

CUSTOMS OF THE FIFTEENTH U.S. INFANTRY

1. The Customs, ceremonies, etc., set forth in the following paragraphs, and which have been in use and practice within and by the 15th Infantry, are hereby officially recognized and adopted as the customs of the 15th Infantry, U. S. Army, and are published for the information and guidance of all concerned.

2. The CAN DO Spirit. The motto of this regiment is "Can Do," taken from a characteristic Chinese phrase. It indicates a simple, straight-forward devotion to duty, a high degree of loyalty, and the superior efficiency which has characterized this regiment from Civil War days to the present.

3. Assignment of an officer to the 15th Infantry.

a. A personal letter will be written by the Regimental Commander welcoming the officer to the regiment.

b. The officer will also be furnished an information leaflet regarding service in China.

c. The Regimental Commander will designate an officer, preferably a friend or acquaintance of the officer joining, to meet him upon his arrival.

d. Arrangements will be made by the Adjutant to have the officer accommodated in temporary quarters until he can settle in his own permanent residence.

e. Upon arrival of the boat train, all officers not on duty assemble at the railroad station to greet the new arrivals. The band is present and plays appropriate airs.

f. The officer will be personally introduced by the Adjutant, to all officers of the regiment at an officers' assembly soon after he joins.

g. The officer (and adults of family) will be in the receiving line at the first regimental social function after his arrival.

h. All officers (and adults of family, if new arrival is accompanied by family) will call on the officer as soon as practicable after he is established in his quarters.

i. A photograph of each officer will be taken promptly upon his joining the regiment and filed in the regimental picture album.

4. Bride of an officer of the 15th Infantry.

a. The regimental band will serenade the bride at a suitable time after arrival at the station of the regiment.

b. All officers (and adults of family) will call on the bride as soon as practicable after she is established in her quarters.

c. A standard wedding present with the Regimental Coat of Arms engraved thereon will be purchased and presented to the bride in the name of the Officers and Ladies of the 15th Infantry.

d. A regimental reception will be held annually in honor of the brides who have come to the regiment within the past year. One of the regular regimental social events will be used for this purpose.

5. Birth of child of officer of the 15th Infantry.

a. Personal letter of congratulations will be written by the Regimental Commander to the parents on behalf of the regiment.

b. The child will be presented with a silver cup with the Regimental Coat of Arms and other suitable inscription engraved thereon.

c. In order that the child may be baptized and christened under the Regimental colors of his father, the colors will be available for this ceremony upon request of the parents.

6. Officer sick.

a. In hospital. Officers sick in hospital will be visited as often as possible by officers of the

regiment, particularly by those of his immediate command. He will be visited daily by a commissioned officer or enlisted man of his immediate command, in order that his comfort or desires may be attended to promptly.

b. In quarters. an officer sick in quarters for more than one day will be visited as outlined for an officer sick in hospital.

7. Death of officer of the 15th Infantry, or member of his family.

a. An officer will be designated by the Regimental Commander to render any assistance and courtesy in this time of grief, to the bereaved family.

b. A letter of condolence will be written by the Regimental Commander on behalf of the regiment.

c. Flowers in the name of the Officers and Ladies of the 15th Infantry will be sent to the family.

8. Officers relieved from assignment to the 15th Infantry.

a. A reception or other suitable function by the Officers and Ladies of the regiment will be given in honor of the officers leaving. If practicable, one of the regular regimental social functions will be used for this purpose.

b. Upon the departure of officers, all officers of the regiment not on duty will go to the railroad station to give the departing officers a final send-off. The regimental band attends and plays appropriate airs.

c. Upon the departure of each officer from the regiment, he will be presented with a cellophane match box bearing the coat of arms of the regiment and a presentation inscription.

9. Officers of the regiment in uniform and not under arms will carry a riding crop, or swagger stick of the standard 15th Infantry design.

10. Lieutenants addressed as "Mister." All lieutenants should be addressed by other commissioned officers with the title of "Mister" except when speaking to them, in the presence of enlisted men.

11. Participation in activities. The Regimental Commander is of the opinion that officers of the 15th Infantry by virtue of their office and station are under personal obligation to participate in certain activities which while not official, are such as to have almost official claim to their support. It is

realized that because of their financial status, the demands upon some officers require a careful budgeting of their income but in every case it is believed that the following activities should be given a high priority after absolutely necessary expenses are met.

a. The Army Mutual Aid (for officers with dependents unless such dependents are otherwise fully provided for).

b. The Army Co-operative Fire Association.

c. The Army Relief.

d. The United States Infantry Association.

e. American National Red Cross.

12. The Regimental Punch Bowl. Will be engraved with the names of all Regimental Commanders since 1912, the year when the punch bowl was acquired. On the cups will be engraved the names of other officers of the regiment, as many names on each cup as space will permit. When all space on all cups has been filled, new cups of identical design will be purchased for additional names.

13. Retirement of enlisted man, 15th Infantry.

a. A Regimental General Order commendatory to the enlisted man being retired, and containing a statement of his service will be published to the command.

b. A Regimental parade or review will be held in his honor.

c. The Regimental Commander will at termination of parade or review personally extend good wishes to the enlisted man being retired.

d. Special dinner by his company mess.

e. Presentation by company of a regimental ring or other suitable memento.

f. A photograph will be taken of the Regimental Commander congratulating the retiring soldier with the colors in the background and a copy thereof presented to the soldier.

g. In case of an enlisted man ordered home for retirement, these functions will take place during the week prior to his departure.

14. Sick in hospital, enlisted men. Enlisted men sick in hospital (except NLD and contagious cases) will be visited by the following individuals at intervals indicated:

(1) One company officer at least once a week.

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(2) Battalion Commander one or more times per month.

(3) Some member of the company each day.

(3a) For bedridden cases, flowers should be purchased from company funds at appropriate intervals.

15. Death of enlisted man, 15th Infantry.

a. Company and Regimental Commander will each write a letter of condolence to the decedent's next of kin.

b. Flowers in the name of the decedent's company will be sent with the body. Flowers to be purchased from company funds.

c. The following personnel will attend the funeral:

(1) Officers and men of decedent's company.

(2) Regimental Band.

(3) Decedent's Battalion Commander: and Battalion Staff.

(4) a member of the Regimental Staff.

(5) Any member of the regiment whose duties permit and who so desires.

d. The regimental photographer will take pictures of the funeral procession, etc., (grave, if local cemetery), to be forwarded to the next of kin by the decedent's company commander.

16. Decoration of graves.

a. On Memorial Day (May 30th) during the morning, the graves of all enlisted men of the 15th Infantry, buried in the local cemetery, will be visited by suitable delegation of comrades from the decedent's last company and a wreath of flowers and a small American flag will be placed on the grave. Flowers may be purchased from the company fund.

b. Within three days succeeding the ceremony mentioned in a, above, each company commander concerned will write a letter to the deceased's next of kin informing him or her of the ceremony at the grave.

17. Birth of child of enlisted man. When a child is born to a married soldier of this regiment the child will be presented with a silver napkin ring of standard design bearing the coat of arms of the regiment and a presentation inscription.

18. Christening of children -Enlisted Men. Upon request of the parents, the Regimental colors will be available for the christening and baptizing

of children of the enlisted men of the 15th Infantry.

19. Presentation of newly arrived men to the Colors. When new increments of recruits join the regiment, the regiment will be paraded on the first Saturday morning following the date on which the last of the recruit detachment has been turned to duty, and the new recruits shall be formally presented to the Colors.

20. Appointment of Non-Commissioned Officers. Upon the appointment of each non-commissioned officer in this regiment, the warrant is presented to him personally by the Commanding Officer with appropriate remarks.

All warrants will be adorned with a colored paper wafer upon which has been impressed the official seal of the regiment.

21. Commanding Officer's Orders: When a soldier has been selected as Commanding Officer's Orderly, he is granted by his company commander a twenty-four hour pass, for the next day following his relief from guard. This Orderly Pass is honored at the post recreation hall as a free pass to the next moving picture show.

A soldier selected as Commanding Officer's Orderly four times is awarded a prize of two dollars, local currency, by the 15th Infantry.

22. . Chung. When an officer or soldier of this regiment satisfactorily completes the Chinese language course, the Commanding Officer in person presents him with a letter of commendation and with special insignia for his left sleeve, call the "Chung," and consisting of a red Chinese character "Chung" on a circular green field.

23. Departure Ceremony. When enlisted men of this regiment leave for the United States upon expiration of their term of foreign service, there is held on the morning of their departure a general regimental formation in the compound and during the week preceding their departure the respective companies hold farewell parties. It is customary to suspend duties on the day of departure so as to permit all members of the regiment to go to the train at Tientsin or, when units are at Camp Burrows, to the Boat at Chinwangtao.

At the departure ceremony, the regiment is paraded, letters of commendation are presented to specially deserving enlisted men recommended therefor by their company commanders, and each man who receives a letter also receives a regimental

match box bearing the coat of arms of the regiment and a presentation inscription.

24. Color Guard. Whenever the colors are utilized for any nonmilitary function, they will be brought to and from the place of the function under armed guard. When the social event is of such character that it is not desirable to have the enlisted guard remain at the function, the guard will await the conclusion of the event and remove the colors.

25. Organization Day (May 4th). It is customary on this day to have an address made giving a resume of the history of the regiment, holiday dinner and athletic events, a dance for enlisted men, their families and friends, and dinner dance for officers and ladies of the regiment.

The following events will be held on Regimental Organization Day, May 4th:

- a. Regimental parade or review.
- b. Organization Day talk by Regimental Commander or other selected person.
- c. History of the Regiment, read by Staff Officer.
- d. Regimental Athletic Field Day.
- e. Holiday dinner for troops.
- f. Entertainment or dance (or both) in the evening, for the enlisted men of the regiment, their families and friends.
- g. Flowers will be sent to the wife of the Regimental Commander in the name of the Officers of the 15th Infantry.
- h. Dinner and dance for the Officers and Ladies of the 15th Infantry.
- i. Publication in orders of winners, athletic events, individuals and teams. Copy to be furnished each successful contestant.

26. The Commanding Officer's Birthday. On the Commanding Officer's birthday, the regimental band will serenade him, at his quarters, playing the regimental march and music appropriate to the season starting and concluding the ceremony with the "three cheers."

27. Memorial Day (May 30th). It is customary for the Commanding Officer, accompanied by such officers as he may designate, to visit and decorate the monuments and graves, as follows, on Memorial Day:

Tablet in Compound
Italian Shaft)

Compound

German Monument) , Canton Road Cemetery
Austrian Shaft)

French Cemetery

French Cemetery

Colonel Liscum's Monument Japanese Cemetery

Japanese Monument

Japanese Park

Cenotaph

Victoria Park

Captain Ollivant's Grave Canton Road Cemetery

(British Officer who was killed while carrying
ammunition to U.S. Forces in 1900.)

All graves of ex-service Race Course Road or
men buried in Tientsin other Cemetery

28. Can Do Week. One week at or near the end of each training year will be set aside as "CAN DO WEEK" during which will be held a strength test, track and field meet, a military tournament, a horse and transportation show, and games. The week will conclude with a regimental ceremony at which trophies and prizes will be awarded organization and individuals for excellence attained in competitions during the training year.

29. Holiday Dinners. On Thanksgiving, Christmas and Organization Day, just prior to the serving of dinner by the several companies the following procedure will be observed.

a. Regimental Commander, Field and Staff Officers of the Regiment will visit mess hall of each organization in the 15th Infantry.

b. Battalion Commander and Staff will visit messes of organizations of his battalion.

c. Company Commander and Company Officers will visit mess halls of their respective Companies.

d. If practicable and desirable the ladies of the regiment may be asked to accompany the above groups of officers.

It is customary for officers, their families and enlisted men's families to accept invitations to dine with company messes on these days.

30. The following are trophies and awards of a continuing nature competed for annually in the regiment:

a. The Chickamauga Guidon, consisting of a red acorn on a yellow field, of standard guidon dimension, is awarded annually for a one year period to that company of the regiment attaining the highest degree of military proficiency according to regulations established by the regimental commander. The gui-

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don will be carried by an additional guidon bearer at all formations when the company guidon is carried.

b. Rifle, Pistol, Bayonet, and Machine Gun Trophies.

The K.M.A. Marksmanship Cup is awarded to the company which attains the highest individual average with the service rifle during the annual target season.

The Regimental Commander's Cup is awarded to the company which attains the highest percentage of improvement in Rifle Marksmanship during the annual target season, over the previous year.

The Sentinel Machine Gun Trophy is awarded to the company which attains the highest percentage of qualifications in Machine Gun Marksmanship during the annual target season.

The Sentinel Bayonet Trophy is awarded annually to the company which attains the highest percentage in bayonet qualifications.

The Chief of Infantry's Combat Squad Cup is awarded annually to the company whose squad wins the Chief of Infantry's Combat Squad competition and is announced as the 15th Infantry Squad of The Chief of Infantry's Combat Team.

A Rifle Medal is awarded each year to the individual soldier who makes the highest individual score with the rifle during the annual target season.

A Machine Gun Medal is awarded each year to the individual soldier who makes the highest individual score with the machine gun during the annual target season.

A Pistol Medal is awarded each year to the individual soldier who makes the highest individual score with the pistol during the annual target season.

c. Small Bore Competition Trophies.

The Company Small Bore Team Cup is awarded annually to the company whose six-man team wins a special match at 50 feet and 75 feet firing 40 rounds per man.

The Sentinel Small Bore Team Cup is awarded annually to the company whose six-man team wins a special match at 50 feet and 75 feet firing 45 rounds per man.

The Lieutenant's Small Bore Trophy is awarded annually to the individual soldier, selected by a lieutenant, who wins a special match at 50 feet and 75 feet firing 25 rounds per man.

The Captain's Small Bore Trophy is awarded annually to the individual soldier, selected by a captain, who wins a special match at 50 feet and 75 feet firing 35 rounds per man.

The Battalion Commanders' Team Match is awarded annually to the battalion whose twelve-man team wins a special match at 50 feet and 75 feet firing 45 rounds per man.

The Regimental Small Bore Trophy is awarded annually to that company whose individual representative wins a special match at 50 feet and 75 feet, individual high score men in other matches only being eligible, firing 60 rounds per man.

d. Athletic Awards.

The Chesterfield Basketball Cup is awarded to the company whose team wins the annual regimental basketball series.

The Liscum Baseball Trophy is awarded to the company whose team wins the annual regimental baseball series.

The Sentinel Track Team Cup is awarded to the company making the highest number of points in the annual regimental track meet.

A Five Mile Team Race Banner is awarded to the company whose team wins the five-mile team race.

A Track Medal is awarded each year to the individual soldier who scores the most points during the annual regimental track meet.

A five-Mile Medal is awarded each year to the individual soldier who finishes first in the five-mile team race.

e. March Competition.

The Newell March Competition Trophy is awarded annually to the company which wins the annual march competition over a prescribed five-mile course.

f. "CAN DO" Awards.

The Gunn Cup is awarded to the company making the highest number of points in the Annual Strength Test.

The Taylor Trophy is awarded annually for a one year period to that company of the

regiment attaining the highest degree of military proficiency according to regulations established by the regimental commander.

The Cummins Trophy is awarded to that organization of the regiment making the highest number of points in the annual Military Tournament.

The Sentinel Military Tournament Trophy is awarded annually to the organization making the highest number of points in the military tournament.

31. Regimental March. The Regimental March will be played on the following occasions:

a. When troops of the 15th Infantry pass in review at ceremonies.

b. When the regiment, or a battalion or company leaves the post or station or returns to the post or station.

c. At any assembly where one battalion or more of the 15th Infantry participates.

d. On the Commanding Officer's birthday. (See paragraph 26).

32. Pay Day. buglers at the reveille march on the day the regiment is to be paid will sound the march "Pay Day."

33. Social Obligations. Special efforts will be made by all officers to adjust their official military duties and their personal affairs so as to enable them to accept social invitations extended them by the Commanding Officer. It is expected that all officers will attend all regimental social functions.

34. Regimental Dinner. On or about the second Saturday of each quarter, the officers of the regiment hold a stag dinner at some appropriate place to which guests may be invited by individual officers. Each officer will bear his own expenses and those of his guests.

35. Monthly Regimental Social Functions. Monthly the officers of the regiment hold a regimental dance, tea dance, dinner, dinner dance or other appropriate social function to which the

ladies of the regiment are invited. These may be adjusted to be farewell parties for departing officers or parties of welcome for newcomers. Each officer will bear his own expense and those of his guests.

36. Visits of Courtesy. Regimental esprit and regimental unity are greatly developed by the interchange of calls among all officers of the regiment at frequent intervals, in addition to the calls prescribed by Army Regulations and by Standing Orders, USAT in China. In making formal calls, cards should habitually be left. Formal calls should be promptly returned.

37. New Year's Day. On New Year's Day the officers of the regiment will call upon the Regimental Commander at a convenient hour ascertained by the Regimental Adjutant. It is customary for the ladies of the regiment to accompany the officers.

38. Officers' Community Fund. To facilitate and expedite administration of paragraph 5, b. (silver cup to officer's child), paragraph 7, c. (flowers to survivors of deceased officer), and paragraph 25, g. (flowers to wife of regimental commander on organization day), there is created an "Officers' Community Fund" of which the Adjutant is custodian. When this fund falls below ten dollars (\$10.00) it will be brought to the maximum limit of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) by equal assessment on all officers. Money from this fund may be expended by the Adjutant for the purposes indicated in paragraphs 5, b; 7, c; and 25, g, as the specified occasions arise, without special authorization. Money to be expended for the purchase of wedding presents (paragraph 4, c), farewell gifts (Par. 8, c), cups for regimental punch bowl (Par. 12), and for regimental dinners (Par. 34) and monthly social functions (Par. 35) will be secured by special assessments equal to the amount required for each occasion, such money being received and disbursed by the custodian of this fund.