

CHAPTER IV

MOBILIZATION FOR THE WORLD WAR



THE mobilization for the World War found parts of the National Guard of New York, as explained in the preceding chapter, on active duty for the protection of public utilities. These units were the 2d and 71st Infantry Regiments, guarding railways and power plants, the 23d Infantry, one squadron of the 1st Cavalry and one battalion of the 47th Infantry protecting the water supply of the city of New York, and the 3d and 47th Infantry guarding bridges.

The National Defense Act, in the form in which it existed at the outbreak of the World War, provided for the utilization of the National Guard by the Federal government pursuant to a draft of its officers and men into the Army of the United States. This draft provision of the National Defense Act had been made a part of the law in order to change in this summary manner the organic legal status of the National Guard from that of militia to that of federal soldiers. In order that the reader may understand the need and importance of the distinction which then existed and still exists under our Federal Constitution, between the militia soldier and the soldier organized under the so-called Army Clause of the Federal Constitution, it should be explained that the Federal Constitution provides that there shall be reserved to the states the power to train the militia in time of peace and to appoint its officers, while the same document vests in Congress the exclusive power to raise and support armies and in the President the power to command the armies so raised. The Federal Constitution also limits the use by the Federal government of the militia, granting to the President the power to call forth the militia only for the purpose of repelling invasion, suppressing insurrection and executing the law. In other words, the President, for the purpose of waging war against the Central Empires, could not employ any troops which were militia. Anticipating that this Constitutional restriction might embarrass the government, the National Defense Act provided that when such occasions arose the President might draft into the army of the United States and discharge from the militia all officers and enlisted men composing organized units of the National Guard of the several states.

Acting under this proviso of the law, the President, by the following proclamation, drafted the National Guard into the army of the United States:

WAR DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDERS
No. 90

WASHINGTON, July 12, 1917.

The following proclamation by the President is published to the army for the information and guidance of all concerned:

(CALL INTO FEDERAL SERVICE AND DRAFT OF THE NATIONAL GUARD)
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the United States of America and the Imperial German government are now at war, and having in view the consequent danger of aggression by a foreign enemy upon the territory of the United States and the necessity for proper protection against possible interference with the execution of the laws of the Union by agents of the enemy, I, WOODROW WILSON, President of the United States, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States and through the governors of the respective states, call into the service of the United States as of and from the dates hereinafter respectively indicated, all members of the National Guard and all enlisted members of the National Guard Reserve of the following states, who are not now in the service of the United States, except members of staff corps and departments not included in the personnel of tactical organizations, and except such officers of the National Guard as have been or may be specially notified by my authority that they will not be affected by this call, to wit:

I. On July 15, 1917, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska.

On July 25, 1917, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Illinois, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

The members of the National Guard of the various states affected by this call will be concentrated at such places as may be designated by the War Department.

II. And, under the authority conferred upon me by clause second of section one of the act of Congress "to authorize the President to increase temporarily the Military Establishment of the United States" approved May 18, 1917, I do hereby draft into the military service of the United States as of and from the fifth day of August, nineteen hundred and seventeen, all members of the National Guard and all enlisted members of the National Guard Reserve of the following states, except members of staff corps and departments not included in the personnel of tactical organizations, and except such other officers of the National Guard as have been or may be specially notified by my authority that they will not be drafted, to wit:

New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Illinois, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Indiana, Kentucky, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and California.

III. All persons hereby drafted shall on and from the fifth day of August, nineteen hundred and seventeen, stand discharged from the militia, and, under the terms of section 2 of the act of May 18, 1917, be subject to the laws and regulations governing the Regular Army, except as to promotions, so far as such laws and regulations are applicable to persons whose permanent retention in the military service on the active or retired list is not contemplated by law.

IV. The members of each company, battalion, regiment, brigade division, or other organizations of the National Guard hereby drafted into the military service of the

United States shall be embodied in organizations corresponding to those of the Regular Army. The officers not above the rank of colonel of said organizations of the National Guard who are drafted and whose officers are provided for in like organizations of the Regular Army are hereby appointed officers in the army of the United States in the arm, staff corps or department, and in the grades in which they now hold commission as officers of the National Guard, such appointments to be effective, subject to acceptance, on and from the fifth day of August, nineteen hundred and seventeen, and each of them, subject to such acceptance, is hereby assigned as of said date to the organization in the army of the United States composed of those who were members of the organization of the National Guard in which at the time of draft he held a commission. The non-commissioned officers of the organizations of the National Guard, the members of which are hereby drafted, are hereby appointed non-commissioned officers in their present grade in the organizations of the army composed of said members and shall in each case have the same relative rank as heretofore; and all other enlisted men are hereby confirmed in the army of the United States in the grades and ratings held by them in the National Guard in all cases where such grades and ratings correspond to grades and ratings provided for in like organizations of the Regular Army, all such appointments of non-commissioned officers and confirmations of other enlisted men in their grades to be without prejudice to the authority of subordinate commanders in respect of promotions, reductions and changes in enlisted personnel.

V. Each organization of the military force hereby created will, until further orders, bear the same name and designation as the former organization of the National Guard of whose members it is composed.

VI. All necessary orders for combining the organizations created by embodying therein members of the National Guard and National Guard Reserve hereby drafted into the military service of the United States into complete tactical units will be issued by the War Department.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this third day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventeen and of the independence of the United States of America the one hundred and forty-first.

(SEAL)

WOODROW WILSON.

By the President:

ROBERT LANSING,
Secretary of State.
(382.1 A. G. O.)

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

TASKER H. BLISS,
Major General, Acting Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

H. P. McCAIN,
The Adjutant General.

It will be noted that this order called into the active federal service on July 15th all National Guard units and provided that they were drafted into the military service of the United States as of the fifth day of August, 1917. In accordance with the provisions of this Presidential Proclamation, the Governor, through the Adjutant General of the state, wired the Commanding General of the New York Division to assemble all units in their armories, preparatory to initial muster into active military service of the United States. This telegram was later confirmed

by G. O. 35 of the State Adjutant General's Office and appears in the Appendix as Exhibit 10. This order was carried out by the provisions of G. O. 11, Headquarters, New York Division, on July 12, 1917. By that order all units not already in the active federal service were directed to mobilize on Monday, July 16th, at 9.00 A. M. With the departure of units from their armories, responsibility for the buildings was to vest in the commanding officers of the depot units. Commands were assembled in their armories, and the work of vaccination and inoculation against typhoid and paratyphoid immediately commenced. Every effort was made to proceed with the elementary instruction of recruits and the issue of clothing and other military property. By the provisions of G. O. 95, War Department, dated July 18th, the New York Division was assigned to Camp Wadsworth at Spartanburg, South Carolina, for its training.

On July 25th, pursuant to S. O. 183, Eastern Department, dated July 20th, the Commanding General of the New York Division organized the tactical division to be known as the 27th Division. Under the tables of organization as they then existed, the division was to be composed of three brigades of infantry, of three regiments each, plus the auxiliary units. This order is interesting as a matter of history, as it affects the question of the birth of the division under its new designation. It is, therefore, included in this account of the mobilization of the division. The order was as follows:

HEADQUARTERS 27TH DIVISION, U. S. A.
Municipal Building

GENERAL ORDERS
No. 1.

NEW YORK CITY, July 25, 1917.

Pursuant to S. O. 183, Eastern Department, July 20, 1917, the undersigned assumes command of the 27th Division, formerly the 6th (New York) Division, consisting of the following organizations:

DIVISION HEADQUARTERS:

1ST BRIGADE, N. Y. INFANTRY:

Brigade Headquarters
7th Regiment, N. Y. Infantry
12th Regiment, N. Y. Infantry
69th Regiment, N. Y. Infantry

2D BRIGADE, N. Y. INFANTRY:

Brigade Headquarters
1st Regiment, N. Y. Infantry
23d Regiment, N. Y. Infantry
71st Regiment, N. Y. Infantry

3D BRIGADE N. Y. INFANTRY:

Brigade Headquarters
2d Regiment, N. Y. Infantry
3d Regiment, N. Y. Infantry
74th Regiment, N. Y. Infantry

1ST BRIGADE, N. Y. FIELD ARTILLERY

Brigade Headquarters
1st Regiment, N. Y. Field Artillery
2d Regiment, N. Y. Field Artillery
3d Regiment, N. Y. Field Artillery

1ST REGIMENT, N. Y. CAVALRY

22D REGIMENT, N. Y. ENGINEERS

1ST BATTALION, N. Y. SIGNAL CORPS

N. Y. TRAINS HEADQUARTERS AND MILITARY POLICE

N. Y. Ammunition Train
N. Y. Supply Train
N. Y. Engineer Train
N. Y. Sanitary Train

1ST N. Y. FIELD BAKERY COMPANY

JOHN F. O'RYAN,
Major General.

H. H. BANDHOLTZ,
Lt. Col., U. S. Infantry,
Chief of Staff, D. O. L.

OFFICIAL:

F. W. WARD,
Lt. Col. Adjutant.

Under date of August 6th, telegram was received from the Headquarters of the Eastern Department as follows:

"FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM WAR DEPARTMENT REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION QUOTE REFERENCE YOUR TELEGRAM OF JULY 19TH PRESENT NUMERICAL DESIGNATIONS OF NATIONAL GUARD ORGANIZATIONS WILL NOT BE CHANGED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE McCain UNQUOTE ORDER FROM THESE HEADQUARTERS CHANGING DESIGNATION YOUR DIVISION TO 27 IS CHANGED TO READ 6TH NOTIFY ALL CONCERNED. SIMPSON."

Accordingly, the designation 27th Division was dropped and that of 6th Division, which was the numerical designation officially used during the Mexican border service, was resumed. For some time, therefore, after August 6th, the official designation of the division was the 6th Division, although in G. O. 95, War Department, of July 18th, the numeral 27 had apparently been assigned. But on August 29th, pursuant to G. O. 115, War Department, of that date, the plan for numbering divisional and other units of the army was prescribed. Under this plan the 6th Division became officially known as the 27th Division. It might be mentioned here that many officers and enlisted men ultimately found that little was gained by the adoption of the scheme mentioned in this order, while on the other hand, much of psychological benefit in the way of locality tradition had been wantonly abandoned. In the case of units of our own state, the 7th Infantry, with a continuous existence of over one hundred years and with a fine record of accomplishment, particularly in the development of

officer material, lost the prestige of its name and became known as the 107th Infantry. The 69th Infantry, with a magnificent Civil War battle record, supplemented by service in the Spanish-American War, became known as the 165th Infantry. Similar comments have application to many other famous regiments throughout the country. Later on it was found that the plan adopted frequently led to misunderstandings, due to the fact that regiments of different arms of the service had the same numerals. For example, a soldier asked what his organization was, would reply, "the 102d." To his mind as a zealous soldier, there was but one unit of that number. His answer, however, always called for additional interrogation in order to disclose whether he belonged to the 102d Infantry, the 102d Field Artillery, the 102d Engineers, or the Ambulance Company, Field Hospital, Military Police Company, Ammunition Train, Supply Train or Machine Gun Battalion, bearing the same numeral. As a matter of fact, through the influence of tradition and locality pride, troops abroad were frequently referred to by locality names and the attempt to defeat this natural and, as a matter of fact, advantageous system of designation was to some extent nullified. The 26th Division was constantly referred to as the New England Division, and the 28th as the Pennsylvania Division. In the 42d or Rainbow Division, composed of National Guard units from various parts of the country, it was common even within the division for the men to refer to the New Yorks, meaning the 69th (165th) Infantry, or the Ohios, meaning the 166th Infantry from that state, or the Alabamans, meaning the 167th Infantry from that state, or the Iowans, meaning the 168th Infantry from that state.

On August 15th, by G. O. 4 of the division, the staff of the Division Commander was composed of the following:

Captain Edwin W. Moore, Aide
 1st Lieutenant Charles P. Franchot, Aide de Camp.
 Lieutenant Colonel Harry H. Bandholtz, Chief of Staff.
 Major Edward Olmsted, Assistant Chief of Staff
 Captain Homer B. Battenberg, Assistant Chief of Staff
 Lieutenant Colonel Franklin W. Ward, Adjutant
 Major Allen L. Regan, Assistant Adjutant
 Lieutenant Colonel J. Mayhew Wainwright, Inspector
 Major James L. Kincaid, Judge Advocate
 Lieutenant Colonel Henry S. Sternberger, Quartermaster
 Major James T. Loree
 Major Joseph W. Farrell } Assistant
 Captain Raymond T. Moniz } Quartermasters
 Captain Edward Miller }
 2d Lieutenant George W. Peppard } Assistants to the
 2d Lieutenant William H. G. Ballance } Quartermaster
 2d Lieutenant Harold T. Clement }
 Lieutenant Colonel Edward R. Maloney, Medical Corps, Surgeon
 Lieutenant Colonel Walter C. Montgomery, Medical Corps, Sanitary Inspector
 Major Lefferts Hutton, Medical Corps, Assistant Surgeon
 Major Joseph J. Daly, Ordnance Department
 Major Arthur L. Howe, Signal Corps

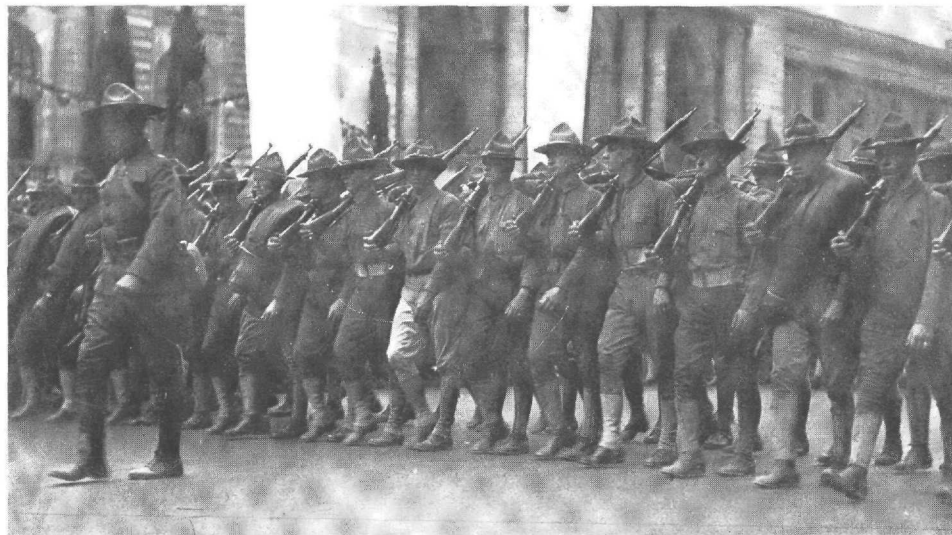
On August 23d, by G. O. 114, War Department, Major General O'Ryan was directed to proceed to Camp Wadsworth, Spartanburg, South Carolina, and assume command of the troops there. Prior to this time Company A of the 22d Engineers had been ordered to proceed to Yaphank, Long Island, for the purpose of surveying and laying out the cantonment for a National Army division at that place. About the middle of August, Company D was ordered to Camp Wadsworth for duty in connection with laying out the camp for the division. This company, under command of Captain (now Colonel)

George D. Snyder, performed its service in a most efficient manner.

When it became known that the troops of New York state were to



Kitchens of 71st Infantry outside Armory in 34th Street



Troops of 71st Infantry en route for Camp Wadsworth

entrain for Camp Wadsworth, and were shortly to leave the state for that place, an insistent demand was made by the public that the troops be paraded in New York City before their departure and given a farewell dinner by the city of New York. In anticipation of these ceremonies, regiments were quickly concentrated in and about the city of New York. The 3d Infantry was ordered to Pelham Bay Park and went into camp there. The 1st and 10th Regiments of Infantry from up the state were ordered to Van Cortland Park, where they joined the 71st Regiment. At this time the 2d Field Artillery was camped in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, the 1st Field Artillery and Squadron "A" Cavalry in Van Cortland Park, and the 1st Cavalry on the Bliss Estate in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. The Coast Defense Commands, the 8th, 9th and 13th, were garrisoning the defenses about New York harbor.

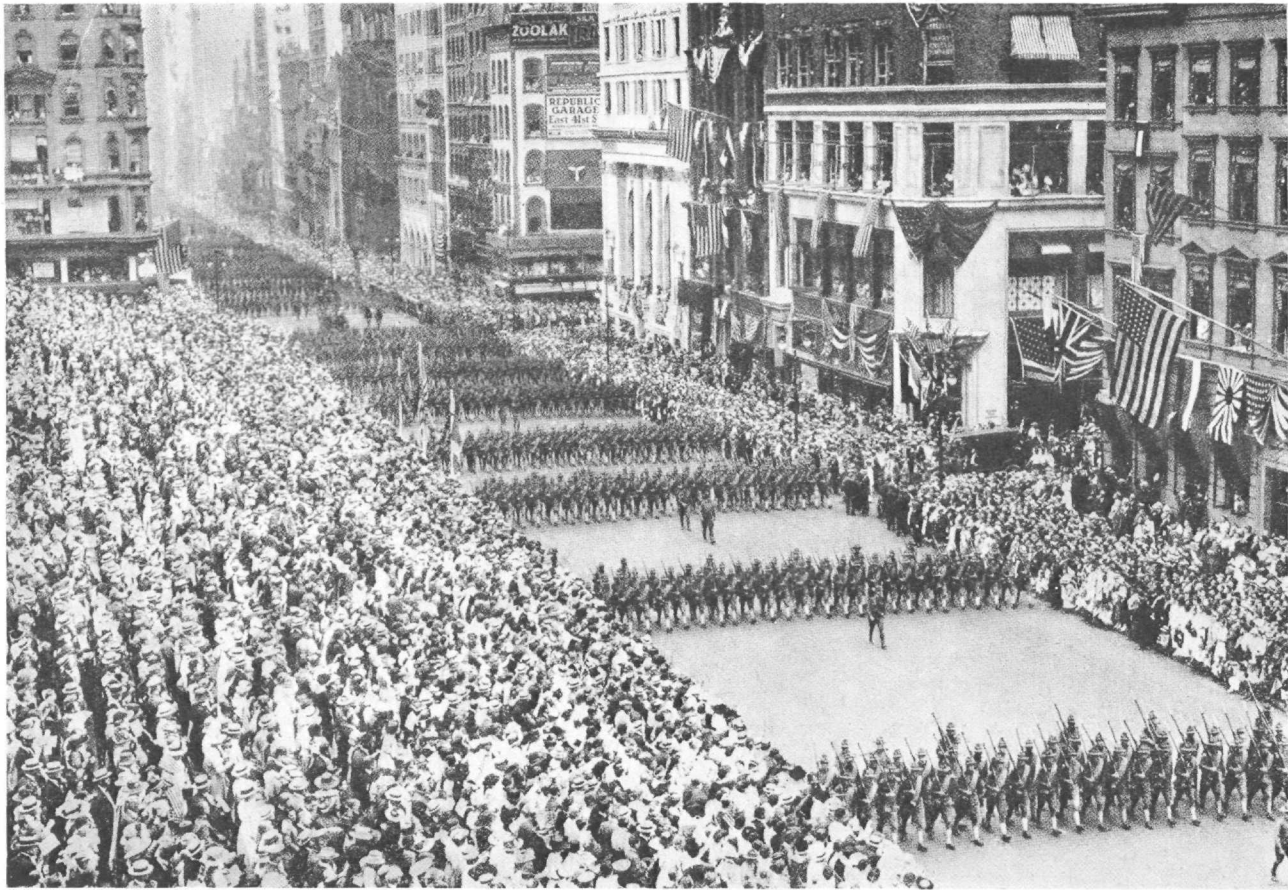
A committee, composed largely of hotel men and supply merchants, was appointed by Mayor Mitchel of the city of New York and to them was entrusted the problem of giving a send-off dinner or dinners to nearly 20,000 officers and men of the division. Only a town like the city of New York could seriously undertake a hospitality of such magnitude. The Committee was aided by a Women's Auxiliary Committee, of which Mrs. John Purroy Mitchel was the Honorary Chairman and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt the active Chairman. Mrs. Vanderbilt was by common consent regarded as the proper active head of this committee. During the period of the Mexican border service she had headed and financed the work of relief for the families of men whose service on the border had resulted in financial embarrassment to those at home. Without publicity or without any commendation, she had labored during the summer of 1916 in the interest of the families of our men. In this instance, as head of the Women's Committee, she surrounded herself with 100 prominent women of the city who acted as hostesses at the several camps and hotels where the dinners were served. One of the dinners was given to the Division Commander and staff and the commanding officers of units, at the Hotel Biltmore. Mayor Mitchel presided as toastmaster. Many generous tributes were paid to the division, its officers and men. In reply to these, the Division Commander said:

"I take it that this dinner is an expression of the good will which the people of the city of New York, through the Mayor and the committee in charge, bear toward the officers and men of the Guard organizations now about to leave the city and state. We have no prediction to make in relation to the accomplishment of the division, but we do promise you to endeavor at all times and at all places to conduct ourselves as American soldiers should."

This statement is mentioned here in view of the generally acknowledged excellence of the conduct of the officers and men of the division throughout the war and of the high standard of their discipline in battle.

The dinners were greatly appreciated by the men and were carried through without a hitch in the arrangements.

The parade was held on August 30th, the route of march being down



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"Send-off" parade of the 27th Division. A general view of the "send-off" parade of the 27th Division passing the New York Public Library, Fifth Avenue and Forty-second Street, August 30, 1917. Members of the immediate families of the soldiers occupied the great reviewing-stand on the steps of the library, shown on left of photograph

5th Avenue to Washington Arch, the reviewing stand in front of the Union League Club. The concentration of the troops, the parade, and the departure of a number of the units for the South were so timed and coordinated that the latter units, having concluded the parade, were marched to their trains and continued their movement South by rail, while other units returned, some to their armories and others to camps in the vicinity of New York, to await their rail movements South.

The train transportation movement of the division to Camp Wadsworth was in the immediate charge of Major James T. Loree, Assistant Division Quartermaster, who had functioned so efficiently during the period of the Mexican border mobilization. The Chief Quartermaster at Governors Island had turned this matter over to Major Loree and there were no hitches affecting the rail movement of any of our units.

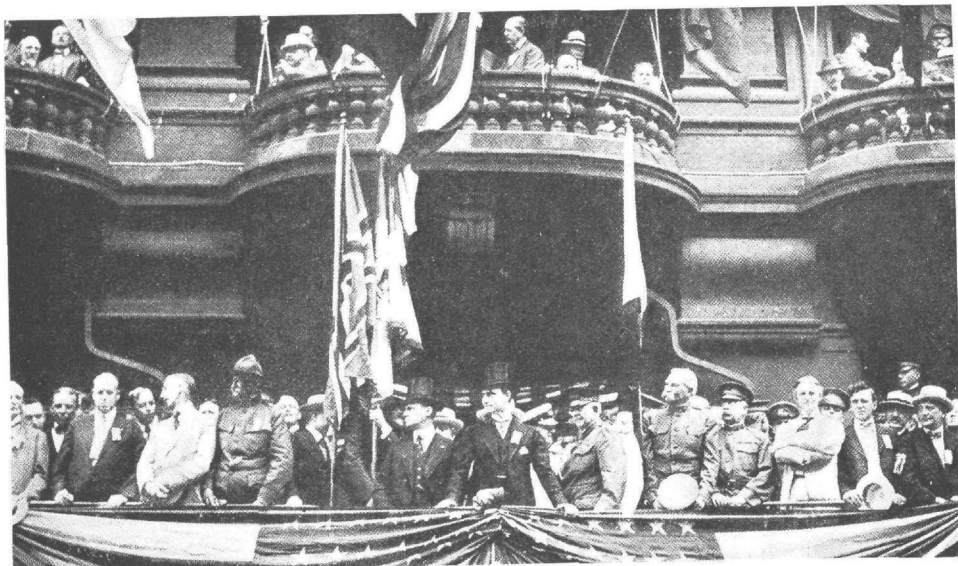
There were some interesting features of this parade. In the first place, it was desired that the families of the men should have special opportunity to see the parade. Many of them could not afford to purchase seats which were for sale along the line of march. Accordingly, it was arranged that the Police Department should reserve the westerly side of 5th Avenue from 110th Street to 59th Street for their use, and that for purposes of identification the families would be furnished with tags labelled "Soldier's Family." Each soldier was given four of these tags. The plan worked very satisfactorily, as it brought the families together along the sidewalk mentioned. The division was led by the New York Police Department band, which enabled all units of the division entitled to bands to parade with their own bands. Apparently it was realized by the people along the line of march that many of the officers and men in the passing column would not live through the war to take part in any homecoming parade, for sadness was more noticeable upon the faces of the spectators than enthusiasm. The officers and men, however, were in fine spirits and made a most soldierly impression in their swing down Fifth Avenue.

The subject of mobilization would not be complete without some reference to the lessons to be drawn from the mobilization of the New York Division for the World War. Officers are naturally influenced in their plans and judgment by their own experience. In the Regular Army the personnel of units represent many sections of the country. The Regular Army is not organized territorially. In time of peace the Regular Army commands live, for the most part, in buildings at army posts. In effect their personnel are always mobilized. With the advent of war, the first step in the case of regular units is, therefore, rather a concentration to bring units together to form higher organizations, and in order that their training and instruction in field work may proceed without delay, the place of concentration is usually a camp in the field. Due to this experience and practice in the Regular Army, it was assumed by the War Department in plans for the mobilization of the National Guard, that it would be desirable to get the National Guard under canvas as soon as practicable after the call. Accordingly, the War Department plans called for mobiliza-



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Watching their loved ones start for war. Pride and sorrow mingled in the hearts of relatives of men of the 27th Division, who lined the sidewalks of Fifth Avenue, when the boys marched in the last appearance in New York before departing for Camp Wadsworth, in the great "send-off" parade on August 30, 1917



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Officials reviewing "send-off" parade. View of the reviewing-stand in front of the Union League Club at Thirty-ninth Street and Fifth Avenue. In the stand, starting with the fourth from the left: Major General Daniel Appleton, Governor Charles S. Whitman, Mayor John P. Mitchel, who was later killed in an aero accident at Gerstner Field, Lake Charles, Louisiana; Major General J. Franklin Bell, who died in January, 1919, while in command of the Department of the East; Major General Eli D. Hoyle, Major General William A. Mann, then Commander of the 42d, or Rainbow, Division.

tion camps. In the case of the New York Division, possessing modern barracks and facilities in the form of armories, it is obvious that a mobilization in the field could not possibly be as effective as a mobilization in the armories, to be followed by concentration in the field. This was true, because under existing mobilization regulations a very great mass of paper work, physical examinations, inspection, purchase and shoeing of animals, issue of clothing and other property, was necessarily to be completed before commands could function properly in the field. These measures could be taken in much more efficient manner in the great armories of New York state than they possibly could in open fields while commands were endeavoring to make camp with ranks augmented by many recruits and without military property adequate for their strength. The idea of permitting a substantial number of men mobilized in armories to go home over night during the relatively short period of the mobilization was entirely out of keeping with all Regular Army procedure, although otherwise most economical, feasible and desirable. It was in effect a form of billeting which later was necessarily accepted as orthodox when the army went to France. Very much of the smoothness with which the New York units moved to the training camp at Spartanburg, South Carolina, was due to the fact that so many of them were mobilized in their armories instead of in the field and the preliminary work before mentioned disposed of in the orderly atmosphere of the great armories and with the aid of the many facilities they provided. The permission to carry out the mobilization in this way was given by Major General Leonard Wood, who, after he had heard the arguments in support of a modification of the War Department plan for mobilization, assumed authority to give the desired permission.

In the Appendix (Exhibit 11) will be found a table showing the units of the New York Division mobilized for the World War, the date of their muster into the federal service and their strength on August 5, 1917. There is also attached in the Appendix (Exhibit 12) a table showing the dates of arrival of divisional units at Camp Wadsworth.