the party.

The bodyguard squatted on the ground about 10 feet from the chair where he had a clear view of the barber and his family, and made it abundantly clear that the inhabitants of hamlets in the area worked in various roles during the day, but were Viet Cong fighters when the sun went down. Nevertheless, when another day went by and the operation came upon a small collection of huts, the major once again stated his intention of getting a haircut. The commander explained heatedly to the major that if he were to be killed, then he, the commander, would be put in the island penal colony of Con Son for the remainder of his life—clearly an unpopular concept! He then told his two troop commanders of the major’s intentions, and both of them looked at the major as if he had lost his mind. However, when it became clear that the haircut caper was going to occur, the commander stated, “nguoi my dien!!” (crazy American). He called for his personal bodyguard, who was armed with a Thompson submachine gun, to go into the hamlet, and to find the local barber. The squadron commander had a chair set out in the road next to the barber’s hut, and had the barber’s mother, wife, and three children come outside and stand near the chair. One of the troop commanders, an unusually westernized captain whom his troops secretly and affectionately dubbed “The Cowboy,” saw the humor to the situation and came along with the party.

The bodyguard squatted on the ground about 10 feet from the chair where he had a clear view of the barber and his family, and made a big show of loading a round into the chamber of his weapon, and training it on the barber. The major sat in the chair, and was approached by the barber, who stammered a welcome. As the sheet was placed around the major’s shoulders to catch the hair, it seemed doubtful that the barber could hold a pair of scissors—his hands were shaking almost out of control.

The haircut started, and out of the corner of his eye the major saw the “Cowboy,” with a huge grin on his face, pull out a small camera and take a picture. The result was given to the major later, and accompanies this story. As the haircut progressed, the time came for a neck shave. When the razor was produced, the bodyguard quickly stood up, and the razor disappeared.
Similarly, no effort was made to provide the Vietnamese service of using a long object to clean out the customer’s ears!

The job done, the major asked the barber how much he owed for the haircut. He was told that there would be no charge when the bodyguard shook his head, but the major gave money to the wife who, through teeth totally stained with betel leaf juice, gave a fearful smile of thanks. It is doubtful that the effort won any hearts and minds, but no one got hurt, and the major got his haircut.

In February, 1976, the United States Cavalry Association (USCA) was formally organized by a group of ex-cavalrymen who had witnessed the end of the U.S. Horse Cavalry and the cavalry branch of service over twenty-five years earlier. Their justification for creating the USCA was preservation of the history, traditions, heritage, uniforms, weapons, and equipment of the cavalry as there was “no national organization that had as its primary function the preservation of the history and artifacts of the Horse Cavalry.”

The Association’s initial objectives were to:
1. Obtain, preserve, or reproduce uniforms, weapons, and equipment used by the cavalry soldier.
2. Research, record, and preserve the history of the cavalry regiments, traditions, and customs.
3. Support and coordinate the activities of quasi-military units formed for the purpose of portraying cavalry units of the past.
4. Collect and preserve literature written about the cavalry.
5. Support existing Horse Cavalry oriented museums and eventually establish a Horse Cavalry Museum.
6. Establish a comradeship for its members who find the esprit de corps of the cavalry stimulating and rewarding.

Today’s USCA members continue to work toward those objectives as a visit to its home at Fort Reno, Oklahoma will testify. There you will find cavalry artifacts being preserved and on display in its Cavalry Museum; a Cavalry Memorial Research Library with an extensive book library, an archive preserving a significant collection of cavalry papers and pictures, and copies of Cavalry Journals dating from the late 1880s to the present.

Horse Cavalry continues as the primary focus of the Cavalry Association. However, when opportunities present themselves to highlight air cavalry, armored cavalry, and mechanized cavalry, USCA will recognize their contributions to the centuries old spirit and traditions of cavalry.

Participants in the Special Operations Forces Horsemanship Training Course ride through the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center's training area, Sept. 16, 2013, during the first soft horsemanship course held aboard MCMWTC, to learn skills enabling them to ride horses and move through terrain that can't be navigated by motor vehicles. Conditioned horses are able to travel more than 30 miles per day and can gallop at up to 40-miles per hour for short periods of time.

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif.—The Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC) has served as a center for excellence for training in mountainous terrain and cold-weather environments for decades. Through the years, MCMWTC has continued to improve its training and tactics to facilitate Marines and prepare them for contemporary threats in every clime and place. With this in mind, instructors with MCMWTC offer an advanced Special Operations Forces (SOF) Horsemanship Course for members of elite military groups from across the Department of Defense to ensure the relevance of Special Operations Forces on the modern battlefield.
The SOF Horsemanship Course is designed to prepare Special Operations Forces in the Marine Corps, other DOD branches, as well as NATO allied militaries to be tactically and technically proficient in utilizing horse riding and animal packing techniques in a mountainous environment.

During the 1990’s, with the end of the Cold War and designation as the Center of Excellence for mountain and cold weather operations, MCMWTC began preparing for the full spectrum of mountain warfare. This included using horsemanship principles in mountainous terrain, such as animal packing, but did not include formal riding instruction. Although the capability was present, the opportunity to formally begin instruction of riding horses through challenging terrain would come decades later when the resources were available and the demand for the training from the SOF community became more prevalent in the DOD.

“That terrain in a deployed environment may not always be perfect or easy to [traverse],” said Gunnery Sgt. Levi Stuart, Animal Packer Course, Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge. “Mules, as an example, can help you get the equipment, supplies, weapons and even casualties where they need to go in rough, mountainous terrain such as the area we occupy [at MCMWTC]. The capabilities and skills provided in our horsemanship and animal packer course are useful for the Fleet Marine Force as well as the special operations community.”

In 2010, MCMWTC hosted an experienced Operational Detachment Alpha team, an organizational term in Army Special Forces to describe a 12-man squad of operators, which they used as an opportunity to create the baseline of what would become an official course for Special Operation Forces in 2012 when the training was approved.

“That first group allowed us to refine our training and provided a good baseline for future Special Operation Forces operators who have trained here since then,” Parkhurst said. “As we continue to instruct and learn more horsemanship techniques, the course itself will continue to improve and get better.” (Ed. Tony Parkhurst is Director, Horsemanship Cadre.)

Currently, basic horse riding and animal packing techniques, along with other advanced tactics, encompass a major part of the SOF Horsemanship Course in the mountainous terrain of Bridgeport, California.

Present-day pack systems have been developed from a combination of military packing doctrine used in the 1950s, US Forest Service procedures, and civilian outfitting skills to develop tactics that are suitable for current military operations. The best features of each system were used to develop the contemporary procedures seen at MCMWTC. These doctrines also influenced the equipment used by instructors over the years.

Although the advanced course is relatively new compared the Animal Packer Course, its value is seen through the demand for the training and the situations it can prepare operators for on the modern battlefield.
horsemanship and the animals we look after also adds to our credibility.

The course teaches participants how to extend dismounted operations and provide an alternative means of sustainment in complex, compartmentalized, and mountainous terrain. The course lasts 22 training days with the last 7 days used to support the Mountain Training Exercise that occurs simultaneously. The class varies in size from eight to 12 participants.

“We maintain relevance across the DoD because of how useful these skills are in today’s areas of operation,” Parkhurst said. “In some countries it may even become a necessity to have a resource like this available for maneuverability in mountainous areas. Having someone, or a team, trained in those skills becomes a valuable asset.”

In many countries where Marines or service members can expect to be deployed, the roads can be poorly maintained or may only exist in a few well-traveled spots. A season of heavy rain may also cause roads and trails to become impassable for even military-grade vehicles. In these instances service members must be prepared to use other means of transportation.

With the use of horses and pack animals, the MCMWTC Stables utilize specialized equipment to meet the training standards they set for each course. Instructors currently house and care for 25 horses and 30 mules.

Equipment used in the course includes panniers, tarps, ropes and several types of saddles for Marines to train with to include the traditional Western Saddle, Sawbuck Saddle and the Decker Saddle. The Sawbuck Saddle is the oldest pack saddle used in the world and is an essential tool for animal packing techniques aboard MCMWTC. These are adaptable to different types of loads and can carry cargo of different weights and sizes. The Decker saddle was invented in 1919 and adopted by the US Forest Service serving as a modern version of the Sawbuck. Lastly, the Western Saddles used at the stables are the type primarily used for riding.

Specialization is not only required with the equipment, but also in the way service members must handle the animals.

Before any participant or student makes direct contact with the animals they receive several classes such as basic seat position and animal handling, basic movement on horseback, day and night route planning considerations, anatomy, saddle placement and packing hitches, grooming, first aid, proper weight distribution of loads and more safety procedures to ensure the well-being of the horses or mules used in training.

“The benefit of having active duty [Marines] instruct active duty service members in these courses is the value of having current
experiences they can relate the training to,” Parkhurst said. “Because they speak the same language, it allows the instructors to [challenge students with contemporary tactical obstacles], which validates the training we do here.”

Course instructors continue to improve their effectiveness and relevance to the United States and units who choose to train at MCMWTC. Operators in the SOF community continue to train in the advanced horsemanship course and instructors will continue to refine the training and meet expectations at MCMWTC. The end state is a highly trained individual capable of conducting horse-born operations and moving with pack animals in mountainous terrain to extend dismounted operations.

Army Fox Hunting
Fort Leavenworth Hunt

“The Fort Leavenworth Hunt is the only remaining active military fox hunt in the world. Soldiers began hunting with hounds in eastern Kansas soon after Fort Leavenworth was established in 1827. The organized hunt at Leavenworth was formally established in 1926 and continued to 1941. It shut down during World War II and was restarted in 1964. It is a certified hunt of the Masters of Fox Hounds Association.”

Fox hunting in the Kansas Flint Hills

“Many of the famous officers of World War II were members of the Fort Leavenworth Hunt during their time at the fort as students in the Command and General Staff College in the 1920s and 1930s. General Jonathan Wainwright was one of the first Masters of Fox Hounds.”

Quoted from A Horse Soldier’s Thoughts, Musing of an Old Soldier horsesoldier.wordpress.com

Part 3 DoD Saddles Up for Mountain Warfare Training at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center continues in the June 2016 Cavalry Journal.
The above painting titled “Get ‘Em, Boys!” by Jerry Thomas, shows Captain Albert Barnitz, Commander, Company G 7th Cavalry, Bugler Edward Botzer, and G Company cavalrymen at Fort Wallace, Kansas, on June 26, 1867, in their first fight there with Indians. To Barnitz’s left is another bugler (on a white or gray horse), possibly Bugler Charles Clarke. What it does not show is that a short time after the moment this painting depicts, Clarke was killed by the Indians.

Captain Barnitz, in his June 29, 1867, letter to his wife Jennie, described Clarke’s death. “When Clarke, the chief Bugler was killed and fell from his horse (while following me from the centre across the skirmish line—a very hot ride, by the way, for us all!) a powerful Indian was seen to reach down, as he rode at full speed, seize the body with one hand, and jerk it across his pony, strip off the clothes in an instant, dash out the brains with a tomahawk, and hasten on to another victim.”

Since I am a living history volunteer at Fort Larned National Historic Site where I portray a cavalry chief trumpeter, I decided to research Bugler Clarke to see if he had any connection with Fort Larned.

Thanks to Ancestry.com I found the U.S. Army register which contains his enlistment information. It shows that Charles Clarke enlisted at Carlisle, Pennsylvania on November 27, 1866. He was sworn in by Lieutenant Irwin for a period of five years. From there he was sent as a recruit to Fort Riley, KS. The record further shows Clarke was from Troy, NY, was 24 years old, with hazel eyes, light hair, fair complexion, and 5 feet 1 and ½ inches tall. His occupation was cigar maker.

A review of microfilm containing the 7th Cavalry’s Muster Rolls and other reports from December 1866 through June 1867 reveals that Clarke, while at Fort Riley on December 23, 1867, was assigned to Company G 7th Cavalry which he joined at Fort Harker on 27 December. While at Fort Harker Company G built stables and in February accompanied Custer in pursuit of Indians after their villages were abandoned. Also in February Clarke and Botzer were designated as buglers. Company G accompanied the 7th Cavalry as part of Hancock’s Expedition, was at Fort Larned 8-12 April, and was with the 7th when it pursued the Indians after their abandoned village on the Pawnee Fork was burned by Hancock. From late April to mid-June Company G was camped at Big Creek near Fort Hays. While there, its soldiers conducted several forays against hostile Indians along the Smoky Hill Trail stage route, though much of the time was spent in restoring the physical condition of the horses.

During this time, Captain Barnitz wrote that General Custer, on 17 May, ordered the Officer of the Day to have the heads of six men shaved to the scalp on one side and then paraded through camp as punishment for leaving camp without permission to go a half mile to purchase canned fruit because of their poor diet from Army rations. Clarke was ordered to be the barber.

Thus ends the information I was able to find on Charles Clarke. However, because he was designated a bugler, and the chief bugler of Captain Barnitz, leads me to believe he served in the cavalry during the Civil War. How else would he have known and been able to play the multitude of cavalry and garrison bugle calls. I was not able to find the answer, nor was a close friend who does such research. Clarke may have enlisted under a different name is my guess.

Charles Clarke was initially buried in the Fort Wallace Military Cemetery, and later disinterred and reburied in the Fort Leavenworth Military Cemetery, along with the other cavalrymen killed with him. Interestingly, his last name is spelled Clark on his headstone as it is on a typed list of soldiers buried in the Fort Wallace Military Cemetery. However, in the Register of Enlistments, Record Book of Internments, other military reports, Barnitz’s journal and letters, and Ancestry.com, it is spelled Clarke. My next “bucket list” item is to get his headstone corrected, to include the date of his death.
Book Review

Winston Churchill and His War Cabinet.
Reviewed by Trooper Niven Baird

For those among us who came of age during or immediately following World War II, among the names which head the list of the most important men of the century is that of the wartime British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill. With that in mind, it was with utter disbelief and lack of understanding that many Americans learned that the general election of 1945 in the United Kingdom turned Churchill out of office.

Jonathan Schneer has given us real insight into the parliamentary political system which led to Churchill’s political demise. Even more importantly, he has given us a rare look at the social structure of the British Empire during the years before and during the Second World War, along with the machinations of the men who represented the numerous political entities vying for power. Of special usefulness is the extensive glossary of names Schneer has compiled, thus allowing us to better understand who the movers and shakers of British politics were, and the influences they were able to exert as part of the war cabinet.

The Munich Pact of September, 1938 was made possible in no small part by the efforts and influence of the British Prime Minister at that time, Neville Chamberlain. His assurance of “peace in our time” was made a lie by Hitler’s incorporation of Czechoslovakia, followed by the invasion of Poland. All this earned Chamberlain the sobriquet of the “Great Appeaser,” and led in May, 1940, to the loss of his party’s confidence. Thus, he was forced to submit his resignation to King George VI. Although loath to accept Chamberlain’s resignation because he too had hoped to avert war by appeasing Hitler, the King recognized the existential requirement to achieve a national commitment in order to survive the war in which the British Empire was already embroiled. Distrustful of Churchill’s immoderation, the King preferred Lindley Wood—the Lord Halifax. Ultimately Chamberlain persuaded his King that only Churchill was adequately strong to pull together a national cabinet representing all competing interests—and the King asked Churchill to form a coalition government.

We are given interesting insights of Churchill’s own personality and the way he led the cabinet. The public saw him as the “Bright and Shining Savior of the British Isles.” However, within his cabinet, most found him imperialistic, aggravating and tiresome. But despite these shortcomings, he was able to piece together the most disparate group of strong leaders one could imagine. In doing so, Winston Churchill ensured the victory which in 1940 seemed impossible to many—if not most—Britons.

Considerable effort has been devoted to explaining how it was that the social structure of the United Kingdom turned so far left in support of the liberal Labour Party. Instrumental to this change was the remarkable Beveridge Report, which provided the outline for nationalization of the coal industry, the railroads and the Bank of England, provided an allowance for every child, established universal birth-to-death health care, and forced revision of the public school system.

100th Anniversary Pancho Villa’s Raid on Columbus, NM
Pancho Villa State Park
11-13 March 2016
For details: contact Ray Thomas
dthomast@nts-online.net
806-789-0576
Hello from headquarters! This is a quick update on things happening here. Since our opening at Fort Reno in May, according to the sign-in log, we have had a total of 2,648 visitors from around the world. Oklahoma visitors numbered 1,475 with 240 of them being area school children. Eight hundred fifty-seven were U.S. travelers and 316 were international travelers. Our association should be proud!

During the Bivouac, Trooper Sam Myers brought a CD/slideshow compiled of many photos from Vietnam to add to our Vietnam display. I am pleased to inform you that a local Vietnam veteran donated a TV and DVD player, and the slideshow continuously plays throughout the day.

Many of you know that the U.S. Cavalry Association was awarded a grant in August for $4,500.00 towards window treatments. We have successfully filled our Kirkpatrick Grant obligation with white plantation style blinds throughout the museum, and they look amazing! Also, in the works for the windows are hand-forged curtain rods on the upper level of the museum, utilizing the remaining grant funds. The downstairs will be completed as funds become available.

**Big news!** The U.S. Cavalry Association has received official approval to begin the restoration of the old 1876 mule barn here at the fort. The barn contains thirty-six stalls and two tack rooms with the plan of fully restoring the barn to make it accessible to competitors during future competitions. Grants are being researched and applied for; however, most of the grants require matching funds from our own fundraising campaigns and must be available immediately upon grant approval.

I have spoken with local businesses regarding support for this project, and several have donated funds to purchase one hundred t-shirts. Then began the designing of a t-shirt for **OPERATION RESTORATION**. A local screen printing company, also new to El Reno, has graciously donated their time over the holidays, printing these shirts to help us kick off this fundraising event.

For each **$30.00 donation** a shirt will be given and 100% of the proceeds will be deposited into a grant-matching account. We have sizes through XXXL. The $30.00 donation includes shipping if you would like to have the shirt mailed to you. Just give me a call at headquarters, (405) 422-6330 or send an e-mail to cavalry@uscavalry.org. Let's all **CHARGE** head-on and preserve a piece of cavalry history together!
Research Library Update  
By Trooper Sam Young

The past four-plus months have been quiet for the Research Library. While I have not been there due to multiple surgeries (I am getting better) one individual completed her research. She sent her findings to Fort Bliss to determine if additional information is available there. From her research she authored the article *The Great Experiment* which is in this journal issue.

The Cavalry Journal archives have been reorganized. Of the journals for the period since 1976, several editions were never published and some published editions we do not have. In a future journal we will list the missing editions to see if any of our readers have them.

Last summer I commenced drafting an index of Cavalry Journal articles from 1976 to the present. There are approximately 140 journals and I have a good start, but a long way to go. USCA has *The Cavalry Journal/Armor Cumulative Indices from 1888-1968* and a partial index for a few years since 1976. These have been very helpful in my responses to requests for information.

In February I plan to spend a few days at Fort Reno focusing on the books in the Research Library; my next organization project. I am studying other libraries and talking with librarians on how to organize our Research Library. From those few days I will draft a work plan for that organization.

If you have library comments, please contact me at journaleditor@uscavalry.org.

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Editor’s Notes  
By Trooper Sam Young

At sixty-nine years and counting, I now measure the year with Cavalry Journal and Crossed Sabers deadlines: when I need guest authors’ materials, when I need to send the draft to Bill and Karen Tempero for review and approval, and sending the file to the publishers. Fortunately, being retired is a blessing.

Have you ever ignored warning signals? We all know the answer is yes. Sometimes you can ignore them, but not if it is a heart attack. Well, I delayed, and it was not a heart attack. It was the computer I used (note past tense) to create the Journal. It died, totally. In September, occasionally it knocked when I turned it on. It was infrequent and ceased when I restarted the computer. In October, it was more frequent, but the computer worked fine and I was able to meet the deadlines for the December Journal and the fall Crossed Sabers. Then it happened—the computer hard drive totally died except for the constant knocking noise when I turned it on. I had several “thumb drive” backups, but not a complete system backup. I no longer had the desktop publishing software and many of the files needed to prepare the Journals and newsletters. Fortunately I had enough on the thumb drives and I know how to use Microsoft Power Point. My IT friend is putting a new hard drive in the computer after which he can check the cooling fan and replace it if necessary as he believes it died first.

Thank you guest authors for your efforts to enhance the Journal’s diversity of topics. I hope our readers enjoy them as much as I have.

Recently one of our members asked about adding a “Letters to the Editor” column. I definitely welcome letters to the editor as they bring ideas that potentially will enhance the Journal. I appreciate the few I have received thus far. If space permits in future editions, or in this column, I will highlight some of the letters.

Please send your letters to me at journaleditor@uscavalry.org or Journal Editor. U.S. Cavalry Association, 7107 W. Cheyenne St., El Reno, OK 73036 (they will be forwarded to me).
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