

The MAJOR and the MONGRELS

HISTORY has dealt at some length with the colorful and dangerous aspects of life in the frontier army posts of the West. One generally neglected facet, however, has been brought to light by Helen McCann White in the course of recent research in the National Archives. It is illustrated by this flawlessly penned document composed at Fort Abercrombie, on the bank of the Red River, in 1859:

Head Quarters, Fort Abercrombie S.T.
February 17, 1859.

Orders }
No. 1 }

The nuisance arising from the number of cur-dogs at this Post, has increased to an extent which will no longer be tolerated. Their yells, both by night and day, render the confines of the Garrison a Babel to which Eandemonium was a Paradise.

This nuisance must be abated. Whenever such unwarrantable noises occur in future, the sentinel in the vicinity, will call for the Corporal of the Guard, who at the head of a patrol will repair to the spot and take immediate measures to silence the obnoxious animal, either by causing him to be confined, or by dispatching him.

Sentinel will also be instructed in case of an attack (by barking or otherwise) upon any individual inside of or approaching the garrison, from the cur-dogs in question, to fire upon them.

By Order of Bvt. Maj. Tatten
C. B. Watson
2nd Lieut. 2nd Infy.
Post Adjt.





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