

CHAPTER V.

The Albany strike riots.
President McKinley assassinated.
Joint Manoeuvres.
Mobilized for service on the
Rio Grande.
Mobilized for service in the
World War.

The year 1899 opened with a brilliant review tendered His Excellency, Theodore Roosevelt, Governor of the State of New York who on January 1st assumed the duties of Chief Executive. In selecting his Military Staff, Governor Roosevelt honored the regiment in his appointment of Captain Adjutant George Albert Wingate as Aide de Camp. Always an ardent admirer of the National Guard, the new Commander-in-Chief spared no effort in bringing it to a high state of efficiency; during the first year of his administration and for the first time in its history, the Guard of this state was supplied with field equipment and adequate hospital supplies; there was also issued to the National Guard the Krag-Jorgensen magazine rifle Cal.30, the infantry arm of the regular army.

The 23rd in company with Rasquin's Gatling Battery, occupied the State Camp of Instruction from June 10th to 17th inclusive; under a new scheme of training, each organization was required to participate in practice marches. Accordingly, the 23rd regiment performed this duty by battalions; the First, cleared on June 12th, marched to Lake Oscawanna, and returned on June 14th; the Second followed on June 14th, returning to Peekskill on the 16th. The benefits of these march-outs were at once apparent, in that the soldier received practical instruction in the duties of the Outpost, the Advance Guard, camp sanitation and the messing of troops in the field; -- quite a new departure. The reg-

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imental mess hall with its staff of white coated waiters was from now replaced by individual company messes prepared by company cooks; gone was the ceremony of "playing" the troops to the mess hall with some enticing quick-step after the manner of the Pied Piper; for now instead of sweet music, could be heard the croaking voice of the Company Q.M. calling "Come and get it." A mighty man was the Company Q.M. of those days and versatile withal.

In August of that year serious trouble threatened; a general strike among employees of all surface railway lines in the Metropolitan area seemed certain. Warning orders were at once issued the National Guard of New York and Brooklyn to hold itself in readiness for immediate service. Fortunately, the crisis passed without incident; yet it was acknowledged, that the moral effect of the order played an important part in averting the strike and preserving the public peace.

With the return of Admiral George Dewey, the hero of Manila Bay, New York staged a welcome long to be remembered; a feature of this demonstration was a military procession in which the entire National Guard of the State participated. In marksmanship for that year, the regiment qualified twenty four Experts, sixty seven Sharpshooters and five hundred and nine Marksmen. In the 2nd Brigade, Company "E" won the Figure of Merit with a mark of 71.83, Company "I" making a close second of 71.70. The regiment won the 2nd Brigade Match with an aggregate of 862, the 47th standing second with 811; the State Match, won by the 7th with a high of 944, placed the 12th regiment in second place with 941, and the 23rd in third place with 921. The 7th won also the Adjutant General's Match and a one man team from the 12th won the Governor's Match with an aggregate of 88 out of a possible 100.

Keeping pace with the march of time, the 23rd regiment entered the twentieth century with no thought of the glory and the honor which was to be theirs within the short span of two decades; but we must first pass through the intervening years. On January 1st, 1900, Brigadier

Colonel Alfred C. Barnes,
Commanding Twenty-third Regiment, N.G.N.Y.

1900 -- 1904

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General Edward M. Hoffman was appointed Adjutant General, vice Andrews resigned as of December 31st, 1899, and on January 17th, 1900, with the retirement of Colonel Smith, the command of the regiment devolved upon Major David K. Case pending the selection of a new Colonel. Commissary Frederick W. Roe resigned from the active service, January 5th.

Four reviews were held in the armory during that year; the first on March 24th by Colonel John N. Partridge, the second on the 31st of the same month by Major General Nelson A. Miles, Commanding the United States Army; then followed the Veterans Review on April 21st, on which occasion service and shooting decorations and medals were presented and during the month of November a very grand review tendered the Adjutant General, brought to a close like ceremonies. In the meantime, the post of Commissary had been filled with the appointment of Captain Thomas B. Walker on August 15th.

Alfred C. Barnes assumed command of the regiment on December 7th, 1900 and on the day following, Jasper Ewing Brady was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel. Neither of these officers being of the 23rd regiment immediately preceding their appointment, it seems proper to note their prior service by way of introduction. Colonel Barnes, an officer of the "old school" commenced his military career as Private in Company "C", 7th N.Y. Infantry on December 15th, 1860; with this company he served at the front from April 19th to June 3rd of that year. Transferring to the 23rd Regiment, November 20th, 1862, he participated in the Gettysburg Campaign of 1863 and passing through the non-commissioned grades, he was commissioned 1st Lieutenant, 23rd Regiment, May 10th, 1864, taking an honorable discharge December 26th, 1867. On October 23rd, 1876 he was recalled to the regiment as Major. He served as General Inspector of Rifle Practice with rank of Brigadier General from January 1st, 1880 to December 31st, 1882. Serving as Colonel of the 13th Regiment from March 28th, 1884 to September 3rd, 1886, he resigned from the military service, until commissioned Colonel of the 23rd Regiment.

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Lieutenant Colonel Brady, an energetic, progressive type of officer had been reared in the regular establishment. He had served with the Marines in 1887, with the 18th regular infantry in 1888, with the 19th regular infantry in 1891 in which he had been commissioned a 1st Lieutenant; he quit the army in 1899 with rank of Captain in the Signal Corps. Upon his entry into the 23rd regiment, N. G. N. Y., Colonel Brady introduced several new departures which unfortunately did not "take" with the regiment; being a regular, he could not discern between the type of soldier found in the army and the soldier of the National Guard. His was not a happy career during a comparatively short stay with the latter. A ^m Mess Jacket for officers and men, proposed by Colonel Brady and adopted by the regiment in 1901 was discarded the following year as being a too expensive novelty.

The range record of the regiment for the year 1900 is one of major defeats. The State Match, The Adjutant General's Match and the Governor's Match were lost; but the 2nd Brigade Match was won with an aggregate of 952. Captain Fred A. Wells won the Twenty third Regiment Grand Gold Medal with a score of 47 out of a possible 50; -- the highest "expert" score made at Creedmoor by any member of the regiment for the season. Lieu't E. H. Barnum won the Oliver Aggregate Medal in making the highest aggregate score in the State and Brigade Matches for the year 1900. In the Brigade Figure of Merit, Company "E" stood first with a percentage of 73.56, Company "K" taking second place with 70.84. Qualifications at Creedmoor numbered twenty two experts, sixty two sharpshooters and five hundred and twenty marksmen.

The year 1901 proved eventful in the life of the 23rd regiment. Unique in the extreme was a review tendered His Excellency Wo Ting Fang, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the United States; the ceremony occurred on the afternoon of February 12th, and was followed shortly thereafter by still another review tendered Colonel

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Albert L. Mills, Superintendent of the United States Military Academy. During the same year, the regiment passed in review before Major General Charles F. Roe, Commanding the National Guard.

On May 14th, 1901 the Sheriff of Albany county called for troops in aid of the civil authorities; labor troubles between the United Traction Company and its employees developed a situation requiring prompt and stern measures in safeguarding life and property. The 10th Battalion and the 3rd Signal Corps of Albany were immediately placed under arms and dispatched to the assistance of the Sheriff. Conditions growing steadily worse, additional troops of the National Guard were called into service; at 8.30 P.M., May 14th, Colonel Barnes received orders to proceed with the 23rd regiment to Albany; at 2.35 on the morning of the 15th, the first detachment of two hundred and thirty nine officers and men left the armory under command of the Colonel; a second detachment of one hundred and thirty two followed under command of Lieut. Colonel Brady. The detachments uniting at Poughkeepsie, the regiment proceeded to Albany which was reached at 8 o'clock on the morning of the 15th. As a matter of fact, the troop train did not reach the station until several hours later; while still on the Hudson River bridge, the locomotive jumped the rails thereby halting all traffic over the main line; the troops were therefore obliged to detrain and walk the ties into the city. Whether the accident was by design has never been ascertained.

The march was at once taken up for Beaverwyck Park, halting en route at the armory of the 10th Battalion for noon mess. The 2nd Regiment had in the meantime been ordered to Albany and on May 9th the 9th Regiment of New York received marching orders. The 23rd Regiment being posted at a point where the employees of the railroad company were housed and in a district where the strikers and their sympathizers were especially riotous, bore the brunt of a sticky situation with great credit to itself; with the subsequent arrival of a third detachment, the consolidated strength of the regiment was now six hundred and eighty six.

The 23rd regiment charged with the duty of guarding the Quail Street car barns, escorting non-union employees from place to place, opening lines and manning cars sent over such lines carried out its orders with precision and dispatch; on the afternoon of the 16th, a serious riot occurred on Broadway! In this demonstration an open car with its customary guard of ten men was commanded by Lieutenant John A. Wilson of Company "E"; the car was attacked and stopped; missiles thrown in great quantities struck the motorman and the Lieutenant inflicting painful injuries; the mob disregarding warnings by Wilson continued to close in on the little party, whereupon Lieutenant Wilson ordered his men to open fire! At the first volley the mob scattered and ran for cover leaving two dead and one seriously wounded! The lamentable though justifiable incident broke the strike as if by magic! With the restoration of order the troops were gradually withdrawn and on Sunday May 19th, the 23rd regiment struck its tents arriving at its home station in Brooklyn during the evening of that day. For this service the regiment was authorized to place upon the lance of its regimental color a silver band inscribed "ALBANY 1901."

With the appointment of Major David K. Case to the post of Inspector, 2nd Brigade N.G.N.Y., on August 6th, Captain Wells of Company "B" was commissioned a Major October 3rd, 1901. In that year a great calamity descended upon the nation! President William McKinley, victim of the assassin's bullet died September 14th; the dastardly act committed September 6th, by a wretch answering to the name of Leon Czolgosz, a pupil of Emma Goldman anarchist, plunged the people of the United States into deep mourning; the 23rd regiment assembled in its armory with colors draped as a gesture of profound respect to the memory of the martyred Chief Executive and a Memorial service held in the armory on Sunday September 22nd, attracted a vast audience of Brooklyn's public.

The annual inspection and muster of the regiment held December 11th, found the organization in excellent shape as is evidenced by the Inspector General's report. Certain changes in

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zation affecting the 2nd brigade had come about during that year; on July 1st, 1901, the 1st and 5th brigades were disbanded and the 13th regiment, Heavy Artillery, the 2nd Signal Corps, the 3rd Battery and Troop "C" were detached from the 2nd brigade and attached to General Headquarters; thus, the 2nd brigade as reorganized consisted of the 14th, 23rd and 47th regiments of infantry. Troops of the now defunct 1st and 5th brigades were consolidated into a brigade designated the 1st, to be commanded by Brigadier General George Moore Smith. Under the administration of Governor Benjamin B. Odell Jr., General Hoffman, re-appointed ^r The Adjutant General, continued in that important post until May 15th, 1901 when he died suddenly; the vacancy was temporarily filled by Brigadier General Frederick Phisterer pending the appointment of a permanent successor.

Certain changes in uniform regulations appeared during the year; no longer could the private soldier boast stripes on his trousers; this mark of distinction, reserved for non-commissioned officers, continued in vogue until the advent of the so-called olive drab uniform, when all pretense of show was thrown into the discard; the same applies to the adoption of a new style cap of blue cloth with depressed visor and leather chin-strap.

Again the 23rd failed to capture the State Match and the Adjutant General's Match; the former being won by the 7th regiment and the latter by the 69th regiment. In the first competition for the Major General's Match trophy, presented by General Roe for excellence in skirmish firing, the 12th regiment stood first with the 7th in second place and the 23rd in third. Captains Wells and Napier represented the regiment on the ^r State team competing for the Hilton and Inter-State trophies; these matches shot at Sea Girt N.J., resulted in the first being won by the District of Columbia and the latter by the State of New Jersey. The 2nd Brigade Match was as usual won by the 23rd regi-

ment with a score of 924 points; the 47th stood second and the 14th third. The brigade Figure of Merit for that year was again won by Company "E" with a percentage of 57.14 and the qualifications for the year 1901 were ten champion marksmen, nineteen experts, sixty one sharpshooters and four hundred and ninety four marksmen. Captain Charles G. Todd won the regimental Grand Gold Medal with 44 out of a possible 50 and Major F.A. Wells took the Oliver Aggregate Medal with an aggregate of 178 out of a possible 200.

The year 1902 offered little stimulation. There was a review by the Hon. Seth Low, Mayor of the City of New York on January 8th and another on January 24th, tendered Colonel Daniel Appleton of the 7th Regiment; the regiment participated in a parade held in New York on May 27th in honor of French representatives visiting this country as official guests of the nation co-incident with the unveiling of a monument to Count Rochambeau. The Memorial Day parade followed on May 30th and on June 14th, the 23rd and 14th regiments proceeded to Peekskill for field training; the march-out that year was to Lake Mohegan; upon its return to Peekskill, the brigade was reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief; both organizations returned to Brooklyn June 21st.

By invitation of the Manhattan Beach management, the regiment enjoyed a hospitable reception at the seaside resort on "Soldiers Day", July 26th; a dress parade on the hotel lawn proved a feature of the program. Annual inspection and muster held December 2nd and a review tendered the Lafayette Post, G.A.R., brought to a close the formal activities of the year. Changes in the Field and Staff for 1902 follow. Commissary Thomas B. Walker resigned January 8th and on March 20th Captain Hubert S. Wynkoop succeeded to that post; the resignation of Lieu't Colonel Brady followed on April 18th and on May 22nd Major William A. Stokes received his commission as Lieutenant Colonel. Major Frederick A. Wells was on May 14th, brevetted a Lieu't Colonel and on June 9th Captain Charles G. Todd received his Majority.

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In marksmanship for that year the 23rd regiment won the 2nd Brigade Match with an aggregate of 945 as against 858 scored by the 47th and 848 by the 14th; the regiment took fourth place in the State Match and made no showing in the Adjutant General's Match which on this occasion went to the 69th regiment. In the Governor's Match, the 12th regiment made the remarkable score of 91 out of a possible 100! In this competition the 23rd stood fourth; the same result obtained in the Major General's Match. A new class was authorized on July 1st, 1902; this was known as the "Distinguished Expert" class and called for an aggregate of 40 out of a possible 50, on ranges of 900 and 1000 yards, target "C" -- silhouette, with five consecutive shots at each range. Five men of the regiment won the distinguishing bar for that year. The Brigade Figure of Merit was again carried off by Company "E" with a percentage of 66.13.

Major Wells, Captain Napier and 1st Sergeant Bryant represented the regiment on the New York State team in competing for the Hilton Trophy and for the Inter-State trophy; the New York State team won the former with an aggregate of 1137 points, thus beating the New Jersey team by 14 points. In the latter match however, New Jersey won by a close margin of 8 points, with an aggregate of 1082. The "Vigilantia" Trophy, a silver cup presented by the 23rd Regiment Rifle Club in 1895 to that Company whose team of twenty five should win it three times, went to Company "E"; this company having won the cup for the years 1900, 1901 and 1902, claimed the honor of its possession for ever. 1st Sergeant George E. Bryant, winner of the Twenty Third Regiment Grand Gold Medal achieved the honor of making the highest Distinguished Expert score in that class with a total of 46 out of a possible 50 at 900 and 1000 yards! He won also the Oliver Aggregate Medal with highest aggregate score in the state; -- 179 out of a possible 200!

Company "E", winners of the "Vigilantia trophy" already referred to, once more came to the fore in winning the "Veteran Trophy"

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with a perfect aggregate of 100! The 23rd regiment in that year qualified five distinguished experts, twenty five experts, one hundred and six sharpshooters, ten champion marksmen and five hundred and eighty nine marksmen.

Important federal legislation termed "An Act To Promote The Efficiency Of The Militia", commonly referred to as the "Dick Bill", was passed by Congress January 21st, 1903. By its passage the complexion of the National Guard was completely changed in that the President was empowered to call into the service of the United States the National Guard of any or all the states to repel invasion and to suppress rebellion; with the enactment of this legislation, the question of optional entry into federal service by the National Guard, was settled for all time; the bill also provided for federal appropriations for maintaining the National Guard on a level with the regular army, for annual federal inspections and for instructors to be detailed from the army to the National Guard. Under these laws the Guard no longer played the ^{role} of a "glorified police force", but assumed the more dignified status of second line troops.

In keeping with the new militia laws, the National Guard of this state received during the year 1903, the olive drab uniform and the U.S. Magazine Rifle Cal. 30., Model 1898, commonly referred to as the "Krag-Jorgensen"; with this change of weapon, the woven thin-ble cartridge belt gave way to a russet cartridge box known as the "McKeever" equipment, and with the adoption of the new uniform all brass trimmings and insignia were replaced with bronze. While it is true that by these changes the service was robbed of much of its glamour, still it must be remembered that fighting men the world over had chosen the sand colored uniforms as an aid to camouflage in active operations.

Following his appointment as Assistant Adjutant General on the Staff of Major General Roe, Regimental Adjutant George Albert

Wingate severed his connection with the 23rd regiment on March 28th, of that year; this appointment brought with it a promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Captain Henry DeWitt Hamilton received his appointment as Adjutant, October 2nd, 1903.

Several reviews of more or less importance occurred during the year in which the regiment marched before General McLeer, the Veteran Association, Colonel David E. Austin Commanding the 13th Regiment Heavy Artillery, N.G.N.Y., the Veteran Corps of Artillery and the Society of the War of 1812. Following an annual custom the regiment furnished a Provisional Company to participate in the Military Tournament held in the Madison Square Garden in New York. The inspection and muster of the 23rd held in the armory May 11th, was followed by a visit to Governors Island on June 27th, on which occasion the regiment passed in review before Major General Adna R. Chaffee, Commanding the Department of the East. August 8th, found the regiment at Manhattan Beach and a drill in the open involving the entire regiment in the principles of attack and defense in which all ranks and grades below that of battalion commander profited nothing, brought the active season to a close.

The old Academy of Music on Montague Street for many years intimately associated with the social activities of the 23rd regiment to which numerous references have been made in previous chapter, was destroyed by fire November 30th, 1903; while this occurrence has no direct bearing on the history of the regiment the fact that in times past gay regimental promenade concerts and other social events attracted the highest strata of Brooklyn society to the Academy, thereby, contributing to the social status of the regiment has left endearing memories in the hearts of all true 23rd men; it is for this reason alone that mention of the catastrophe is made.

A regimental club house erected on the Creedmoor rifle range in 1903 contributed in no small measure to the comfort and

convenience of members engaged in rifle practice. In that year the regiment won the 2nd Brigade Match with an aggregate of 970; in this event the 17th Separate Company of Flushing stood second with 924. There were qualified during the year, twenty five distinguished experts, nine experts, seventy two sharpshooters and five hundred and ninety one marksmen. Again, Company "E" won the brigade Figure of Merit with a mark of 62.41. The regiment lost the State Match, the Governor's Match, the Adjutant General's Match and the Major General's Match; there was no representation from the 23rd in the National Match. The Regimental Grand Gold Medal went to Major Fred Wells and the Oliver Aggregate Medal to Captain Napier; the former scoring 47 out of a possible 50 and the latter 147 out of a possible 175.

A grand review tendered Colonel George B. McClellan, Mayor of the City of New York on January 16th, ushered in the interesting year 1904. For the first time in its history the 23rd regiment was reviewed by a Naval officer when, on February 27th, Rear Admiral Frederick Rogers, Commandant of the Brooklyn Navy Yard honored the regiment with his presence; a notable feature of this review was the unusually large staff accompanying the Admiral; this statement may better be appreciated when we consider that all officers not on duty at the yard were constituted members of the staff; the appearance of this glittering group contributed much to the colorful event.

A perfect attendance at the annual inspection and musters for the year 1904 was ruined by the absence of but one man and his name was Dennis; of a total strength of seven hundred and forty three this delinquent of Company "I" deprived the regiment of its coveted goal; what then was to be the fate of this Benjamin F. Dennis? Tried before a military court and recommended for a dishonorable discharge his fate hung in the balance pending a review of the case by Colonel Barnes. Dennis, adjudged guilty of culpable indifference rather than willful neglect of duty, had brought disgrace upon his regiment, his company and himself

Colonel William A. Stokes,
Commanding Twenty-third Regiment,
NGNY

1904 --1909

and was no more worthy to wear the uniform of the 23rd regiment; the fact that he was NOT dishonorably discharged may be credited to the decision of the Colonel in holding the case in abeyance subject to the future good conduct of the condemned, which, be it said was exemplary in all respects. Dennis finally severed his connection with the regiment receiving a full and honorable discharge.

Shooting trophies and decorations for the preceding year were presented by General McLeer at a review tendered him on March 19th; this was followed by the annual Veterans review on April 21st, with presentations of service and recruiting decorations and prizes. But there was a note of sadness associated with the occasion; it was the last official appearance of Colonel Barnes as regimental commander. Following the ceremonies of the evening the Colonel took leave of his officers and on April 27th, he was retired at his own request.

The customary Memorial Day parade of the 2nd Brigade augmented by the 13th Heavy Artillery, 2nd Signal Corps, 3rd Battery and Troop "C" Cavalry, Headquarters units attached to the brigade for purpose of parade was finely executed and well received by an admiring public. The 23rd regiment in company with Squadron "A" of New York occupied the State Camp of Instruction from June 4th, to 11th, inclusive. During the absence of Brigadier General McLeer on duty with troops participating in the joint Army-National Guard maneuvers at Manassas, Virginia, during the summer of that year, the command of the 2nd brigade fell to Brevet Brigadier General John G. Eddy.

On September 23rd, 1904 Colonel William A. Stokes assumed command of the 23rd regiment and on November 25th, of the same year Major Charles G. Todd was promoted Lieutenant Colonel. The untimely death of Colonel Barnes (Brigadier General by brevet) occurred November 28th, of that year; in his passing the state lost the services of an efficient officer and the 23rd regiment, a true and sympathetic friend; none

knew him but to love him and none named him but to praise. He was the soul of courtesy and kindness and in his intercourse with even the poorest he never forgot what was due one man from another. Alfred Cutler Barnes was indeed a gentleman of the old school.

Regimental Adjutant Henry DeWitt Hamilton (Major by brevet) was on December 7th, appointed Assistant Inspector of Small Arms Practice 2nd Brigade and on the 22nd of the same month, Captain Frank H. Norton was promoted a Major. It was during the year 1904 that dynamos were installed in the Bedford Avenue armory; with this innovation the dim era of illumination by gas passed into history. Indoor baseball always popular within the regiment continued to attract much attention; regimental and company teams vied with each other and with teams of other organizations of the Guard; indeed the drill floor echoed nightly with the cheers of enthusiastic rooters on the side lines.

The regiment was represented on the New York State rifle team by 1st Sergeant George E. Bryant; in the National Match shot at Fort Riley, Kansas, the team won with a total of 4322 points, the U.S. Navy team taking second place with an aggregate of 4294. The 23rd regiment again won the 2nd Brigade Match with a total of 1011, the 17th Separate Company finishing second with 998; in the Brigade Figure of Merit Company "E" stood high with a percentage of 62.57. While the number of qualifications for the year 1904 is not available, it may be said that the totals for distinguished experts, sharpshooters and marksmen exceeded those of the preceding year. Under the new order all qualifications called for federal medals and bars in lieu of the state decoration.

On January 1st, 1905 the Honorable Frank W. Higgins assumed the duties of Governor and by virtue of his office the title of Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard; under his administration Brigadier General, Nelson H. Henry continued in his appointment as Adj-

utant General. With the approach of the inaugural ceremonies of President elect Theodore Roosevelt to be held in Washington March 4th, it was ordered that the Empire State be represented by a provisional brigade of its National Guard, the same to be commanded by Brigadier General George Moore Smith (commanding the 1st brigade.) On this momentous occasion the 23rd regiment in full dress headed by Shannon's superb band made a particularly handsome showing as it swung down Pennsylvania Avenue in compact masses with colors standing to the breeze and bayonets shimmering in the bright sun of a perfect afternoon; to the credit of organizations comprising the brigade be it said that all expenses incident to their voluntary attendance were met by individual expenditures from personal funds without cost to the state. Another outstanding event of that year was a parade of the 2nd brigade on May 30th, when President Roosevelt participated in the ceremonies attending the unveiling of the equestrian statue of Major General Henry W. Slocum at the junction of Bedford Avenue and Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn; following this the President reviewed the marching columns.

Again 1st Sergeant Bryant represented the regiment on the New York State rifle team for the year 1905; in the National Match shot at Sea Girt, N. J., the team won with an aggregate of 4528 out of a possible 6000, thus beating the United States Infantry team by 68 points. The individual scores piled up by Sergeant Bryant reflect in no uncertain terms his ability as an outstanding rifle shot.

<u>Slow Fire:</u>				<u>Rapid Fire:</u>		<u>Skirmish Run:</u>	<u>Aggregate:</u>
200 Yds.	600 Yds.	800 Yds.	1000 Yds.	200 Yds.	500 Yds.		
41	48	41	28	39	46	125	368
Highest possible at each range, 50:				Highest possible at each range, 50:		Highest possible, 200:	Possible aggregate, 500:

In the State Match the regiment took fourth place but in the Governor's and the Adjutant General's Matches, the 23rd availed noth-

Worcester State Team

ing. In competing for the McAlpin Match trophy the ~~regiment~~ won with an aggregate of 968 out of a possible 1200; we find the name of Sergeant George E. Bryant as representing the 23rd on this team. Again the Brigade Figure of Merit was won by Company "E" with a percentage of 61.59; the regiment won the 2nd Brigade Match with 1570 points; the 47th regiment finished second with 1437 and the 14th regiment third with 1282. In qualifications for the year the 23rd claimed forty distinguished experts, twenty five experts, sixty sharpshooters and five hundred and fifty seven marksmen.

Highly creditable was the annual inspection and muster for that year; of a total membership of seven hundred and forty, 0.40% failed to answer the roll call. Considering the achievements of the regiment on the rifle range and its enviable record of attendance at muster we are reminded of the blunt and uncultured remark of that rugged leader of Confederate cavalry, General Forrest when he said, "the best regiment is the one that gits thar firstest with the mostest men and shoots the straightest." In his report on the inspection the federal Inspector states, "the entire regiment is shod with stout serviceable russet shoes"; this fact is worthy of mention as no other organization of the Guard was found so equipped. The "Merriam Pack" had in the meantime been discarded for the "blanket roll"; this type of pack consisting of shelter half, blanket and poncho, into which were placed toilet articles underwear tent poles and pins, resembled in shape a horse collar and was worn from the left shoulder to the right hip; the haversack and canteen no longer suspended from the shoulder were attached to the cartridge belt which in turn was fitted with suspenders. The hat cord now blue instead of white conformed to uniform regulations prescribed for the regular infantry.

There occurred but one change on the regimental staff during the year; on February 11th, 1905 1st Lieutenant and Battalion Adj

utant John H. Ingraham was appointed Regimental Adjutant with rank of Captain. Lieut. Colonel Todd (brevetted a Colonel August 9th,) continue as second in command of the regiment. The year 1906 opened with the annual inspection and muster held January 16th, the numerical strength of the 23rd on that occasion being eight hundred and nine all ranks. The regiment was reviewed on January 20th, by the Honorable Bird S. Coler, President of the Borough of Brooklyn and on March 24th, by Adjutant General Nelson H. Henry.

The death of Ordnance Sergeant Charles E. Bryant on March 7th, 1906 deprived the regiment of the services of one who as an expert rifleman and coach had developed many an excellent shot; a veteran of the "Fighting Fourteenth" in the war of the Rebellion, Sergeant Bryant later joined the 23rd regiment and was appointed armorer in which capacity he served for upwards of forty years. He was buried with full military honors from the armory; it may truly be said of this old soldier that, a more honorable or faithful man never wore the uniform. A bronze tablet to his memory has been placed on the wall of the entrance tower of the armory. Two reviews occurred during the month of April; the first by the Honorable William Travers Jerome, District Attorney of New York County on the 9th, the second by the Veteran Association on the 21st.

A newly organized unit designated Company "L" was mustered into the service of the State, June 4th, of that year; thus the regiment was elevated to the status of an eleven company organization. The officers of this company at date of muster were:

Captain: Frederick W. Singleton
1st Lieut: Bernard Suydam
2nd Lieut: Edward H. Frothingham

The 23rd and 69th Regiments occupied the State Camp of Instruction from June 16th, to 23rd; a feature of the tour was a night "attack" on the camp by the 23rd accompanied by confusion and a frightful waste of blank ammunition at targets invisible to attacking columns and defenders alike; but the exercises emphasized the utter futility of such

an enterprize and this in a measure compensated for loss of sleep. Mention has not yet been made of a pretentious fortification which in the early days of the camp commanded the Hudson from a point on the south bluff opposite where now stands the quarters of the Provisional Ordnance Detachment; this formidable earthwork was in the year 1885 named "Battery Hill" in honor of the then Governor David B. Hill. Its arament of two 20 pounder Parrott guns and two mortars proved an interesting feature of the camp; a splinter-proof under the rampart served the purpose of a magazine wherein was stored ammunition for the field batteries. In later years there was organized a Heavy Artillery detachment composed of men of Company "I" 23rd regiment; between regular drill periods Sergeant Richard B. Dawson himself a veteran of the 1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, put the detachment through their paces in working the guns of Battery Hill. But all is changed; not a vestage of the fort remains.

The regiment participated in the ceremonies attending the dedication of a statue of General George Washington at Williamsburgh Plaza on September 29th, and on December 12th, passed in review before Major General James F. Wade, U.S.A. We now study the record of the regiment on the rifle range for the year 1906. Ordnance Sergeant George E. Bryant (appointed to that grade upon the death of his father, Charles E. Bryant) again represented the 23rd on the state team. In the National Match, Sergeant Bryant made the highest individual score, his aggregate being 285 out of a possible 500 on ranges of 200,600,800 and 1000 yards; the New York State team carried off the winning score with an aggregate of 3158, the U. S. Navy team taking second place with 3131 points. Again the 23rd won the 2nd Brigade Match with an aggregate of 1093, the 47th standing second with 989 and the 14th third with 842. Company "E" once more won the Brigade Figure of Merit with a percentage of 61.38. There was no representation in the McAlpin and Dryden Matches

The State Match, Governor's Match, Major General's Match and the Adjutant General's Match were lost to the 74th regiment, 71st regiment, 7th regiment and 47th regiment in the order named.

The regiment having been reorganized into three battalions, Captain William DuBois of Company "K" was on October 25th, 1906 promoted a Major. Captain William E. Butler transferred to the Field Hospital March 19th, of that year and was replaced by Edward Hodges, appointed Assistant Surgeon with rank of Captain April 11th, and Frank R. Herriman received his appointment as Assistant Surgeon with rank of Captain November 13th, 1906.

Lieut. Colonel (Colonel by brevet) Charles G. Todd, was on March 15th, 1907 placed on the retired list and on May 1st, of the same year Major Frank H. Norton was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment. Captain Frank A. Martin of Company "I" received his Majority May 24th. A brilliant review tendered Brigadier General George Moore Smith, Commanding the 1st Brigade attracted an unusually large audience on the evening of January 12th, and on May 30th, the 2nd brigade and Headquarters units located in Brooklyn together with the 1st Infantry, Connecticut National Guard, paraded as escort to the Grand Army of the Republic. Another parade in which troops of the 2nd brigade participated occurred October 19th, 1907 when the statue of Major General Franz Sigel civil war hero was unveiled; the imposing memorial stands on Riverside Drive at one hundred and sixth street and from this point of vantage the Honorable Charles E. Hughes, Governor of the State of New York reviewed his troops.

Annual inspection and muster held early in the year showed the regiment to excellent advantage with a total strength of seven hundred and thirty one. The 23rd regiment was once more represented on the State rifle team by Ordnance Sergeant Bryant; in competing for the McAlpin trophy, the team was successful winning with

an aggregate of 1023 thus beating the U. S. Navy team by only two points; New Jersey stood third with a total of 1005 and the over confident U. S. Marine Corps team might have truthfully reported "the Marines have landed at the bottom of the list of competitors with the situation well OUT of hand"; the total score achieved by the "leathernecks" was 972. The Governor's Match was lost to the 71st regiment and the Adjutant General's Match went to the 74th of Buffalo, winners over twenty nine teams! In the Major General's Match the 7th regiment won with 822 points, the ^{23rd} 13th trailed in third place with 675; the 7th won also the State Match. In the 2nd Brigade Match the 23rd was victorious with an aggregate of 1137 second place going to the 14th with 1039 and the 47th standing third with 962.

To the surprise of Company "E" the brigade Figure of Merit went to Company "L" with a percentage of 57.37 Company "E" taking second place with a mark of 55.80. The regiment qualified twenty five distinguished experts, thirty eight experts, sixty four sharpshooters and five hundred and sixty eight marksmen. For the benefit of the reader who is unfamiliar with the requirements under each class the following table may prove of interest.

Marksman Class

5 shots, 200 yards, standing-off shoulder:	Minimum qualifying score, 16
5 shots, 200 yards, kneeling:	Minimum qualifying score, 16
5 shots, 300 yards, prone:	Minimum qualifying score, 17

Total possible at each range, 25:	Total: <u>49</u>
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Sharpshooter Class

5 shots, 500 yards, prone:	Minimum qualifying score, 22
5 shots, 800 yards, prone:	Minimum qualifying score

Total possible at each range, 25:	range <u>43</u>
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Expert Class

5 shots, 800 yards, prone:	Minimum qualifying score, 20
5 shots, 1000 yards, prone:	Minimum qualifying score, 20

Total possible at each range, 25:	Total: <u>40</u>
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Distinguished Expert Class

5 shots at silhouette target, 1200 yards, standing --off shoulder; magazin fire, in 20 seconds; Two scores, minimum qualifying score, 30

20 shots at silhouette target, from 700 to 200 yards, individual skirmish. any position: magazine fire permitted: i.e:

Six halts:

2 shots in 30 seconds at 600 yards.

2 shots in 30 seconds at 500 yards.

3 shots in 30 seconds at 400 yards.

3 shots in 30 seconds at 350 yards.

5 shots in 30 seconds at 300 yards.

55 shots in 20 seconds at 200 yards.

The first half of each advance in quick time; the remaining half in doub time. Minimum qualifying score, 50

An unfortunate accident sealed the doom of the old Creedmoor rifle range. On May 17th, 1907 during general practice of a battalion of the 14th regiment, a woman living on a farm one and a half miles in rear of the firing line was shot by a spent bullet and seriously injured; although the woman recovered the occurrence caused the Grand Jury of Queens county to find a presentment against further use of the range, and, in October of the same year the Governor issued an order suspending all firing on the range until further orders. Through the efforts of the Adjutant General permission from the New Jersey state authorities was obtained for the use of the Sea Girt range on October 26th, 30th and 31st, 1907 with the understanding that none but the distinguished expert class would shoot thereon; accordingly, qualifications in that class for the year were completed at Sea Girt.

The Palma trophy shot for on the Rockliffe range near Ottawa, Canada, September 17th, 1907 resulted in victory for the United States team with a total aggregate of 1712; the Canadian team took second place with 1671 the Australian team third with 1653 and that of Great Britain fourth with 1580. In this competition Ordnance Sergeant George E. Bryant of the 23rd regiment achieved the following remarkable scores taking the lead over all individuals participating:

800 yards:	900 Yards:	1000 Yards:	Aggregate:
<u>74</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>219</u>
Out of a possible 75:	Out of a possible 75:	Out of a possible 75:	Out of a possible 225:

(Arm: Krag-Jorgensen rifle, Cal. 30)

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With the retirement of Brigadier General (Major General by brevet) James McLeer, the command of the 2nd brigade fell to Brigadier General John G. Eddy who, by invitation of Colonel Stokes, established his headquarters in the armory of the 23rd regiment. The commodious area set aside for this headquarters was, through skillful treatment, transformed into a suite palatial in appointments and furnishings; but in making the General comfortable, the dimensions of the Squad Room adjoining had been greatly reduced. On this condition, the resourceful Colonel Stokes argued his claim for the construction of a new and larger Squad Room on the third floor of his armory; and so it came to pass that the present area, variously referred to as the "Squad Room", the "Ball Room" and the "Auditorium" was authorized and built; --- which causes us to wonder whether or not the wily Colonel employed his cordial invitation to General Eddy as a means to an end?

The outstanding event in the life of the 23rd regiment during the year 1908 was its participation in the joint Army-National Guard maneuvers at Pine Plains, Jefferson county, New York, from June 14th to 25th inclusive. Four reviews in the order named were held during the year; the first, on February 29th by the Honorable James W. Wadsworth, Speaker of the State Assembly. Major General Charles F. Roe, Commanding the National Guard reviewed the regiment on March 14th, and the annual review tendered the Veteran Association followed on April 11th. Major General Leonard Wood, Commanding the Department of the East (later Commanding General of the 89th Division, A.E.F.) reviewed the regiment on December 12th.

Annual inspection³⁾ and muster occurred March 26-27th and reflected great credit on the organization; the muster rolls show a total strength of seven hundred and forty one. The regiment paraded in Brooklyn on May 1st in celebration of the opening of the then new subway and on May 30th, escorted the thinning ranks of the Grand Army. A gigantic military procession held in Brooklyn November 14th, 1908, marked the dedicat-

ion of the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument in Fort Greene Park; troops of the regular service, sailors of the U.S. Navy, the National Guard of the 1st and 2nd brigades, the Grand Army of the Republic and patriotic societies participated in the impressive ceremonies.

With the muster-in of Company "M" on November 10th of that year, the 23rd regiment boasted twelve companies; this unit was originally officered by:-

Captain: Louis S. Quimby
1st Lieu't: Edward Hodges
2nd Lieu't: Martin Sackman

Conforming to the federal tables of organization effective in 1908, officers and enlisted personnel of the Medical Corps and of the Ordnance Department were transferred to their respective departments and assigned to the organizations with which they served; thus, they were carried on the rolls as "attached." The officers so carried were:-

Major Henry L. Cochran, Medical Department, Attached.
Cap't Charles D. Napier, Medical Department, Attached.
Cap't Edward Hodges, Medical Department, Attached.
Cap't Frank R. Herriman, Medical Department, Attached.

Cap't George T. Musson, (Major by brevet) Ordnance Department,
Attached.

1st Lieu't Edward H. Barnum, Ordnance Department, Attached.

Post Ordnance Serg't George E. Bryant, Ordnance Department,
Attached.

N.C.O's and privates, Medical Department, Attached.

Any future reference to ranks and grades of these services will not be shown as "attached", it being assumed that the foregoing statement fixes the future status of those officers and men affected by this change. We have named Edward Hodges as 1st Lieutenant of the newly organized Company "M"; this is justified by the unusual fact that this officer resigned his commission as Captain in the Medical Corps to accept the inferior rank indicated. Captain and Commissary Wynkoop, appointed Brigade Commissary with rank of Major, February 3rd, 1908, severed his connection with the 23rd regiment and on February 20th, Battalion Quartermaster Clarence J. Walker received his appointment as Regimental Commissary with rank of Captain. Major Cochran of the Medical Corps was on February 7th

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of that year, brevetted a Lieutenant Colonel; he retired from active service September 18th, 1909.

In rifle marksmanship, there remains little to be said; During the year 1908 the National Guard had been re-armed with the United States Rifle Cal. 30, Model 1903, and with the issue, the Krag-Jorgensen rifle had been retired. Creedmoor, no longer available, proved a serious hinderence in the matter of rifle practice to regiments of the metropolitan area; the expense of money and time in reaching Sea Girt being excessive, the authorities decided to cancel the Governor's, the State and the Brigade Matches; but general practice days for ~~the~~ ^a ~~the~~ ~~year~~, resulted in the following qualifications in favor of the 23rd regiment. Distinguished experts, nine; experts, twelve; sharpshooters, forty eight and marksmen, five hundred and fifty seven. The Brigade Figure of Merit went to Company "E" with a percentage of 65.09.

Glancing over the official register for the year 1909, we are at once impressed with the unusual turn-over in the Field and Staff of the regiment; the changes are noted in the order in which they occur. Major Frank A. Martin retired March 26th and Captain Carl G. Rasmus received his Majority May 3rd. Colonel William A. Stokes retired June 24th; he was succeeded by Lieu't Colonel Frank H. Norton, commissioned Colonel of the regiment July 26th. John R. Kevin, Captain, Medical Department, was on June 21st, detached from the 14th regiment and attached to the 23rd, and on August 16th, Captain William B. Meister, Medical Department, was attached to the regiment, vice Captain Charles D. Napier, reassigned to the 47th regiment as of August 13th. Captain George T. Mussen (Major by brevet) of the Ordnance Department, retired from the service August 27th and Major William Du Bois resigned as of the same date. Captain William E. Beattie, Ordnance Department was on September 9th, attached to the 23rd regiment as Inspector of Rifle Practice, and on September 18th, Major Henry L. Cochran (Lieu't Colonel by brevet) of the Medical Department was retired, as was Chaplain Lindsay Parker on Nov-

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ember 4th. Major Carl G. Rasmus received his promotion as Lieu't Colonel of the regiment December 30th, vice Norton promoted Colonel.

The season opened with a review tendered Colonel Sir Henry M. Pellatt, A.D.C., Commanding the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto, Canada; this notable event occurred January 16th, 1909 and was followed by the annual inspection and muster of the 23rd regiment which at that time numbered seven hundred and sixty, all ranks. Another review held in the armory on the evening of February 24th, marked the presence of Brigadier General R. Heber Breintnall, Adjutant General of the State of New Jersey as reviewing officer.

In February 1909, an appraised value of the regimental club house at Creedmoor was submitted to and accepted by the State Commission in Lunacy; under the terms of the appraisal, the State of New York allowed the 23rd Regiment the sum of \$2,766.12; it is a matter of common knowledge that the old Creedmoor rifle range was later given over to the State for the erection of an asylum for the insane. Two reviews occurred during the spring of 1909; the first on March 13th, by Brigadier General George Moore Smith, Commanding the 1st Brigade and the other on April 17th, when as in previous years, the regiment marched before the Veteran Association; the Memorial Day parade followed on May 30th.

June 12th, 1909 marked the official opening of the great seventeen and a half million dollar Queensboro Bridge; (Commenced in 1901, the completed structure had been opened to traffic on March 30th, 1909.) As a feature of the ceremonies, the military paraded in all its glory, marching across the seven thousand foot span in route step; in this, the 23rd regiment participated as a unit of the 2nd brigade. One of the greatest military processions ever witnessed in New York occurred September 30th of that year, when local and out of town troops marched the length of the city in the Hudson-Fulton Celebration parade.

The regiment was reviewed by the Brigade Commander on October 23rd, and by the Officers' Association on November 27th; the year 1909 was brought to a close by a review tendered Major General Roe, Commanding the National Guard; this event held December 18th, showed the 23rd regiment to splendid advantage. In that year the Franklin Avenue gallery overlooking the drill hall was constructed with a view to increasing the limited seating capacity which to this day is wholly inadequate to the needs of the regiment and its guests.

Touching on the subject of marksmanship for the year 1909 the new rifle range at Blauvelt, New York, not yet completed forced a suspension of outdoor practice; all matches were cancelled. In armory competition the annual Figure of Merit in the brigade was again won by Company "E" with a mark of 58.03. As a further incentive to better shooting on armory ranges, the regiment adopted a new medal for proficiency in armory marksmanship; the decoration is of bronze except that the bar awarded "Experts" is of silver. With the issue of this medal the time honored collar decoration was abolished. On December 30th, Captain John R. Kevin, Medical Department, received his appointment as Surgeon with rank of Major.

With the advent of the year 1910 the 23rd regiment settled down to hard work; two officers joined the official family in January. Captain William T. Mynott of Company "C" was promoted a Major January 5th, and the Rev. Samuel Parkes Cadman, D.D., received his appointment as Regimental Chaplain January 14th. The first review of the season tendered the Hon. Alfred E. Steers, President of the Borough of Brooklyn, and held in the armory January 22nd, was followed by another on February 26th, when the regiment marched in review before the Hon. William A. Prendergrast, Comptroller of the City of New York. As in previous years the Veterans' review, always dry and uninteresting was, held in the armory 14th, before an audience bored by the dullness of the meaningless proceedings. We find but one addition to the staff of

the Medical Department for that year; on April 29th, John A. Quell was appointed Assistant Surgeon with rank of 1st Lieutenant and attached to the 23rd regiment.

With the approach of Independence Day the Hon. William J. Gaynor Mayor of the City of New York, determined to put into effect a plan of his own making, whereby the small boy would abandon his fire-crackers and punk to witness a grand parade of the military with several shining pieces of fire apparatus thrown in to lend color to the affair; this innovation argued the Mayor would surely reduce the annual casualties as well as the noise attending the celebration of the glorious fourth; but His Honor's estimate of the rising generation's propensity for playing with gun powder proved altogether wrong as will be seen.

The parade officially called the "safe and sane" parade was held in New York on the morning of the 4th of July. In the long hot drag down Broadway, the marching columns played to an empty house as it were; few lined the curbs; indeed the famous thoroughfare resembled any Sunday morning when none but tourists ramble about town. As the head of the procession neared City Hall Park the habitat of tramps but a small percentage of this gentry startled into consciousness by the unusual commotion, evinced but a momentary interest as fire bells clanged and military bands played none too sweet music; these presently lapsed into peaceful slumber resuming their dreams of peace and plenty. The enterprise proved a gigantic "flop" and needless to remark the holiday was ruined.

Again, as in 1908 joint Army-National Guard maneuvers held at Pine Plains, New York, between August 11th and 20th, 1910 gave the National Guard another taste of campaigning; in these the 23rd and 47th regiments of the 2nd brigade participated. On December 17th, of that year the regiment was reviewed by Brigadier General William Verbeck, the Adjutant General accompanied by the staff of Governor Horace White. With

X the completion of the armory pistol range, practice received a new stimulus and many excellent pistol shots were graduated therefrom. With respect to the new rifle range at Blauvelt, New York, much may be said; while but partially completed, the range was officially opened October 3rd, 1910; at that time, but two ranges were available; i.e. -- 200 and 300 yards. On these ranges, practice was commenced. But from first to last, Blauvelt proved a "hoodoo"; not only were soldiers wounded during practice, but complaints from civilians that bullets were falling in settled areas, aroused public protest against its further use; indeed it was stated by disgruntled natives that the menace continued during periods when the range was NOT in use!

The authorities now exasperated, caused a watch to be maintained and it was not long before at least one fellow armed with a rifle was caught in the act of firing at random in the direction from which complaints had been received! This ruffian, in the employ of persons unknown, had contributed in a determination to rid Blauvelt of the state rifle range. The Brigade Matches were once more abandoned for lack of range facilities; in the meantime a complete range for all distances had been undertaken on the state camp reservation at Peekskill; this range was intended primarily for the use of units of the Guard located along the lower Hudson. Further remark on the subject will be made hereinafter.

In Blauvelt qualifications for the year 1910, the 23rd regiment claimed ten distinguished experts, four experts, no sharpshooters and but four hundred and sixty six marksmen. Company "A" won the brigade Figure of Merit for that year with a percentage of 35.87. It will be observed that the above totals fell far below the normal regimental standards of rifle marksmanship. In membership, the regiment lost a total of forty six between the annual muster for the year 1910 and the muster of January 26th-27th, 1911; the total on the latter date being six hundred and eighty seven. A revised drill manual known as the "Infantry Drill Regulations, 1911" ^ssuperceded previous texts and was ordered adopted by

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the War Department.

By Executive Order, Colonel Frank H. Norton was on November 3rd, 1911, commissioned a Brigadier General by brevet, and John J. Collins, Medical Department received his assignment to the 23rd regiment as Assistant Surgeon, December 27th. Nothing of especial interest transpired during that year. In marksmanship, the regiment won the 2nd Company "K", 47th Infantry excelled with a percentage of 37.9 Brigade Match with an aggregate of 1479; in the brigade Figure of Merit Company "A" stood second and Company "K", third. Ordnance Sergeant George E. Bryant was again honored in representing the regiment on the National Trophy team. The 23rd qualified seven distinguished experts, twenty one experts, twenty six sharpshooters and four hundred and twenty marksmen; these qualifications were made on the new Blauvelt range. The adoption by the state of the Colt Automatic Pistol, Cal. 45, placed in the hands of the National Guard a weapon unsurpassed; it was not until the following year however, that these guns were issued.

The 23rd Regiment, organized January 20th, 1862, prominently identified with the growth of Brooklyn, and occupying a distinctively high position in the estimation of the thinking public, celebrated its Golden Jubilee on January 19th, 1912 by a grand military reception and ball; this was followed on the evening of the 20th by a banquet given in the armory. In addition to active and veteran members of the organization, distinguished military guests from all parts of the country helped in making the re-union one of the most brilliant military affairs ever held in Brooklyn. Official reports following the annual inspection and muster held February 19th, 1912, show the regiment in a healthy condition and efficient in its undertakings. The adoption by the state of additional classes eligible to receive the decoration for Long and Faithful service is found under orders dated April 8th, 1912:-

- Class 1: Forty five years service.
- do 2: Forty years service.
- do 3: Thirty five years service.
- do 4: Thirty years service.

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With the retirement from active service of Major General Charles F. Roe, Commanding the New York Division, on May 1st, 1912, John F. O'Ryan, commissioned a Major General as of that date, assumed command. In passing, let us scan the military record of this young and efficient officer who within a few short years was to command the 27th Division, A.E.F., in the World War. Enlisting as Private in Company "G", 7th Infantry N.G.N.Y., March 12th, 1897, he transferred to the 2nd Battery, F.A., N.G.N.Y. November 22nd, 1900, receiving his first commission as 2nd Lieutenant, December 6th of that year. He was promoted a 1st Lieutenant, Field Artillery, April 9th, 1904. Commissioned a Captain May 10th, 1907, he was assigned to the command of the 1st Battery, N.G.N.Y., serving as Aide-de-Camp to the Commander-in-Chief from January 1st, 1911 to April 16th, 1912, with rank of Major from September 19th, 1911. He was on April 16th, 1912, promoted a Major General, Commanding the Division, N.G.N.Y., with rank from May 1st, 1912.

A great concentration of troops of the regular army and of the National Guard of several states occurred during the summer of 1912; this army participated in what is officially listed as the "Connecticut Maneuver Campaign" extending over a period from August 9th, to 19th inclusive; of the lessons learned, one stands out prominently in the minds of those of us who endured the pangs of hunger throughout the duration of what is claimed to have been the toughest peace time campaign ever indulged in by the 23rd regiment. This lesson laid bare the inefficiency of the Commissary Department; the press of that day ran editorials on what was termed culpable negligence. Official reports endeavoring to gloss over charges based on indisputable facts, failed to convince the public mind; but as in most cases involving scandal, the subject gradually died and the Guard emerged better equipped to handle like problems.

Under revised tables of organization adopted November 7th, 1912, there was created in each regiment of infantry, a detachment called "mounted scouts"; the duties of this detachment are clearly in-

licated by its designation. Small Arms Practice for the year resolved itself into combat practice by groups under a system recommended by the army, of which further mention will be made. Individual scores and results obtained in various matches by regimental teams are not available.

Captain and Regimental Adjutant (Major by brevet)

John H. Ingraham, retired October 28th, 1912 and Battalion Adjutant Charles Howard Newman was appointed to that post with rank of Captain, November 18th of the same year. Brigadier General Henry DeWitt Hamilton, formerly of the 23rd regiment assumed the duties of Adjutant General, State of New York, January 1st, 1913. Lieu't Colonel (Colonel by brevet) Carl E. Rasmus retired as of August 25th, 1913, and on September 18th, Major Frederick A. Wells was promoted a Lieutenant Colonel; the vacancy thus caused being filled by Captain Robert S. Cooke of Company "E", who on October 9th, was promoted a Major, as was Captain Richard B. Dawson of Company "I", with date of rank as of November 13th. Major William T. Mynotte retired from active service October 28th of that year.

The regiment furnished its quota in the formation of a Provisional Company of five officers and one hundred and fifty men selected for special combat training at the State Camp of Instruction during the summer of 1913. This brings us to the closing chapter of the short lived Blauvelt Rifle Range. After four years of wasted time in construction, and a loss to the state of \$475,000.00, the range was abandoned and ceded to the Palisades Park Commission; thereafter the rifle ranges at Peekskill were utilized by troops of the Metropolitan area, the date of its formal opening being July 27th, 1914. Through the failure of the state to provide necessary funds for the field training of its troops during the summer of 1914, no organization of the Guard received such training; this resulted in a decided set back in the progress of the division.

1st Lieu't Edward J. Morris, Medical Department was

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attached to the 23rd regiment May 25th, 1914, and Captain John A. Quell, Ass't Surgeon retired December 8th. Captain William E. Beattie, of the Ordnance Department resigned from the ^eservice March 16th and was succeeded by Captain Charles W. Martyne, attached May 7th. 1st Lieu't John J. Collins, Medical Department, resigned as of February 10th, 1914.

The great war then raging in Europe and threatening to embroil the civil²ized nations of the world, resulted in stimulating public interest in the matter of military preparedness. Not only was the menace of a European war to be considered, but the exasperating Mexican situation as well; with the swift passage of time, it appeared evident that the United States must in the near future enter the conflict. With this belief firmly fixed in the official and public mind, the country entered upon the tremendous task of preparing itself for war.

In the theoretical instruction of officers of the National Guard of this state, the New York School ^oOf The Line, established in 1914, graduated twenty one officers; of these, nine received certificates placing them in the class of "Distinguished Graduates", and in this honored class, are to be found the names of Captain Matthew G. Addison, and 1st Lieu't Joseph P. D. Shiebler, both of the 23rd regiment. The regiment, as a unit of the 2nd brigade, plus artillery, cavalry, pioneers, signal troops, field hospitals and quartermaster troops, underwent a period of field training from July 25th to August 1st, 1915, at Fishkill Plains, Dutchess county, New York. The results in rifle practice on the Peekskill range for that year are not available. Captain Charles W. Martyne, Ordnance Department, retired from the service August 13th, 1915, with but fifteen months to his credit, and Captain Frank R. Herriman of the Medical Department was placed on the Reserve List November 16th.

The eventful year of 1916 opened with forebodings of evil. Not only did the war in Europe show no signs of abating, but

the complexities of the situation along the Mexican border had by now reached an acute stage. Repeated raids into American territory brought earnest and constant appeals to Washington for military protection; during long and stormy discussions on national defense measures in Congress the National Guard was the object of much obloquy. As ever, various legislative factions planned to ignore it, annul it, deprive it of every national significance and to reduce it to the status of a purely state force. But no alternative could be agreed upon and at length, the National Guard was federalized and recognized as the mainstay of the regular establishment.

The State of New York without waiting for the conclusions of these Congressional debates, determined to stimulate recruiting and to give its troops the advantage of field training on a more elaborate scale than ever before. These preparations were well under way when, on the night of June 18th, 1916, the President called to the colors, the National Guard of the United States; had this call been delayed three weeks, it would have found the National Guard of the State of New York assembled in its entirety at the very camp in which it was prematurely and hastily mobilized. Under the National Defense Act which had become a law on June 3rd of that year, the numerical strength of the Guard was to be double its previous maximum.

The State Camp at Peekskill offered accommodations for only one eighth of the State troops; of the various sites proposed, the State Industrial Farm at Beekman in Dutchess county was chosen as a most excellent situation; this reservation comprising eight hundred and twenty five acres was designated "Camp Whitman", Greenhaven, New York. On May 27th the entire National Guard of the state, less the Coast Defense Commands, one battalion of Engineers and one Machine Gun troop, was ordered to Camp Whitman for field training; troop movements centering on this camp commenced June 20th. On May 9th, the organized militia of Tex-

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as, Arizona and New Mexico received the call to mobilize; this was followed by a second call during the night of June 18th for the National Guard of every state in the Union to mobilize for federal service along the Rio Grande. The order affecting the State of New York follows:-

"Washington, June 18th, 1916.

"Hon. Charles S. Whitman,
Albany, New York.

"Having in view the possibilities of further aggression upon the territory of the United States and the necessity for proper protection of the same, the President has thought proper to exercise the authority vested in him by the Constitution and laws, and to call out the organized Militia and the National Guard necessary for that purpose."

"I am consequently instructed by the President to call into the service of the United States forthwith through you, the following units of the organized Militia and the National Guard of the State of New York, which the President directs shall be assembled at the state mobilization camp at New Dorp (or at a place to be designated to you by the Commanding General, Eastern Department) and for muster into the service of the United States as follows:-"

"One Division of Three Brigades of three regiments each of Infantry."

"One regiment, one Squadron and one Machine Gun troop of Cavalry."

"Two regiments of Field Artillery."

"Two battalions of Engineers."

"One battalion of Signal Corps."

"Three Field Hospitals."

"Four Ambulance companies."

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(Signed)

Baker, Secretary of War.

On the morning of June 19th, mobilization commenced with feverish enthusiasm; by eight o'clock in the evening of the same day, -- less than twenty-four hours after the receipt of the call, the State of New York had under arms, fifteen thousand two hundred and eighty nine of its National Guard, equipped and ready for muster! Organizations completing their respective inventories were to be moved at once to the camp at Green Haven; but owing to the anxiety of the War Department to place troops on the Mexican border at the earliest possible moment, orders were received to muster into the federal service at their home stations, all organizations not already in camp.

Accordingly, the 23rd New York Infantry was mustered into the service of the United States at its armory in Brooklyn, July 1st, 1916 and on July 4th, the regiment departed for the Rio Grande country in the state of Texas, with a strength of forty seven officers and one thousand and thirty seven men, Colonel Frank H. Norton Commanding. A roster of officers who served on the Mexican border will be found in Appendix C. In perusing this roster, there will be found the names of six officers who quit the colors in the field, while in the service of the United States:-

- 1: ~~1st~~ ~~Co~~ ~~t~~ Frederick A. Wells, resigned July 29th, 1916.
- 2: Captain Edward J. Robbins, resigned Sep't 1st, 1916.
- 3: First Lt. Floyd L. Stevens, resigned Sep't 1st, 1916.
- 4: First Lt. Chauncey A. Pierce, resigned Oct. 13th, 1916.
- 5: First Lt. Riegan D. Dumont, resigned Nov. 15th, 1916.
- 6: Second Lt. Augustus H. Harvey, resigned Sep't 1st, 1916.

The name of Samuel S. Rapp stands alone. This officer entered the military service of the state in 1901; passing through the non commissioned grades, he was commissioned in 1914, holding the rank of 1st Lieutenant in 1916. Reporting on the day of muster, he collapsed in abject terror at the thought of taking the field in campaign, thereby bringing disgrace upon the service. Charged with cowardice in refusing to march with his company, he was allowed to resign his commission on July 12th, 1916.

Under the then existing tables of organization, one thousand and eight hundred and thirty six all ranks, constituted a war strength regiment of infantry, the authorized strength of a rifle company being one hundred and fifty. By this it will be observed that the 23rd lacked seven hundred and fifty two of its authorized war strength; the deficiency would, under the newly enacted law be met by drafts of recruits to be forwarded from the regimental Depot Battalion, of which appropriate mention will be made. Entraining under the most disheartening conditions, the regiment pulled out of the Jersey City yards early on the morning of July 5th. Without a murmur the men accepted their uncom-

fortable surroundings; but the press with stinging denunciation of the federal authorities complained bitterly of the indignities thrust upon the National Guard en route to the border and none can deny that the evils cited existed.

Chief among these was the overcrowding of unsanitary day coaches into which the men were herded at the rate of three men to two seats; the remaining seat being overloaded with heavy field equipment, rendered sleep in a prone position impossible. Close confinement resulted in a mild epidemic of tonsillitis; but numerous ordered stops enabled troops and animals to exercise in the open, and this in a great measure relieved the unbearable conditions aboard train. Sandwiched in the middle of each train section, were box cars equipped with field kitchens; these were termed "cook cars" and served as filling stations from which kitchen details carried large containers through the train each man receiving his fair portion. Water butts lashed to platforms and guarded by sentries constituted the water supply en route; officers and men received daily rations for drinking purposes only. Upon reaching the town of Sapulpa in Oklahoma, tourist cars were substituted for the filthy day coaches ---but not until draw-bars and platforms had in some instances been torn from rotten rolling stock!

The regiment reached its destination early on the morning of July 11th thereby completing its tiresome journey of twenty five hundred miles. Detraining at Pharr, a small town on the Gulf Coast Line, in the county of Hidalgo, in the state of Texas, the 23rd marched to its assigned area and there pitched camp. For purposes of reference the composition of the Infantry Brigades of the 6th Division (New York National Guard) and their assignments are here shown.

1st Infantry Brigade.

Brig. Gen'l James W. Lester, Commd'g.

2nd Infantry :
14th Infantry : Mission, Texas.
69th Infantry :

2nd Infantry Brigade.

Brig. Gen'l George R. Dyer, Commd'g.

7th Infantry :
12th Infantry : McAllen, Texas.
71st Infantry :

3rd Infantry Brigade.

Brig. Gen'l William Wilson, Commd'g.

3rd Infantry :
23rd Infantry :
74th Infantry : Pharr, Texas.
x x 3rd Tennessee Infantry :

x x The 3rd New York Infantry left Pharr on September 8th, 1916 for its home station, at which time the 3rd Tennessee Infantry took over from the 3rd New York Infantry.

The town of Pharr sixty miles west of Brownsville, has its Mexican colony as have all border towns. The nearest port of entry from Mexico is at a place called Hidalgo; here on a bluff overlooking the Rio Grande, a sun baked shanty over which flies the flag of the United States Customs Service, boasts the distinction of serving the interests of that important department. Just below, a rowboat designated the "International Ferry" plies between Hidalgo and Reynosa which is on the Mexican side. Reynosa is a city of considerable importance located on the railroad paralleling the river from Matamoras to Camargo and thence to Monterey.

Not to mention the great assortment of creatures both flying and creeping infesting these parts, would render this narrative incomplete. Probably the three most dangerous are the rattlesnake, the tarantula and the centipede; next in order of poisonous pests is that obnoxious reptile the scorpion. The sagacious red ant whose number is legion traveled in countless thousands taking heavy toll of

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leather equipment which was devoured! Ugly looking yet harmless horned toads scuttled over the sandy wastes and the elusive chameleon darted hither and yon.

The country abounds with game; deer, wild pigeons, bob-cats, great owls, prairie dogs, the spiny porcupine, timber wolves and the truly original "armored tank," the armadillo. At night, bats and other offensive flying creatures invaded the camps in great numbers, while in the distance, and sometimes near at hand, the cries of that nocturnal fox-like animal the coyote rent the still air. An early and remembered acquaintance with these things resulted from the very nature of the service along the Rio Grande and in the wilderness of the back country through which the troops operated.

But there were other things to be avoided such as the "Spanish Bayonet", cactus, and the gnarled mesquite tree, which to touch meant suffering and often required the services of the surgeon in removing the thorns of these noxious plants. Sand storms of great violence raged over the area of the 6th Division and on one occasion a giant sand spout reaching far into the heavens swirled through the camp of the 23rd regiment; during the hot dry summer months, the thermometer ranged between 100 and 120 degrees in the shade --- of which there was little; indeed the extreme heat split the wood-winds of the regimental band! On the march, the regiment would break camp between two and three in the morning, thus taking full advantage of the cooler hours before sunrise; on many occasions, ten o'clock found the troops under shelter tents for the balance of the day. On August 19th, a tropical hurricane tore through the camps of the New York Division, doing great damage and practically wrecking the area; this cataclysm of nature borne on a gale estimated at one hundred miles per hour, continued for a period of fourteen hours! Such are the characteristics peculiar to the Rio Grande basin. Shortly after the arrival of the regiment on the Mexican Border, John J. Gartland, Band Leader, undertook the formation of a regimental band with talent drawn from the ranks.

We now return to the activities of the troops during the summer months. Aside from an eternal vigilance directed toward known crossings or fords on the river, intensive field training embracing combat problems, outpost duty, ~~and~~ division ceremonies, and rifle practice on improvised ranges, comprised the schedule under which the Infantry of the division functioned. During the month of August, 1916, the several units of the division participated in what were termed practice marches, the Infantry covering the territory shown in the following table of days, places and distances marched. Accordingly, the 23rd regiment left its station at Pharr early on the morning of August 22nd, adhering to this schedule.

Date.	From.	To.	Distance in miles.
August 22 nd 1916	Pharr	McAllen	3
23 rd	McAllen	Mission	6
24 th	Mission	Alton	7
25 th	Alton	Sterling's Ranch	6
26 th	Sterling's	La Gloria	3
27 th	La Gloria	Sterling's Ranch	3
28 th	Sterling's	Laguna Seca	10
29 th	Laguna Seca	Young's Ranch	6
30 th	Young's	Laguna Seca	6
31 st	Laguna Seca	Sterling's Ranch	10
Sep't. 1 st	Sterling's	Edinburg	14
2 nd	Edinburg	Pharr	8
			82 Miles.

While the official record of distances stands as shown, it is generally conceded that unavoidable detours off beaten trails (at that time impassable by reason of the recent hurricane) and counter-marching attending every troop movement in the field, increased the actual distance marched to well over one hundred miles. To give the reader a better conception of the rigors of this march, it may be said that in not a few instances the men were compelled to bolo their way through semi-tropical jungles to escape the glue-like adobe muck encountered in the trails of lower levels. At La Gloria (so named by some practical joker) the regiment bivouaced in a reptile infested clearing, a sudden cloud burst putting the camp under water and soaking offi-

cers and men to the skin. At Laguna Seca hungry wolves howled around the kitchens, keeping sentinels on the alert. A scattered settlement called Monte Christi presents still another misnomer, in that the area is as flat as a plate and ~~no~~^g venture to say that Christ never dwelt in such a hell hole.

On the return march the regiment again bivouaced at Sterling's ranch and early on the morning of September 1st, cleared for Edinburg. Swinging into the road just beyond the ranch, the county court house at Edinburg could be seen through shimmering heat waves; this was the goal. It was now that the men experienced the phenomenon of the mirage; the court house appeared near at hand; yet as mile after mile was reeled off, it kept receding, --- yet ever near, until after fourteen weary miles of hiking, the town was reached, the tired regiment going into bivouac. It may be truthfully said of the 23rd regiment, that the tenacious spirit displayed on this expedition, coupled with its fine marching qualities under circumstances calling for every ounce of will power, brought forth deserved commendation from higher authority.

During the month of October, the regiment again marched to La Gloria for combat practice, and on the 14th of that month, the division received orders to establish outposts along the Rio Grande. With the 7th Infantry at Madero, the 12th Infantry at Granjeno Ranch, the 69th Infantry at Hidalgo, the 23rd Infantry at Capote Ranch and the 74th Infantry at San Juan Hacienda, a line of observation extending fifty two miles up and down the Rio Grande, was supported by a line of resistance twenty eight miles in length along the national military road paralleling the river. These outposts were manned by alternating battalions of the respective infantry regiments, each performing weekly tours of duty in the trenches. In the meantime a gradual withdrawal of troops from the Mexican border was commenced; during September 1916, the 71st, 14th, 2nd and 3rd regiments had been relieved and sent north. In October, the 1st Battalion, 22nd Engineers, 1st Field Hospital, 1st Ambulance Company

of the 4th Field Hospital and the 1st Field Artillery were relieved; during November, the 7th Infantry returned to New York and in December the 1st Battalion Signal Corps, Headquarters, New York Division, 2nd Field Hospital, 2nd Ambulance Company of the 4th Field Hospital, Quartermaster Corps, Squadron "A", Cavalry and Machine Gun Troop, 2nd Battalion 22nd Engineers, 3rd Ambulance Company and 2nd Field Artillery were relieved and ordered north.

January 1st, 1917 found the 12th, 23rd and 69th Infantry regiments, the 3rd Field Artillery, the 3rd Field Hospital, 4th Ambulance Company of the 4th Field Hospital, the Supply Trains and the Field Bakery still holding the divisional sector on the Rio Grande. On January 2nd, 1917, the 23rd N.Y. Infantry broke camp, entraining the same night for New York. Received at its home station in Brooklyn with loud acclaim, the regiment was on January 17th, 1917, mustered out of federal service, thus reverting to the status of a unit of the National Guard of the State of New York. At this point, we once more refer to changes of status in the Field and Staff of the regiment while on the Mexican border. On August 7th, 1916, William E. Walsh of the regular army was assigned to the 23rd New York Infantry as Lieutenant Colonel, vice Wells resigned; this efficient second in command continued with the regiment until February 23rd, 1917, when he was honorably discharged and returned to the regular establishment. Major Richard B. Dawson having been found physically unfit for campaign, was honorably discharged from the service July 12th, 1916; he was succeeded by Captain John R. Sawyer of Company "G", promoted a Major September 6th of that year. Captain and Adjutant Charles Howard Newman, placed on the Reserve List June 24th, 1916, was succeeded by Captain Morris N. Liebmann of Company "I", appointed Adjutant as of that day.

Through the energies of the Division Staff, a publication known as the "Rio Grande Rattler" appeared shortly after the arrival of the New York Division in Texas; this official organ of the

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6th Division gained for itself a reputation unequalled by any other service journal of a like nature. In rifle marksmanship for the year 1916, on the Peekskill ranges prior to the call of the President for active service, the regiment qualified seven expert riflemen, twenty six sharpshooters and sixty one marksmen; these received the government badge for marksmanship. Co-incident with the mobilization of the New York National Guard in 1916, there were called forth one thousand four hundred and forty eight officers and forty thousand four hundred and sixteen men; of this number, seven hundred and ninety nine officers and seventeen thousand seven hundred and thirty three men served on the Mexican border, the remainder being held within the state. The regiment sustained but two casualties resulting from disease contracted in federal service while on the Mexican border:-

Private Harold N. Kelly, Company "I"
Private Clinton Healy, Company "H"

Before passing on to the stirring events of the year 1917, we must first remark on the organization of what was officially designated the "Depot Battalion." Immediately following the departure of the National Guard for active border service, it was realized that the state had transferred almost its entire armed power to the United States and that some substitute must be available for the preservation of the civil peace at home. To serve this end, Depot Battalions were organized according to the military law. Officers who were prevented from entering the federal service, but were well able and willing to serve the state, were assigned to organize such depot units in the several armories throughout the state, and to these units were assigned such enlisted men, as, for various reasons failed to take the federal oath. (G. O. No. 20, A. G. O. June 22nd, 1916). General Orders No. 21, A. G. O., July 7th, 1916 which follows, will give the reader a clearer conception of the status of the organization:-

Col. James Robb
Commanding Fourth Third Regt
New York Guard.
1917

Facing Page 4

X X X * 1: The organizations of the National Guard of the State less organizations mustered into the service of the United States under the call of the President, dated June 18th, 1916, together with the Depot units known or hereafter organized in pursuance to M.L. 120, and such other organizations as are now, or may hereafter be organized as part of the military forces of the State, are hereby constituted the Second Division, National Guard."

" 2: Brevet Major General Daniel Appleton, heretofore placed on active duty under his brevet commission as Major General, to supervise the organization of Depot units, is hereby assigned to the command of the Second Division, National Guard, created by this order." X X X

By the 9th of September, 1916, the rolls of the 2nd Division, National Guard, showed a total of two hundred officers and two thousand five hundred and ninety eight enlisted men. It is interesting to note that during the existance^e of the 2nd division, there were forwarded to their respective parent organizations on the Rio Grande, a total of five thousand and fifty six men. The command of the Depot Battalion of the 23rd regiment fell to one well fitted for the post. Major Frank A. Martin who for many years had served with the regiment, and with the 201st New York Volunteer Infantry in the war with Spain, was assigned from the Reserve; a roster of officers serving with the Depot Battalion will be found in Appendix .

During the fall and winter of 1916, the number of units of the National Guard already returned from the Mexican border to the state, rendered further continuance of Depot units unnecessary; therefore, the 2nd Division was on October 6th, disbanded and the command of the National Guard then in the service of the state devolved upon Brigadier General George R. Dyer who had been mustered out of federal service; thus the various Depot Battalions ceased to exist. Major Martin was placed on the retired list June 7th, 1917. But while the 23rd regiment had been mustered out of federal service, the respite from further and frightfully serious campaigning in war, the greatest of all time, was all too short. Espionage coupled with acts of violence against

the government of the United States and against private enterprises called for immediate and drastic action; interruption of shipping and rail transportation must be guarded against; but the most important public utility to be guarded was the water supply of the City of New York. with its daily consumption of over six hundred millions gallons!

On March 30th, 1917, President Wilson again called to the colors, the National Guard of the United States; the details of this call affecting the Guard of our state are omitted as being in a sense irrelevant as far as the movements of the 23rd is concerned. At midnight of March 31st/April 1st, the 3rd battalion, Major John R. Sawyer commanding, marched from the armory fully equipped for active service. The remaining battalions of the regiment followed in quick succession, each taking over assigned sectors along the Catskill aqueduct; April 2nd, 1917 marks the muster into federal service of the 23rd New York Infantry, N.G.U.S.

On the 6th day of April, 1917, the United States made a formal declaration of war against the Imperial German government! Electrified, the nation flung itself into a conflict which to use the words of President Wilson would be "long and bloody;" a prophesy all too well fulfilled. The National Guard had in the meantime taken the field and we find the regiment disposed along the course of the aqueduct in the following manner:-

Headquarters	-----	The armory, Brooklyn.
Company "A"	-----	Pleasantville, N.Y.
do	"B"	----- Yorktown Heights, N.Y.
do	"C"	----- Milwood, N.Y.
do	"D"	----- Chappaqua, N.Y.
do	"E"	----- Sprout Brook and Scrub Oak, N.Y.
do	"F"	----- Cold Spring, N.Y.
do	"G"	----- Peekskill, N.Y.
do	"H"	----- Mohegan, N.Y.
do	"I"	----- Ardsley, N.Y.
do	"K"	----- Valhalla, N.Y.
do	"L"	----- Elmsford, N.Y.
do	"M"	----- Yonkers, N.Y.

By proclamation of the President dated July 12th, 1917,

the National Guard of the entire country was drafted into the service of the United States on August 5th of the same year. No longer a state force, its designation was changed to the "National Guard of the United States", and under this designation it continued to function until swallowed up in the permanent organization of the American Expeditionary Force. In the meantime, the 23rd N.Y. Infantry had, during the latter part of July, been relieved from guard duty along the aqueduct and had concentrated at Van Cortlandt Park in company with the 1st, 10th and 71st regiments, N.G.U.S.

Let us here digress for the moment, turning our attention to the armories lately vacated by the now federalized units of the National Guard. With the departure of the 23rd regiment, a Depot Battalion was organized; this unit was commanded by Major James Robb, former Captain of Company "C", who associated with him Captains Thomas Fairservis, Clifford F. Lamont, Ethelbert Green and Vivian L. Outerbridge, all of whom had served with the old regiment. With the organization of Headquarters and four companies, the battalion was ready for muster into the service of the state. Under authority dated August 3rd, 1917, an auxiliary military force was brought into being and was designated the "New York Guard"; this purely state organization was to consist of thirteen regiments of infantry, comprising four brigades; four separate squadrons of cavalry, three regiments of field artillery and three separate battalions of infantry; add to this, one regiment of engineers, one battalion of signal troops, four field hospitals, four ambulance companies and three regiments of coast artillery.

Of the four infantry brigades, our interest centers on the 2nd, with Headquarters at 1322 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn; the 14th, 23rd and 47th Regiments, and the 6th Battalion of Infantry, Squadron "C", cavalry, 2nd Field Artillery, 13th Coast Artillery and 3rd Field Hospital, (the four latter organizations being attached) comprised this

Brigade, which was commanded by Brigadier General James Robb, heretofore cited as Major, commanding the Depot Battalion; of intermediate commands held by this officer, due cognizance will be taken. The New York Guard was composed of two classes; those physically unfit for service in war and those whose business interests and family relations were such that their presence was required in their home communities. Of the latter class, many joined for the emergency and were glad to quit the service following the signing of the armistice. At the commencement of the year 1919, the New York Guard numbered twenty two thousand officers and men; some of the organizations were efficient, but the majority of them by reason of lack of proper equipment and training, could not be relied upon for active service. It is doubtful if five thousand men could have been placed on active field service at that time. At no time was the New York Guard properly armed, uniformed or equipped.

We now come to the organization of the 23rd Infantry, New York Guard. Under authority of S.O. No. 276, A.G.O., October 29th, 1917, the Depot Battalion was expanded into a regimental organization denominated the 23rd Infantry, New York Guard, of which Major James Robb was commissioned Colonel, November 1st, 1917, with rank from October 30th. Captain Louis J. Praeger was on November 15th, commissioned Lieutenant Colonel, with rank from November 9th, and Captains Thomas Fairservis, Clifford F. Lamont and Ethelbert Green were promoted Majors; the first named on November 9th, the others on November 15th, 1917. Thus the four units already mentioned were mustered into the New York Guard on October 29th, 1917 as Companies "A", "C", "D" and "G"; a company located at Lynbrook, L.I., had on October 26th, been mustered into the service of the state; this unit became Company "B". The following table shows the date of muster-in of units of the newly organized regiment:-

Designation of unit.	Date of Muster into the New York Guard.
Headquarters	October 29th, 1917
Company "A"	do do
do "B"	October 26th, 1917
do "C"	October 29th, 1917
do "D"	do do
do "E"	December 7th, 1917
do "F"	November 14th, 1917
do "G"	October 29th, 1917
do "H"	December 3rd, 1917
do "I"	November 14th, 1917
do "K"	do do
(x)-do "L"	October 14th, 1917
do "M"	November 14th, 1917
Machine Gun Co.	do do
Headquarters Co.	March 11th, 1918
Supply Co.	March 4th, 1918
Sanitary Det.(Att.)	March 11th, 1918.

(x) This company, mustered into the service of the state as a unit of the 12th Infantry, N.Y.G., October 14th, 1917, was on December 22nd, 1917, transferred to the 23rd Infantry, New York Guard, and designated Company "L": (S.O.No.64, A.G.O., 12/22/17:)

To complete the story of the regimental organization, there will be found in Appendix K, concise histories of the individual units comprising the regiment; there will also be found in Appendix E, a ~~complete~~ roster of officers who served with the regiment. For purposes of reference, there follows a table listing those officers comprising the Field and Staff, together with those who were present with their companies on date of muster-in:-

Field and Staff

23rd Inf., N.Y.G.

Colonel	James Robb
Lt.Col.	Louis J. Praeger
Major	Thomas Fairservis
Major	Clifford F. Lamont
Major	Ethelbert Green
Adjutant	Louis W. Butler
Supply Officer	Charles H. Barnum
Ordnance Officer (Att.)	Charles E. Potts
Major (Surgeon, Att.)	James J. Keyes
Chaplain	Frank M. Townley

Company "A"

Cap't Clifford F. Lamont

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Company "A"

Cap't Clifford F. Lamont
1st Lt. Frederick C. Steckert
2nd Lt. _____

Company "B"

Cap't Philip Stauderman
1st Lt. Hawley C. Slack
2nd Lt. John J. Derrick

Company "C"

Cap't Thomas Fairservis
1st Lt. Chauncey A. Pierce
2nd Lt. _____

Company "D"

Cap't Vivian L. Outerbridge
1st Lt. John T. C. Waters
2nd Lt. _____

Company "E"

Cap't Herbert W. Congdon
1st Lt. _____
2nd Lt. _____

Company "F"

Cap't Raymond L. Taft
1st Lt. _____
2nd Lt. _____

Company "G"

Cap't Ethelbert Green
1st Lt. George K. Boyce
2nd Lt. _____

Company "H"

Cap't _____
1st Lt. _____
2nd Lt. Dumont C. Mills, Commd'g.

Company "I"

Cap't _____
1st Lt. _____
2nd Lt. _____
(1st Serg't Wm. D. Wilkes, Commd'g.)
Company "K"

Cap't _____
1st Lt. _____
2nd Lt. _____

(1st Serg't Willard C. Candee, Commd'g.)

Company "L"

Cap't Warren Kelly
1st Lt. Roy Pier
2nd Lt. Charles W. Woodford

Company "M"

Cap't Arthur Rossiter
1st Lt. Edward Lewis
2nd Lt. _____

Machine Gun Company

Cap't _____
1st Lt. William L. Sayers, Commd'g.
2nd Lt. _____

Headquarters Company

Cap't Louis W. Butler
1st Lt. _____
2nd Lt. _____

Supply Company

Cap't Charles H. Barnum
1st Lt. _____
2nd Lt. George W. Mickelborough

Sanitary Detachment, Att.

Major James J. Keyes
Cap't William C. Waggoner
Cap't Henry L. O'Brien

It was not until March 12th, 1918 that the Rev. Frank
M. Townley received his commission as Regimental Chaplain with rank
of Captain. Band Leader Gustave A. Richter was commissioned a 2nd Lieu-
tenant June 20th of the same year. The regiment was uniformed in the

Colonel Louis J. Praeger
Commanded, Twenty-Third Regiment
New York Guard
1917-1919

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regulation "olive drab" of the army and was armed first with the Canadian Ross Magazine rifle, Cal.303, Mark III, Model 1916; this weapon is fitted with a short knife bayonet; its magazine holds five cartridges. Later, the Ross was replaced by the Russian Mouzin Magazine rifle, Cal.31, Model 1901; a four fluted bayonet is attached and being never unfixed, the scabbard is not a part of its equipment. It is said that during the World War, the United States purchased two hundred and eighty thousand of these rifles from the manufacturers in this country for training purposes.

The 23rd regiment N.Y.G., was attached to the 2nd Brigade, December 22nd, 1917 and on that day Colonel Robb was commissioned a Brigadier General, and placed in command of the brigade. Lieu't Colonel Prager, ^e commissioned a Colonel December 22nd, 1917, assumed command of the regiment. The 23rd was well represented by student officers at the Officers' Training Camp at Camp Whitman during the year 1918 and it is to be regretted that achievements in rifle practice on the Peeks-kill rifle ranges for that year are not available. During the so called "slacker drives", the armory served as a "concentration camp" ---- if such it may be termed; offenders by the hundreds gathered in by military police, were brought in by truck and dumped without ceremony onto the drill shed floor, there to languish until some friend appeared with the missing registration card; during these round-ups, guards were supplied from the ranks of the regiment.

On occasions of regimental formations, those companies whose home stations were out of town, i.e.: -Company "B", Lynbrook, L.I., Company "L", Cedarhurst, L.I., and Company "M", Glen Cove, L.I., were transported to Brooklyn, returning to their respective stations at the conclusion of such ceremonies. Numerous details and detachments of officers and men of the 23rd, contributed their services in guarding public utilities; on this service they were temporarily attached to the 1st

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Provisional Regiment of the Guard. Of changes within the Field and Staff during the year 1918, Major Thomas Fairservis was promoted a Lieutenant Colonel January 17th and on the 31st of the same month Captain Vivian L. Outerbridge received his Majority. Robert M. Rogers, Ass't Surgeon with rank of Captain, was commissioned May 14th and attached to the regiment.

Having digested the organization and rather limited activities of the 23rd Regiment, New York Guard, we again turn our attention to the 23rd New York Infantry, N.G.U.S., whom we left at the Van Cortland Park encampment. What General O'Ryan very aptly termed "raids" on the division, commenced with the transfer of men from each metropolitan regiment to the 69th New York Infantry (later re-designated the 165th U.S. Infantry) destined to serve as a unit of the now famous 42nd (Rainbow) Division of the A.E.F., then organizing at Camp Upton for service overseas. Under this requisition, the 23rd regiment lost three hundred and fifty men by transfer to the 69th; with a numerical strength of but forty eight officers and one thousand seven hundred and four other ranks, the 23rd could ill afford to meet these encroachments; the situation called for immediate action if the regiment was to retain its identity. Calling together his company commanders, Colonel Norton stated the case and prescribed a remedy; each company of the regiment was to select a sector within the city limits (Brooklyn preferred) which would be combed thoroughly and well for recruits. The time limit was set at twelve hours and the companies left camp in high spirits intent on "bringing home the bacon." To each company there was assigned a truck; prospective recruits were rushed to the armory where recruiting officers and doctors were in waiting.

Suffice it to remark that the regiment raised its compliment and the companies returned to camp exhausted but happy in the knowledge of a duty well performed; it was not until September 29th (the day of departure for Camp Wadsworth S.C.) that each company received its pro

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pro rata of the recruits who in the interim had been confined to the armory for drill and improvement. In narrating the cause and effect of this unusual method of securing recruits, the writer has purposely omitted little incidents and occurrences which might detract from the high motives of the enterprise; but the fact that the very life of the regiment was at stake, justified what some would call "hard fisted" tactics in securing the desired end.

On August 30th, 1917, there was held in New York, a military parade, the memories of which will linger as long as life shall last; it was the official farewell of the New York division and marked the gradual exodus of units of the division for Camp Wadsworth, Spartanburg, S.C., where it was to train in preparation for overseas service. The 23rd regiment arrived at Camp Wadsworth on October 2nd, 1917, and marching to its allotted area, proceeded to establish itself. Before engaging in a study of the formation of the 27th Division, A.E.F., let us first note the changes occurring in the Field and Staff during the year 1917, but prior to the departure of the regiment for the south. Chaplain Samuel P. Cadman^a took his full and honorable discharge February 19th, being succeeded by the Rev. Frank I. Hanscom, appointed Chaplain with rank of 1st Lieutenant, May 1st. As previously stated, Lieu't Colonel Welsh was on February 23rd, honorably discharged and returned to the regular army from whence he came. Captain and Adjutant Morris N. Liebmann received his commission as Lieutenant Colonel, May 1st and was succeeded by Captain Thomas Fairservis, appointed Adjutant as of the same date, resigning from the active service May 28th of that year, Captain Fairservis was placed on the Reserve list August 22nd, his status remaining unchanged until his subsequent entry into the New York Guard. Majors David B. Blanton and Robert S. Cook also quit the service, retiring to the Reserve shortly before the departure of the regiment for Camp Wadsworth.