Mexican Uniforms in 1836

The dress which the Mexican infantry and artillery troopers of that day wore on a march and in action was their fatigue suit consisting of white cotton round jacket and trousers, with black shoulder belts crossed on the breast. Their head dress was the old fashioned black Shako of leather or felt bearing the usual pompon and metallic trimmings such as tinsel and musket. It often had drawn over it a close fitting white cloth covered with the decorative outside. Wound shoulder knots of red blue or green were worn by some.
Their dragoons wore short red coats, blue cloth trousers, and high black helmets, decorated with horse hair or bear skin. They were armed with lances, sabres, carbines, and holstered pistols. Officers seldom appeared in coats except on dress parade. Their costume for march or action was a blue cloth jacket, fringed and braided, with trousers or breeches to match, or white with an ordinary sombrero for head gear. On fatigue other articles of dress, stripes according to caprice, but always one or the other.
The forage cap, occasionally worn by officers and men, had a peak which hung over, with a tassel at the front.
Uniform of Mexican Soldier in 1836
A BILL

To fix the rank, pay and emoluments of the commander of the
Army of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress
Assembled,

That the senior Major General of the Army, while command-
ing the Army of the United States, shall have the rank of a
Lieutenant General, and shall be entitled to the same pay and
emoluments of that grade, and to the selection of the same per-
sonal staff with the rank, pay, and emoluments as heretofore
fixed by law, and on his retirement, by virtue of existing laws,
shall be entitled to the retired pay of a Lieutenant General.
A H I L I

To the Hon. Ben and舅和, The Adjutant General of the Army of the United States.

It is respectfully submitted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled,

That the rank of General of the Army, with the rank of a Field Marshal of the United States, shall have the rank of a permanent General, and shall be entitled to the same pay and emoluments of that grade, and to the selection of the same rank and seniority with the rank, pay, and emoluments as permanent General.

This law, and all the regulations, a virtue of existing laws,

antecedently referred to the Adjutant General of the Adjutant General.
Circular in relation to Artificial Limbs.

CIRCULAR, No. 1.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, March 12, 1877.

Sec. 1. Every officer, or enlisted, or hired, man, who has lost a limb, or the use of a limb, in the military or naval service of the United States, is entitled to receive, once every five years, an artificial limb or apparatus, or commutation thereof. The period of five years is reckoned from the filing of the first application after June 17, 1870. The commutation allowed in case of the amputation of a leg is $75; in all other cases $50. Commutation can be allowed only in cases of loss of a limb or loss of use of a limb—that is, arm or leg—not for other injuries.

Sec. 2. Necessary transportation by the most usual and direct routes, will be furnished to those desiring it for the purpose of having artificial limbs fitted; but will not be furnished except for this purpose. Commutation for transportation is not allowed.

Sec. 3. The laws relating to artificial limbs are the Revised Statutes, Sections 4787 to 4791—Act of June 8, 1872, Chap. CCLXIII, and Act of August 15, 1875, Chap. 596.

Sec. 4. Whenever practicable, the application should be made in the handwriting of the applicant. It should then be transmitted through the proper pension agent to the Surgeon General of the Army, who will furnish all necessary blanks and information. Much delay will be prevented by filing up properly all the spaces of the application, and taking care to write the name, regimental designation, &c., correctly and very plainly.

Sec. 5. Upon application for limbs in kind, orders will be given by the Surgeon General, upon any manufacturer selected, who shall have filed a bond in the sum of Five Thousand Dollars, with two sureties, to furnish good and satisfactory limbs, without extra charge to the soldier, and make good for five years all defects of material or workmanship without additional charge, subject in all cases to the inspection of such persons as the Surgeon General may designate.

Sec. 6. Orders for limbs and transportation will be good for one year from their date and no longer.

Sec. 7. Each person on receiving actual transportation, will sign and deliver up his transportation order to the authorized agent of the railroad, or other carrier. Transportation orders not used should be returned to the Quartermaster General or to the Surgeon General.

J. H. BARNES

Surgeon General, U.S. Army.
Manufacturers who have filed bonds up to this date and on whom orders will be given.

John Condell, New York City, No. 645, Broadway.
C. A. Prees, New York City, No. 682, Broadway.
George K. Fuller, New York City, No. 658, Broadway. Rochester and Milwaukee.
E. B. Hudson, New York City, No. 696, Broadway.
A. A. Marks, New York City, No. 575, Broadway.
Joshua Monroe, New York City, Corner Broad and Bowery.
George W. Hall, Buffalo, No. 9 West Eagle Street.
William Blane & Son, Philadelphia, No. 8, North Ninth Street.
Richard Clement, Philadelphia, No. 928, Chestnut St.—Legs only.
James A. Foster, Philadelphia, No. 1013, Chestnut St., Beare's, No. 72, Girard St., Chicago and Cincinnati.
H. A. Glidden, Philadelphia, No. 283, North Ninth Street.
D. W. Kalbe, Philadelphia, No. 15, South Ninth Street.
B. F. Palmer, Philadelphia, Corner Fifteenth and Chestnut St., and Boston.
D. DeForrest Douglass, Springfield, Mass. No. 206, Union Street.
John S. Drake, Boston.
Fisk & Arnold, Boston, No. 8 Hamilton Place.
Martin Lincoln, Boston, No. 8 Hamilton Place.
William Carr, Concord, N. H.
Charles M. Evans, Cincinnati, No. 132, West Fourteenth St., Louisville, South Street corner Fourth and Market Streets.
A. Haywood, Indianapolis.
Bert & LeRoy, Chicago, No. 135, Clark Street.

Surgeon General's Office.
The following extract from a special telegram printed in the Chicago Times, of Dec. 15, 1877, is believed to possess some interest for those affected by the alleged recommendation of General Miles.

THE ARMY.

A sub-committee of the committee on military affairs will in all probability remain here during the holiday recess for the purpose of working upon an army reorganization bill. Banning, as chairman of the military committee in the last congress, made a great pretense of reorganizing the army, and even went so far as to report a bill, but never pressed it for passage. Some members of his committee, however, of a more energetic turn, made a promise that a bill would be prepared, and it will not be their fault if it is not reported. One of the changes proposed in the new bill is the abolition of the staff system in the army, in accordance with the suggestion of Gen. Miles. If the feature of the staff service is to be retained, it is the intention of the military committee to prepare a bill that will provide that there shall be rotation in office, and that a certain grade of favorites shall not be given these choice places for any undue length of time. It is also proposed to cut off the extra rank and pay that have been attached to these offices.
Headquarters Division of the Atlantic,
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK CITY,

To the
Assistant Adjutant General,
Division of the Atlantic,
Governor's Island.

Sir:

Please furnish for the files of the Commanding General Nos.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

Aide-de-camp.
To the
Assistant Adjutant General,
Division of the Atlantic,
Governor's Island.

Sir:

Please furnish for the files of the Commanding General Nos.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

Aide-de-camp.
(From New York Herald of February 4, 1863.)

GRANT ON THE SHILOH FIGHT.

He denies that he had any intention of reflecting on Gen. McCook.

Speaking to a reporter yesterday Gen. Grant said that he had again been misunderstood in regard to his recent magazine article on the battle of Shiloh. Gen. Grant said; “No reflection was intended on the personal courage or zeal of Gen. A. McD. McCook, or the fighting qualities of his division; on the contrary, I expressly stated that his division had marched from twelve miles east of Savannah, and had been up all night getting from Savannah to the battlefield, and, as a matter of fact, they had been in a heavy storm of rain during the night march.

Gen. McCook’s division did as good service, perhaps, as any division on the field on Monday, the 7th, and on one occasion during that day the opportunity fell to it to do service which received special commendation in the official reports of Gen. Sherman and two other general officers of the Army of the Tennessee. The only thing that I can see in my article that can be construed as reflecting upon Gen. McCook, although it was not so intended by me, is the statement that the request not to be sent in pursuit did not come from the officers or men of the division, but from its commander. What Gen. McCook said was correct: his men should not have been sent in pursuit; and I acted on his advice and did not send them. The article shows this.”
M. Cook, Esq.

Feb., 1885.

Sirs:

I have the honor to submit herewith a draft of a bill for the establishment of a sum of money.

The purpose of the same is to provide for the maintenance of the distillery and for the payment of the wages of the employees.

I have the honor to remain,

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

[Note: The text is partially obscured by water damage and handwriting, making some parts difficult to read.]
The guns mounted at Fort Clinch, Florida, consist of 1 - 15 inch Rodmans and 8 - 24 lbs. Plank Deface Horses, carriages unserviceable.

Magazine No 1. Brick work good; no shutters placed in position of doors. This magazine is surrounded by trees which I think causes dampness.

No 2. Roof of entrance outside worked, cracked; magazine good.


Barracks: Brick very good. Gate and Entrance: rotten.
Recruiting the U. S. Army.

The late Secretary of War, Mr. Prestor, shows a realization of the correct principles on which our Army should be recruited when, in his recent report, he says that it might be desirable to reduce the limit of age for enlistment to below 30 years, and allow no re-enlistment, thus making enlistment in the Army an incident in citizenship, and not an avocation for life; and he very truly asserts that the training of a young man for a short time in the Army makes him a better citizen than if he had never had such training.

There has been a great deal written about encouraging proper men to enlist in our Army, and many projects evolved for inducing them to remain in it when enlisted, but it seems to the writer that the best means for these purposes have not yet been adopted, one of which—and seemingly the most efficient—would be a shorter period of enlistment, not to exceed two years.

There are no difficulties or mysteries in the things taught the enlisted man, and it does not require years, nor even many months, to instruct and train him. The War of the Rebellion ought to have taught us much on this question. Given intelligent and industrious officers, attentive to the discipline of their companies, it should require but a short time to convert the recruit into a reliable and obedient soldier. The example of the cadet at West Point illustrates this fact. He learns pretty much all about the infantry drill, in ranks, during his first encampment, which lasts about nine weeks. At the same time, he learns the service of the piece in light artillery and the foot-drill pertaining thereto; and, so far as obedience to his officers is concerned, he does not lack in this essential during his first encampment, or his first year, any more than in subsequent years. The prevalent idea that a man is naturally disobedient, and that only a long course of suppression will suffice to rid him of his rebellious nature and make him compliant to authority is a false one, and it can hardly be asserted that the cases of insubordination in armies are to be found only among the recruits.

JOHN P. HAWKINS,

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., Dec. 15, 1891.
The first essential toward the discipline of the soldier is the accomplished officer, whom he naturally respects and obeys because of his superiority; and it does not require years to enable him to accommodate his actions and mode of life to the will and direction of such a superior—in fact, his aim and desire is toward such accommodation from the first day of his enlistment.

The curriculum of requirement is not complex or difficult to assimilate, and he soon takes it in; though he may not have all the ways or peculiarities of an old soldier, he is at the end of a very few months just as efficient for all purposes of the service. It may be well to here repeat that the rapid conversion of the recruit into the reliable soldier presupposes good and industrious officers, and the great majority of our officers possess all the favorable qualities that go toward making them everything they should be.

The present term of enlistment for five years may not seem long to a person past middle life, for whom time glides along with rapid pace; but to a young man who is considering how he shall settle himself for life, and who is naturally and properly averse to adopting the calling of a soldier for a life period, the enlistment for five years as an adventure or an experiment seems like taking a big slice out of the best part of his life, and he naturally hesitates to bind himself so far into a long futurity; and the hesitation of the majority results in their refusal to do anything to do with enlisting.

For though the soldier can at the end of two years purchase his discharge, yet that feature, because of its expense, has but little fascination to a man already out of the Army, and he concludes not to venture into a business that he can get out of only by paying back to the United States the small profits that may possibly accrue from his engagement.

To more completely fill the ranks of the Army with desirable men, the following conditions could be developed into a scheme that ought to give more satisfaction than attends the present methods:

Reduce the period of enlistment to two years.

Allow only one re-enlistment.

Receive no recruits over 25 years of age.

Recruit from the rural neighboring towns and country the men needed for the companies stationed at fixed posts in the populous states, with the condition expressed in the enlistment paper that the recruit shall not be removed to another station, except in time of hostilities or for service of a temporary nature, and that he shall be returned to his proper station when the necessity for his absence therefrom no longer exists.

For instance, there would seem to be no good reason why the garrison at Fort McPherson, near Atlanta, Georgia, should not, under these conditions, be able to obtain all the soldiers required there from the population of Georgia and the states adjoining. The men while serving at the post would not feel cut off from their people, who are near by, and an occasional furlough would keep them in touch with home surroundings and home sympathies, and at the end of their enlistment they would go back to their people all the better for having had a tour of service in the Army.

There are many army posts that might be kept fully recruited in this way. Fortress Monroe, Fort Sheridan, near Chicago, and Fort Crook, near Omaha, may be mentioned among the number. Those posts located in the sparsely settled districts of the United States could be supplied with recruits furnished, as now, from recruiting stations in our important cities and agreeably to the forms of enlistment now existing—that is, without prejudice, for a particular post. But for all posts there should be as much recruiting from the adjoining country as possible, with the inducement of non-removal to another station, except agreeably to the conditions heretofore stated.

Our present method of recruiting does not meet with favor among young men raised in the country and small towns, for these attach much importance to home friendships and neighborhood associations, and they are loth to cut loose from them and be drifted away they know not where, to enter on a life entirely new, that may separate them forever from everything to which they have become attached; consequently our recruits have been acquired from the restless young men of our cities, those who have no strong attachments, local or personal, and to whom one place is the same as another—many of them enlist for a change and to satisfy a desire for roving; and,
Mr. CURTIS, of New York, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:
[To accompany H. R. 3477.]

H. R. bill 4795 was referred to the honorable the Secretary of War by the Committee on Military Affairs for his opinion. He referred the committee to his annual report for 1886, in which he says, on pages 10 and 11:

Under existing law the minimum period of enlistment in the Army is five years and the maximum of service for the enlisted man is ten years. Both limits appear to have been fixed under apprehension of the conditions of military service in this country. The well-known uniformity in the condition of the Army justifies the conclusion, drawn from a study of the ultimate purpose of our military organization, that the statute limiting these limitations hampers the present efficiency of the Army, impeded its progress toward definite though remote aims, and should be modified by Congress.

The Major-General commanding the Army, in his annual report for 1896, says:

In our country the Army is far too small to serve as a valuable training school of this character. The organized militia of the several States serve such a purpose to much better advantage, without drawing young men away from their civil vocations.

It therefore seems advisable that the term of enlistment in the regular service in this country be reduced from five to three years, and that the legal restrictions upon reenlistments be removed, so that the War Department may be at liberty to continue in service those enlisted men whose services are found to be valuable.

Adjut. Gen. Williams, in his Annual Report for 1888, referring to the provisions limiting service to ten years, says:

The law, however well intended in theory, is positively hurtful to the Army, as well as injurious to the man in the ranks.

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard, in his Annual Report for 1893, referring to the same provision, says:

I strongly recommend a repeal of this law. Our enlistments in our immense population are too few to get a sufficient benefit from the very short service and so frequent replacement of citizen soldiers.

Maj. Gen. Miles says in his Annual Report for 1893:

I would respectfully recommend that, as much of the act of Congress as prohibits the reenlistment of soldiers who have served for ten years but less than twenty, or who are over 35 years of age, be repealed. The effect of this legislation is, in my opinion, injurious to the Army, depressing the government, as it does, of many experienced men, whose presence in the service would, from every point of view, promote its efficiency and character.
To those criticisms may be added those of 20 officers commanding departments and posts, each condemning the provisions of the existing law, limiting service to ten years, as injurious to the efficiency of the Army.

Section 2 of this bill limits the term of enlistment in the Army to three years, and provides for the reenlistment of those who have rendered faithful and honest service. It restricts enlistments in time of peace, except for Indian scouts, to persons who are citizens of the United States, or who have made legal declaration of their intention to become citizens of the United States, under 30 years of age, who can speak, read, and write the English language. The enlistment for the year ending June 30, 1893, shows that 37.98 per cent were foreign born, to 72.02 native born. It is not stated whether any of the foreign born had become or had declared their intention to become citizens before enlistment. It is well known, however, that a very small proportion of foreigners are naturalized before entering the service, or have taken steps to renounce their allegiance to foreign governments.

There can be no good reason, in time of peace, at least, why the Army should not be composed of persons whose allegiance is wholly and absolutely due to the U. S. Government.

Under the provisions of the act of June 16, 1890, every soldier at the end of three years from the date of his enlistment, whose antecedent service has been faithful, shall be entitled to receive a furlough for three months, and in time of peace he shall, at the end of such furlough, be entitled to receive his discharge upon his own application. During the year ending June 30, 1891, 1,239 took advantage of this provision of the act of June 16, 1890; for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, 1,462, and for that ending June 30, 1893, there were 1,573,3. of 3,364, who received from the United States $754,596 as a premium for leaving the service two years before the expiration of their enlistment.

Your committee have thought it better to prescribe a three years' term, without statutory provision for three months' extra pay, leaving the question of furlough to the military authorities, to be governed by the exigencies of the service and the character of the soldier.

The bill (reprinted, No. 5447) has been amended to comply with the suggestions of the military authorities, and as amended the committee recommends its passage.

Section 3 adjusts the provisions of the present law relating to payments of soldiers to the proposed three years' term of enlistment.

The sections of the statute referred to in section 3 are reproduced for examination in connection with the consideration of this bill.

ENLISTMENTS IN THE ARMY.

SEC. 1291 (R. S.). To the rates of pay stated in the preceding section one dollar per month shall be added for the third year of enlistment, one dollar more per month for the fourth year, and one dollar more per month for the fifth year, making the total three dollars more per month for the last year of the first enlistment of each enlisted man named in said section, but this increase shall be considered as retained pay, and shall not be paid to the soldier until his discharge from the service, and shall be forfeited unless he serves honestly and faithfully to the date of discharge.

SEC. 1292 (R. S.). All enlisted men mentioned in section twelve hundred and eighty who, having been honorably discharged, have reenlisted or shall reenlist within one month thereafter, shall, after five years' service, including their first enlistment, be paid at the rate allowed in said section to those serving in the fifth year of their first enlistment: Provided, That one dollar per month shall be retained from the pay of the reenlisted men, of whatever grade, named in section twelve hundred and eighty-one during the whole period of their reenlistment, to be paid to the soldier on his discharge, but to be forfeited unless he shall have served honestly and faithfully to the date of discharge.

SEC. 1293 (R. S.). Every soldier who, having been honorably discharged, reenlists within one month thereafter shall be further entitled, after five years' service, including his first enlistment, to receive, for the period of five years next thereafter, two dollars per month in addition to the ordinary pay of his grade, and for each successive period of five years of service, so long as he shall remain continuously in the Army, a further sum of one dollar per month. The post continuous service of soldiers now in the Army shall be taken into account, and shall entitle such soldier to additional pay according to this rule; but services rendered prior to August fourth, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, shall in no case be accounted for more than one enlistment.

SEC. 1294 (R. S.). When a soldier is honorably discharged from the service except by way of punishment for an offense) he shall be allowed transportation and subsistence from the place of his discharge to the place of his enlistment, enrollment, or original muster into the service. The Government may furnish the same in kind, but in case it shall not do so he shall be allowed travel pay and commutation of subsistence for such time as may be sufficient for him to travel from the place of discharge to the place of his enlistment, enrollment, or original muster into the service, 'computed' at the rate of one day for every twenty miles.
H. R. 5447.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
JANUARY 20, 1894.

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.
JANUARY 31, 1894.

Reported with amendments, referred to the House Calendar, and ordered to be printed.

Only the part struck through and insert the parts printed in italics.

Mr. CURTIS, of New York, introduced the following bill:

A BILL

To regulate enlistments in the Army of the United States.

1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2. That so much of the Act of Congress entitled “An Act mak-
ing appropriations for the support of the Army for the fiscal
year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-four,
and for other purposes,” approved February twenty-seventh,
eighteen hundred and ninety-three, as provides that “no pri-
vate shall be re-enlisted who has served ten years or more
or who is over thirty-five years of age, except such as have
already served as enlisted men for twenty years or upward,”
be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

SEC. 2. That hereafter all enlistments in the Army shall
be for the term of three years, and no soldier shall be again
enlisted in the Army whose service during his last preceding
term of enlistment has not been honest and faithful; and in
time of peace no person (except an Indian) who is not a cit-
izen of the United States, or who has not made legal declara-
tion of his intention to become a citizen of the United States,
or who can not speak, read, and write the English language,
or who is over twenty-five thirty years of age, shall be en-
listed for first enlistment in the Army.

Sec. 3. That the period within which soldiers may re-
enlist with the benefits conferred by sections twelve hundred
and eighty-two and twelve hundred and eighty-four of the
Revised Statutes be, and the same is hereby, extended to
three months; and hereafter every enlisted man in the Army,
excepting general-service clerks and general-service messen-
gers, shall be entitled to all the benefits conferred by sections
twelve hundred and eighty-one and twelve hundred and
eighty-two of the Revised Statutes: Provided, That to en-
title to the additional pay authorized by section twelve hun-
dred and eighty-one, for men serving in the third, fourth, and
fifth years, the service must have been continuous within the
meaning of this section.