

Chapter II

THE TWENTY THIRD REGIMENT.
ITS ORGANIZATION.
THE GETTYSBURG CAMPAIGN.

The year 1860 was so full of political excitement that almost every thing having no direct bearing on issues involved, were lost sight of. This seems to have applied to the history of the Brooklyn City Guard as well; for there is not much data to draw upon. The time was not far distant however, when the company now designated "G" of the 13th regiment, was to play its part in the serious business of war. We pass at once to the year 1861 and more particularly to the period immediately preceding the departure of the 13th Regiment for the front.

In the Spring of that eventful year, the streets were filled with recruits under exacting drill sergeants; anticipating a short and brilliant campaign, the companies of the regiment were rapidly filled with the highest type of young manhood. In this respect Company "G" rather excelled in numbers; when mustered into the service of the United States on April 23rd, 1861, this company bore upon its rolls the names of one hundred and fifty seven of the elite of Brooklyn.

Jefferson Davis had been elected President of the Confederate states on February 9th, . Abraham Lincoln, inaugurated President of the United States on March 4th, faced squarely the issues involving the North and the South. Then came the bombardment of Fort Sumpter on April 12th, and the assault on the 6th Massachusetts regiment in Baltimore! Young men everywhere sprang to the defense of the Union. The 13th Regiment was the first in Brooklyn to leave for the seat of war under the call of the President for three months service; on April 23rd, 1861, the regiment, 450 strong, under the command of Colonel Abel Smith, marched away, and with it, the Brooklyn City Guard (Company "G") Captain Richard

V.W.Thorne Jr. commanding. The roster of the company as of the day of muster into federal service, follows:-

CAPTAIN

x 1: Thorne, Richard V.W. Jr.

LIEUTENANTS

x 2: Johnson, Evan M. Jr.
x 3: Woodward, John B.
x 4: Elwell, John A.
x 5: DeBevoise, David H.

SERGEANTS

x 6: Clough, Henry H.
x 7: Echalaz, Theodore N..
x 8: Haskell, Benjamin H.
x 9: Kissam, Samuel H.
x 10: Ludlam, William C.
x 11: Styles, M.H.R.

CORPORALS

12: Arnold, J.
x 13: Coombs, Edward B.
x 14: Downing, Theodore B.
x 15: Hyde, Carroll
x 16: Johnson, Henry B.
x 17: Marris, Joseph J.

DRUMMERS

18: McIntyre, Edward G.
19: Pelouze, Edward

PRIVATEES

20: Abbot, George E.	46: Ford, William C.
21: Ayers, James A.	47: Fordham, Elbert H.
22: Ayers, George L.	48: Fuller, Henry A.
x 23: Badger, Brackett H.	49: Fuller, William L.
24: Baker, James S.	50: Fremaine, John N.
25: Barnett, William	x 51: Gamble, Thomas T.
26: Bates, Joseph D.	52: Goodwin, Robert N.
27: Bergen, Van Brunt M.	53: Gray, Warren G.
28: Belden, William	54: Gregory, James R.
29: Best, John	55: Griffith, John J.
30: Blydenburgh, Frank	56: Griffith, Walter L.
31: Boocock, Samuel W.	57: Hammatt, Charles A.
32: Breck, Charles A.	58: Harper, Andrew D.
33: Bulkley, William H.	59: Haslehurst, Edward
34: Bullock, Edward M.	60: Haynes, Dudley W.
35: Carpentier, Robert L.	61: Haynes, Timothy P.
36: Childs, Alfred S.	62: Hicks, William S.
37: Clements, William K.	63: Hitchcock, Oscar M.
38: Condit, William H.	64: Hooper, Harris
39: Crane, Alfred C.	65: Hopkins, Charles E.
40: Cross, John A. Jr.	66: Holmes, Phillip W.
41: Dana, Frederick A.	67: Howard, George
42: Draper, George H.	x 68: Hunter, William A.
43: Duckwitz, Charles A.	69: Hunter, William R.
44: Dutton, George R.	70: Justison, Robert Jr.
45: Erkenbrack, George A.	71: Kalley, George B.

Roster of Company "G" 113th Regiment,
(Brooklyn City Guard) continued.

72: King, Elisha W.	x 115: Sherman, Arthur W.
73: Kimberly, Benjamin K.	116: Smith, Cadwallader
74: Lawrence, Richard B.	117: Smith, Fred W.
75: Leggett, Joseph B.	118: Smith, George H.
76: Leavett, Josuha Jr.	119: Smith, Walter F.
77: Leonard, John	120: Smith, Carl W.
78: Lord, George S.	121: Spence, Alexander
79: Lombard, Edward E.	122: Spooner, Frank G.
x 80: Ludlam, Edwin	123: Spooner, Edward B. Jr.
81: McCobb, John F.	124: Street, William C.
82: McFarland, William W.	125: Stanley, Clarence
83: McMillan, George	126: Steere, Henry C.
84: McKee, A. W.	127: Strachan, Charles W.
85: McNair, Charles H.	128: Stow, Charles E.
86: Mason, Fred A.	129: Stowe, William B.
87: Mead, William H.	130: Swezey, C.
88: Mitchell, Robert W.	131: Taylor, G. Carrington
89: Mitchell, Fred J.	132: Taney, Eugene H.
x 90: More, Henry D.	133: Tappan, Charles C.
91: Ogden, Willis L.	134: Taylor, Frank D.
92: Parks, George	135: Taylor, Joseph
93: Palmer, Edward C.	136: Thomae, Henry
94: Patchen, Samuel W.	137: Titus, Lewis V.
95: Pearson, Clifford C.	138: Titus, Alfred C.
96: Phillips, Benjamin	139: Thompson, Hohn H.
97: Pierce, Levi M.	140: Tremaine, William B.
98: Place, Charles A.	141: Tremaine, John
99: Plummer, John F.	142: Walden, Thomas Jr.
100: Porter, Howard A.	143: Wallen, Henry G.
101: Porter, James A.	144: Walden, Charles C.
102: Pray, O. M.	145: Walsh, Thomas H.
103: Ridner, Joseph H.	146: Weed, William A.
104: Robbins, John M.	147: Wheelwright, George
105: Robinson, Phillip E.	148: White, Harrison
106: Rogers, Charles A.	149: White, George B.
107: Roche, Richard W.	150: Whiting, John C.
108: Royce, Henry W.	151: Whiting, Gilbert L.
109: Sands, John	152: Whitney, Stewart E.
110: Sands, Charles J.	153: Willard, Charles F.
111: Sands, James W.	154: Wilson Andrew
112: Scriven, Charles E.	155: Woodward, Robert B.
113: Shaurman, Nelson	156: Wyckoff, James S.
114: Sheffield, Theodore A.	157: Young, Francis A.

Note:- X placed before a name indicates service in
the Brooklyn City Guard prior to February 8th, 1858.

With the departure of the regiment, those members of Company "G" who for reasons best known to themselves declined to muster, were quick to realize that families left behind would in some instances, require substantial aid. Actuated by this worthy motive, gentlemen interested in Company "G" resolved to unite themselves into a relief corps for the aid of needy families of members of the absent company. With the organization of the corps, it was resolved to expand the body into a military company to be called the "Relief Guard, Company "G", Thirteenth Regiment."

The first regular meeting was held in Gothic Hall on the evening of May 1st, 1861. A Constitution and By-Laws were adopted, the preamble of which follows:-

"This association shall be called the Relief Guard, organized for the following purpose; viz:- To look after the comfort of the families of those members of Company "G," Thirteenth Regiment, who may be absent in the service of their country."

"To render themselves efficient in military service. To act as a substitute for Company "G," Thirteenth Regiment during its absence in suppressing insurrection and performing such other duty as might be required of that Corps, in the protection of the city."

According to the by-laws, the military officers of the Corps consisted of the Captain, one First Lieutenant and one Second Lieutenant; four sergeants and four corporals; the fatigue dress of Company "G," 13th regiment, with letters "R G" on cap and belt, was to constitute the uniform of the Relief Guard. Two weeks later, the company decided to substitute the letter "G" in lieu of the original letters. Following is the roster of officers, non-commissioned officers and officers of the civil body elected at the meeting held May 1st:-

Captain: William Everdell Jr.
First Lieut: Thomas Brooks
Second Lieut: Leonard D. Atwater

Orderly Sergt: J.M.Pratt
Second Sergt: Henry A.Washburn
Third Sergt: C.B.Nichols
Fourth Sergt: James B.Titus

Corporal: James H.Frothingham
do Benjamin Shepard
do Charles H.Dana
do Charles P.Dickenson

OFFICERS OF THE CIVIL BODY

President: Luther B.Wyman
Vice Pres: James How
Secretary: Charles H.Stoddard
Treasurer: Henry P.Morgan

FINANCE AND RELIEF COMMITTEE

James H.Frothingham
J.M.Badger
C.J.Turner
W.H.Marston
Henry A.Washburn
Isaac Davis

Orderly Sergeant Pratt's roll of May 1st, 1861 shows a total of forty names; in listing these names each is placed in the order of signing:-

ROLL OF THE RELIEF GUARD

1 Luther B.Wyman	21 Charles H.Vietor
2 Thomas Brooks	22 A J.Ormsbee
3 James How	23 William H.Marston
4 Leonard D.Atwater	24 F.H.Howland
5 Henry A.Washburn	25 Charles J.Turner
6 John M.Pratt	26 H.B.Titus
7 L.B.Nichols	27 Benjamin Munn Jr.
8 William DeVigne	28 Isaac Davis
9 William Everdell Jr.	29 Oliver B.Matthews
10 Charles H.Stoddard	30 E.E.Childs
11 H.P.Morgan	31 C.P.Dickenson
12 James B.Titus	32 H.Dickenson
13 George H.Price	33 Charles H.Dana
14 R.S.Carman	34 E.A.Street
15 Thomas A.Cutts	35 Henry White
16 James M.Badger	36 Benjamin Shepard
17 Josiah B.Blossom	37 D.W.VanIngen
18 James B.Blossom	38 J.W.Masury
19 F.A.Blossom	39 L.C.Bierwirth
20 James H.Frothingham	40 E.G.Lewis

By June 1st, seventeen names had been added to the roll; of this number not a few had served in Company "G" of the 13th regiment, although at no time had they been associated with the old Brooklyn City

Guard. In the meantime ~~three additional committees~~ had been appointed; one to secure a suitable drill hall, one to procure muskets and one to procure uniforms. Gothic Hall was once more selected as a meeting room at a rental of three dollars a night; muskets were not available until the latter part of June; caps, belts, scabbards and cartridge boxes were purchased at a cost of four dollars and sixty nine cents per member.

The Relief Committee looked after the needy, thus fulfilling the sworn obligation of the Corps; these necessities were however, not as urgent as at first supposed and the work of charity they undertook was not found of paramount importance. At a meeting held June 19th, 1861, it was voted to change the name of the Corps to the "City Guard Reserve." Regular drills were continued and the earnestness with which the organization conducted its affairs attracted the attention of Major General Duryea, commanding the 2nd Division, who offered the Corps the use of the City Armory on Henry Street, on Wednesdays for purposes of drill; the accepted offer enabled the Corps to give up Gothic Hall.

Weekly afternoon drills were next taken up and every Saturday this tireless company kept at it until the latter part of July; these drills were in addition to regular formations. About this time the officers of the company came to realize the importance of the command joining some regiment; the members also impressed with the notion, proposed to unite with other unattached companies, the combined force approximating a battalion. A committee on "Regimental Formation" set to work and on June 19th of that year, reported the result of its investigation; the substance of the report was to the effect that several organizations had been sounded with respect to their views on consolidation; most of these were favorably impressed with the plan; then follows a list of companies approached:-

Brooklyn Greys
City Guard
Carrol Hill Guard
South Brooklyn Independent Guards
Captain Burt's Company
Union Rifles
Guard La Fayette
Union Greys
Washington Home Guard
Clinton Guard
Independent Zouaves
Excelsior Guard

That these independent companies, relics of the old militia system, had evaded the provisions of the Consolidation Act, seems odd; yet in spite of legislation they appear to have retained their original status and even now, in the year of Grace, 1861, we find them pursuing the even tenor of their respective ways, asking odds of no man. Yet there persisted the feeling that from the ranks of these now obsolete organizations, material might be obtained for the basis of a new regiment which if formed, would equal in characyer and social standing, any in the state.

This feeling was strengthened on the occasion of the first parade of the city Guard Reserve held July 4th, 1861. On that auspicious day, all of the companies mentioned joined in making the occasion one to be remembered. The City Guard Reserve headed by a splendid band and followed by these companies, each wearing its distinctive uniform, presented a creditable and soldierly appearance. As time went on, it became apparent that many of the reasons for forming the company no longer existed; therefore, the entire object of the organization was changed. It now sought to incorporate itself as a military body only. The adoption of a new belt plate in keeping with the recently changed designation of the company, was, at this time considered; the accepted plate, very neat and tasty in appearance, bore the letters "C G" in script and beneath the word "RESERVE."

July 30th, 1861, marked the return of the 13th Regiment from its first campaign in war. Captain Everdell commanded the escort to the

returning heroes; never was such a welcome extended to any organization either civil or military. From the Battery, the march was taken up to City Hall where a collation was provided at the park.barracks -- the site of the present Post Office. Proceeding to the ferry, the procession crossed to Brooklyn; again the march was taken up to Fort greene; here a committee of distinguished citizens headed by Mayor Kalbfleisch awaited its arrival. In the name of the City of Brooklyn, the Mayor thanked the regiment for its patriotic services to the Union; and in keeping with the occasion, the City Guard Reserve welcomed the men of the returning regiment with all the warmth it was possible to show.

At a meeting of the comoany held October 2nd, 1861, the City Guard Reserve still full of enthusiasm with the idea of uniting with a regiment, laid the proposition of joining the 13th before its commander, Colonel Robert B.Clark; the offer was received with marked indifference. This rebuff however, failed to dampen the ardor of the company, although it was voted to make no further overtures to Colonel Clark. Remarking on this incident, it seems only fair to assume that the 13th regiment lately returned from the front, resented strongly associating itself with any but combat troops.

On December 30th, 1861, Captain Everdell who had been actively interested in the project of amalgamation, reported bright prospects of expanding into a regiment about to be organized; the authorization for creating a new brigade in the county of Kings presented a golden opportunity for the solution of the problem; the promulgation of an order dated December 31st, 1861, justified Captain Everdell's optimism. The order follows:-

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, STATE OF NEW YORK
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

General Orders
No.116

Albany, December 31st, 1861.

1: A new Brigade is hereby organized in the

county of Kings to be known as the Eleventh Brigade, and the following district is assigned to the same: viz:-the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, Tenth and Twelfth Wards of Brooklyn.

II: Jesse C. Smith of the City of Brooklyn is hereby appointed Brigadier General of such Brigade and assigned to the command thereof.

III: The Eleventh Brigade District is to be divided into four Regimental Districts; a Regimental District to be known as the Forty Seventh, to comprise the Fourth and Fifth Wards of Brooklyn; a Regimental District to be known as the Fifty Second, to comprise the Sixth and Eighth Wards of Brooklyn; a Regimental District to be known as the Fifty Sixth, to comprise the Tenth and Twelfth Wards of Brooklyn.

IV: The Fifth Brigade District will comprise the whole of the County of Kings not included in the Eleventh Brigade District, and the regiments in such Fifth Brigade will be located as follows:-The Regimental District of the Thirteenth Regiment will consist of the Seventh and Eleventh Wards of Brooklyn; the District of the Fourteenth Regiment will consist of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Seventeenth Wards of Brooklyn; the District of the Twenty Eighth Regiment will consist of the Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Nineteenth Wards of Brooklyn and the District of the Seventieth Regiment will consist of the Ninth and Eighteenth Wards of the City of Brooklyn and the towns in the County of Kings.

V: Brigadier General Crooke will immediately divide the Regimental Districts in the Fifth Brigade into Company Districts agreeably to law, and report such division to the Commander-in-Chief, to the end that an order may be issued for the assignment of companies to such districts, and a like division of the Regimental Districts in the Eleventh Brigade will be made by Brigadier General Jesse C. Smith and be by him reported to the Commander-in-Chief.

Thomas Hillhouse,
Adjutant General.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

At a meeting of the City Guard Reserve held January 6th, 1862, Captain Everdell gave formal notice that the company had been pledged to commence the formation of a regiment to be known as the Twenty Third. Said He, "It is now intended to start a new regiment of which the City Guard Reserve and a company under the command of Captain Edwin Beers, - the Excelsior Guard, shall form a nucleus; or in the event of not securing the co-operation of that company, the City Guard Reserve will go it alone." The Reserve then chose

Messrs., Farnham, Titus, Pratt and Everdell as constituting a committee to select from the roll a permanent committee empowered to draft a plan for organizing the Twenty Thirs Regiment, 11th, Brigade, N.G.S.N.Y. The following named members of the Reserve were selected and accepted by the company:-

Captain William Everdell Jr., Chairman
James G. Slack, Sec'y.
Leonard D. Atwater Stephen H. Farnham
L.B. Wyman D.W. Van Ingen
Henry P. Morgan Benjamin Shepard
Charles H. Stoddard William R. Bunker
H.A. Washburn Alexander McCue
James H. Frothingham M.K. Moodey
Thomas Brooks

The last meeting of the City Guard Reserve was held on the evening of January 20th, 1862:-

HEADQUARTERS, C.G. RESERVE

Brooklyn, January 17th, 1862.

The members of this company are hereby notified to assemble for drill and election of officers, prior to being mustered into the 23rd Regiment, N.Y.S.M., on Monday evening, the 20th inst, at 8 o'clock, in the Arsenal, Portland Avenue..

As in view of the change about being made in the organization it is hoped that every member will be present on this occasion.

By order of the Company.

Pratt, Orderly.

It was at this meeting that the committee of fifteen presented to the company its first plan of organization; it was proposed that one half of the City Guard Reserve was to form and constitute Company "A": it was further proposed that the Excelsior Guard was to form and constitute Company "B", and that the remainder of the City Guard Reserve was to form and constitute Company "C". Upon second thought however, it was believed that a more equitable solution of the matter would be to prepare ballots, each bearing the name of a member of the Reserve; these were to be drawn singly from a hat and the first thirty five so drawn would constitute the roll of Company "A"

There were on the rolls of the City Guard Reserve

Colonel William Everdell Jr.,
Commanding Twenty-third Regiment, N.Y.S.M.
1862-1863

From a photograph taken during the
Gettysbury Campaign.

as of January 20th, 1862, a total of seventy seven names and the interest of the members of the company was naturally very great; disappointments were many as one after another ballots were drawn; yet all accepted the situation gracefully and there the matter ended.

Thus we have the original roll of Company "A", 23rd Regiment:-

1: William Everdell Jr.	18: Charles H.Hunter
2: Thomas Brooks	19: Edward L.Kalbfleisch
3: H.A.Washburn	20: William S.King
4: Benjamin Shepard	21: Alexander McCue
5: Thomas E.Bailey	22: William H.Marston
6: E.E.Bradbury	23: Charles S.Messinger
7: Thomas H.Bird	24: Henry P.Morgan
8: Josiah B.Blossom	25: M.K.Moodey
9: James B.Blossom	26: James H.Pratt
10: William Chapman	27: William H.Russell
11: Charles Distuenell	28: Alfred W.Samson
12: J.M.Doubleday	29: J.A.Seaver
13: Charles S.Farley	30: James G.Slack
14: James A.Green	31: James L.Stafford
15: James How	32: Joseph G.Story
16: William H.Hazard	33: E.A.Street
17: F.H.Howland	34: C.T.Thomas
35: D.W.Van Ingen	

The company was first officered by:-

Captain: William Everdell Jr.
First Lieut: Thomas Brooks
Second Lieut: Henry A.Washburn

Of these, Captain Everdell was promoted Colonel of the regiment July 14th, 1862. Returning from the Gettysburg campaign, he resigned from the service and was honorably discharged October 3rd, 1863. Lieutenant Brooks resigned and was honorably discharged October 3rd, 1862. Lieutenant Washburn, elected Captain of Company "A", July 31st, 1862, served with that company through the Gettysburg campaign; he resigned and was honorably discharged October 10th, 1863.

In the formation of Company "A", Joseph G.Story held the unique distinction of being the first to take the oath. The date of its organization is January 29th, 1862 (under authority of G.O.No.6, A.G.O., January 29th, 1862.)

As previously stated, the Excelsior Guard constituted Company "B". This company, mustered in January 30th, 1862, numbered thirty seven total, all ranks. The following roster of original enlistments has been transcribed from the company scroll with difficulty; many of the signatures are hardly legible:

11: Edwin Beers	19: Louis T. Bergen
2: E.W. Crowell	20: Edward W. Williams
3: Henry T. Chapman Jr.	21: Bernard Myers
4: Charles E. Goldwaite	22: Thomas T. Spencer
5: John Moffatt	23: James E. Raymond
6: Michael McNamara	24: R.C. Williams
7: Ezekiel H. Smith	25: Richard Williams
8: Valentine S. Smith	26: Volney Aldridge
9: J.W. Campbell	27: Nicholas Amerman
10: George B. Robinson	28: Samuel E. Belcher
11: James E. Hardenberg	29: A.K. Corey
12: Oliver T. Searing	30: Richard B. Ferris
13: Abraham Herder	31: W. Jarvis
14: William Charters	32: Donald MacKay
15: Alfred A. Robbins	33: J.P. Powers
16: Samuel P. Avery	34: T.W. Rollins
17: Charles G. Gelhardt	35: Richard H. Tucker
18: Charles Hedges	36: A.D. Thurber
37: John M. Garrison	

The officers of the company were:-

Captain: Edwin Beers
First Lieut: Edgar W. Crowell
Second Lieut: John M. Garrison

Captain Beers resigned and was honorably discharged May 8th, 1863. Lieutenant Crowell resigned and was honorably discharged May 15th, 1863. Lieutenant Garrison resigned and was honorably discharged May 22nd, 1862. At the close of the year 1862, Company "B" boasted a numerical strength of ninety five officers and men; these gratifying results proved the worth of Colonel Everdell's estimate of the Excelsior Guard.

Company "C" (composed of those members of the City Guard Reserve not assigned to Company "A") was mustered in January 31st, 1862.

the following roll lists the charter members of Company "C":-

1: Leonard D. Atwater	16: O. B. Matthews
2: Charles H. Dana	17: A. J. Ormsbee
3: C. P. Dickenson	18: Frank S. Phoebus
4: F. A. Blossom	19: Charles Pratt
5: William R. Bunker	20: C. Richardson
6: Jesse S. Carman	21: Charles B. Street
7: E. W. Crittenden	22: H. B. Titus
8: Isaac Davis	23: C. Wilbour
9: Horace Dickenson	24: Henry White
10: Stephen H. Farnham	25: B. F. Wyman
11: Charles P. Gerrish	26: James H. Frothingham
12: G. C. Guion	27: L. B. Wyman
13: John L. Hall	28: Edward L. Molineux
14: John H. Hull	29: Charles H. Stoddard
15: James M. Ives	30: John M. Pratt

The first officers of Company "C" were:-

Captain: Leonard D. Atwater
First Lieut: James H. Frothingham
Second Lieut: Stephen H. Farnham

Captain Atwater resigned and was honorably discharged Re-Commissioned Jan. 16th 1863. he commanded Co. "I" until 9/18/63 when he October 1st, 1862. / Lieutenant Frothingham, appointed Regimental Engineer Officer with rank of Captain, July 14th, 1862, served with the regiment through the Gettysburg campaign; he resigned and was honorably discharged February 25th, 1868. Lieutenant Farnham was, on October 11th, 1862, elected Captain of Company "C"; serving with his company through the Gettysburg campaign, he was promoted Lieut. Colonel of the regiment June 25th, 1868, continuing in that rank until June 16th, 1876, when he resigned and was honorably discharged.

With respect to the final disposition of the City Guard Reserve; it will be observed that there are still twelve members to be accounted for; these declined enlistment in the newly organized regiment. Their names follow:-

1: C. B. Nichols	7: Thomas Harvey
2: James B. Titus	8: Charles J. Lowry
3: L. L. Avery	9: John Mears
4: E. E. Childs	10: D. A. Ripley
5: James G. Clark	11: Charles H. Viotor
6: William DeVigne	12: Edwin G. Lewis

Recapitulation

Assigned to Co. "A" -- 35
do Co. "C" -- 30
Declined enlistment -- 12

Total accounted for: 77

again resigned.

Company "D",mustered in March 19th,1862 was first officered by Captain Allen L.Bassett,First Lieu't John A.Elwell and Second Lieutenant Henry J.Cipperly. Company"E",organized June 21st,1862,with William P.Coe Captain,William K.Comstock First Lieutemant,and C.A.Marvin Second Lieutenant,was followed by Company"F",mustered in July 2nd, 1862 under Captain James M.Ives,First Lieutenant Samuel W.Bocock and Second Lieutenant Frederick A.Dana.

Under the provisions of G.O.No.51,A.G.O.,July 2nd,1862,the companies organized in the 23rd Regimental District,i.e:-"A","B","C", "D","E" and "F",were constituted a regiment to be known as the 23rd Regiment,N.G.S.N.Y. By this order,the official date of the birth of the 23rd Regiment is July 2nd,1862. In making this bold statement the author realizes fully that it is in direct contradiction of the general though erroneous supposition that the date of its organization is January 20th,1862.

The regimental organization having advanced sufficiently to warrant the election of Field and Staff officers,such elections were ordered held within the Regimental District at such time and place as Brigadier General Jesse C.Smith might direct.The following named officers were accordingly elected and commissioned in the rank set opposite their respective names:-

		Date of rank:	
Colonel	William Everdell Jr	July	14th,1862
Lt.Col.	Edward L.Molineux	do	do
Major	John L.Elwell	do	do
Adjutant(1 st Lt)	John M.Pratt	do	do
Q.M.(1st Lt)	Charles H.Stoddard	do	do
Engineer Officer(Cap't)	James H.Frothingham	do	do

The remaining companies of the regiment were mustered into the service of the state on the dates indicated:-

Company "G", October 10th, 1862.

Captain Henry T. Chapman Jr.
1st Lt. Edward Haslehurst
2nd Lt. Charles H. Meigs

Company "H", December 4th, 1862.

Captain M. H. R. Styles
1st Lt. Charles H. Joy
2nd Lt.

Company "I", January 16th, 1863.

Captain Leonard D. Atwater
1st Lt. William C. Street
2nd Lt. William Chapman

Company "K", October 10th, 1862.

Captain Charles E. Brown
1st Lt. Charles F. Rogers
2nd Lt. James G. Gregory

The following Staff Officers were subsequently commissioned on the dates set opposite their respective names:-

Major (Surgeon) A. Duncan Wilson, October 7th, 1862.
1st Lt (Ass't Surgeon) George H. R. Bennett, Aug. 20th 1862.
Cap't (Chaplain) Peter J. H. Myers, June 17th, 1863.

The worthy Chaplain it appears, came in just "under the wire", the regiment marching for the front the day following his induction into service. By now the 23rd Regiment had expanded into a ten company organization. It was armed with the U.S. Springfield fified musket, Cal. 58, Model 1861; its formations and evolutions were based on the "Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics" prepared by General Hardee in 1855 and known as "Hardee's Tactics"; this system was revised and superseded by "Casey's Tactics", August 11th, 1862. The adoption of a grey uniform consisting of a single breasted jacket trimmed with black, grey pantaloons with black stripes and grey cap with the numerals "23" above the visor, constituted the only bill of dress of the regiment until the adoption of a full dress uniform in 1868 of which we shall speak later.

First armory of the
Twenty-third Regiment, N.G.S.N.Y.,
Fulton and Orange Streets.

1862 --1873

Although the regiment was organized and quartered in the Portland Avenue arsenal, its first armory, located at Fulton and Orange Streets, locally known as "Musical Hall" by reason of its original occupancy as a concert hall and museum, housed the arms of the regiment for a period of ten years, the regiment taking over the two upper floors of the old structure for drill purposes. The "upper" and "lower" drill halls as they were termed, offered scant opportunity for drilling subdivisions larger than a squad or section at best. Innumerable posts interfered with almost ANY formation no matter how small; to form a battalion within the armory was impossible. On such occasions, the regiment assembled out of doors on Monroe Place. Regimental drills were held in the Portland Avenue arsenal.

Although the officially accredited armory of the 23rd regiment, "Musical Hall" provided no company rooms; each unit was therefore obliged to seek quarters elsewhere in the vicinity. In imagination let us drop in on Company "I" whose quarters we have reconstructed from data found in musty correspondence and vouchers; the composite picture represents we believe, a fair average of all. It is an old building on lower Fulton Street; we climb to the second story. On a transom over the door we observe a painted sign "COMPANY "I", 23rd REG'T." Upon entering we are forcibly impressed with our unpretentious surroundings; plain wooden chairs are arranged along the walls which in places show broken plaster where gaudy flowered wall paper has been scratched or torn.

A wooden table (such as might be found in any ordinary kitchen) serves as the Captain's desk; in the center of the room is an egg stove and beside it stands a coal scuttle and shovel, both of which are adorned with floral designs of brilliant hues; these utensils have lately been donated by a member of the company for which he has received a testimonial of thanks and appreciation from the room committee. A

board studded with hooks is nailed to the wall and answers the purpose -- or rather is used by the members of the company in lieu of clothes lockers. Directly facing the Captain's desk is a large sand box for the convenience of those addicted to the use of tobacco in its various forms; but the carpet thereabouts is badly pitted with burns, which causes us to wonder how the offending member could possibly have missed that box.

In a far corner we espy a cowhide trunk used by the Orderly Sergeant, wherein are deposited the company records; at night, the only light is reflected from a two tipped gas chandelier and we note that on occasions, a lighted candle is held over the trunk by the Company Clerk to aid in locating papers nestled in its gloomy recesses. It seems incredible that any of the companies could prosper under these discouraging circumstances and surroundings; yet the regiment continued to function in an orderly manner, in the steadfast hope of better things to come. During the interim between January 20th, and July 14th, 1862, the 23rd regiment in its then embryonic stage, was commanded by Captain William Everdell Jr. of Company "A"; it was not until the latter date that he was commissioned Colonel.

On May 26th, the regiment numbering but four companies, received the following order:

HEADQUARTERS, ELEVENTH BRIGADE, N.Y.S.M.

May 26th, 1862.

Captain Everdell:
Sir:

By order of the Commander-in-Chief, this moment received from the Major General, you will forthwith order your company to get ready for three months service, to proceed to Washington at once and report to me at my Headquarters.

By order of
J.C. Smith,
Brig.Gen'l, Commanding 11th Bdg'e.

The Virginia campaign had again taken toll of the New York militia regiments; the 13th, 19th, 28th, and 47th regiments of

the 2nd Division had been selected for service at the front. The 23rd regiment although not fully organized, offered its services and in anticipation of a call to the colors had packed its knapsacks; but higher authority suddenly realizing its numerical weakness, at once and wisely, countermanded the aforesaid order. Again, the reader must not confuse the regiment in whose history we are interested with the 23rd New York Volunteer Infantry organized July 6th, 1861; this organization, recruited in the counties of Chemung, Cortland, Alleghany, Schuyler, Tioga and Steuben was commanded by Colonel Henry C. Hoffman. The regiment participated in the actions of Rappahannock Station, South Mountain, Antietam and Fredericksburg and was mustered out of service May 23rd, 1863.

Referring to the order lately countermanded, the following communication was received by Captain Everdell:

HEADQUARTERS, ELEVENTH BRIGADE,
N.G.S. of N.Y.

May 28th, 1862.

Captain William Everdell Jr.,
Commanding 23rd Regiment.

Sir:

In handing you the enclosed order countermanding the one directing you to hold the companies of the 23rd Regiment in readiness for three months service, I desire to express to you my gratification at the prompt and cheerful response with which the call was met by the companies under your command, and the energetic measures taken to recruit.

And I trust that should the exigencies of the Rebellion call for other regiments of the National Guard of the State of New York, the 23rd may be found organized and prepared to render good service to the Union.

J.C. Smith,
Brig. Gen. Commanding 11th Bdg'e.
E.L. Molineux, Major and Inspector.

During the spring and summer months of 1862, the regiment on several occasions, acted as escort to the remains of officers killed in the war; prominent among these were Captain Isaac

S. Walker of the 1st Regiment, U.S. Chasseurs, Lieutenant Theodore Laurier, 2nd Regiment, Excelsior Brigade, killed at the battle of Fair Oaks, Virginia, and Colonel J.H. Perry, 48th N.Y. Volunteers. But the most important duty was that of recruiting the regiment to war strength. Officers assigned to the several Company Districts within the regimental area superintended this work; under Regimental General Orders No. 2, August 14th, 1862, the following named officers were so assigned:

<u>Company Districts</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
Company "A"	Captain Washburn
do "B"	do Beers
do "C"	do Farnham
do "D"	do Bassett
do "E"	do Coe
do "F"	do Ives
do "G" (Not organized)	Lieut. Bocock
do "H" (Not organized)	do Shepard
do "I" (Not organized)	_____
do "K" (Not organized)	_____

In the midst of this recruiting activity, the 23rd Regiment was called upon to maintain order in the camps of the turbulent Spinola Brigade at East New York. This disagreeable and dangerous service lasting from September 22nd, to October 4th, 1862, required great tact in quelling incipient disturbances among mutinous troops; that the duty was well performed is evidenced in a letter of commendation here quoted. The safe conduct accorded the 164th N.Y. Volunteers, Colonel James C. Burke, lately detached from Spinola's "Empire Brigade" and attached to "Cocoran's Legion," from East New York to Camp Scott on Staten Island, had much to do in restoring order; in this transfer the 23rd Regiment escorted the 164th, to its camp across the bay, returning to East New York at daybreak of the following morning. Relieved of further duty, the 23rd returned to its home station; the communication previously referred to follows:

Brooklyn, October 4th, 1862.

To Colonel Everdell,
Commanding 23rd Regiment,
National Guard, State of New York.

Colonel:

On behalf of Brigadier General Spinola, commanding Empire Brigade, East New York, permit me to return my sincere thanks for the eminent service rendered by your command at the Brigade encampment.

The peculiar necessity for the presence of experienced and brave men, was in every respect served by the officers and privates of the regiment under your charge.

From the conduct and bearing shown on the occasion referred to, it cannot but be believed that in the extremest perils, the 23rd will be found foremost in daring and danger.

Trusting that the regard manifested for the Brigade may at some future day be reciprocated, I am, Colonel,

Very truly yours, &c,

L. Hanley, Cap't & Ass't Adj. Gen'l
of Volunteers, Empire Brigade.

Colonel Burke of the 164th, also tendered his thanks to the 23rd for the faithful manner in which it performed its duties at East New York and for the safe conduct of his command to Camp Scott. For this service the 23rd Regiment was authorized to place upon the lance of its regimental color a silver band inscribed "EAST NEW YORK, 1862."

On December 9th, 1862, Lieut. Colonel Molineux; resigned to accept the Colonelcy of the 159th N.Y. Volunteer Infantry; the first step in a markedly brilliant military career. Again on December 13th, of that year, the 23rd was ordered to East New York; this time however on a different mission. Field manoeuvres were engaged in and a marching salute rendered the 21st, 24th, and 28th regiments of Maine volunteers there encamped en route to the front. John B. Woodward elected Lieut. Colonel of the 23rd regiment February 5th, 1863, was on March 23rd, commissioned Colonel of the 13th Regiment, N.Y.S.M: he was succeeded by Major John A. Elwell, commissioned Lieut. Colonel of the 23rd, May 7th,

1863. Co-incident with incessant drilling embracing all schools from that of the recruit to regimental formations, especial interest centered on the formation of a drum corps; this important unit appears to have functioned well under the tutorage of Drum Major Hart, who, on June 4th, showed his corps to good advantage, the occasion being a parade of the regiment in New York City as escort to the returning 37th, and 38th N.Y. Volunteers.

The regiment received its first lesson in skirmishing at the Portland Avenue arsenal on June 13th; this lesson was to be followed shortly thereafter by another of a far more serious nature at the front. While it is true that through the fortunes of war the 23rd Regiment N.Y.S.M. was not actively engaged in battle during its service in the Gettysburg campaign, it is equally true that the services of this and other regiments of the National Guard of our state saved the city of Harrisburg from enemy invasion and were undoubtedly instrumental in forcing Lee to retire on Gettysburg; yet certain uninformed, or shall we say ignorant persons, have from time to time directly or by sly and clever innuendo, endeavored to belittle the part played by the militia in its short yet all important campaign before Gettysburg.

While the events of June 1863, culminating in the ordering of the National Guard to the defense of Harrisburg are common knowledge, it may not be amiss to review those events which emphasize all too clearly the truly tremendous responsibility placed on the militia operating in that troubled sector. At no time during the war was the Confederate army more complete in numbers, equipment and discipline, or furnished with more material for carrying on the conflict, than it was in the spring of 1863; according to the most careful estimates made from official Confederate returns, there were five hundred thousand men on the rolls and more than three hundred thousand fit for duty. Richmond seemed secure. Charleston was defiant, and with reason. Vicksburg and Port Hudson on the

Mississippi though seriously menaced, seemed impregnable against any force Grant, might array before them; appeals of General Johnston near Jackson for re-inforcements were regarded as notes of unnecessary alarm.

The Confederate government greatly elated by the events at Chancellorsville, ordered Lee to invade Maryland. Concentrating an army early in June 1863, at Hagerstown, Maryland, Lee re-organized it into three corps commanded respectively by Generals Longstreet, A. P. Hill and Ewell; with this mighty force nearly equal to that of his antagonist, he launched the invasion of the free states with Harrisburg, the capital of Pennsylvania as his objective. By a sudden flank movement, Lee caused Hooker to break up his encampment on the Rappahannock and move toward Washington. On June 15th, seven thousand federals were driven across the Potomac. Meanwhile Longstreet with a strong force, moved along the eastern bases of the Blue Ridge, watching for an opportunity to fall on Washington the Capital of the United States, while Hooker moved his forces in a parallel line to thwart Longstreet's designs.

A strong Confederate cavalry force crossing the Potomac, had pushed forward through the Cumberland valley as far as Chambersburg, plundering the inhabitants and causing intense alarm throughout the state of Pennsylvania. Lee had by skillful movements, kept Hooker in doubt as to his real object, until Ewell's corps had crossed the Potomac above Harpers Ferry on the 22nd, 23rd of June, and marched rapidly up the Cumberland valley to within a few miles of the Susquehanna, opposite Harrisburg! Another strong force under Early pushed on through Gettysburg to York on the Susquehanna, levying heavy tribute. Ewell and Early, were speedily followed by Hill and Longstreet on June 25th, and again the whole of Lee's army was in Maryland and Pennsylvania! What could stop that army from penetrating to the Schuylkill and even to the Hudson? The resulting panic north of the Potomac was intense; valuable

goods and records that were portable were sent from Philadelphia to points above the highlands of the Hudson for safety; the people flew to arms everywhere to oppose the invaders.

The Army of the Potomac was thrown across the river into Maryland at Edwards Ferry. On June 28th, Hooker was replaced by Meade, who held the command of that army until the close of the war. The army now at Frederick in Maryland, was ready to strike Lee's communications. Lee was preparing to cross the Susquehanna and push on to Philadelphia, when news reached him that the re-inforced Army of the Potomac was threatening his flank and rear; alarmed at this intelligence and the rapid gathering of the yeomanry on his front, he ordered the concentration of his army near Gettysburg with the intention of crushing Meade's forces by a single blow and then marching on Baltimore and Washington.

With the stage thus set, ~~we may now follow the import of~~ the movements of our own 23rd Regiment perhaps more clearly. In narrating its activities we have relied upon the regimental war diary as the source of information from which has been culled pertinent facts relating to the participation of the regiment in the Gettysburg campaign. On Monday, June 15th, 1863, news came through that Lee was marching on Pennsylvania; almost at the same time Governor Curtin of that state implored Washington to hasten troops to stem the tide of invasion.

Quick to act, President Lincoln issued a call for the militia of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, West Virginia and New York; this call was for one hundred thousand men for six months service unless sooner discharged. Governor Seymour of New York, the same day telegraphed the Hon. E.M. Stanton, Secretary of War at Washington as follows: "I will spare no effort to send you troops at once. I have sent orders to the militia officers of the state." A personal appeal from Governor Curtin followed:

"To His Excellency, Governor Seymour:
"I am in receipt of a message from the War Department
stating that you are preparing troops to aid in defend-

ing the borders. The enemy is now in the Cumberland Valley in large force. The danger is imminent. Allow me to urge the forwarding of all troops to Harrisburg without delay."

(Signed) A.G. Curtin,
Governor of Penn.

To this Governor Seymour replied:

"Albany, June 16th, 1863.

"To Governor Curtin, Harrisburg, Pa.

"Am pushing forward troops as fast as possible. Regiments leave New York tonight. All will be ordered to report to General Couch."

(Signed) Horatio Seymour.

On the same day Colonel Everdell received the warning order here quoted:

HEADQUARTERS, ELEVENTH BRIGADE, N.G.S.N.Y.

Brooklyn, June 16th, 1863.

General Orders

No. 3.

The 23rd, 47th, 52nd and 56th regiments, National Guard of the State of New York, are hereby ordered to hold themselves in readiness to go to Philadelphia at once on short service, in compliance with orders from Horatio Seymour, Commander-in-Chief.

Commandants of these regiments will see that this order is promptly complied with, and report progress made by them to me at 23rd regiment armory, corner of Fulton and Orange Streets, Brooklyn.

By order of

J.C. Smith,

Brigadier Gen. Commd'g.

Benjamin Haskell,
Brigade Major & Inst'r.

The entire National Guard of the state was now under marching orders; being particularly interested in the disposition of the 1st and 2nd Divisions comprising (for the most part) New York and Brooklyn regiments, we confine our observations to the movements of these units. With the departure of the 7th Regiment on June 17th, followed by the 8th, 11th, 71st and 23rd regiments on June 18th, the 5th, 12th, 22nd and 37th on June 19th, the 4th, 13th, 28th and 56th on June 20th, the 6th, 52nd and 69th on June 22nd, the 55th on June 24th, the

47th, on June 26th, and 84th, on July 3rd, the metropolitan area was left in a defenseless condition save for scattered detachments of unorganized volunteers; of the dire consequences resulting from this wholesale exodus of the local military, we shall make further remark.

During the interim between the organization of the regiment and the date of its departure for the front, there had occurred numerous changes within its officer personnel; it seems proper therefore to show the roster of officers who marched with the 23rd regiment on June 18th. Those of the Field and Staff having been previously listed, the following roll is that of the Line.

COMPANY "A"

Captain: Henry A. Washburn
1st Lt: Benjamin Shepard
2nd Lt: Dudley Van Ingen

COMPANY "F"

Captain: James M. Ives
1st Lt: Richard B. Ferris
2nd Lt: Frederick A. Dana

COMPANY "B"

Captain: Charles E. Goldthwaite
1st Lt: David C. Bosworth
2nd Lt: James E. Raymond

COMPANY "G"

Captain: Henry T. Chapman Jr.
1st Lt: Edward Haslehurst
2nd Lt: Charles H. Meigs

COMPANY "C"

Captain: Stephen H. Farnham
1st Lt: Alexander S. Fiske
2nd Lt: Henry White

COMPANY "H"

Captain: Miguel H. Styles
1st Lt: Charles H. Joy
2nd Lt: _____

COMPANY "D"

Captain: Allen L. Bassett
1st Lt: Edwin O. Hotchkiss
2nd Lt: Lewis T. Titus

COMPANY "I"

Captain: Leonard D. Atwater
1st Lt: William C. Street
2nd Lt: William Chapman

COMPANY "E"

Captain: Evan M. Johnson
1st Lt: William K. Comstock
2nd Lt: J. Lloyd Haigh

COMPANY "K"

Captain: Rodney C. Ward
1st Lt: Charles F. Rogers
2nd Lt: James G. Gregory

Notations of change of status except those occurring within the Field and Staff, will be found in Appendix.

Early morning of June 18th, 1863, found the 23rd regiment resting on its arms, awaiting the order to march. Precisely at 8 o'

clock, the regiment six hundred and twenty six strong, preceded by its field music, embarked on its first great adventure. Keen was the enthusiasm of these young soldiers as they marched from the armory exerting themselves to hide a false pretense of disdain for the unaccustomed burden of heavy field equipment; from Orange Street to the ferry, windows and shops were bedecked with tri-colored bunting; against this bright background, gleaming bayonets shimmered in the sun of that beautiful June Morning. To passing vessels and to spectators on either shore the scene must have been inspiring; as the ferry packed with grey coated Infantry plunged from its slip, a mighty voice of song floated far over the waters of the East River.

Crossing the river, the regiment marched up Fulton Street and swinging into Broadway, headed for the Battery there to board the transport "John Potter" which in due time cast off, bound for Philadelphia via Amboy and Camden; the sail was without incident. Arriving at Philadelphia, the 23rd entrained in cattle cars for Harrisburg Pa., which city it reached at daybreak of the 19th, rather disheveled yet none the worse for this new and trying experience in campaigning.

Glad to quit the stench of these never-to-be-forgotten stock cars (still fragrant in the nostrils of those of us who endured the ordeal many times in the World War) the march was at once taken up for "Camp Curtin" three miles out of town only to counter-march to where the regiment had started from, and thence across the Susquehanna to the heights of Bridgeport; this march, a fitting prelude of what was to follow, ended in a pelting rain storm. Upon reaching its objective, the 23rd regiment found itself in company with the 8th and 71st New York regiments, both of which being relieved by the 23rd, moved out on reconnaissance in the direction of Shippensburg.

The task of completing a work of some magnitude crowning the heights and named "Fort Washington" now fell to the 23rd

regiment. Within the fort, or rather within the area of the works, the regiment pitched camp; this camp was called "Camp Couch" in honor of the distinguished Major General commanding the Department of the Susquehanna. The accompanying reproduction of a map of the Fort Washington area drawn by Simeon T. Hyde of Company "G" during its occupation, presents a picture easy to visualize. With enthusiasm born of inexperience and seldom observed

Map of
Fort Washington

Copy from original sketch

"Camp of the 23rd Regt NYSM
at Fort Washington opposite Harrisburg
Pa, June 1863"

among veterans, the regiment went to work with pick and shovel; some on the main works, others in the trenches. No time was to be lost for it was known that Lee was slowly yet surely moving toward the terror stricken city of Harrisburg. Thus the work on the fort continued for days; nor were the labors of the regiment confined to the fort alone. Working parties under the direction of the Regimental Engineer officer, Captain James H. Frothingham

cleared the glaciis and spaces beyond of brush, trees, grain and buildings; the ring of the axe could be heard on every hand. A farmer's wife indignant at this seeming trespass implored Colonel Everdell not to destroy her trees as she intended to remain; the Colonel, returning his compliments to the belligerent female, informed her that the exigencies of war demended that the work of demolition go forward and strongly recommended to her that she had better remove herself and her household to the other side of the river.

This sort of work, laborious even for seasoned veterans, must have taxed the endurance of these raw troops from Brooklyn; we may well imagine them nursing aching backs and blistered hands; yet be it said to their credit, they stuck to the task and finished the job. The 23rd regiment, mustered into the service of the United States on June 18th, 1863, was assigned as a unit of the 11th Brigade, 1st Division, 6th Corps, Department of the Susquehanna; the brigade was at once attached to the famous Army of the Potomac.

With the departure of the regiment from its home station, recruiting was carried on at the armory under the direction of Lieut. William K. Comstock of Company "E" this officer having been detailed to that duty. One detachment of recruits left for the front on June 20th, another on the 22nd and the last on the 24th, when the armory was closed, Lieut. Comstock rejoining the regiment. On June 23rd, Brigadier General William Hall assumed command of the militia forces in the vicinity of Harrisburg and on the same day, Colonel Everdell was temporarily placed in command of the 11th brigade consisting of the 23rd, 52nd and 56th, regiments of the Guard.

A question with respect to the command of brigades composed of militia by officers of the National Guard who had never seen active service in war, created this situation. The War Department contended that only such officers as had distinguished themselves in bat-

tle were eligible for such command; the question had however, been very recently settled in favor of the National Guard Brigadiers. Accordingly, Brigadier General Jesse C. Smith returned to the command of the 11th brigade on June 25th, and Colonel Everdell was returned to his regiment

In the meantime the 8th and 71st regiments had pushed forward to within a mile of Chambersburg; fifty two miles beyond all defenses and support! Here they encountered the enemy and by slow retirement held him in check for a period of six days, thus enabling the defenses of Harrisburg to be completed. For this stratagem these regiments were cited in orders as having "gallantly executed one of the most successful expeditions ever accomplished according to the number of troops engaged." On June 26th, the 23rd regiment prepared for immediate action. Persistent though tangled reports placed the enemy near Carlisle; with two days cooked rations stowed in haversacks, the march was taken up for the relief of the 37th Regiment then on outpost; heavy roads and almost steady rain added to the discomfort of the men of the 23rd. At a point probably four miles out, the regiment halted and took over from the 37th. There were two parallel roads to be guarded; these were promptly barricaded with abatis; strong picket posts defended all approaches, the regiment being deployed in close support.

Still further to the front, on the Harrisburg and Carlisle railroad, lay the hamlet of Shiremanstown wherein was a church with a very tall steeple; this served the double purpose of observation and alarm post. Patrols of the 23rd occupied this nest until the return of the regiment to the fort. In the meantime, the rebel army continued its advance, contact being maintained with the van of Ewell's Corps. The fate of Harrisburg hung in the balance! Could the militia assigned to its defense stem the tide? From the parapet of the fort could be seen an endless stream of refugees coming in by the Carlisle road and pouring across

the long covered bridge into the city. By day and by night this mad flight continued; men, women and children, white and black; some in carriages, others in wagons, some on horseback and many hundreds on foot; all hurrying along with a single impulse; to escape the enemy. Not a few of these refugees had come from below the Mason-Dixon line! Of "contraband" there was a large assortment; these poor creatures staggered along in companies, their worldly possessions tied in great bundles slung from the shoulder; the whole valley seemed to be pouring itself northward in wild confusion.

Meanwhile, the little garrison continued to strengthen Fort Washington; in addition to the infantry, thirteen three inch rifled cannon constituted its armament; these guns were manned by the militia. Distorted press reports (intended for home consumption) had the 23rd regiment "cut to pieces" with countless dying and wounded filling the hospitals in Harrisburg. Since all communication between the fort and the outside world had been cut, there seemed no way of correcting these alarming statements; it was only through belated mails that the truth finally came to light.

On Monday, June 29th, a picket composed of details from the 23rd, 8th and 56th regiments, numbering one hundred and fifty men under command of Lieut. Colonel Elwell of the 23rd regiment, marched on Oyster Point Station, the advance post located about three miles to the front and west of Harrisburg. Colonel Elwell's interesting report of this expedition resulting in an exciting encounter with the enemy, follows:

x x x "Before arriving at the front, I heard heavy cannonading at intervals of from five to ten minutes. Fearing a sudden attack and not knowing the strength or intention of the enemy, I hastened without loss of time to establish my pickets, detaching for that purpose a portion of the company of the 8th Regiment, commencing from the Carlisle turnpike in a direction due north across the fields and beyond the railroad."

"I established in a like manner a portion of

the 23rd Regiment from the Carlisle road due south, thus guarding the main roads and entrance to the city of Harrisburg."

"While thus engaged in throwing out my sentries, the firing from the enemy increased and became more rapid, evidently with the intention of shelling us from our position. I therefore, as soon as practicable, deployed the companies of the 8th and 23rd Regiments as skirmishers, keeping the remaining company of the 56th Regiment as a reserve."

"To gain a better position and to gain a clearer view of the enemy's position, I advanced over a corn field to a small wood situated on more elevated ground. But on entering this wood we were exposed to a constant fire of shot and shell from the rebel batteries. Fortunately, none of our men were disabled or wounded.

"The skirmishers advanced about the distance of a mile, keeping up a steady fire. At four P.M., the firing gradually ceased and scouts returned reporting the enemy having fallen back. Late in the evening I was informed that small groups of rebels had been seen in the immediate vicinity; and to guard as much as possible against being surprised, I sent out a squad of the Reserves of the 56th Regiment as videttes, doubled the guards and carefully reconnoitered to the front and north and south of the Carlisle-Chambersburg road, but failed to discover any enemy in our vicinity, until three A.M., on Tuesday, the 30th, when two of their scouts were

"Our pickets fired upon them and wounded one through the knee, and took him prisoner; the other escaped. The prisoner stated that he and his companion belonged to General Jenkin's Brigade of Virginia troops, and that they were bearers of despatches to that rebel General."

"At nine A.M., I received a communication from General Knipe ordering me to return with my command to Fort Washington."

"I cannot speak in too high praise of both officers and men for their willingness and alacrity to execute every order issued and for their watchfulness and vigilance and their determination displayed while momentarily expecting to be attacked by the enemy." x x x

Marching orders received during the afternoon of July 1st, by the 23rd, 52nd, 56th, 68th and 71st regiments of New York Infantry and a section of Miller's Philadelphia Light Battery, indicated a forward movement; forty rounds of ball ammunition and two days' rations were issued to each man; the baggage would follow with the trains.

It was evening when the Brigade, Brigadier General Joseph F. Knipe commanding, left the fort, taking the Carlisle road. For the first few miles, the troops (many of them recruits) indulged in singing and shouting after the manner of their kind; but this outburst of enthusiasm abated

as the march continued and presently ceased. By now the regiment had hit the stride, the men of the 23rd quickening their step through the medium of a marching song composed by Corporal Van Ingen of Company "A"; this amusing bit of verse set to the tune of "U-Phi-Dee" no doubt helped the regiment reel off many a mile during its service in Pennsylvania.

1
The rain was falling very fast
As up a muddy road there passed,
A poor played out Militia chap
And Twenty Three was on his cap.

2
His brow was wet, his haversack,
Held neither salt-horse nor hardtack;
He looked so hungry, have sworn you would,
For years he had not tasted food.

3
Full oft he stopped to ask for bread,
"I'll pay you any price" he said
But from each house he wheeled about,
To the tune of "Indeed we're all ett out."

4
At length he stopped there in the mud,
And raised his clinched hand as he stood
And thus in awful tones did say,
We'll curse this Pennsylv-va-ni-a.

5
And thus for miles he sadly went;
That night he caught his regi-ment.
Oh! then his eyes beheld a sight
That made them sparkle with delight.

6
There, by a fire made of rails,
Stood brave old "Shick" among his pails;
That prince of cooks showed him no quarter
But yelled out, "HERE go get some water."

7
And when well fed from out the pot,
With stew made from the Lord knows what,
He laid him down and dreamed of glory
But soon "GET UP" cries old Joe Story.

But hard roads and a still hot sun commenced to tell; many became exhausted and were helped along by comrades. Staff officers in numerous instances gave up their mounts to the worst cases; (although we strongly suspicion that in so doing, these officers were quite as glad to walk as the exhausted were to ride.) Other riders willing to lend a hand, piled knapsacks, pots and pans behind and before until they

themselves were all but sandwiched out of sight! Late that night the brigade utterly exhausted, halted at Trindle Spring Creek where it bivouaced. From this material there developed the soldier who could average sixteen miles a day for weeks on end, and on occasions do THIRTY miles through mud, and FORTY FIVE miles over hard Pennsylvania roads! Sixteen miles a day does not seem much for a single pedestrian; but marching with a regiment bears but little relation to a solitary stroll along a sunny highway. It is a far different matter to trudge along carrying a heavy burden, choked by dust kicked up by hundreds of men tramping along in front, and sweltering in the sun, or trudge still more drearily along in a pelting rain which adds pounds to a soaked and clinging uniform and causes the soldier to slip and stagger in mud. The full load carried by the soldier of our civil war averaged upwards of forty pounds as is shown in the following table:

	Lbs.	Oz.
Musket _____	10	8
Scabbard and belt _____	1	10
40 rounds of ammunition —	3	6
Knapsack, packed _____	9	--
Haversack with rations _____	2	--
Woolen blanket _____	5	8
Rubber gaiters _____	2	8
Canteen half filled _____	2	8
Overcoat _____	5	--
Shelter half _____	2	--
Total: _____	44	

Add to this, extra shoes, an assortment of tinware (so dear to the recruit) and the net result will be a pound or two more; on the other hand, the seasoned soldier soon acquired the habit of shedding every ounce of equipment not essential to life itself. Comparing the burden carried by the soldier of 1861-5, with that "packed" by the soldier of 1917-18, there is a difference of twenty five pounds in favor of the latter. This statement, based on the writer's personal observation is made without fear of contradiction.

But getting back to the encampment on the creek. During the night the unmistakable sound of artillery activity and a bright light reflected from the sky indicated that a great conflagration was raging in the vicinity of Carlisle; this proved to be so. The rebels, escorting a wagon train on its way to Chambersburg, fearing an attack from General Smith's militia then holding Carlisle, made a show of taking the offensive and demanded a surrender of that city. Smith refused; the rebel General Fitz Hugh Lee promptly shelled the town and succeeded in burning the federal cavalry barracks there located.

At this time, Knipe was quite ignorant of the fact that the battle of Gettysburg, commenced with tremendous suddenness, was then raging. Only the Sunday before (June 28th) Ewell was known to be threatening Harrisburg; it was during the night of Monday, or one day later, that Lee had learned of the dangerous proximity of Hooker. Accordingly, Ewell must have retreated that same night, or at the latest, early Tuesday morning; for he reappears upon the scene Wednesday afternoon July 1st, at Gettysburg where he arrived at about 2 P.M., in time to check Reynolds. It will be noted that the reported withdrawal of Ewell's Corps from the investment of Harrisburg and Fort Washington, was the signal for the advance of Knipe's New York Brigade.

Ordered up at three o'clock on the morning of July 2nd, the 23rd regiment once more headed for Harrisburg; a march of three miles brought it to a cul-de-sac of the Conedoguin Creek at a place called Orr's Bridge and here the regiment bivouaced. Scouts had reported a considerable force of cavalry (believed to be a part of Stuart's main body) in close proximity; these had driven in the Union advance who were falling back on the main line! Thus the retrograde movement of Knipe's brigade. At daybreak of July 3rd, the brigade resumed the forward march on Carlisle; the day being excessively hot and sultry,

knapsacks were consigned to the trains. It was on this occasion that the men of the 23rd acquired the art of foraging; rations had not been issued since leaving Bridgeport Heights; thus the troops were obliged to live by their wits. In this the 23rd regiment excelled; it was a lesson easily learned and daily improved upon.

It is truly remarkable how readily the soldier in campaign falls an easy victim to the vices of the service; one vice to be deplored above all others, is that of pillaging. Of course the 23rd, would not stoop to so low a practice, yet it MAY have been in bad company. Be this as it may, the Department Commander deemed it expedient at this time to issue an order warning the troops against this dastardly inclination. A short noonday rest, and the regiment continued its march in a blazing sun, reaching the town in the early evening, having covered thirteen miles since morning. Smoking ruins of the barracks and rotting carcasses greeted the new comers; details were at once put to work burying these ill smelling remains.

It would be impossible to give a more vivid picture of the experiences of the 23rd regiment during the 4th of July, 1863, than are related by one who marched with the regiment on that memorable day; portions of his extremely interesting narrative are here quoted: "At three o'clock we were called up to resume our march. As we marched through Carlisle, we greeted the day with patriotic airs without exciting the slightest demonstration beyond the occasional waving of a handkerchief. The people gathered to see us pass, looking on listlessly. We did not notice a rag of bunting flying except our own colors, though it was the nation's birthday. We turned down a road leading to Mount Holly Gap, a pass in South Mountain; five miles out, we got a fine view of the range we were to cross."

"At the base is nestled Papertown; but as yet only the church spire and a few houses were visible against the background

of the blue mountains. At this village we were greeted for the first time with cheers; but perhaps the people had an especially strong motive for feeling patriotic and demonstrative, Stuart's cavalry having passed through a day or two before on its way to join the main rebel army at Gettysburg; the road was paved with their hoof prints. Entering the gap, we shortly came upon a mountain stream which flowed along the roadside and here we were permitted to stop and bathe our travel bruised feet; but we were soon in line again pressing on up the mountain. When eight or nine miles out, we halted for a noon rest."

"At this point the two lips of the gap approach at the base within one hundred feet of each other, two thirds of which space is occupied by the brook and the remainder by the road or pass. Reports began to come in of a great battle going on, of which we had abundant proof before the day was ended. Up to this time our campaign had been quite an innocent one; first came the news of battle and we realized the urgency of the moment, and wondered whether we should be in time to help win the great victory we hoped for, little dreaming that the contest was already decided, the great victory already won."

"Next came clouded skies; as we rested, there arose the distant mutter of thunder, and soon big drops began to fall. Presently a mist was seen to gather around the top of the mountain far above our heads, and soon the top disappeared in the shroud which crept ominously down the mountain side. We began to think of shelter and unrolled our overcoats; the thunder grew louder and the lightning flashed more and more vividly and the rain fell in torrents. We crouched to the ground under the trees, hauling our rubber blankets over our heads. Over against the mountain wall before us, there hung in mid air a vast sheet of water which the howling wind whipped to and fro in the gorge terrifically, while the blinding lightning and crashing thunder seemed to issue together from the mountain itself."

"The creek, before clear and placid, quickly became turgid and agitated; it began to creep up the bank! Presently a dark strange looking mass came floating down; it was a soldier's knapsack. The rain fell if possible in increased torrents; the stream continued to rise rapidly. Other knapsacks came floating down; it was not long before the stream stood two feet above its normal level. For two hours the deluge continued; the calm mountain brook had now become a raging torrent threatening the whole gorge with overflow, carrying angrily down a stream of baggage."

"There being no signs of the storm abating, the order came to "Forward." We left the Carlisle pike and took the mountain road on our right, following up the course of the mountain creek. We now fell in with a stream of men dressed in United States uniforms, but without arms; they reported themselves to be paroled prisoners captured in Wednesday's fighting at Gettysburg; they told us the battle was still raging and that we should soon be in the midst of it! This news animated every bosom and we pressed on with renewed vigor. Two miles further on, where Hunters Run crosses the road, the column was delayed on account of some obstruction in front. Working our way along slowly, we presently came in sight of the trouble; it was a sea of water covering the road waist deep, in which men and horses were floundering!"

"A portion of the column succeeded in getting through, though at imminent peril of being washed away; we halted until evening, when the rain ceased, although the dark clouds threatened another deluge. The water had subsided a little; but orders were imperative and we plunged in; the passage was perilous. The road lay along the side of the mountain, down which the stream poured in a torrent, unseen till it came roaring out of the forest at the roadside, surging furiously across the road and disappearing down the tangled wood on the opposite side with the roar of a cataract; a distance of not more than a hundred

feet of its course was visible. We heard it coming, saw it rush by us and heard its awful leap into the depths of the wilderness again! We followed the trail cautiously feeling our way and not daring to look to the right or left, our ears filled with the din of the waters, and half carried off our feet by the impetuous flood. Crossing a gully probably the natural bed of the stream, by a foot bridge which the Engineers had thrown across, we saw beneath us with a start and a shudder of horror, the head of a drowned horse and the pole of a wagon sticking up above the torrent; all else was out of sight! It proved to be a loaded commissary wagon with its team which had been swept away. A number of muskets were lost and a drum or two; but excepting these casualties, we all got across safely with no other ill fortune than to be wet again to the skin, which as night was falling, gave us a comfortless prospect."

"The road being of stiff clay, the tremendous rainfall having insufficient escape, converted it into a canal; six inches to a foot of water overlying six inches to a foot of mire. Into this infernal passage we plunged as night closed upon us! For a couple of hours we floundered along with desperate energy, losing shoes sucked off by the tenacious slime and some even throwing away their blankets. It was pitch dark; it had begun to rain again. We were hungry, having had nothing but a little wet hardtack and one small ration of coffee since we left Carlisle; and many, not so much!"

"We were jaded, having marched a dozen miles, much of it up the mountain, and much of it through mud that would challenge the admiration of veterans of the Army of the Potomac; and the floods of air and earth had soaked us to the skin. Still we kept up our courage and pressed forward, for we now had reason to believe that a great battle was raging which would we hoped, be decisive of the salvation of the republic and we prayed that the militia reserve might not be

too late. Some miles beyond Hunters Run, we passed a poor cabin; the first human tenement we had seen since leaving the Mount Holly paper mill. Here we gathered, a motley crowd of stragglers, thirty or forty in number, from regiments in advance of us; a mile further, and we halted. A thicket along the road offering a retreat only less forlorn than the ~~miry road~~, was selected as a fit place to spread blankets and here we lay; but the work of the day was not yet ended. About midnight, we were again ordered forward; on, on through rain and mire, one mile, two miles, three miles, to the hamlet of Laurel Forge. Thus closed our Fourth of July in the wilderness. To sun up, we had marched a total of seventeen miles; weight carried, thirty two and one half pounds of soggy equipment!"

At this point we again refer to the regimental war diary. At Gettysburg, there was a cessation of hostilities throughout the day, both armies taking a breathing spell although remaining in position; during the night however, the rebel retreat began by the Fairfield road; the rear of the column did not get away until after daylight of the 5th. The morning of that day found the 23rd regiment at Laurel Forge; here the men washed the mud and grit from their clothes. Through some stratagem, there suddenly appeared the ingredients for making that famous concoction known to the armies of the civil war as "flapjacks," and of these the regiment ate its fill.

During the morning of the 5th, the regiment moved out with Pine Grove as its objective. From here there arose a formidable range whose crest must have towered a thousand feet above the road; the 23rd regiment started to climb; up and up, until it seemed that the column was actually on its flank. The rain had ceased and a sultry sun broke through torn clouds; the road was filled with a vast stream of stragglers. Officers and men pushed forward in a desperate attempt to locate their respective commands. In these parts, the road instead of being muddy,

was excessively stony; but in escaping the mud, the toiling infantry found it equally hard going as it picked its weary way along the tortuous trail. As for the Philadelphia battery, it had gained the summit in good order, causing wonderment and attracting well merited admiration from the infantry who considered the feat a supreme test of equine endurance! Fortunately for the stragglers, the road, blocked for long distances by troops and wagons, enabled the laggards to locate their regiments. But the enemy was near! No time was to be lost! The 11th brigade pushing forward, reached a cross-roads in a clearing fringed with timber; the 23rd regiment assigned to the support of masked batteries, deployed and stood fast awaiting developments. Toward the end of the second day, there being no danger of a push-through at that point, the regiment rejoined the brigade.

On the morning of July 7th, the brigade again pushed on by the Chambersburg Pike to a place called Greenwood; on all sides could be seen the route of Lee's retreating army. Freshly trampled breadths of standing crops, discarded equipment, demolished material and stinking carcasses told the story all too plainly; that night the regiment camped in a pleasant grove on the outskirts of Altodale; again it rained torrents and again as the 23rd settled down in fancied immunity from further duty until the morrow, orders were received to march. Such experiences try the souls of men; yet with fourteen miles of heavy marching to its credit, the soggy camp was struck in cheerful obedience to orders.

Falling in with the 6th Corps of the Union army which Meade had dispatched in pursuit of Lee, both columns holding to the Fairfield road, engaged in friendly intercourse, the militia reserve manifesting a very great pride in its association with Meade's veterans of the Army of the Potomac. Curiously regarding the grey uniforms of the 23rd regiment, it was strongly recommended that the militiamen

substitute the Union Blue. Quick to grasp the significance of this wholesome advice, the men of the 23rd cut patches of white cloth into Greek crosses which they sewed on their jackets as a distinguishing mark; through this incident, the badge of the 6th corps was later incorporated in the insignia of the regiment.

For two days the regiment lay at Waynesboro', putting its arms in order in anticipation of combat; with the return of stragglers, the consolidated morning report of July 9th, shows the strength of the 23rd as five hundred and nineteen present for duty. Early on the morning of the 10th, the 23rd and 71st regiments moved out on reconnoissance; following the Waynesboro'/Greencastle pike for a distance of three miles, both commands taking position on a rise overlooking the Cumberland Valley Railroad, prepared to resist a turnabout of Lee's defeated legions. Throughout this uneventful though highly important tour of duty, our men were fairly roasted in a sizzling heat from which there was no shelter.

In the meantime, on the afternoon of July 11th, Meade had engaged the enemy near Williamsport; hearing firing on its right front, the reserves immediately prepared for action. Co-incident with this engagement, orders well calculated to increase the enthusiasm of the 11th brigade were received and published:

HEADQUARTERS, FIRST DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF THE SUSQUEHANNA.

Waynesboro', July 11th, 1863.

The Brigadier General Commanding, calls the attention of the command to the certainty of an early engagement with the enemy, and it is strictly enjoined upon Brigade, Regimental and Company commanders to attend to the condition of the arms and ammunition of the men under them.

No time is to be lost in putting arms in perfect order and seeing that the boxes are filled with cartridges. The rations on hand must be cooked and put in haversacks, so that no detention will ensue when the order to march is given, and also that the men may not suffer for food, when it is impossible for the supply trains to reach them.

By order of
Brig. Gen'l W.F. Smith.

With relentless tenacity the pursuit was kept up, the 11th brigade marching on Hagerstown in the State of Pennsylvania at sunset of July 11th. At Antietam creek, the fleeing rebels had demolished bridges in the vain hope of retarding the advancing federals; our troops were therefore obliged to ford the stream. At a point four miles beyond Antietam, the 23rd regiment bivouaced on the brow of a damp hollow; viewed in the twilight, there appeared nothing forbidding as far as the hollow was concerned; but with the coming of night, a fog at first hardly discernable, gradually engulfed the regiment and growing thicker, reduced visibility to zero. Knowing the enemy to be in close proximity, fires were prohibited. It was under these depressing and dangerous circumstances that Company "B", Captain Goldwaithe took over the picket; this company, a detachment of the 71st and a section of the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry comprising the formation, moved out with the cavalry in the van.

Completely swallowed up in the murky fog of that cheerless night, the cavalry operating far to the front, engaged rebel outposts; these were driven in. As often happens, enemy groups filtering through the advance, had worked themselves forward to within hearing distance of our outposts who were on the alert, yet daring not to fire as the cavalry had not yet come in; and so through the night our men listened to the voices of these daring rebels as they milled about in the darkness yet for some reason kept their distance; but morning came at last and the picket returned to camp thrilled with the thought of what MIGHT have happened. Conserving its cooked rations, the 23rd breakfasted on hardtack and water.

Again, at daybreak of the 12th, the brigade moved forward; beyond the little village of Lettersburg the column turned off, taking the Cavetown road and presently leaving the road, marched 'cross country. Away to the east, South Mountain stood out in bold relief; continuing the march to the Hagerstown pike which at this point skirts the

base of the mountain, the 23rd made camp as best it could in a steady downpour. It was here that a man of the 56th regiment taking shelter under a tree, paid the penalty with his life! A lightning bolt blotted him from the face of the earth! By now the pangs of hunger had reached an acute stage; gone were the cooked rations; empty, the haversacks. Regimental foraging parties swinging into action saved the situation, the men of the 23rd returning with their fair share of plunder; in an incredibly short time fat steers slaughtered by regimental butchers and distributed throughout the brigade, were simmering, roasting or frying, according to the whims of company cooks.

We have already noted that Meade confronted the enemy near Williamsport. Lee, endeavoring to get his army south of the Potomac, found his line of retreat cut; the partial destruction of pontoon bridges at Falling Waters caused considerable delay in the southerly movement; but during the night of July 13th, and the morning of the 14th, he succeeded in crossing with Meade at his heels. The 23rd regiment had on the 13th, marched in the direction of Boonsboro'; by this maneuver, the 11th brigade was in a position to turn any attempted move along the northerly side of the Potomac. That night the regiment bivouaced in a stony field, sleeping on its arms, while in the distance the camp fires of the Army of the Potomac were distinctly visible.

Very early on the morning of the 14th, the brigade took up the march on Hagerstown over fields reeking with the stench of war; the 6th corps, operating over that sector had given Lee's army a sound thrashing, hurling it across the river. Again the militia reserve was too late; a halt on Beaver Creek, within three miles of Williamsport, brought to an abrupt end the forward movement of the 11th brigade, and its association with the 6th corps. That the services of the militia reserve in the Gettysburg campaign were fully appreciated by General Meade, is evidenced in his official report on the battle in

which he says:

x x x "It is my duty as well as my pleasure to call attention to the earnest efforts and co-operation on the part of Major General Couch, Commanding the Department of the Susquehanna, and particularly to his advance of four thousand men under Brigadier General W.F. Smith who joined me at Boonsboro' just prior to the withdrawal of the Confederate army." x x x

Note: In the foregoing allusion to the arrival of the 11th Brigade, General Meade erroneously makes Boonsboro' instead of Waynesboro' the point of contact.

Toward evening of that day startling news told of serious trouble at home! Late Baltimore papers confirmrd rumors of a great riot in New York City! The morning of July 15th, dawned through a dripping atmosphere; at 8 o'clock the 23rd regiment received orders to pack ten minutes later it was on the road with Frederick as its objective. Its relations with the Army of the Potomac suddenly terminated, the 11th brigade was by the following order, turned over to its own commander, General Jesse C. Smith:

HEADQUARTERS,
ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

S.O. July 15th, 1863.
No: 190.

The troops comprising the command of Brigadier General W.F. Smith, are released from further service with the Army of the Potomac, and will be reported back to General Couch for instructions. The Major General commanding thanks Brigadier General W.F. Smith and his troops for the zeal and promptitude which, amid no little privations have marked their efforts to render this army all the assistance in their power.

By Command of
Major General Meade.
S. Williams, A.A.G.

HEADQUARTERS, FIRST DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF THE SUSQUEHANNA.

S.O. July 15th, 1863.
No. —

Brigadier General John Ewen will take command of all the New York troops in this division and proceed with them to Frederick, Maryland, at which point transportation will be furnished them to New York City. In parting with them, the General commanding must express his admiration of the courage and fortitude with which they stood the toils and privations of their late marches.

By Order of
Brig. Gen^l W.F. Smith.
Preston F. West, A.A.A.G.

The rumors circulated while the 23rd lay at Beaver Creek proved all too true! The Draft Riots resulting from the operation of ordered service drafts by the federal government had broken out in different parts of New York on July 13th, and were even now raging with unabated fury! It was not until the 18th, that a semblance of order was restored through the heroic work of the Metropolitan Police, the Fire Department and reserve companies of militia augmented by troops brought over from Governors Island. During those days and nights of terror, infuriated mobs held the city at their mercy defying the constituted authorities, reckless of life and property and raging like a conflagration unchecked and irresponsible, striking terror to the souls of peaceable citizens and suspending all business and transportation, murdering and plundering!

Plainly startled, Washington ordered a temporary suspension of the draft; but it was too late! Fortunately, the crisis of Lee's invasion had passed; thus the militia reserve might with safety be relieved from further duty on that front. At this time, the 13th, 14th and 28th regiments of the 5th brigade, General P. S. Crooke commanding, were in the service of the United States; the 14th, as Volunteers for the war, the 13th and 28th in Pennsylvania. The 23rd, 47th, 52nd and 56th regiments comprising the 11th brigade, General J. C. Smith commanding, were also in federal service; the 23rd, 52nd and 56th in Pennsylvania.

and the 47th near Alexandria, Virginia. The 70th regiment of artillery of the 5th brigade, numbering approximately four hundred and sixty, about to leave Brooklyn for the front, constituted the only available unit of the militia for the defense of the city, while in New York City a military force of five hundred men had been mobilized. In desperation, Governor Seymour wired the Secretary of War:

HEADQUARTERS, ST. NICHOLAS HOTEL.

New York City, July 16th, 1863.

To the Secretary of War,
Washington.

There is great disorder here. It is important to have the New York and Brooklyn regiments sent home at once.

Horatio Seymour.

To this appeal, Secretary Stanton replied immediately:

Washington, July 16th, 1863.

To His Excellency,
Governor Seymour, New York.

Eleven New York regiments are relieved and are at Frederick, and will be relieved as fast as transportation can be furnished them.

Edwin M. Stanton,
Secretary of War.

The Sheriff of Kings county had on the 14th, called upon General Duryea, commanding the 2nd division of the National Guard for all troops under his command, in aid of the civil authorities. The 70th regiment was immediately posted about the Portland Avenue arsenal, and the 15th and 16th regiments of the 6th brigade located in the counties of Queens and Suffolk, were at the same time ordered to the arsenal preparatory to marching to New York where their services were urgently required; but on the morning of the 15th, it was reported that riots had occurred in Queens county; the 15th regiment was accordingly ordered to remain at its home station in that county, while the 16th remained in Brooklyn in anticipation of threatened disorder. Ordnance and Ordnance stores in armories were promptly secured and deposited in the arsenal,

the armories being placed under guard of armed citizens volunteering their services for the suppression of riot; the City Armory housed the 16th regiment. During the night of the 15th, a mob assembled in the vicinity of the Atlantic Docks and forcing an entrance, set on fire two grain elevators which were consumed. Sporadic outbursts of a like nature quite beyond the control of the loyal yet inadequate military, spread terror throughout the city of churches; as in New York, roving bands of lawless and vicious ruffians plundered and murdered without warrant! As for the absent militia, regiments which prior to now were the objects of ridicule frequently referred to as "tin soldiers," a misnomer never justified, it may be said without fear of contradiction that the Draft Riots brought home the indisputable fact that these regiments constituted the strong right arm of the law upon which all right minded citizens now depended.

Let us return to the 23rd regiment which we left on the morning of July 15th, bound for Frederick. The distance to Frederick was twenty miles; a two days march at the rate at which the regiment had hitherto moved; but the roads were good and the morale of the troops high. It was sundown when the column reached its objective and here the regiment rested, dining on salt horse and crackers of which the men ate sparingly. Five miles lay between Frederick and Monocacy Junction where the 23rd was to entrain; by a forced march the goal was reached, the weary troops bivouacing in a wood near the railroad; on that day the 11th brigade covered twenty five miles and as the column came to the final halt, a soldier of the 56th regiment died from sheer physical exhaustion!

Ordered up at midnight of the 17th, the 23rd regiment in heavy marching order, stood in ranks until dawn, when it entrained; soaked to the skin in a sudden downpour, it is easy to imagine the mental and physical suffering of the troops as they clambered into the fetid

atmosphere of humid stock cars. Passing through Baltimore in the late afternoon, the homeward bound regiment experienced thrills not yet encountered; broken rails, spiked switches and damaged bridges, the diabolical work of Lee's army, not only retarded the northward movement, but rendered the journey a most hazardous undertaking. Between York and Harrisburg the collapse of a bridge compelled the troops to cross the stream by pontoons, and it was not until the afternoon of the 19th, that the wheezing wood burning locomotive with its long string of box cars rattled into Elizabethport. Here the eager 23rd embarked for New York arriving at the Battery the same evening. A spirited march up Broadway to the Fulton ferry, the crossing to Brooklyn and the final few blocks to Orange Street, brought to a close a period of federal service well done. Needless to say, the reception accorded the returning heroes surpassed anything of its kind ever attempted in the City of Brooklyn.

General Crooke had in the meantime arrived with the 13th and 28th regiments, followed by General Smith with the 52nd, 56th and as already noted, the 23rd regiments; the 47th regiment reached Brooklyn the same night, these organizations remained on duty until July 31st, when they were relieved. Mustered out of federal service July 22nd, 1863, the 23rd regiment continued to function as state militia, In recognition of its service in the defense of Harrisburg, the regiment was authorized to place upon the pike of its national color, a silver band inscribed "GETTYSBURG CAMPAIGN, 1863." There follows the roll of those who gave their lives for their country under the flag of the 23rd in the campaign just ended.

Name:	Rank or Grade:	Died:	Cause:
William K. Comstock,	Captain, Co. "E"	Aug. 29th, 1863	Through disease contracted in federal service.
Warren White,	Private, Co. "A"	Aug. 12th, 1863	do do do
Wm. F. Kartwright,	Private, Co. "D"	Oct. 20th, 1864	do do do
Samuel B. Devlin,	Private, Co. "A"	Feb. 24th, 1864	do do do

By now the fury of the draft riots had been checked; but the atmosphere still charged with the spirit of unrest and lawlessness compelled the maintenance of heavy guard details within the city armories; these were continued until August 17th, when the entire 2nd division was again ordered under arms in aid of the civil authorities in maintaining the public peace. A new draft had been ordered to commence August 19th; once more surplus arms were removed to the arsenal; troubled sections of the city were promptly occupied by troops of the National Guard. As the drawing proceeded, cavalry and artillery stood ready with horses at hand for immediate action; determined to thwart any attempt to disrupt the orderly execution of the draft, five regiments of regulars reported to General Duryea in support of the militia; one being posted near Carroll Park in South Brooklyn, two at Washington Park and two at East New York; all were from the Army of the Potomac. The 2nd division remained on this duty until September 7th, when it was relieved. For its participation in this service, the 23rd regiment was authorized to place upon the pike of its regimental color, a silver band inscribed "DRAFT RIOTS, JULY-AUGUST, 1863."

During the month of October 1863, the regiment experienced a very great shock! Colonel Everdell, beloved by the command, resigned from the service, the date of his discharge being October 3rd, of that year. In taking leave of the regiment, Colonel Everdell addressing himself to his officers and men said:

"I will not conceal from you the effort required to sever the connection endeared to me by so many associations, has been most painful; but I have other claims upon my time that I can no longer reject, and I feel that the regiment is strong enough in its own resources, if it is true to the principles on which it was founded, to increase and prosper."

"I trust that its character may continue to be such that I shall always feel an honest pride in having been connected with it, and now gentlemen, with many wishes for your prosperity and happiness as individuals, I most respectfully bid you farewell."

The command now fell to Calvin E. Pratt, an officer though not previously connected with the 23rd regiment, had won distinction in the field. He had been instrumental in raising the 31st New York Volunteer Infantry; this organization, mustered into the service of the United States May 24th, 1861, was commanded By Colonel Pratt until September 13th, 1862, when he was promoted a Brigadier General; resigning from the army, he was commissioned Colonel of the 23rd regiment N.Y.S.N.Y., October 24th, 1863. Captain Rodney C. Ward of Company "K" was on the day commissioned a Major and on November 24th, of that year, Samuel W. Waldron Jr., received his appointment as Regimental Adjutant, vice John M. Pratt honorably discharged October 3rd, 1863.

On the evening of November 3rd, of the same year, the regiment gave its first Promenade Concert at the old Academy of Music on Montague Street; this event marked the beginning of an annual military and social function which as the years passed, attracted the highest strata of Brooklyn society; these concerts were given at the Academy until the opening of the Claremont Avenue armory in 1873.

The year 1864 held much of interest for the regiment. On January 5th, the 23rd escorted the returning 1st Long Island Volunteers and on February 22nd, the ladies of Brooklyn presented to the regiment a stand of silken colors in recognition of its services of the previous year. Another successful affair held at the Academy and sponsored by the regiment, was a "Calico Ball," the proceeds of which went to the families of Brooklyn soldiers; to this worthy cause the public contributed generously. Following a field day at East New York held May 25th, the 23rd participated in a brilliant reception given in honor of the returning 14th New York Volunteers.

It will be recalled that Lieut. Colonel Edward L. Molineux resigned in 1862, to accept the Colonelcy of the 159th New York Volunteers; mindful of his gallant services at the front, his old

Photographed reproduction
of an oil painting.

Colonel Calvin E. Pratt,
Commanding Twenty-third Regiment, NGSNY

1863 -- 1868

regiment the 23rd, presented him with a sword and equipments together with a stand of colors; these colors were placed in the keeping of the 159th on July 8th, 1864, at Algiers, Louisiana; embodied in their acknowledgment is the following note of deep appreciation:

x x x "When these elegant emblems of state and country were unfurled to our view, we felt imbued with fresh patriotism and as a gift of a regiment which has already given its services to the country in time of need, we prize them still more highly." x x x

In the spring of that year there was circulated throughout Kings county a bogus proclamation purporting to have been issued by the President, calling for an additional four hundred thousand men and appointing a day of national humiliation and prayer. This intelligence naturally created great excitement and was undoubtedly instrumental in fanning the fires of discontent and prejudice which it was feared might culminate in a repetition of the riotous scenes of the year just passed. Under legal warrant the National Guard was at once placed under arms. On July 18th, 1864, the government ordered a new draft of five hundred thousand men to stiffen the Union Lines! Great was the consternation of the people of Brooklyn; yet greater still was their joy when on September 10th, it was learned that Kings county was out of the draft.

Presidential election day, November 8th, fraught with sinister possibilities found the local military on the alert; on that day the 23rd regiment was posted in the vicinity of the arsenal. The significance of this duty is found in the authorization to place upon the lance of its regimental color a silver band inscribed "BROOKLYN, NOV. 8th, 1864." The regiment is credited with performing riot duty from May until November of that year.

In the midst of prevailing excitement, the 23rd gave its second promenade concert on the evening of November 1st. But what

effect had these frequent calls for active service on the 23rd regiment? Referring to the inspection and muster returns of the year 1864, we find a net gain of one hundred and five all ranks and a marked improvement in drill and discipline. Of changes within the Field and Staff of the regiment, Lieut. Colonel Elwell resigned May 4th; he was succeeded by Major Rodney C. Ward, promoted Lieut. Colonel June 15th. Captain Henry T. Chapman Jr., of Company "G" accepted his Majority as of the same day.