

The Invincible

Texas Navy Association Newsletter



Report From TNA President Bill Turner



I am pleased to announce that the “Proposed Bylaws” voting is complete and Michael Watson, Election Teller, has notified the TNA Board as follows: “The following results are from all ballots received by August 8, 2013, with a postmark of August 5, 2013 or sooner. Yes - 127, No - 14.” The Board deeply appreciates your support. The new Bylaws bring significant change to the TNA. Of note: more direct representation on the Board for our at-large members and affiliated squadrons including a more open process for the nomination and election of Board Members and Officers.

Later in this newsletter, you will see an announcement for an open Board/Membership meeting to be held in the Texas Military Forces Museum, in Austin, Sunday, October 6th. Please plan to attend and take part in this meeting. Among agenda items to be discussed, future projects and ongoing support for the TMFM Texas Navy Exhibit and a viewing of the new exhibit.

I look forward to seeing you in Austin,

Bill Turner, President
Texas Navy Association

Nautical Quiz

The privileged vessel is?

- A. The vessel that has the right of way.
- B. The vessel whose owner has the most money.
- C. The vessel with the wind on it's port side.
- D. The boat who wins in a race.

(Answer on Page 14)

Commodore Moore and the Battle of Campeche

The government of Yucatan furnished Commodore Moore with means to get to sea, with which and the aid of friends in New Orleans, he sailed from that port on the 15th of April, 1843, in command of the sloop-of-war Austin, mounting eighteen (medium) twenty-four-pounders, and two eighteens, accompanied by the brig Wharton, Captain Lothrop, mounting sixteen (medium) eighteen-pounders. With these two vessels, which were well manned and thoroughly equipped, Commodore Moore sailed for Campeche, where he arrived on the 30th of April, and attacked the whole Mexican fleet, which after an action of over an hour, hauled off—but renewed the fight again during the interim of calm between the land and sea breeze; their steam giving them great advantage, besides their great superiority in weight of metal. Commodore Moore had in the meantime been joined by four gun-boats, which came out from Campeche; the action this time lasted but little over half an hour, when the Mexicans again hauled off. On the 16th of May another engagement took place, which lasted more than four hours, the particulars of which would exhibit, in the Texan naval forces, the existence of the gallantry which has ever characterized the same arm of the public service of the United States.

Commodore Moore made repeated efforts to engage the enemy prior to the last action, (May 16th), which was fought by Commodore Don Thomas Marine, Admiral Lopez having been arrested and sent to Vera Cruz for trial, for not capturing the two Texan vessels. Commodore Moore had one-fourth of his force killed and wounded, but he made repeated efforts to bring on another battle, which Commodore Marine, the Mexican commander, avoided, his steam enabling him to do so whenever he chose.

On the night of the 26th of June, the Mexican army embarked on board of their vessels of war and a few transports (it having been reduced full one-half by the vomito and desertions), and fell back

to Tabasco, where General Ampudia remained until the summer of 1844 ; when he was transferred after his barbarous course towards the gallant Sentmanat.

The following was the force of the Mexican navy:

Steamer Montezuma, two sixty-eights and six forty-twos, Paixhan guns.

Steamer Guadalupe, two sixty-eight Paixhans and two long thirty-twos.

Steamer Rejenerador, one long thirty-two and two long nines.

Schooner Eagle, one long thirty-two and six eighteens, all Paixhans.

Brig Yucateco, one long eighteen and sixteen eighteen-pound carronades.

Brig Yman, one long twelve and eight six-pounders.

Schooner Campecheano, one long nine and two six pounders.

This is the first time that steam and sail vessels had ever come in contact, and Commodore Moore beat these three steamers (two of them armed with heavy Paixhan guns), they having a sail force co-operating with them, fully equal to the force of the two Texan vessels. It was also the first time that Paixhan guns had been used in a naval combat.

The reason why Commodore Moore ventured on such an unequal contest, was to save Galveston, the principal port of Texas, from an attack as soon as Yucatan had surrendered, which she was on the eve of doing, the preliminaries having been agreed on between General Ampudia and Governor Meredez, of Yucatan, who was in command of the troops at Campeche, and the articles of compromise were to have been signed the very day, April 30th, 1843, that Commodore

Moore arrived off Campeche, and defeated the Mexican squadron.

Comment is useless upon the value that the little navy of Texas was to that republic, in her struggle for independence, by keeping her ports open, and the entire coast clear of all Mexican cruisers, from the year 1839 to the treaty of annexation, when the Texas navy was laid up in ordinary, (protection having been then guaranteed by the government of the United States.) Although two proclamations of blockade of the ports of Texas were published by the Mexican authorities, one in 1839 and the other in 1840, the Mexican vessels of war were kept in their own ports, and many of their merchant vessels were captured by the Texan cruisers under Commodore Moore, who was all the while off the Mexican coast with some of the vessels under his command, up to the summer of 1842. At this time he went into New Orleans to refit, which he was prevented from doing by the extraordinary course of President Houston, already mentioned, who withheld the appropriations of congress for that purpose, and left Commodore Moore to keep up the navy with his own means and resources, which he did for upwards of nine months, and finally fitted them out for a cruise without a dollar from his government. He was proclaimed a traitor and pirate by the president of Texas for this course, but nobly sustained by the people and congress of the republic.

MEXICO AND HER MILITARY CHIEFTAINS, FROM THE
REVOLUTION OF HIDALGO TO THE PRESENT TIME.
COMPRISING SKETCHES OF THE LIVES OF HIDALGO,
MORELOS, ITURBIDE, SANTA ANNA, GOMEZ, FARIAS,
BUSTAMANTE, PAREDES, ALMONTE, ARISTA, ALAMAN,
AMPUDIA, HERRERA, AND DE LA VEGA

By Fayette Robinson

Published by E. H. Butler & co., 1847

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Welcome Aboard Admirals!



(L) Admiral vonRoeder presented new TNA member Admiral Stephen Lucas his Commission Certificate. Admiral vonRoeder a re-enactor dressed for the occasion. Congratulations Admiral Lucas!



(L) Admiral Dodd Eastham, of the Tom Toby Squadron, receives his Commission Certificate from Squadron Commander Curtis Osborne. Congratulations Admiral Eastham!

Want to Join a Squadron?

A number of Squadrons are forming around the state. Squadrons that qualify can join the TNA.

Chester W. Nimitz Squadron

If you live in the *Dallas* area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander Admiral Micki Sander at 972.662.1818 or micki@thgolfspot.com

Captain Jeremiah Brown Squadron

If you live in the *Fort Worth* area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Adjutant Admiral Jim Sutton at jim@suttonsonline.com

Sam Houston Squadron

If you are a Texas Navy Admiral and a *member of Lakewood Yacht Club or a reciprocal club to Lakewood Yacht Club* and are interested in joining the Sam Houston Squadron, please contact the Sam Houston Squadron Commander, Admiral Don Genitempo, at 832.771.3222 or dtempo@msn.com

Commodore Edwin Ward Moore Squadron

If you live in the *Austin* area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander Admiral Larry Schroeder at lschroeder@grandecom.net

The Tom Toby Squadron

If you live in *Houston* area and are interested in joining a Squadron you may contact Squadron Commander Admiral Curtis Osborne at curtosborne@windstream.net (281.242.4972) or Vice-Commander Admiral Beth Fisher at bethfis@aol.com (281.304.0081)

A new Squadron is in the beginning stages of forming. If you live in Corpus Christi and have an interest please contact Admiral Mark Underhill at mark.b.underhill@uscg.mil or 409.882.4675

Commission Certificate Contest Results And The Winner Is!

Congratulations to our TNA Admiral Randolph Allen Hankla, Jr. who is the proud Admiral to win this fun and interesting contest. How fitting that the Oldest commission certificate looks just like the New certificates that are now being issued. The winning Certificate is dated May 12, 1959.

Admiral Hankla was awarded his prizes by TNA President Admiral Bill Turner. He received a beautiful book, *Uniforms of the Texas Navy*, authored by Admiral Sir Bruce Marshall and a TNA coffee mug.



(L) TNA President Admiral Bill Turner presents Admiral Hankla his Winnings!



TNA Admiral Models 1836 Texas Navy Captain's Uniform



TNA Admiral and re-enactor Steve vonRoeder in his 1836 Texas Navy Captain's uniform which was designed using a photo from artist TNA Admiral Bruce Marshall's drawings.



(L) Lyn vonRoeder, Admiral Steve vonRoeder in back, Annette Reese, and Janet Rice. Pioneer Farms held a 'Victorian Tea' for Mother's day. Admiral vonRoeder and his fellow re-enactors helped bring the past back to life.

Texas Military Forces Museum Creates A Texas Navy Exhibit

The Director of the Texas Military Forces Museum Jeff Hunt, shares his gratitude and his plans going forward:

The Texas Military Forces Museum is delighted to partner with the Texas Navy Association on our forthcoming exhibit. In doing research on the Texas Navy, I found the TNA's outstanding website and knew instantly that it had to be part of our effort. My initial inquiry was returned by Admiral Will Fisher, who responded almost immediately. We had a delightful conversation about the history of the Texas Navy and our exhibit plans. Will's enthusiasm for the subject was boundless and he put me in touch with President of the TNA Admiral Bill Turner, who proved equally excited about the opportunity for our two organizations to work together. TNA President Admiral Turner and Board Member Admiral Charles Harrison made a trip to visit the museum while in Austin for a TNA Board meeting. Bill was gracious enough to invite me to make a presentation to the Board. That was a real treat and the caliber of the questions and quality of the vision exhibited by its members equally so. Shortly after that, Bill called to tell me about the magnificent \$5000 donation the TNA made to our exhibit. This highly significant and generous gift allowed us to take the next big step in the exhibit -- building the deck and mast for our "warship".

The research, writing and image selection for the Texas Navy exhibit panels has just been completed. The next leap is building the bulkheads and outfitting the gun position. Then comes the interactive computer that will allow visitors to explore the story of the Texas Navy in depth, followed by the creation of reproduction uniforms. The Museum is very anxious to move forward on these fronts as soon as the remaining funds can be raised (\$13,000 for the ship, \$5,500 for the interactive and \$7,000 for the uniforms and mannequins). We welcome any and all contributions to our effort. Donations to the museum can be made in one of two ways. For TNA Members, you may send a check to the TNA directly with a notation on the memo line of the check that it is for the TXMFHF Texas Navy Exhibit. The TNA will forward 100% of your donation to the museum. Through the Texas Military Forces Historical Foundation by mail (TXMF Museum, Camp Mabry, Bldg 6, 2200 W 35th St, Austin, Tx 78703). Checks should be made out to TXMFHF with a notation on the memo line of your check that you are a TNA Member. Donations made by either method are tax deductible as allowed by law. Everyone who donates prior to the exhibit panels going up (probably by Sept. 1) will have their name included on a panel in the exhibit acknowledging their support.

I am always happy to answer questions about the exhibit or the museum. My phone is 512.782.5770 and email is Jeffrey.w.hunt10.nfg@mail.mil

Look forward to having y'all come up and see us sometime!

Since its inception in 1986 the Texas Military Forces Museum, located at Camp Mabry in Austin, has compiled a collection of historic material and three dimensional artifacts exceeding 25,000 objects, 15,000 books, 30,000 historic photographs, more than three dozen historic military vehicles and artillery pieces and over 2,000 linear feet of archival material. They plan to modernize and renovate the existing 22,000 Sq. Ft. space to better organize and tell the story of the Texas Military Forces.

There will be three primary Galleries with the “Texas Navy Exhibit” located in Gallery One. The New Squadron Commander, Admiral Larry Schroeder, Admiral Bruce Marshall, and Admiral Gordon Kelso of the newly formed Commodore Edwin Ward Moore Squadron in Austin visited the Museum to view the “Texas Navy” room.

When asked for his impression Admiral Kelso said, *“Our Squadron will hold its meetings in the Massaro Room at the museum...couldn’t ask for a “more perfect” location! “Museum Director Jeff Hunt has actualized an absorbing ‘telling’ of our Texas Navies. While still in its developmental stages, when completed later this year, the museum visitor will be introduced ‘interactively’ to impressive spaces chronicling the Texas Navy’s origins, Republic contributions, and colorful personnel. There is an added bonus of ‘stepping aboard’ a cross-section of a fully-rigged Texas Navy Battleship...replete with railing, cannon and gun-port! Additionally, several Texas Navy Uniforms, which were inspired by Admiral Bruce Marshall’s paintings, are being made and will be prominently displayed . This stunning exhibit is destined to be a huge favorite among young and old...guaranteed!”*

Museum Director Jeff Hunt shared a few photos of the Texas Navy Exhibit while under construction.





We are communicating closely with the museum and will keep you informed on the progress. Stop by the Texas Military Forces Museum whenever you are in the Austin area. You can learn more about the museum by visiting their web site:

<http://texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org/>

Open Member Meeting

There will be a Open Board/Members Meeting on October 6 at the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry in Austin at 1 PM.

Driving Directions to the museum:

From the MOPAC Expressway (aka, Loop 1). Exit the MOPAC Expressway at 35th Street. Drive west 6/10ths of a mile past the old main gate, which is now barricaded, and go through the light at Exposition, and down a steep hill. At the bottom of the hill, just before a flashing traffic signal, you will see the gated entrance of Camp Mabry to your right (i.e., Maintenance Drive). After passing through security, go straight to the stop sign and turn right. At the next stop sign, turn right again. Follow General Mabry Boulevard past the running track on your left. Building 6 will be on your right, next to an outdoor display of tanks and military vehicles. The main entrance for the Museum is the large white double doors at the center of the building.

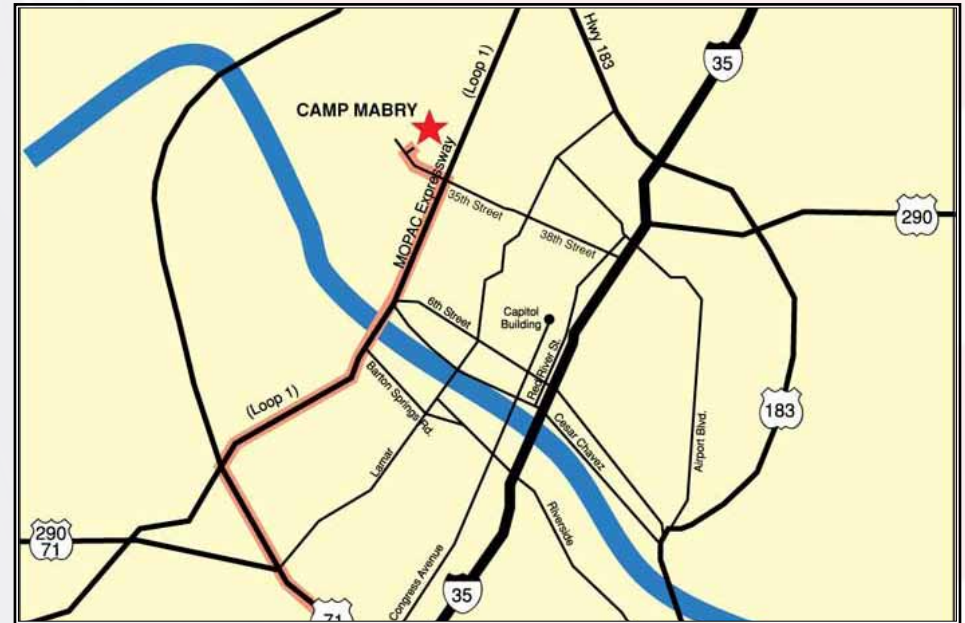
From IH-35. Make certain you are on the lower level of the Interstate. Take the 38½ Street exit going west. Note that as it proceeds westward, 38½ Street becomes 35th Street. After crossing over Loop 1, follow the instructions above.

From the Airport. Take Highway 71 West to Highway 360 North to Loop 1 North. Travel five (5) miles on Loop 1 to 35th Street. Follow the instructions above from that point.

Entering Camp Mabry. At the current time, the post is open to the public during daylight hours without prior arrangements. The security guards, however, may require you to present some form of valid state or federal identification and to consent to a search of the vehicle.

Mark your calendar now. It will be an interesting meeting with

an opportunity to tour the Museum's "Texas Navy Exhibit".



Address: Camp Mabry, Bldg 6, 2200 W 35th St., Austin, TX 78703.

Museum Telephone Number: 512.782.5659

Museum Director Jeff Hunt: 512.782.5770

Jeffrey.w.hunt10.nfg@mail.mil

The Tom Toby Squadron

A Newly Formed Squadron

By Squadron Commander Admiral Curtis Osborne:

The Tom Toby Squadron of the Texas Navy was chartered on the 20th of July, 2013. Our membership currently has 22 Admirals. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, September 4th, at Rudi Lechner's Restaurant. Our mission statement is to promote the history of the original Texas Navy. Mailing address: Commander Admiral Curtis Osborne, P.O. Box 439, Sugar Land, Texas 77478.



(L) Admirals: Dodd Eastham- Treasurer, Randal Hankla- Secretary, Curtis Osborne- Commander, Beth Fisher- Vice-Commander, and Ron Brown- Executive Officer. Officers not pictured are:
TNA/Squadron Liaison Officer: Admiral Jimmy Glover
Historian: Admiral Michael Bailey
Parliamentarian: Admiral Sam Rogers

The Texas Navy Time Line

1837 cont'd

October 5: Captain Alex Thompson, formerly with the Mexican Navy, presented a plan to the Navy Department for the construction of a Naval Station at Galveston.

October 6: President Houston vetoed a request from the Senate to reinstate S. Rhoads Fisher as Secretary of the Navy, citing Fisher's unauthorized offensive cruise against Mexico in the summer of 1837. The Senate passed a resolution reinstating him on October 18, but Houston ignored it. Ultimately, Fisher was tried by the Senate, which explicitly found no fault in his patriotism or motives, but upheld Houston's decision in the interest of efficient government.

October 16: A deadly hurricane called "Racer's Storm" (named after the British naval sloop that first spotted it) hit Galveston, leveling the town, drenching the shallow island under four feet of water and destroying at least fifteen ships, including the Texas Navy warship Brutus, the privateer Thomas Toby (which the Texas government was negotiating to purchase) and the captured Mexican merchant vessel Rafaelita. That same month, Mexican President Anastasio Bustamante freed Texas Navy prisoners captured aboard the Texas flagship Independence in April off the coast of Velasco.

October 24: Lieutenant Francis B. Wright inspected the captured Mexican schooner Correo Mejicano to see whether it could be used as a warship to replace the wrecked Brutus and Invincible. The one-gun ship, captured in August 1837, would have made a good fighting vessel, but it was never commissioned as a Texas warship, and was ultimately sold.

November 1: Commander Henry L. Thompson, commodore of the Texas squadron during its 1837 adventures off the Mexican coast, dies suddenly, sparing him a court-martial at the hands of an angry

President Houston, who forbade the expedition. (The expedition was ordered by Navy Secretary S. Rhoads Fisher, who went along on the voyage as a volunteer.)

November 2: Texas Congress passes a bill allowing President Houston to issue letters of marque to sea captains to attack Mexican shipping in the Gulf and to protect Texas commerce. Although the government's share is reduced from the usual ten percent to two percent, no one applies.

With the loss of the Invincible to two Mexican warships and the destruction of the Brutus by a hurricane, the Texas Congress passes a bill to recreate a Texas Navy by purchasing one 18 gun sloop-of-war, two 12-gun brigs, one steamer and three schooners, each carrying five to seven guns. President Houston signs the bill into law on November 4, giving rise to the second Texas Navy.

November 7: President Houston formally charges Secretary Fisher with violating orders, leaving his post at the seat of government, embezzlement, tobacco smuggling, and other charges justifying Houston's dismissal of Fisher.

November 24-25: The impeachment trial of Navy Secretary S. Rhoads Fisher takes place in the Texas Senate. Representing Secretary Fisher were two prominent anti-Houstonites, General Thomas J. Rusk and ex-president David G. Burnet. Other well known Texians rose in Secretary Fisher's defense. "The trial of Mr. Fisher was continued to-day by Mr. John Wharton, in a most furious tirade against President Houston; it was the bitterest invective I ever heard uttered by man," recorded Reverend Littleton Fowler, the Senate chaplain, on November 25.

November 28: On November 28, the Senate upheld Houston's dismissal of Fisher in the interest of harmonious government, but stated that it found that Fisher had done no wrong.

November 29: The United States government presents formal claims against the Republic of Texas over the capture of the U.S. merchant brigs Pocket and Durango by Texas forces.

December 7: President Houston nominates Dr. William M. Shepherd, a former surgeon with the New Orleans Greys, to replace S. Rhoads Fisher as Texas Navy Secretary. "Dr. Shippers," as Houston spelled his name, is confirmed by the Senate that same day.

December 14: Texas Congress appropriates \$250,000 in long-overdue backpay for Texas Navy and Army officers and men. Most of this appropriation, like most others of the Texas government, would never actually be paid.

December 30: Navy Secretary Shepherd orders Commodore George Wheelwright to fit out the captured Mexican merchant schooner Correo as an armed warship, to replace the Invincible and Brutus, which were lost earlier that year.

(Cont'd in the next Invincible)

Texas Navy History Quiz

Deaths at the Battle of Campeche: Texian

Deaths were: a) 7
b) 21
c) 29

Mexican Forces Deaths were:

a) 3
b) 32
c) 189

Answer Pg. 14



TNA Ships Store

New Item for Our Lady Admirals Only



Our Lady Admirals will enjoy this "For Admirals Only" 4 Star Admiral pin designed by Admiral Judy Fisher and made by Pamela Wright Jewelry especially for the Texas Navy Association.

4 stars are filled with sparkling Swarovski crystals. This beautiful pin is now available in our Ships Store. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

Nautical Quiz Answer

A. The vessel that has the right of way.

Source: <http://www.deepcreekyachtclub.com/WebPage/NauticalQuiz.html>, accessed August 13, 2013.

Texas Navy History Quiz Answers

Texian Deaths were: a) 7
Mexican Forces Deaths were: c) 187

Incredible Victory over steam power!

Source: "Lone Star Navy", Texas the fight for the Gulf of Mexico, and the Shaping of the American West, author: Jonathon W. Jordan; 1st edition.



In Memory Of

Admiral George P. Mitchell

Fair Winds and Following Seas!

