



THE NATIONAL GUARD OF NEW JERSEY.

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Concluded.

FROM the year 1881 onward the history of the Guard is mainly one of summer encampments, riot drills, target practice, the regular armory drills and the annual inspections followed in regular order.

In 1885 Maj.-Gen. Gersham Mott suddenly died and was succeeded by Brig.-Gen. Joseph W. Plume, commander of the First Brigade, who still holds the office.

The military funeral of General Grant in New York City, August 8, 1885, afforded the State an opportunity for the first time of a full display of the entire Division, which turned out with a total strength of 2,874 men from an aggregate of 3,537. The prompt assembling of the entire command, the perfect uniformity of dress, their good conduct and steady discipline were noted by the press, by the people, and especially by the military men present.

In 1886, 1887, 1888, only the regular duties were performed, including the annual encampments. The force had increased to 4,035; some companies had been disbanded or consolidated with others, but the changes were local and had no permanent effect on the force as a whole.

In 1889 the Division had another

chance to come together at the centennial celebration of Washington's inauguration, held in New York City April 30th. The New Jersey contingent was expected to be in line at 9:45 A.M. on that day; the entire command was rendezvoused, crossed the river and was in line promptly on time. After the parade they returned across the river and were all at home that night. This speaks volumes for the military reputation of the Division commander, and for the efficiency of the Quartermaster's Department of the State.

The organization of the National Guard of New Jersey by law shall consist of not more than 60 companies of infantry to be organized with regiments and battalions), 2 Gatling gun companies, the whole to be organized into two brigades and comprised in one Division. There is a proviso in the law that each county in the State shall be entitled to at least one



LT.-COL. S. V. S. MUZZY.

company. Two additional companies (Gatling gun), of not less than two commissioned officers and twenty-five enlisted men, may be organized at the pleasure of the commander-in-chief (who is the Governor). The staff of the commander-in-chief is as follows:

1 adjutant-general, 1 quartermaster-general, who acts also as commissary-general, paymaster-general and chief of ordnance; 1 surgeon-general, 1 inspector-general, 1 inspector-general of

follows: 1 colonel, 1 lieutenant-colonel 1 major, 1 adjutant, 1 quartermaster and 1 paymaster (each with rank of first lieutenant, to be promoted to rank of captain after five years' service), 1 surgeon, 1 assistant surgeon, 1 chaplain, 1 judge-advocate, 1 inspector of rifle practice, 1 sergeant-major, 1 quartermaster-sergeant, 1 commissary-sergeant, 1 hospital steward, 1 principal musician, 1 color-sergeant, and 2 general guides and 1 bugler (each a sergeant).

To each battalion: 1 major, with staff as above. To each battalion of three or more companies the commander-in-chief may also commission a lieutenant-colonel. To each infantry company: 1 captain, 1 first and second lieutenants and not less than 50 nor more than 80 enlisted men, from whom are selected 1 first sergeant, 4 sergeants, 5 corporals and 2 musicians.

Whenever a howitzer or Gatling gun shall be attached to any regiment or battalion by the major-general of division, a gun detachment to take charge of the same shall be organized, to consist of 1 first lieutenant (who is promoted captain after five years' service), 1 sergeant, 1 corporal and 16 privates; the officers to be appointed by the regimental or battalion commander,

The pay of officers and men per day, when on duty, is as follows: Brigadier-generals, \$6; commanding officers of regiments or battalions, \$5; field officers below rank of colonel (except regiment or battalion commanders), \$4; captains, adjutants and officers commanding companies, \$3; to officers below rank of captain (except as above), \$2.50; first sergeants and non-commissioned staff, \$2; company sergeants, \$1.75; corporals, privates and musicians, \$1.50.

Rations and forage are furnished as per regulations.

All mounted officers and all members of any troop or battery, mounted and equipped, shall be paid \$2 per day for each horse actually used by them,

The brigades composing the division of the National Guard of New Jersey go into camp, upon this State ground, at Sea Girt, on alternate years.

For the year 1891 the First Brigade,



OFFICERS OF THE GUARD.

rifle practice, 1 judge-advocate general, 1 assistant adjutant-general, 4 aides-de-camp (the commander-in-chief may appoint 6 additional aids with same rank), 1 deputy adjutant-general (the commander-in-chief may appoint 3 deputy quartermaster-generals, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He may also appoint 2 assistant inspector-generals of rifle practice, with the rank of colonel), 1 major-general of division, with a staff as follows: 1 assistant adjutant-general, 1 inspector, 1 surgeon, 1 paymaster, 1 quartermaster, 1 judge-advocate, 1 chief of artillery, 3 aides-de-camp, 1 standard-bearer and 1 bugler, who shall also rank as sergeants. There shall be 1 brigadier-general to each brigade, with a staff as follows: 1 assistant adjutant-general, 1 inspector, 1 surgeon, 1 quartermaster, 1 paymaster, 1 judge-advocate, 1 engineer (who shall also be signal officer), 2 aides-de-camp, 1 standard-bearer and 1 bugler (sergeants) and 1 hospital steward.

Each regiment shall be officered as

commanded by Brig. Gen. Dudley S. Steele, since deceased, had its encampment composed as follows: First Regiment, Col. Edward A. Campbell, commanding; Second Regiment, Lieut. Col. Charles Erlenkotter; Fourth Regiment, Col. P. Farmer Wanser; Fifth Regiment, Col. Levi R. Barnard; First Battalion, Lieut. Col. S. V. S. Muzzy; Second Battalion, Lieut. Col. J. Vreeland Moore; Third Battalion, Lieut. Col. Edward H. Snyder; Gatling-Gun Company "A," Capt. J. Madison Drake.*

Total number in camp, 1,698, being about 70 per cent. of the aggregate strength of the command.

The camp was pitched by the quartermaster's department, as was usual, before the arrival of the troops, who were well quartered and fed, with few, if any, expressions of dissatisfaction.

The work done during this encampment (I quote from Gen. Steele's report) "was of the usual character, and the progress made quite satisfactory."

For the first time in the history of the State, an officer of the regular army, Lieut. (now Captain) Robert London, Fifth Cavalry, U. S. A., was ordered by the Secretary of War to visit the encampment and report thereon. He made a most careful examination of the organization, discipline and efficiency of the First Brigade, and "by his courteous manner, careful and conscientious study of the details of the workings of our force, produced a very favorable impression upon all the officers and men of the Guard." (Adjutant-General's Report, 1891.)

I quote a few pertinent paragraphs from Capt. London's report to the inspector-general of the army, words full of meaning and applicable to the active militia (in some States called the National Guard, in others Volunteers) throughout the length and breadth of the Union—North as well as South, East as well as West. "It is as true now as it has ever been

that in case of need the United States must look to the Militia of the several States to maintain its honor. It goes without saying that the levies of the different States must be united into an harmonious whole before they can be used effectively. The time consumed in this blending process may be of vital moment, and reasonable precautions should be taken to make it as short as possible.

"The control of the Militia is properly in the hands of the States, and it should remain there; at the same time it seems possible to devise at Washington some scheme, which, respecting the rights and sentiments of the States, might lead to a uniformity in the National Guards of the different States, in uniform, equipment and armament. * * *

"To the extent that it would receive the benefit, a large share of the burden of the support of the National Guard should be borne by the United States.

"The target practice has been systematized, and has been brought to a degree of perfection which is limited only by the amount of ammunition expended. The range, which a few years ago was a



GATLING GUN COMPANY OF ELIZABETH.

*Since writing the above the authorities have determined to re-organize the First Brigade. It will now consist of three regiments of three battalions each; naturally there will be a number of officers retired—probably about twenty-five (field, regimental, staff and line). Four of the five companies will be disbanded. These changes will not be detrimental to the discipline or efficiency of the service—rather the contrary. This is the first move under the new drill regulations—to consist of three battalions of four companies each, each battalion to be commanded by a major. Congress should follow the example of New Jersey and re-organize the infantry of the regular army.

sandy waste, covered with scrub-pine and cedar, is now a beautiful, grassy plain, fitted with all necessary conveniences and appliances. The practice is had almost entirely after the close of the encampment, and is not allowed to interfere with the duties of the troops during its continuance. The object being to enable each member of the National Guard to acquire a fair proficiency in the use of his rifle, at a moderate cost to the State, the system adopted and the manner in which it is administered leave nothing to be desired.

In my opinion, the arms, ammunition, equipments and clothing should be furnished by the United States,

Again I invite the attention of my readers to House Bill 7,318, 52d Congress, 1st session, and the report of Mr. Cutting, which accompanies it.

To maintain an effective militia needs the fostering care of government, and laws and systems of universal application are necessary to insure its efficiency. This duty of course rests with Congress, but public sentiment must first be roused to the needs of the country. The riots of 1877 showed the need; but so much has been done since by the States themselves to improve the militia that public opinion seems to say: "Let well enough alone; we do not wish to have the Government meddle with our private affairs." It forgets the lessons taught at the first Bull Run.

In this connection I desire to quote sparingly from the excellent report of Gen. William S. Stryker, adjutant-general of New Jersey, for the year 1880:

"* * * At the same time we welcome any plans which will improve the National Guard of this State, and make it assimilate in all that is excellent with the force of other States, and with the condition and efficiency of the army of the United States. It is with pleasure we note that the authorities of the War Department have the disposition to aid in raising the military force of the several States to the same high standard as the regular army. They may confidently expect our co-operation."

Before closing this short paper on the National Guard of New Jersey, I wish to invite special attention to two innovations, and of such far-reaching results that I wonder they have not been more generally adopted:

To each regiment is attached a howitzer platoon—the howitzer to be used in the stead of a Gatling-gun—so that in case of riot a mob may not protect itself behind a barricade or stone wall, and defy the infantry to dislodge it until the arrival of artillery. This howitzer can be readily taken apart, placed in a canvas bag, made for the purpose, and, if necessary, be carried by four men to the top of a commanding building, bridge or other structure, and thence pour forth its messengers of death.

To each regiment is also attached a light wagon, in which is packed a long ladder in sections, rope with hooks at one end, lanterns, axes, etc. Now, in case a small turning force is necessary, and time cannot be taken to go round a whole square or block, the sections of ladder may be used to scale back fences. In case a building needs to be entered from the rear or side, the sections of ladder soon make a whole, up which the men can climb. They carry the ropes with them and pull up heavy ammunition, the howitzer, or whatever is necessary. In case a mob has secured the lighting plant of a city, the lanterns will provide, so far as the regiment is concerned.

This wagon can be pulled by two or more men, is light and handy and particularly useful, in my opinion, for citizen soldiery.

There is one thing lacking in the Guard, and that is the bicycle, for the use of messengers, patrols, etc. This necessary and useful machine will soon, I trust, be adopted by the army and by the several States. Its use by the National Guard of Connecticut, as well as by the armies of Europe, has shown its utility.

The military force of New Jersey is certainly in such a condition to-day that the response to a call for any duty would be instantaneous and effective.

