

SPECIAL ARMORY EDITION

VOL. 6. NO. 3.

FEBRUARY 1916.

PRICE TEN CENTS



Colonel Elmore Farrington Austin

# Brief History of the EIGHTH COAST DEFENSE COMMAND N. G. N. Y Plots that have taken place in the Regiment were two troops in the Regiment were two troops as the "Grey Ansoc

HE exact date of the original orsettled, owing to the fact that all documents relating thereto were lost when the Regimental Armory in West 23rd Street was destroyed by fire in 1878. The late Captain J. O. Johnston had procured data which

gave the organization of the Regiment as April 4th, 1786, but within the past year facts have come to light which show the Regiment to have been in existence long before that date.

It originated first as part. part of the Burgher Guard in 1665, afterward the Blue Artillery of independent companies in 1775, Lambs Artillery 1777 to 1783, the survivors of Lambs Artillery, after the Revolution, were organized as the 1st Regiment Artillery or Masonic Artillery. This was changed to the Third Artillery in 1796. In 1806 during the excitement created by the firing of the British at American vessels off Sandy Hook a Battalion of four companies was organized and attached to this command. In the organization of the Third Regiment it became its Second Batallion and remained as such until 1825, when it was detached, and in 1826 was organized as the 27th Regiment Artillery, the numerical designation numerical numerical designation was changed to the 7th, which it still retains.

In 1847 the designation was changed from Third to Eighth Regi-ment, N. Y. State Artil-lery, and afterward became Infantry with the same numerical designation. On March 26th, 1908, it was again changed to Artillery and became the Eighth Coast Artillery District. Coast Artillery Corps, N. G. N. Y.

The Regiment has served in the War of 1812, in the Civil War,

Washington and Bull Run in 1861, Yorktown in 1862 and Gettysburg Campaign in 1863.

It served in the Spanish-American War in 1898, as the Eighth New

York Volunteer Infantry.

It has done duty in nearly all the

cluding the flour riots 1826, stone cutters' riot 1835, great fire N. Y. City 1845, Astor Place riot 1849, police riot 1857, dead rabbit riot 1857. Sepoy riot 1858, Camp Corcoran Legion 1862, draft riots 1863, Orange riots 1871, Syracuse 1877, and

CLAN POS GROOME SHEW SILENT TENTS ARE SPHEAD AND ESTATE STATES WITH SOLEME ROUND THE BIVOUAC OF THE DEAD

Brooklyn Eighteen Ninety-five.

The Regiment paraded at the inauguration of General Washington as First President of the United States, and received the distinctive title "Washington Greys," which they have held ever since. They were

In the Regiment were two troops of cavalry known as the "Grey Troop" and the "Blue Troop," the grey troop later was organized as a battery and known as "Varians Battery," afterward as a Battalion of Cavalry and known as the Washington Grey Battalion, they were then consolidated into one

troop and reorganized as a battery of artillery and are now the 2d Battery Field Artillery.

Jacob Morton, Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment in 1794, became Major General of the First Division, in 1810, the Major presented a Standard to the Regiment in front of the City Hall. In 1812 Fort Gansevoort at the foot of West 13th Street was garrisoned by the 8th Regiment. In 1814 the Regiment erected an Epaulement on Brooklyn Heights. In 1815 a de-tachment of the Regiment fired a National Salute from the Battery in celebration of the treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain. In 1818 a Standard was presented to the Regiment by the Mayor on behalf of the city. In 1819 a detachment of the Regiment acted as escort to General Andrew Jackson. In 1824 the Regiment paraded in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette. In 1850 the Regiment paraded at the obsequies of President Zachary Tay-lor. In 1851 the Regiment paraded at the reception of Louis Kossuth. In 1858 the Regiment was detailed as special escort and Guard of Honor to the remains of ex-President James Monroe at the City Hall. In 1860 the Regiment paraded as special escort to the Japanese Embassy. In 1862 the Regiment paraded as special escort to the remains of Major General Phil. Kearney. February 23d, 1862, a stand of

colors from the city was presented to the Regiment by Mayor Opdyke. In 1864 the Regiment acted as escort to the remains of Generals Sedgwick and Russell. April 25th, 1864, the

(Continued on Page Eleven)

# The New Armory

of the

# EIGHTH COAST DEFENSE COMMAND

PILCHER & TACHAU, Architects

HE new armory for the Eighth Coast Defense Command N. G. N. Y. now nearing completion at Kingsbridge Road and Jerome Avenue is by far the most complete structure of its kind as well as the largest Armory in the world, and was designed and constructed under the personal direction of Messrs. Pilcher and Tachau of 109 Lexington Ave-New York City.

There are a number of new features introduced which are made possible by the fact that the building was planned especially for the needs of coast artillery training, and by the fact that certain physical features of the site were also taken advantage of, such as the grade of 12 feet along Kingsbridge Road and the abnormal depth of the basement, the building being situated at the end of the abandoned Jerome Park Reservoi.

The structure is of red brick and terra cotta trimming, with slate roof over Administration Building and asbestos roof over Drill Shed. In style, the ar-chitecture is inspired from the medieval French as exemplified at Pierrfont.

The Armory consists of two large elements. the Aministration Building, 500 feet 45 feet in extending

along Kingsbridge Road on the south of lot and the Drill Shed, 300 feet by 600 feet directly behind the Administration Building.

On the basement level of the Administration Building are situated 12 Company Locker Rooms, locker rooms for the Hospital Corps and non-commissioned Officers. These are separated by a wide corridor which is reached from a special entrance for the enlisted men near the corner of Kingsbridge Road and Jerome Avenue. This corridor contains the gun racks, opposite which the Company Locker Rooms which leads on the one side to the gymnasium, billiard room and bowling alley and on the other side to the rifle ranges, pistol ranges and cleaning rooms for the rifles. The gun racks are arranged on wheels so that they may be moved from the cases and all of the guns of one company may be taken to the cleaning room as a unit without handling the pieces separately.

The grouping of the rooms on this level as described gives the men privacy even when the remainder of the building is open to the public. Each locker room is fitted with steel lockers, artificially heated and ventilated. and have separate toilet and shower facilities. A stair-way leads from each company locker room to its corresponding company parlor, situated on the main floor of the Administration Building, over the locker room and on a level with an opening into the Drill Shed. Haltway between these two stairs is a mezzannine floor where are situated the company store rooms, directly behind the company rooms and in which are the stores of each company. These rooms are located on a very wide corridor or drive way into which wagons may be driven from Jerome Avenue and in which the stores may be loaded or unloaded under cover. is sufficiently large to driveway

waiting room, where the colors are displayed, a private office and dressing room and bath. This suite is reached from the main lobby and a private stair connects the Colonel directly with the Adjutant, and the Adjutant's office situated on the mezzannine floor directly below the main lobby in close relation to the men's corridor. On the second floor to the east of the Colonel, the Major's and the Chaplin's rooms, each with private bath. The Captains have their offices and dressing rooms with bath directly overlooking the Company rooms in the mezzannine story reached from the Drill Shed.

On the left of second story lobby in the Ladies' Retiring Room and tollet room, the large Council Room, Regimental Museum,

Room and Museum on the other

On the right is the Colonel's quar-

ters, consisting of an outer office or

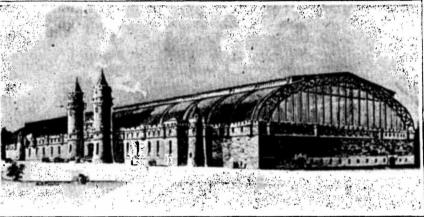
etc. On the third floor of the Administration Building is the Officers' Mess, Library. Reading Rooms, Veternus and the Room Quarters for the Armorer. In this building are also situated complete quarters for the Sergeants with examining rooms, etc., quarters for U.S. regulars detailed for instruction purposes and parlors and prac-

tice rooms for the Drum Corps and band. In connection with the Quartermaster's store and fitting room, together with Officers' dressing room. ance Officer is also provided for with a direct stair way from his room to the rifle ranges and his magazine.

The Drill Shed, the largest in the world is on a level with the first floor of the Administration Building. Here is a room 300 by 600 feet free from columns and other incumbrances. Unlike other armories this floor is of earth, the wood being omitted. One may enter on horseback, tents may be pitched and fires built, and indeed it is much the same as out-ofdoors.

A space of 100 feet at the west end extending across the shed is given over to the gun emplacement. The United States Government has installed here at great expense an exact replica of a portion of a coast fort with signal station, ammunition and shell room telephone and search light and all the adjuncts of a coast defense.

onse. Regular service ten inch (Continued on page eleven.)



allow the handling of the stores of all the companies simultaneously. Along this drive-way are also located the large store rooms, the Quarter-master's stores, and it leads towards the west to the Battery Parade on the gun emplacement which will be described later. This drive forms the carriage entrance to the building and guests may be driven directly to the foot of the main entrance stair-case in the center of the Ad-ministration Building. This staircase is monumental in character and opens on either side from the main entrance lobby, situated in the center of the Kingsbridge Road, front of the Administration Building on the axis of the Drill Shed. Here is the main entrance to the building, and serves the Officers, and in times of entertainments, the Officer's guests. This lobby is very spacious, and the arches and vaulted ceiling are impressive. Directly above on the second floor is another lobby leading to the south balcony of the Drill Shed, connecting the Officers' quarters on the one side and the large Council

Among its athletes it numbers one of wide repute, Private Morse, win-ner and record holder of the world's A.A.U. 220 yard dash. The Thirty-fourth Company holds unusual op-portunities for young men who desire The Thirtyto make their mark in Coast Artillery work and in the field of clean, vigorous Athletics. Company drills on Monday nights.



Major Paul Loeser

### 35th COMPANY

HE 35th Company was organized largely through the effort of Major Paul Loeser who devoted a great deal of his time to the recruiting of same.

A great many of the men in the company are men employed in the City Departments and its future looks very promising.

There is an unusual opportunity for men seeking advancement in this company as all promotions will be made from the members of the ranks.

A more robust body of men would be hard to find in the National Guard.

They no doubt will be very prominent in the Athletic Field.

### MEDICAL CORPS

HIS detachment is recruited to its full strength which consists of three officers, three sergeants and fifteen men. While the Medical Corps is not one of the largest body of men in the Command it is one of great importance.

Instruction is given in First Aid and gun shot treatment, the equipment of the Corps consists of an ambulance and two pack mules.

The three officers in this detachment are all practicing physicians and have had considerable service.

Major Robert N. Disbrow is in command of this corps and is assisted by Captain Edward W. Hall and Lieut. Robert B. Kennedy. Captain Hall has served in the U. S. Army, and also in the National Guard of Connecticut and Michigan. He was a member of the famous Alger Zauaves.

### SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

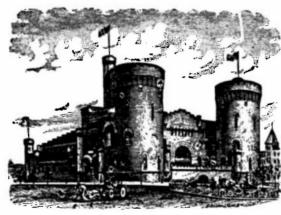
In 1915 the Corps won the Athletic Championship. Private D. Remer is the Champion Walker of the Command.

### THE BAND

▼HE Eighth Coast Defense Band is truly a musical band in every sense the phrase implies, not merely an aggregation of musicians. It was constructed, yes, built up, in 1911 around a nucleus of a

twelve man orchestra which previously gained a country wide reputation during a tour of the United States. The band now consists of forty good Union men musicians well trained in all departments o f the musical art by no less an artist than Harry G. Wright, the mere mention of whose name in all musical circles will convince the most hypercritical where he can obtain good music. music ren-

dered by the band is fully appreciated by the entire regiment which is proud of their musicians and the enlisted men of the regiment take advantage of the opportunity furnished them to bring their wives, mothers and sweethearts to all reviews and dances, for they know there is a treat of good music in store for them. The band is at all times in great de-



OLD 8TH REGIMENT ARMORY Built for the Washington Greys Corner Stone Laid October 18th, 1888

mand on the most auspicious occasions and they have taken part in the following, which are a few well remembered.

Bronx Borough Parade; 170 men furnished the music for the entire parade.

Firemen's parade.

Police parade.

Tri-centenial parade; this band led the entire line of march.

Harlem Carnival parade.

They also appeared in vaudeville, by popular demand, as the Gordon's Highlanders and they carried the name with them when furnishing the music at Churchill's Broadway Palace.

The band has also taken part extensively in furnishing music for the leading schools and colleges during athletic games, closing and commencement exercises, being engaged by Columbia University, College of City of New York, Stevens Institute and others of equal renown. The band also boasts of having within its ranks five second class gunners and



### Great Gun Action

an equal number awaiting the examinations. It also has an enlisted cook and his dinners are as rich as the notes he executes on the trombone, saxophone and baritone—all "toney." Incidentally we might Incidentally we mention he weighs 300 lbs.

Our article would be incomplete without a few remarks regarding the

bandmaster, Mr. Harry G. Wright. He is a pioneer in the present musical game, and though his palmy days have gone, his solos on the cornet still linger on the memory of his audiences. Mr. Wright's musical career has been an interesting one. He has made music his lifework and his efforts are well repaid by the many friends he has and is still winning. He was a member of the Fourth United States Infantry in the Wild Wooly West among the Indians of Idaho. He toured the United States as a member of the Elite Musical Four. His

unceasing efforts have established some of the most prominent amateur and juvenile bands in the coun-Mr. Wright is also a composer of music and his selections retain a place in the most select musical He has won the utmost quarters. respect and sincere friendship of all the members of the Eighth Regiment Band and may his future continuous service carry him through with undiminished regard by his fellowmen. Mr. Wright has achieved the pinnacle of success in his life work.

Ideas wanted: Have you an idea that you think of value? Write to us describing the same, as we can help you in many ways.

## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EIGHTH COAST DEFENSE COMMAND

(Continued from Page Two)

Regiment paraded at the obsequies of President Abraham Lincoln.

Some of the best known men in New York served in the ranks of the 8th Regiment, among them being expresident Theodore Roosevelt, as Lieutenant and Captain of Company "B," ex-Mayor Thomas F. Gilroy as Captain of Company "E," and ex-Mayor, George B. McClenan as Lieutent in Company "E."

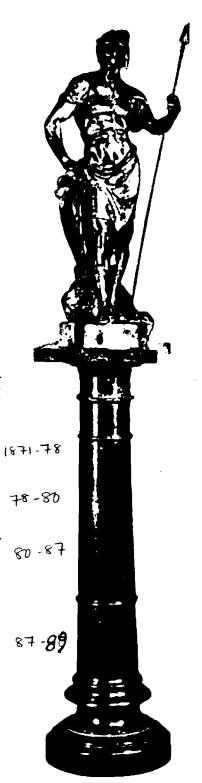
The Regiment has occupied various buildings as Armories during their existence. Years ago each company hired their own room in which they held their meetings and drilled their recruits, the Headquarters of the Regiment being in the house of the Commanding Onicer. On days of parade or general assembly the several companies were ordered to assemble at a designated point, generally at the junction of some prominent streets down town, from whence the parade would start, and return to the same place and be dismissed. Inspections were held in the street or in some park, sometimes in Tompkins Park, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, or in East New York.

The first building occupied as an Armory by the Regiment was Centre Market, at the corner of Grand and Centre Streets. Three Regiments were quartered in that building at the same time, the 6th, 8th and 71st Regiments. There was hardly room for one Regiment. The next building was in 23d Street, between 7th and 8th Avenues. The Regiment occupied two floors. On Sunday, February 17th, 1878, the Armory was destroyed by fire, and everything belonging to the Regiment except the Colors was lost. The next was a house on 7th Avenue between 34th and 35th Streets, used as a Headquarters This was occupied for two years. Drills were held in the N. Y. State Arsenal at 7th Avenue and 35th Street. The next was an old loft over the old Broadway Stage stables at 9th Avenue and 27th Street, which was occupied for seven vears.

The next was at Broadway 35th and 36th Streets, where the New York Herald building now stands. This was occupied for two years. In the meantime the City had purchased the site of the present Armory and was building on it when the lease ran out for the Broadway, Armory and they were moved from there to the old Skating Rink at 107th Street and Lexington Avenue, which they occupied about six months, moving their property into the new Armory long before it was finished.

The Regiment has occupied the present Armory since January, 1890

Egypt is believed to be the birthplace of the original ball game. History does not record how it was played. Recent excavations made near Cairo have brought to light a number of small balls, some of leather and others of wood, dating back to at least 2000 B. C.



THE 29th COMPANY TROISHY

For Annual Competition in

8th COAST ARTILLERY DISTRICT

Presented By

J. W. N. J. ATHLETIC ASS'N

January 29th, 1910

THE NEW ARMORY FOR THE EIGHTH COAST DEFENSE COMMAND

(Continued from Page Three)

gu...s, 12 inch mortar and a 3 inch rapid firing gun are installed so that the service is as near as possible to that required in the field.

On the north and south side of the shed extends a balcony seating 4,000 people, the north balcony reserved for the guests of the enlisted men is reacned by three stairs from the Drill Sned and from a large stair tower at the north east corner of the building. around the shed is a curb separating it from the dirt floor. At each end or the sned on the level of the balcony is a walk connecting the north and south balconies. Some idea of the size of the shed may be had when it is stated that the area is four and one naif times that of the Madison Square Garden Arena.

Below the Drill Shed at the west near the gun emplacement are the work snops, etc. In the center behind the main lobby convenient to omeers and men anke is a recture hall seating 1,200. On the east is the regularital room mess half with kitchen for feeding 1,200 to be used when the men are quartered in the armory as in case of riots, etc. der the shed also are situated the rifle and pistol ranges, the former consisting of 16 targets. These are fully 200 yards in length and are equipped with up-to-date signal systems and affords practice for standing, kneeling and prone shooting. On the level under the Drill Shed will also be provided army wagons, stables, automobile garage, etc. A separate entrance at the north of Jerome Avenue will serve the guests of the north gallery and the mess hall in case this is used for dancer

Special care has been employed with the view to the defense of the buildings, turrets have been placed commanding the approaches in which can be mounted rapid fire guns and each battement anords shelter for defenders. All the openings are guarded by heavy wrought iron grills which not only serve as an actual delense but give a strong military character to the building.

The immense size of the drill shed makes it possible to play real base ball and foot ball.

### WORLD'S LARGEST BRIDGE

Cortelyou, a Muscotah young man is superintending the construction of the largest bridge in the world. It is to cross the Columbia River and will connect Portland, Ore., with Vancouver, Washington.

The bridge will be 17,200 feet long over all, and will contain twenty-nine spans. Eleven spans will each be 265 feet long; the entire roadway will be thirty-five feet wide with sidewalks on each side. Approximately 2,225 men are employed on the works. The total cost will be \$1,750,000.