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CHAPTER III.

THE PROPOSED NEW ARMORY.
INNOVATION OF RIFLE PRACTICE.
THE GREY BRIGADE.
THE NEW CLAREMONT AVENUE ARMORY.
CREEDMOOR.
PHILADELPHIA CENTENNIAL.

The first ordered duty affecting the 23rd regiment in the year 1865, was that of escorting the remains of the lamented Colonel J.H. Kitching, late of the 6th U.S. Artillery who died of wounds received in the battle of Cedar Creek; this solemn duty was performed January 13th. During the same month, we hear rumors of a determined effort to secure a new armory to be located at Fulton and Smith Streets; but in February, Washington ordered still another draft and the attending unrest manifest throughout the city seems to have stilled the debate, if only for the time being. Once more the 23rd, ordered under arms performed riot duty by companies during that month. By March, the aspect of affairs within Brooklyn being promising, the matter of procuring a new armory was again entered into; this time with renewed vigor.

By virtue of an act of Legislature passed March 24th, 1865, the Twenty Third Armory Association was formed for that purpose; the plan submitted by the association contemplated the erection of an armory and public market on Washington Street north of Myrtle Avenue in the City of Brooklyn. The proposed capital stock of the enterprise was \$250,000.00 divided into ten thousand shares of \$25.00 each; the prospectus contemplated the purchase price of the land at \$75,000.00 with an estimated cost of a building of \$275,000.00; the estimated income from four hundred market stalls would amount to \$40,000.00. It was further estimated that the income from the sale of stock, plus a mortgage of \$100,000.00 from which must be deducted

\$16,000.00 for interest, would show a net annual income on the investment of \$24,000.00.

CAPITAL STOCK- - - -	\$250,000.00
First Mortgage- - - -	100,000.00
Income from rentals -	40,000.00

	\$390,000.00

Real Estate -----	\$350,000.00
Interest on mortgage -----	16,000.00
Surplus -----	24,000.00

	\$390,000.00

Scanning the list of corporators we find the names of prominent business men well calculated to further such an enterprise where money and influence were a factor; yet the project seems to have failed as no further mention of the scheme is to be found in the archives of the regiment.

The untimely passing of Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States, who died by the hand of the assassin Booth, April 15th, 1865, caused profound grief throughout the country; the funeral procession of Tuesday, April 25th, in the City of New York, imposing in the highest degree, and participated in by the National Guard is still in the memory of living man. Another imposing parade of huge proportions held in Brooklyn, July, 4th, of that year, celebrating the ending of the great Civil War showed to advantage all troops comprising the 2nd division. An inspection of the 11th brigade at East New York on October 26th, 1865, by Inspector General George S. Batcheller proved a most creditable performance; on this occasion the 23rd regiment for the first time marched behind its own band! Martin Papst, joining the regiment on August 1st, of that year, held the unique distinction of organizing and leading this important unit.

The third regimental promenade concert given on the evening of November 1st, attracted an unusually large gathering of Brooklyn fashionables and distinguished guests. On the 24th of the

same month a military celebration of Evacuation Day held in New York presented to the public a splendid display of the National Guard of the 1st division; by special invitation the 23rd regiment marched in this parade, turning out with ten commands of sixteen files. During the winter of that year, a series of eight regimental band concerts was inaugurated under the able leadership of bandmaster Papst, assisted by the inimitable Luciano Conterno; it was not until the year 1872 that Conterno succeeded Papst as bandmaster although we find his name on many, if not all regimental programs as co-leader during the interim; these concerts given at the Academy of Music received the hearty support of representative Brooklyn audiences.

But one change of status occurred on the Staff during the year. Adjutant Waldron resigned and was honorably discharged November 25th, 1865. Under the provisions of Chapter 612 of the laws of 1865, the National Guard was re-armed with the U.S. Rifle Musket, Cal. 58, Model 1863.

An elaborate reception tendered General U.S. Grant by the 23rd regiment on February 26th, 1866 at the Academy of Music, proved an event long to be remembered. Seldom had a more brilliant assemblage graced the Academy; a magnificent banquet in the General's honor at the Brooklyn Club followed the reception. In the early afternoon of that day, Grant suffered a painful self-inflicted wound through the accidental discharge of a pistol; yet rather than disappoint his hosts, the dependable old soldier appeared at the appointed hour, his wounded hands swathed in bandages and gloved.

The 23rd regiment, on May 23rd, formed a part of the funeral escort to the remains of the late Colonel Abram S. Vosburgh, first commander of the 71st regiment, N.G.S.N.Y. Receiving the 71st at the head of Montague Street, both regiments marched to Greenwood, the services at the grave concluding with a eulogy delivered by Mayor

Hoffman. Other outstanding military events of the year in which the regiment participated, were a **Field Day at East New York** on June 7th, and the annual inspection and muster on October 16th, whereat the 23rd showed a numerical strength of six hundred and nineteen officers and men. On October 25th, there followed a parade, the occasion being the distribution of medals by the City of Brooklyn to all her veteran sons in commemoration of their services in war. Governor Fenton, Admiral Farragut and others prominent in military circles delivered stirring addresses; indeed it was an occasion worthy of remark; the medal, simple in the extreme, is of bronze and shows the Arms of the City of Brooklyn, the medallion being suspended on a sleazy blue ribbon; it is without doubt the cheapest attempt in the way of a military decoration we have ever noticed.

The fourth annual regimental promenade concert given on the evening of November 9th, eclipsed in splendor those of previous years; these concerts had now become THE social attraction where the wealth and wit, the fair and fashion of Brooklyn assembled en masse. A regimental Coat-of-Arms designed by Lieut. Joseph G. Story of Company "A", and adopted by the Council of Officers, first appeared on a dance program dated January 21st, 1867; thereafter the escutcheon adorned all regimental orders, tickets, programs and stationary. On June 21st, 1924, it was superceded by a new regimental insignia of which further mention will be made. There is in the memorial collection of the 106th Infantry, a richly embellished enlargement of the Coat-of-Arms of the old regiment done in colors, in which is reflected the truly artistic scheme of its originator.

Two important parades were held during the year 1867; the first on June 4th, marked the formal opening of the "Parade Ground" adjoining Prospect Park; in these ceremonies, the 11th brigade and the Howitzer Battery attached, participated. The field of approximately

fifty acres, set aside for military usages, was by no means the Parade Ground as we know it. On the occasion of which we speak, the troops were marched onto the field which from heavy rains was more in the nature of a quagmire overgrown with rank weeds and coarse grass knee high. From available records, the march-past in review before General Smith must have savored of rough campaigning rather than a parade where smartness and precision of disciplined troops delights the eye of the critic. Struggling through muddy pools, brambles and matted grass, the bedraggled brigade, the pride of Brooklyn, presented a sorry spectacle. It was after dark when the 23rd regiment boarded horse cars homeward bound, arriving at its armory two hours later! The second parade of importance ordered for October 1st, marked the arrival of General Philip H. Sheridan, the hero of the Shenandoah, as the guest of the City of Brooklyn; to the 23rd fell the honor of escorting the distinguished visitor.

First Lieu't Charles H. Hunter of Company "A" assumed the duties of Regimental Adjutant February 6th 1867; by his appointment, the post vacated during 1865 was filled. A new system of tactics prepared by General Upton, U.S.A., had recently superseded Casey's system; by authority of General Headquarters, State of New York, the National Guard was on September 28th, 1867, ordered to conform to Upton's Tactics. The annual inspection of the regiment occurred the following month; officers and men not yet acquainted with the new manual of drill were plainly deficient in its interpretation; yet disregarding the element of time, the inspecting officers -- after the manner of their kind, chalked it up against the regiment. The closing event of the year on the social calendar of the 23rd, was its fifth annual promenade concert given on the evening of November 4th.

The year 1868 brought numerous changes within the regiment. Colonel Pratt resigned March 24th and was succeeded by Lieu't

Colonel Rodney C. Ward commissioned Colonel June 25th. The regimental engineer officer, Captain James H. Frothingham resigned February 25th, as did the Chaplain, Peter J. H. Meyers on July 13th. Robert C. Ogden, a former member of the regiment, was on July 7th, recalled and commissioned regimental commissary. Adjutant Hunter appointed Aide de Camp with rank of Major of the 2nd division terminated his services with the regiment September 23rd. Captain Stephen H. Farnham of Company "C" was on June 25th commissioned Lieut. Colonel. Lieut. James G. Gregory of Company "K", appointed regimental adjutant November 7th, was brevetted a Captain, December 21st. Major Henry T. Chapman Jr elected Colonel of the 56th regiment, severed his connection with the 23rd regiment December 28th.

The retirement from active service of Brigadier General Jesse C. Smith, commanding the 11th brigade, in June 1868, was received with deep regret; by his resignation the State lost an officer whose unquestioned ability and devotion to the Guard is known only too well. General Smith entered the militia of the State when it was the object of popular contempt; he determined if possible to make it worthy of public support and favor. After serving in several inferior grades he became Major of the 14th regiment shortly after the organization of the 2nd Division under the law of 1847; that law, known as the "Fullerton Law" from its introduction and advocacy by General Fullerton (of the old 7th division of New York militia) gave us our system of uniformed militia. This system was continued and remodeled by the laws of 1862, and the designation "National Guard" was given the organization. This dignified title really originated with the 7th regiment of New York when in 1824, it adopted for itself the name "National Guards." In that year the Marquis de Lafayette, himself a former commander of the ~~Garde Nationale~~ **Garde Nationale** of Paris, visited New York under escort of the 7th regiment who out of compliment to the Marquis, assumed the title.

In the passage of this law General Smith, then a State Senator, took an active part. Before this time he had commanded the 14th regiment and in 1862, he was commissioned a Brigadier and organized the 11th brigade of the National Guard of which he was the first commandant. It may be truthfully said of General Smith that he carried with him in his retirement the respect and good wishes of his brigade and of the officers of the Guard throughout the State. Colonel Jeremiah V. Meserole of the 47th regiment and senior in the brigade, succeeded General Smith on May 20th, 1868.

The first mention of a distinctive full dress uniform appears in the minutes of a meeting of the Council of Officers of the 23rd regiment held May 2nd, of that year; On August 27th, the regiment as a whole voted on the question; it was unanimously carried. The accepted pattern of the original full dress uniform resembled closely that of the 13th regiment in cut and color. In contrast with the grey to be worn by the enlisted personnel, the color selected for officers was dark blue and strikingly handsome withal.

June 4th, 1868, marked the innovation of target practice by the 23rd regiment. On that day the command proceeded by horse cars to Prospect Park and to the base of Prospect Hill where, through the courtesy of the park commissioners a range had been constructed. Each company received a white board target six feet high by twenty eight inches wide, traversed by two black lines crossing at right angles considerably above the center of the target; the intersection of these lines was the "bulls eye" and was marked "five." The bulls eye circled by a number of rings numbered successively "four," "three" and "two" with the space outside the rings marked "one," constituted the official target of that day. Each man was allowed three shots and in all the regiment, the highest individual score was "ten." To those making the highest individual score in each company, the regiment presented a silver medal; by this remarkable scheme of encouragement, ten medals

were distributed to a like number of marksmen at the rate of one to each company no matter what the aggregate of the winners may have been! The medal is in the shape of a scroll surrounded by a wreath, and upon the scroll is engraved the Coat-of-Arms of the regiment; the decoration is backed with a heavy blue silk ribbon.

But this was not all; a gold medal of the same design went to the best shot among the winners of the silver medal! Private Charles L. Fincke of Company "A" (later Colonel of the regiment) having made the highest score in the shoot-off, received the decoration. We may smile; yet when we consider that the muzzle loading muskets of the regiment had not been primed since the days of the civil war, the result of that practice is not to be ridiculed; it was a step forward and is reflected in later performances of the 23rd regiment on the armory range at Creedmoor. It is regrettable that the records fail to show individual scores and in the absence of any specified minimum requirement of hits or misses, we wonder how many slugs actually hit the targets? Be this as it may, the first shooting contest of the regiment stimulated an esprit de corps in the matter of marksmanship which as time went on, developed a "shooting" regiment known throughout the land.

Commemorating the ninety second anniversary of American Independence, the 2nd division paraded on July 4th, 1868, and was reviewed at the City Hall by Mayor Kalbfleisch. Major General Harmanus B. Duryea, commanding the division resigned from the service in August of the same year and was succeeded by Major General Edward L. Molineux. The annual inspection and muster of the 23rd regiment for that year, held in the arsenal, shows a net loss of sixty five, the numerical strength of the regiment being five hundred and sixty eight; this loss in numbers is accounted for through Colonel Ward's relentless determination to rid the organization of undesirables. In the official report on

this inspection, especial commendation is accorded the command on appearance and proficiency in drill; and commenting on field exercises held October 20th, at Prospect Park Parade Grounds in which the 11th brigade participated, the Army and Navy Journal remarks, "The 23rd regiment carried off the palm of the brigade in appearance, steadiness and correctness of manoeuvre."

Again by invitation, the 23rd and 47th regiments marched with the 1st division in New York on November 25th, the occasion, commemorating Evacuation Day. A stand of colors presented to the regiment on December 23rd, by the State of New York, brought to a close the year 1868; in the ceremony of presentation, Adjutant General Selden E. Marvin, placing the colors in the hands of Colonel Ward said: "Take the colors Colonel Ward; let not stain rest upon their beautiful folds; take them and guard them closely and do not let the Twenty Third Regiment be the last to obey the call of this commonwealth or the call of our country."

On March 1st, 1869, there was established a regimental "Honorary-Active Roster"; an innovation worthy of consideration. Members of the regiment whose term of enlistment (seven years) had expired but, who had not taken a discharge were eligible for membership in this active-veteran corps; not only did its members enjoy a continuance of their military associations, but the regiment benefited by their appearance in ranks on occasions of parade. A striking example of this clever scheme of camouflage is recalled by those of us who marched in the Inaugural of Theodore Roosevelt at Washington D. C., March 4th, 1901, when the 23rd regiment eclipsed all others in parading thirty two file fronts!

May 6th, 1869, marked the initial appearance of the new full dress uniform, the occasion being a review tendered Major General Woodward, at the skating rink on Claremont Avenue; it was a strikingly handsome performance from first to last and showed to advantage the

pleasing contrast of white and grey topped with shako of black beaver and nodding pompon of blue and white; in the passage in review, a continuous ovation of approval greeted the successive companies as they broke from column into line; one of the prettiest movements if executed with precision, to be found in the manual. Following this sparkling event, the regiment engaged in rifle practice; through the courtesy of C. C. Brown Esq., an improvised range had been constructed on his property west of the Coney Island road, a site selected for its safety and seclusion. Early on the morning of May 26th, the command once more availing itself of the only means of transportation, the time honored horse car, proceeded at snail pace to the range; under the rules of the preceding year, Private W. H. Carman of Company "K" won the gold medal.

But let us digress for a moment to note changes of status in the Field and Staff for the year 1869. Captain Charles E. Goldthwaite of Company "B", received his commission as Major, January 18th, and on February 15th, Quartermaster Charles H. Stoddard resigned from the service; he was succeeded by 1st Lieut. Robert C. Ogden, Commissary of Subsistence, appointed Quartermaster, February 22nd. James L. Morgan Jr., was on June 21st, appointed ~~Commissary with rank of 1st~~ Lieutenant. The Rev. Norman Seaver D. D., appointed Chaplain with rank of Captain, September 27th, succeeded Chaplain Meyers, and John C. Goodridge Jr., commissioned Ass't Surgeon with rank of 1st Lieutenant, November 16th, succeeded Lieut. George H. R. Bennett who resigned October 20th.

June 15th, 1869, may well be termed a red letter day in the annals of the National Guard; a day well remembered by veterans of the sturdy old 11th brigade as a signpost on the path of progress. On that momentous occasion the brigade, comprising the 23rd and 47th regiments, the 32nd battalion and the Howitzer Battery, paraded at Prospect Park in grey; the day was not marked because the brigade para-

ded, but because it paraded in GREY! It is pleasant to study the advancement of the Guard from the days when independent companies were herded into regiments; that was the first step and citizens stood on the curb to watch the regiments file past with just a little pride in the militia. But the companies still retained their distinctive uniforms and in a single regiment might be observed the blue, the grey and the scarlet; sometimes the regiments paraded one half in full dress and the other half in fatigue. Then came another step forward; the different uniforms were discarded; the regiments adopted ONE uniform. "Now" said the citizen, "this looks more soldierlike," and all thought the militia could come no nearer uniformity. But in the course of time a war came upon us and opened our eyes; it broadened our views and gave us new ideas, and when it was over our officers who had become accustomed to seeing armies uniformed alike, began to think that a brigade in two or three uniforms did not look soldierly and they began to agitate the question of uniforming brigades alike.

In New York they talked so much and so loud about it, that everyone listened to them and to them alone; and while they were engaged in hot discussion, they were startled by the announcement that "The 11th Brigade of Brooklyn will parade on the 15th, of June in GREY." The newly adopted uniform of the "Grey Brigade" as the 11th had now become known, produced a decided sensation; the general opinion being that the Brooklyn boys had thrown their New York comrades-in-arms in the shade.

The first notable event following summer occurred October 7th, when His Excellency Governor John T. Hoffman reviewed the 2nd division on the Parade at Prospect Park. Superbly mounted on a white charger and accompanied by his staff, the Commander-in-Chief rode upon the field loudly acclaimed by a throng of interested spectators, a salute of twenty one guns fired by the Howitzer Battery announcing his arrival. The 23rd regiment in full fatigue with knapsacks and blan-

kets rolled thereon, appeared as ever, par excellence. Two weeks later on October 21st, the regiment stood annual inspection and muster at Fort Greene, its numerical strength on that occasion being five hundred and fifty four, all ranks.

As the year drew to a close, elaborate preparations were made for the annual social event, the seventh promenade concert given on the evening of November 9th, at the Academy of Music. During the month of December of that year, a ruling of great interest to National Guardsmen was handed down by the Supreme Court of the State of New York; this ruling in favor of certain tax exemptions provided for under the Military Code as amended by Act of April 22nd, 1867, is set forth in Section 146 of that Code, to wit:

"All General and Staff officers, all Field officers, all commissioned and non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates of the organized National Guard of this State shall be entitled to a reduction in the assessment of their real and personal property to the amount of \$500.00 each, except cavalrymen, artillerymen and mounted officers, who shall be entitled to a reduction of \$1,000.00 on all classes of taxes."

The year, 1870, proved an interesting period in the activities of the 23rd regiment. At a meeting of its veterans held in the armory January 17th, it was resolved to organize a regimental Veteran Association; the purpose of the association is found in the preamble of its constitution. "To perpetuate the associations and friendships existing among its members; for providing as far as may be practicable for the needs of such of its members as may through sickness or other causes, be placed in circumstances where sympathy, council and assistance to their fellow members may be useful, and for promoting in all legitimate ways, the interests of the regiment. "The resolution meeting with hearty approval, was carried unanimously and Colonel William Everdell Jr., was elected first president of the association.

About this time there arose in Brooklyn, a situation believed serious enough to warrant calling out the National Guard; the threatened trouble centered around the county jail in Raymond Street where the murderer Chambers was incarcerated. Fearing an attempt by mob violence to rescue this felon from the law, the Sheriff of Kings county issued the call;

"Brooklyn N.Y.,
February 16th, 1870.

"Colonel Rodney C. Ward,
Commanding 23rd regiment, N.Y.S.M.

"Sir:

Apprehending tumult and riot, you are directed to order for service this evening at 7 o'clock, one hundred Infantry to await my orders in preserving the public peace."

(Signed) Anthony Walter,
Sheriff, Kings county.

Accordingly, a detachment under the command of Lieut. Colonel Farnham was immediately placed under arms, issued ball ammunition and marched to the Arsenal for duty in aid of the civil authorities. The mobilization no doubt had its moral effect in thwarting any evil designs with respect to the release of Chambers who was hanged by the neck until dead within the gloomy confines of the prison yard. There being no disturbance attending the execution, the detachment was relieved at noon of the day following; for this service, the 23rd regiment received authority to place upon the lance of its regimental color, a silver band inscribed "BROOKLYN, FEBRUARY 16TH, 1870."

By way of friendly reciprocation, the 23rd regiment on May 26th, received the famous 7th regiment of New York, Colonel Emmons Clark commanding; the ceremonies of the day included a parade and a review of the provisional brigade by His Honor, Mayor Kalbfleisch and the Common Council of the City of Brooklyn. Closely following this event, the 11th brigade passed in review before General Meserole on June 7th;

commenting on the proficiency of the respective units, the Army and Navy Journal pays the 23rd a glowing compliment; -- "The steady and well closed ranks of the 23rd regiment was especially noticable and the salutes of its officers were by all odds the best in the brigade."

We marvel at the number of ordered formations of the National Guard of those days! Whole days, half days and evenings; add to these, tours of active service occuring with almost startling frequency! Of a total of seven calls to active service between 1863 and 1877, two of them extended over a period of months; though the average of one during each two years of service, or three spanning one enlistment! To the present day Guardsman who entertains notions of being overworked, let him check these computations and be convinced of his error.

The 23rd together with other units of the brigade participated in the obsequies of the late Admiral Farragut U.S.N., the hero of Mobile; this solemn duty performed September 30th, 1870, followed in the wake of a singular train of mishaps. First, a misunderstanding between the Navy Department and the New York Committee on arrangements respecting the ordering of the frigates "GUERRIERE" and "BROOKLYN" to Portsmouth to bring the remains to New York. The "BROOKLYN" outward bound, collided with the schooner "ONWARD" in the bay; then followed the disappointing news that the "GUERRIERE" had run aground off Nantucket and must abandon participation in the ceremonies. Then, as the military procession was about to start, it rained torrents; the troops, drenched to the skin, waded along to the Grand Central Depot, at each halt reversing their arms to drain barrels of water; such was this dismal parade in honor of the illustrious dead.

A brilliant review of the 2nd division tendered Governor Hoffman and held on the Parade Ground October 18th of that year, showed the troops at their best; enthused by so grand a spectacle,

a news correspondent describes the ceremony thus:-

" With glittering weapons, burnished accoutrements and neat and soldierlike uniforms, with clanking scabbards and glistening sabers, wave of sable plumes and muffled tread of horses, with bristling bayonets, somber helmets topped with gayly nodding crest from brightest plumed birds, with martial step and soldierlike bearing, in compact lines, the brazen dogs of war passed in review before the Commander-in-Chief."

But our friend of the press omitted to note that a high wind, carrying with it clouds of dust which at times almost screened the marching columns, lent that peculiar atmosphere of field manoeuvres, which to appreciate must be witnessed.

With the disbandment of Company "H" in the interests of efficiency and economy, the regiment was reduced to a nine company organization; this loss probably accounts for a total membership of but four hundred and fifty three all ranks as shown at the annual inspection and muster of the 23rd held at Fort Greene October 24th, 1870. On this occasion the regiment was inspected with overcoats and knapsacks; these articles of equipment not a state issue, were provided at the expense of the individual soldier; in this respect, the organization received honorable mention as being the only regiment in the 11th brigade that had manifested a willingness to comply with regulations pertaining to uniforms and equipment. Deeply concerned in the now important matter of recruiting his regiment, Colonel Ward instituted an intensive drive, offering every legitimate inducement to the right type of men, yet never sacrificing quality for quantity.

We have referred to the popularity of the annual promenade concerts which as the years passed, continued to grow; the united efforts of the regiment as a whole and the lavish expenditure of money was reflected in the brilliancy of these affairs. Surpassing anything of its kind yet attempted by the 23rd regiment, was the eighth annual

concert held on the evening of November 1st, 1870. Contrasted with present day decorative schemes, a description of the gorgeous appearance of the Academy of Music on this occasion will we are confident, impress the reader. On the stage there appeared a portion of some medieval castle spanned by gothic arches; beyond them appearing tinted clouds lighted from below, producing a fine soft effect. Under the center arch a trophy formed of weapons of war arranged in the form of a sunburst, -- or more precisely speaking a bayonet burst of polished muskets with bright bayonets radiating from the base, formed a half arc.

The colors and drums of the regiment filled intervening spaces; on each column of the center arch was a star of bayonets, while over the central arch appeared the regimental insignia and the cross of the sixth corps formed also of bayonets supporting the regimental seal in white, blue and gold. Under the side arches stood at either hand, colossal figures in armor of the middle ages, each bearing a long shafted halberd; piles of drums and knapsacks were stacked behind these; as the guests entered, the eye was caught at once by the gorgeous arrangement. The top of the proscenium was converted into a garden of growing plants from which hung trailing vines and flowers before a brilliant festoon formed of the national colors depending from the escutcheon of the State of New York; the private boxes were closed and their fronts decorated with shields blazoned with the federal arms and draped with streamers over which appeared the legends in gold, "LIBERTY", "UNION", "PEACE", "PLENTY". Two large vases of sweet flowers closed the portals of the boxes. The regimental band, Messrs Papst and Conterno conducting, divided into two sections, rendered excellent music appropriate to the gala occasion; by this arrangement the music was continuous throughout the entire evening. Major General Woodward, commanding the 2nd division, accompanied by his lady and followed by his staff and a brilliant

cortege of flashing uniforms and elegantly gowned ladies, assumed the appearance of some gorgeously colored dragon as the train wended its happy way through the ballroom; such was this enjoyable, spirited, court-ously conducted military ball, successful throughout and emphasizing the well known fact that the 23rd regiment always adhered to refined social forms.

With respect to changes of status within the Field and Staff for the year 1870, Major Charles E. Goldthwaite resigned May 24th and 1st Lieu't and Adjutant James G. Gregory was commissioned a Major June 2nd; he resigned from the service December 8th of the same year. Lieu't Henry S. Manning of Company "C", received his appointment as Regimental Adjutant as of June 6th. In the Medical Department, Major A. Duncan Willson resigned May 28th and was succeeded by Lieu't John C. Goodridge Jr., who on June 1st, was appointed regimental surgeon with rank of Major.

And this brings us to the eventful year of 1871. A regimental review tendered Brigadier General Meserole at the Portland Avenue arsenal on January 12th, attracted the elite of the city; during the reception following the formal ceremonies of the evening, the enlisted personnel of the regiment presented to Colonel Ward a sword, belt, sash, silver spurs and a complete set of horse equipment. May 17th marked the close of the drill season and was the occasion of a dress parade and promenade concert given at the skating rink, where a magnificent gathering of friends of the regiment celebrated the happy event; but although the drill season had ended, it did not follow that the regiment might rest from its labors. On May 25th, the 23rd as guests of the 7th, paraded in New York City, the affair proving as brilliant a success as could be wished for; the 7th receiving the 23rd at the Wall Street ferry with full military honors, escorted the latter to the City Hall. With colors standing to the breeze and brightly burnished muskets gleaming in the sunshine, the procession passed in review be-

fore Mayor Hall, and wheeling into Broadway, marched to the south ferry where again appropriate military courtesies were exchanged as the 23rd embarked for Brooklyn. The press of that day remarks:-

"The entire performance was one of unqualified enjoyment and the courtesies extended the visiting regiment were most graciously bestowed while the guests of the occasion, the 23rd Regiment, added one more garland to the wreath with which their banners are already decorated."

The annual target practice of the regiment seems to have fallen flat. On June 8th, the 23rd proceeded to 18th Street and Coney Island Road for that purpose; but hardly had the firing commenced when a committee of horrified and indignant citizens waited on Colonel Ward, protesting that bullets were hitting most everywhere in the vicinity; from this startling report, it would seem that the only place where one might seek safety, was directly in front of the targets! With a sense of deep humiliation, Colonel Ward ordered a suspension of firing, and gathering up its targets, the crestfallen regiment stole away as it were, to the Parade Ground where it fell in with the remainder of the brigade; the afternoon given over to field exercises, terminated in a review by the brigade commander.

During the month of July 1871, the lamentable Orange Riot disrupted the public peace in the City of New York, requiring the combined services of the National Guard and the police in restoring order; fearing a spread of the riot to Brooklyn, the Mayor called on the 2nd division in aid of the civil authorities. The 5th and 11th brigades were immediately ordered out, the 23rd regiment mobilizing on July 12th, and remaining in its armory subject to call. For this assembly the regiment claimed and received authority to place upon the lance of its regimental color, a silver band inscribed "ORANGE RIOT, 1871". Had the regiment participated in the severe street fighting engaged in by New York City regiments, the propriety of the award

could not have been questioned; but the regiment never left its armory, there being not the slightest pretext for so doing; and the authorization for decorating the color therefore appears unwarranted.

With characteristic determination, Colonel Ward once more ordered regimental rifle practice; early on the morning of August 4th, the 23rd proceeded to Long Branch N.J., for a day on the range. But discouragement and disaster followed the regiment in its second attempt of that year. The record of practice appears frightfully jumbled and out of whack; one range of but one hundred yards, many were the misses and few the hits. With a system of marking utterly befogging, no man knew what he had accomplished until after the entire regiment had finished shooting, and then he knew less, which was nothing! The hits averaged but one per man; those averaging four out of a possible fifteen, shot themselves into the "crack" class.

As in previous years, the best shot (no matter how poor) in each company received the annual award of a silver medal; at the commencement of the shoot-off for the regimental gold medal, a sudden and violent thunder storm sent all hands flying to cover; with the passing of the storm the contestants struggled on until through some chance of fate, Corporal L.H. Brockway of Company "F" hit the target squarely, thereby winning not only the coveted decoration, but the distinction of carrying off the title of regimental champion. The regiment now formed up and marching gayly to the Continental Hotel, passed the summer cottage of General U.S. Grant to whom was rendered a marching salute, General Grant, accompanied by General Horace Porter, receiving the compliment. A bracing dinner at the hotel imbued the regiment with new impetus; yet again the elements conspired against the 23rd. Following a parade on the hotel lawn, General Woodward reviewed the command and in a downpour of rain, presented to Corporal Brockway the gold medal.

But the climax of that ill fated day was to follow. Boarding the cars in the early evening for the homeward journey via the Southern Railroad of New Jersey, the unsuspecting regiment unharnessed and relaxed. Through culpable negligence, the customary bell cord connection between locomotive and coaches had been overlooked and on this hangs the story. With all aboard, the train of eighteen passenger coaches and two baggage cars steamed out of Long Branch; running at high speed the Military Special thundered through Seabright; and taking a curve beyond, the seventh coach jumped the rails and turned over! Unmindful of what had happened, (there being no bell cord connection) the engineer continued at full speed! The roadbed at this point ran within three feet of the Shrewsbury river and it seemed as though the overturned coach must be flung into the stream; the forward truck of the eighth coach torn loose, shot into the air and hurtled into the river; terror seized the passengers!

The engineer glancing backward grasped the situation and brought his train to a jerky stop. A strong guard posted immediately, assisted in releasing those trapped in the wreck and in other ways rendered valuable aid. It seems miraculous that few minor casualties resulted; chief of these was the case of Private Frank A. Taylor, severely cut by flying glass. Finally arriving at Sandy Hook, the regiment boarded the "PLYMOUTH ROCK" and without further mishap, reached its destination; thus ended the first excursion of the 23rd.

The annual inspection and muster held at Fort Greene, October 28th, 1871, showed a strength of five hundred and six; -- an increase of fifty three over the preceding year. Concerning the inspection, we quote from the official report:-- "The command justly renowned for the fine classification of its personnel, its perfection in drill and its excellent equipment, it being at this time the only regiment of the 2nd division able to parade fully equipped, merits the highest praise." The muzzle loading muskets of the regiment were on this occasion condemned as unserviceable.

During November of that year a Russian squadron commanded by His Imperial Highness Grand Duke Alexis, visited the port of New York on a friendly mission. On the morning of the 21st, a committee of distinguished citizens proceeded down the bay aboard the "MARY POWELL" to H.I.M. Flagship "SVETLANA", returning to the city with their royal guest; during this pleasant voyage the magnificent band of the 23rd regiment rendered appropriate music from the upper deck of the "Powell". On the same day, the 1st and 2nd divisions of the Guard passed in review before His Imperial Highness at Union Square; yet with all the glamor of the grand reception accorded this personage, little heed was at first given the crew of the "SVETLANA" who were suffering from scurvy which had broken out on the Czar's men-of-war during the voyage from Madeira to New York; and while New York was overloading the stomachs of royalty and its suite, their commoner shipmates were dying of this horrible malady under circumstances which, had they occurred under the American flag would provoke world wide denunciation.

Many of the worst cases were transferred to the Naval and other hospitals in and about the city; but all the gilt laid on by the reception committee could not conceal the fact that of all the dirty, scurvy-stricken, tallow eating vagabonds that ever were knouted into machines, the crew of the "SVETLANA" was the most forbidding! The officers of the visiting squadron were the guests of the regiment at its annual ball held on the evening of December 11th.

In January 1872, the regiment sponsored a second series of band concerts which a few years previous had received substantial support from music lovers of Brooklyn; this series, given at Burnham's Academy proved equally successful, attracting large and refined audiences. Before continuing, let us note changes occurring in the Medical Department of the regiment for that year. On January 22nd, Major John C. Goodridge resigned; he was succeeded by George K. Smith

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appointed regimental surgeon with rank of Major, February 12th. On May 6th Fuller Walker received his appointment as Assistant Surgeon with rank of Captain.

We have previously referred to a movement fostered by the 23rd Regiment Armory Association for procuring a new armory; but nothing was accomplished and the subject lay dormant until the year 1872, when the project was again talked of. The old Orange Street armory had long since outlived its usefulness for military purposes; totally inadequate to the needs of the growing regiment and structurally unsafe, it had in the year 1871 been condemned by the city. It will be recalled that the regiment occupied two floors of the building for which it paid an annual rental of \$2,000.00; through continual cadenced movement its structural soundness had been so weakened that a single individual standing in the center of either the upper or lower drill hall could, by measured swaying of the body, rock the whole structure! Thus we find a stereotype paragraph in all orders pertaining to regimental formations:—"Line will be formed on Monroe Place, right resting on Pierrepont Street."

On February 13th, 1872, Colonel Ward called a special meeting of the regiment for the purpose of reviewing the discouraging conditions under which ^{it} ~~the regiment~~ labored and laying before it the urgent need of a new armory. A united drive with every shoulder to the wheel resulted; nor was the supreme effort confined to the regiment alone. Within four days after the mass meeting, a group of leading citizens of the city of Brooklyn including clergymen, lawyers, judges, merchants and capitalists, numbering five thousand, representing taxable property in the county of Kings exceeding \$75,000,000.00, united with the regiment in subscribing to a petition representing that the 23rd regiment was without adequate and suitable accommodations; this memorial was forwarded to the State Legislature.

The combined efforts of the regiment itself and the representatives of every branch of the higher strata of Brooklyn society could scarcely fail in effecting its object. On March 21st, a bill was passed by the Senate appropriating the munificent sum of \$160,000.00 for the ~~errection~~ erection of a new armory for the 23rd regiment; the final passage of the bill followed almost immediately. Of eight competitive plans and specifications submitted by architects, those by William A. Mundell were accepted by a Board of Supervisors of the City of Brooklyn. The ground on which the armory was to be erected, purchased by the county of Kings at a cost of \$48,000.00, adjoined the skating rink with a frontage of one hundred and seventy six feet on Clermont Avenue and two hundred feet on Vanderbilt Avenue; a general description of the buliding according to specifications follows.

The armory was constructed of brick; the front, ~~of~~ Philadelphia pressed brick, trimmed with stone; the walls twenty inches thick, were strengthened by heavy buttresses six feet at the base, opposite each of the iron trusses supporting the roof; four towers, the largest one hundred feet high, faced Clermont Avenue. The main drill hall, one hundred and twenty five by one hundred and eighty feet, boasted the distinction of being the largest in the United States without pillars or other obstructions; the floor of the drill hall was laid on heavy timbers embedded in concrete. The first floor was given over to ten company rooms, each seventeen by thirty eight feet and the armorer's office. The Colonel's office, Adjutant's area, council rooms, Quartermaster's area, band and janitor's quarters located on the second floor, were entered from the galleries along the north and west sides of the drill hall; toilets and wash rooms were conveniently located; the entire structure was heated by steam and lighted by gas with patent reflectors in the drill hall.

Five months and seven days after the initial pas-

sage of the armory bill by the **Senate**, ground was broken for its erection; at ten o'clock on the morning of August 28th, a small delegation of officers and men of the regiment, together with the military committee of the county Board of Supervisors, the architect, contractor, the division commander and a few spectators, assembled to witness the informal ceremony. At the conclusion of appropriate addresses, the contractor, Mr. James H. Magill handed to Colonel Ward a new shovel purchased by him for the occasion. The Colonel, removing his coat, went to work and as the first shovelful was delivered, the assemblage broke into applause.

At the termination of this duty, by a most remarkable co-incidence, it was discovered that the Colonel had emptied exactly twenty three shovels of earth into a cart nearby and as a further remarkable fact, the shovel purchased off hand by the contractor, bore the makers name "WARD!" To the skeptical reader, the forgoing statements may savor of fanciful imagination; yet on the word of Colonel Ward, General Woodward, Mr. Magill and others, we have no reason to doubt their validity. The ceremonies concluded, the official party by invitation of Colonel Ward adjourned to Delmonico's where the success of the regiment, the armory, the architect, the contractor and the military committee was drunk.

With such vigor had the work of construction been pushed, that by fall the new structure was ready for the laying of the cornerstone. Under favoring skies on the afternoon of October 28th, 1872, in the presence of the assembled regiment, its veterans and a vast multitude of citizens, Mayor S. S. Powell of Brooklyn performed the ceremony; within a leaden box placed in the hollowed stone, were deposited local journals of the day, coins, currency and interesting data concerning the National Guard and the 23rd regiment. An elaborate program arranged for the occasion opened with the overture of the "Bronze

Horse," followed with prayer by the Chaplain. Mayor Powell then laid the cornerstone amid lusty cheers from the assembled throng. After the laying of the stone, an original ode composed by the talented authoress, Mrs. Grace Webster Hinsdale was sung to the tune of "America."

The Faithful Guard.

Land of the brave and free
We pledge our strength to thee,
Till life shall cease.
No foe shall thee surround;
No rebels tread the ground;
Where faithful hearts are found
To guard thy peace.

--

Upon our arms we sleep
Good watch o'er thee to keep,
Land of our pride.
With stalwart heart and hand
We evermore will stand,
A loving loyal band
Close to thy side.

--

The cornerstone we lay
Shall witness that this day
Our vows we make.
Our flag shall ever wave,
O'er noble hearts and brave
Though we should find a grave,
For thy dear sake.

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Stirring addresses by General Woodward, division commander, and Inspector General McQuade were well received and generously applauded; but when Colonel Everdell arose, hand extended in salute, a spontaneous roar of greeting rent the air! A solemn benediction pronounced by the Chaplain brought to a fitting close the impressive ceremonies of the day.

Filled with the spirit of the occasion, the regiment marched to Fort Greene, there to stand annual inspection and muster; the returns for the year 1872, show a numerical strength of five hundred and fifty nine all ranks. In the meantime a group of Brooklyn's most solid and distinguished citizens had through substantial and material assistance, made it possible to uniform the regimental band; the new uniform of unusual brilliance, was of dark blue, trimmed

with crimson and white; richly embroidered epaulets of crimson and bullion completed the touch of elegance, the whole, in striking contrast against the grey columns that followed. As a mark of appreciation the regiment headed by its gorgeous band, marched in review before the citizens committee at Carroll Park, the affair proving a handsome acknowledgement of an equally handsome compliment paid the 23rd by these gentlemen.

A review tendered Governor Hoffman on September 30th, might well have been termed a "twilight review"; through the late arrival of the Governor, the ceremonies scheduled to commence at three in the afternoon, were delayed until six in the evening, terminating in the darkness of night, to the disappointment of a patient public who had gathered at the City Hall to witness the affair.

It was during the year 1872, that the National Guard of our State received the newly adopted breech loader, officially known as the Remington Breech Loading Rifle Musket; the calibre of the Remington is .50 and the charge of its service cartridge, 70 grains of black powder. A striking feature of this handsome piece is its long bright barrel and angular bayonet. Although a single shot weapon it is capable of firing sixteen shots per minute; the simplicity of its construction makes it possible to dismount in fifteen seconds; its effective range is one thousand yards. If too much space and detail has been given the Remington, it is only because our regimental teams had come to place great faith on its dependability; it was with this rifle that every shooting record was made and every trophy won until the adoption of the world famous Springfield in 1897, when the same high standards of rifle markmanship were maintained.

The subject of consolidation proposed early in 1873, raised a great hue and cry in National Guard circles in Brooklyn. It was proposed to put out of existence the top heavy 2nd division; it was further proposed to consolidate units of the 5th and 11th bri-

gades into one solid brigade to be designated the 2nd brigade, 1st division. The contemplated consolidation of Brooklyn organizations is shown in the following table:

13th Regt: 47th Regt:	To be consolidated and designated the 13th Regiment.					
14th Regt: 15th Regt:	do	do	do	do	do	do
23rd Regt:	To continue under its original designation.					
Howitzer Battery:	do	do	do	do	do	do
Cavalry of 5th : Brigade, and : Cavalry of 11th : Brigade :	To be consolidated and designated					

New York City units comprising the 3rd and 4th brigades of the 1st division, were to be consolidated into two solid brigades to be designated the 1st and 3rd. Through this process of elimination, certain regiments, mere skeletons, unable to muster more than two or three hundred men, would be thrown into more progressive organizations, thereby building up the proposed brigades to authorized strength. From an economical standpoint, an estimated annual saving to the state and city would approximate \$125,000.00. But the old line regiments protested bitterly at what they considered a gross injustice; strong pressure brought to bear against the plan resulted in its defeat.

What was conceded to be one of the most colorful military displays ever witnessed in Brooklyn, occurred June 4th, 1873, when the 2nd division of the National Guard passed in review before its new Commander-in-Chief, Governor John A. Dix with all the pomp and circumstance of highly organized troops. Returning to its armory on Orange Street, the 23rd regiment formed a hollow square in the center of which stood Senator John C. Perry and Colonel Ward who had escorted his bewildered guest to that point from which there could be no escape. To the great surprise of the Senator, Colonel Ward then complimented him on his energetic action and support with respect to the

passage of the Armory Bill; approaching the Senator, Colonel Ward in the name of the regiment, presented him with a magnificent Jules Jurgen- sen chronometer suitably engraved, "Presented to Senator John C. Perry by the members of the 23rd Regiment, N.G.S.N.Y., June 4th, 1873."

An event rejoicing the hearts of all true Guardsmen, occurred June 21st, of that year, when the Creedmoor Rifle Range was formally opened. Though wanting in gorgeous ceremonial attending many other though less important inaugurations, the event nevertheless marked the dawn of a new era in rifle marksmanship in the National Guard. On the morning of that day, the first delegation headed by Major General Alexander Shaler, commanding the 1st division N.G.S.N.Y., and a staff, arrived from New York, followed by officers of the National Rifle Association, strong delegations from the 22nd and 9th regiments, members of the 71st and 23rd regiments, the band of the 11th regiment and a large concourse of military men and civilians. A salute of artillery by "K" Battery, 1st division (later re-designated the 1st Battery, in which the writer had the honor to serve) opened the ceremonies of the day: headed by the band, the assemblage marched to the range. Unable to attend, though mindful of the real importance of the occasion, General Grant, Governor Dix and General Sherman wired congratulations and good wishes for the success of the enterprise.

It seems not amiss to dwell for a moment on the early history of this mecca for riflemen; the initial movement for the organization of a national rifle association dates from November 24th, 1871, when a Board of Directors was elected; the board consisted of:

Pres: Gen'l. A. E. Burnside
V. Pres: Col. Wm. C. Church
Sec'y: Capt. George W. Wingate
Corr. Sec'y: F. M. Peck
Treas'r: Gen'l J. B. Woodward

These gentlemen continued in office until July 22nd, 1872, when General Burnside having resigned, Colonel Church was elected President and General Shaler Vice President. The real labors of the association now com-

menced; first the proper site for a range must be chosen and secondly, the details necessary to induce members of the National Guard to take an interest in what to them was a novel enterprise. It was at once apparent that the high price of land within any available distance of New York would render any purchase impossible without state assistance. A bill introduced into the Legislature and passed in May 1872, provided that whenever the association should raise \$5,000.00, the state would contribute \$25,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing and fitting out such a range; the state also agreed to provide division and state prizes for skillful marksmanship. To this was also added \$5,000.00 from the Supervisors of New York and Brooklyn, with \$5,000.00 additional from the Supervisors of New York.

The work of selecting ground of a sufficient area for a rifle range which would be reasonable in price, safe and convenient of access, proved a difficult task; finally a most wise purchase was made of a tract of seventy acres situate on the Central R. R. of Long Island, eleven miles from Hunters Point and a short distance from Jamaica and Flushing. The land was bought from Mr. J. Creed for \$26,250.00, and named "Creedmoor." The tract was admirably adopted for the purposes of a rifle range; as level as a billiard table, it afforded room for twenty separate ranges, each of which could be used from one hundred to one thousand yards without employing raised platforms found necessary on most European rifle ranges.

There appeared but one objection; it would become necessary to build an embankment twenty feet high and six hundred feet long as a bullet stop in rear of the butts; in completing this undertaking, there was excavated not less than twenty seven thousand cubic feet of earth! To avail themselves of the latest improvements in range construction, the association sent Messrs. Rockefeller, Wingate and Church to Wimbledon and Hythe, there to inspect not only the rifle

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of the

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ranges, but to report on the various modes of firing. It is a remarkable fact that on completion of the Creedmoor range, the association experienced no little difficulty in inducing the National Guard to interest itself in the subject of rifle practice. Astonishing apathy prevailed among a large group of officers; but the liberal action of the association in throwing open the range for the gratuitous use of the Guard during the summer of 1873, resulted in most regiments going there perhaps out of curiosity, for a day's practice. In every instance however, after a single visit, the merits and advantages of so fine a range were fully appreciated. The Guard shook off its apathy, emulation was at once excited; regimental teams were organized and good and better shooting resulted. Indeed so popular had Creedmoor now become, that during the month of September of that year no less than four thousand men of the National Guard had used it; and so the Creedmoor rifle range suddenly and deservedly leaped into international fame!

Let us now study the results of the first day's shooting; the third match of that day, open to teams of the National Guard, went to the 22nd regiment and the second prize, to the 23rd of Brooklyn; a roster of those comprising the regimental team follows:

Capt. Charles H. Joy, Co. "F"
1st Lt. Joseph G. Story, Co. "A"
2nd Lt. Thomas J. Stevens, Co. "C"
Ord. Sgt. Charles E. Bryant, N. C. S.
Sgt. George S. Jewell, Co. "D"
Sgt. Albert Wilkinson, Co. "C"
Pvt. Charles L. Fincke, Co. "A"
Pvt. James H. Stearns, Co. "E"
Pvt. George E. Nichols, Co. "B"
Pvt. L. E. Brockway, Co. "F"
Pvt. John Drummond, Co. "E"

At the first annual prize meeting held in October of that year, the 23rd regiment won the 2nd division match with a gain of twenty points over the initial shoot of the previous June; a detailed record of subsequent achievements in rifle marksmanship by the regiment will be found in Appendix "J".

The Guard had in the meantime learned much of the theory and practice in the art of marksmanship through the medium of "Wingate's Manual of Rifle Practice," a treatise of great value to the rifleman, in that the fundamentals of shooting were not only discussed, but thoroughly explained. On August 28th, 1873, Lieutenant Joseph G. Story of Company "A" was elected a member of the board of directors of the National Rifle Association.

An event leading to a happy realization of the regiment, occurred June 24th, of that year, when the 23rd received orders to vacate the Orange Street armory; accordingly, the colors, arms and records of the organization were removed to the Portland Avenue arsenal, designated Headquarters. The new armory on Clermont Avenue had been inspected and reported upon favorably as a finished project, and on September 16th, 1873, a recommendation that it be accepted, was approved. Strange as it may appear, the appropriation for the building was not exceeded; on the contrary, there remained a balance shown in the accompanying recapitulation of costs:

TOTAL APPROPRIATION: ———	\$160,000.00
Purchase price of ground, —————	\$48,000.00
Contract price for construction exclusive of lighting system and gun racks, —————	99,997.00
Cost of lighting system and gun racks, —————	9,000.00
UNEXPENDED BALANCE: —————	3,003.00
	<u>\$160,000.00</u>

Shortly before eight o'clock on the evening of September 29th, 1873, the doors of the new armory were officially opened; a large gathering of friends of the regiment eager to witness the ceremonies attending the entry of the 23rd, filled the galleries to capacity indeed, every foot of available space offering a view of the drill floor was literally packed with interested spectators; it was estimated that four thousand persons were admitted on the occasion of this great event.

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1873 - 1880

James Page^r

Precisely at eight o'clock, the regiment in full fatigues, with knapsacks and blankets rolled, preceded by its splendid band of forty pieces under Bandmaster Conterno, marched into the armory. The appearance of Colonel Ward at the head of his regiment brought forth tumultuous and prolonged cheers; indeed such was the noisy demonstration, that verbal commands were altogether lost, and this of course rather disrupted the evolutions of the regiment; but after a few minutes the cheering subsided and the 23rd, hitting the stride, carried on. Although drenched by a sudden shower enroute from the arsenal, the esprit de corps of the organization was strongly manifested in its steadiness and precision as it marched in review before General Fowler, Chairman of the Military Committee of the Board of Supervisors of Kings County and his official associates; this concluded, the General, advancing toward Colonel Ward, presented him with a velvet casket containing silver keys of the armory suitably engraved in commemoration of the occasion; these valued mementos may be seen in the regimental Memorial collection.

as may also a pair of silver guidons presented to the regiment by Capt. D.W. Van Stryker of Co. A, on behalf of that Company. These guidons, fabricated in MUNICH Germany, were brought to Brooklyn by Supt. BUNCE of Co. A.

A very elegant reception followed the military ceremonies of the evening; in sharp contrast with the company rooms scattered about the neighborhood of the Orange Street armory, much attention centered on those in the new building; marked individuality in decorations and fittings compelled only the most favorable comment; profuse floral pieces artistically arranged, added much to their attractiveness, reminding one more of a conservatory than of meeting rooms.

For the first time since its organization, the annual inspection and muster of the 23rd regiment was held within its armory on the evening of October 27th, 1873, the recorded strength of the organization being five hundred and forty one. Elegantly presented and enthusiastically supported, the eleventh annual promenade concert held in the armory December 16th, proved eminently successful. There were but two changes in the Field and Staff during the year 1873. First Lieut. and Commissary James L. Morgan Jr., resigned January 27th; he was succeeded by

Captain Edward N. Norton on March 17th. It was during this year that Company "G" was for economic reasons disbanded; thus the regiment became an **eight** company organization. But again, the Brooklyn City Guard (Company "G", 13th Regiment) was to play an important part in regimental affairs; more particularly in the re-organization of the company lately disbanded.

Persistent rumors of a feeling of discontent within the ranks of Company "G", 13th Regiment, culminated in a request by that organization to be transferred to the 23rd regiment. Always an exclusive company, composed of the **cream of society, the wealth and aristocracy** of South Brooklyn extensively represented in its ranks, Company "G" resented any attempt to recruit the 13th regiment with **any other** than this select class. The 23rd regiment had in the meantime gained a foremost position in the social estimation of the public; it was therefore to the 23rd that Company "G" of the 13th turned. The request for transfer, meeting with disapproval, the company as a whole determined to force its way out of the 13th; in this it succeeded all too well. The company became insubordinate and refused to turn out for an ordered parade; an investigation ordered by the Governor showed that every member of the company with the exception of nine, had deliberately left the state on that day. Under S.O.No.128, A.G.O., November 18th, 1873, the company was disbanded for the good of the service and Captain Alfred H. Williams commanding, summarily discharged without honor. Thus, the Brooklyn City Guard ceased to exist. Whether or not the grievances of the now defunct company were justified, is not for us to say; but rank in-subordination is NEVER justifiable.

We are just a little surprised to find that on December 3rd, of the same year, thirty eight members of the disbanded company were **individually** accepted/by Colonel Ward and were mustered in as Company "G", 23rd Regiment! By this remarkable occurrence, the regiment was again raised to the status of a nine company organization. First Lieutenant Joseph G. Story, Company "A", also served in the

newly admitted unit, administered its affairs faithfully and well; former non-commissioned officers were elected to their original grades, and through tactful handling, Company "G" functioned well in its new and pleasant surroundings. But loud and violent criticism of Colonel Ward's action in accepting these men was heard on every side, the front pages of the press devoting much space to the controversy, yet in spite of all, the indomitable Colonel stood by his decision and there the matter ended. Since that eventful day when Lieutenant Story administered the oath to those thirty eight malcontents of the 13th regiment, the outstanding record of Company "G" (Brooklyn City Guard) replete with high achievement, is without stain or blemish. Further review of the case of the deposed Captain Williams resulted in his complete vindication. Re-commissioned as of December 6th, 1873, he subsequently took over the command of Company "G", Lieutenant Story returning to his own company; as a tribute of esteem in which he was held by his temporary command, Lieutenant Story was elected an honorary member of that organization. Captain Williams was on February 16th, 1877, brevetted a Major.

Determined that his regiment excel in rifle marksmanship, Colonel Ward in January 1874, ordered schools for officers and men in the subject of musketry, based on Wingate's manual; the construction of an indoor range in the waste upper spaces of the armory, proved an innovation worthy of remark; the range measuring but forty yards, was brought to the equivalent of two hundred, by targets of reduced size; ammunition reloaded with reduced charges of thirty five grains corresponded in a measure with the crude yet successful experiment. Press notices of the day commenting on this unheard of departure, held it in derision; indulging in ridicule, a prominent Brooklyn daily dubbed it "Colonel Ward's Toy Range." One need but scan the scores rolled up by the 23rd on the Creedmoor range for the year 1874 to be convinced of the undoubted value of this "toy range" in developing good shots from raw material. Admitting this fact, other regiments

set to work constructing indoor ranges.

With the advent of Creedmoor, the farcical award of the regimental "Best Shot" medal was discontinued; the will to excel in marksmanship had taken a firm hold on the regiment. So great had become the interest in this fine art, that a rifle club was organized within the 23rd; it was called the "Ward Rifle Club of Brooklyn." On June 26th, Company "A" journeyed to Creedmoor, there to compete for the monthly award of the "Kellogg Badge"; this handsome decoration of fine gold and enamel presented to Company "A" by Mr. Sheldon A. Kellogg, himself a veteran of that company, was awarded monthly to the high score; a roll of the winners for the year 1874 follows:-

June, Pvt. James Allen
 July, Sgt. A. Allen Jr.
 Aug., Cpl. H. R. Hughes
 Sept, Pvt. C. W. Dibble
 Oct, Pvt. James Allen
 Nov, Pvt. C. Sharpe

The 23rd occupied the Creedmoor range September 10th and on that day the twelve highest scores were selected for the regimental rifle team for the year 1874; on October 2nd, this team captured for the second time, the 2nd Division trophy, taking third place in the State match. A comparison of scores made in the division matches at Creedmoor for the years 1873 and 1874 may prove interesting.

Regiment	1873		1874		Decrease	Increase
	Men:	Score:	Men:	Score:		
Twenty Third	12	181	12	207	-----	26
Fourteenth	10	71	12	164	-----	93
Thirty Second	12	179	12	162	17	-----
Forty Seventh	Did not participate.		12	153	-----	-----
Twenty Eighth	11	120	12	136	-----	16
Thirteenth	10	102	12	123	-----	21
Fifteenth	Did not participate.		7	60	-----	-----

We here turn from the absorbing subject of rifle practice, to note other regimental activities of that year. The opening concert of a series of eight given by Conterno's regimental band occur-

ed on the evening of January 17th in the new armory before an audience of three thousand lovers of music. Other items of interest affecting the regiment are given in their proper order. A review tendered Major General Woodward on January 31st, was followed by another on April 17th when the 23rd marched before Brevet Major General Morris, Inspector General of the State of New York. On the 25th of the same month, a revised drill manual prepared by General Upton, U.S.A., was adopted by the National Guard. On May 28th the entire 2nd division passed in review before Governor John A. Dix at Fort Greene; commenting on the performance, the press of that day remarks, "The appearance of the Brooklyn Militia was a spectacular and tactical success."

This formation followed by a field day at Prospect Park, on June 9th, terminated in a review of the 11th brigade by the division commander, General Woodward. The regiment stood annual inspection and muster on the "parade" at Fort Greene, October 5th; a net gain of thirty over the preceding year, brought the strength of the 23rd to five hundred and seventy four, all ranks. On December 5th the regiment escorted the remains of the late Mayor Havemeyer of New York from the Hamilton Avenue ferry to Greenwood, and on the evening of December 12th, the opening regimental band concert of the fourth series was given at the armory. Changes in the Field and Staff for the year 1874 were as follows: Regimental Adjutant Charles H. Hunter resigned March 18th, the post being filled by First Lieu't John B. Frothingham appointed April 6th. Captain and Commissary Edward N. Norton retired December 31st, that important post remaining vacant for the time being.

At a meeting of the Veteran Association held January 14th, 1875, the committee on "Regimental History" reported progress; considerable publicity seems to have been given the subject. Quoting from the "Brooklyn Eagle" we learn that "A committee is busily engaged in collecting facts and documents bearing on the history of the Twenty Third Regiment, the publication of which is eagerly looked for". Such a

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history was never written, although here and there scattered through the archives of the regiment are to be found rough memoranda intended no doubt for that mythical individual selected by the Veteran Association as "one eminently qualified to prepare a history of the regiment".

A review tendered General Meserole, brigade commander, terminated the armory drill season; this was followed by another review in honor of the newly appointed division commander Major General Thomas S. Dakin, successor to General Woodward, resigned February 19th, 1875. The *inauguration* inauguration of an annual event called the "Creedmoor Reception" given in the armory on the evening of May 19th, featured the regimental rifle team of the preceding year and included an indoor match between the members of the team; a handsome gold medal awarded the winner of the match went to Private C.W. Dibble of Company "A", whose aggregate was eighteen out of a possible twenty. Immediately following the shoot-off, a spirited battalion drill in double time preceded a review of the regiment by Major General Franklin Townsend, Adjutant General of the State of New York; the presentation of shooting prizes and trophies concluded the interesting ceremonies; the armory, now given over to dancing, assumed the appearance of a grand ball room.

One would naturally suppose that the close of the armory drill season would end further activities; but the recorded events of the early summer proves the fallacy of the supposition. A field day on the parade ground at Prospect Park held June 10th, in which the entire brigade participated, was followed by the seventh "Kellogg Badge" contest at Creedmoor on the 25th of the same month; this match, as has been said, was open to none but members of Company "A", and was won by Lieu't G.H. Earle with a high aggregate of 32 out of a possible 40. By order of May 26th, 1875, all officers and men of the National Guard of the state were authorized to wear on the left forearm above the cuff, a badge of crossed rifles surmounted by the word "MARKSMAN" worked in gold; this constituted

the first state decoration for marksmanship. The eighth "Kellogg Badge" match shot at Creedmoor July 27th, was for the second time won by Lieu't Earle with an aggregate of 38 out of a possible 40; the ninth match of August 24th, won for third time by Corporal James M. Allen, brought to a close the interesting and hard fought contest for possession of the coveted decoration which finally went to Corporal Allen, to have and to hold forever. In the meantime a hand picked regimental team awaited the opening matches; it was in 1875 at the spring meet of the National Rifle Association, that targets with round bulls-eyes were first introduced; these were designated "round targets" and superceded the square bulls-eyes.

On September 30th of that year, the 23rd regiment won for the third consecutive time, the 2nd division match with an aggregate of 414 out of a possible 600; as the shooting progressed, excitement among the contesting Brooklyn teams became intense;-- especially toward the end of the match when it became apparent that the 23rd and the 47th regimental teams were shooting "neck to neck", at 200 yards, both teams were equal, each having to its credit 214 points; at one time the 47th was a few points in the lead; but they fell off toward the close, while the 23rd improved. The first accident in the history of the Creedmoor range occurred during this contest, when Sergeant Schon of the 23rd, while firing on the 500 yard range narrowly escaped serious injury, the barrel of his Remington bursting at the lower band.

On the same day Sergeant W.S. Oliver of the 23rd regiment won the "Laflin and Rand" match with an aggregate score of 86 out of a possible 100, with Sergeant French of the 7th, a close second; the individual scores of the contestants follow.

Name and Reg't:	200 Yards:	Total:	500 Yards:	Total:	Aggt:
Sg't Oliver 23rd	3544445444	41	5555534445	45	86
Sg't French 7th	4545334433	38	5545554355	46	84
Cap't Clark 79th	4435444444	40	5445345525	42	82

In the State match, with eighteen teams of twelve men each contesting, the 7th regiment emerged victorious with an aggregate of 451, the 23rd regiment being a close second with an aggregate of 446 out of a possible 600. The Inter-State match competed for by teams of twelve from Connecticut and New York, was won by the State of New York. Adjutant Frothingham and Private Cowperthwait represented, the 23rd on the winning team; the respective scores follow:-

	200 yards:	400 yards:	Total:
N.G.S.N.Y.team:	445	418	863
Conn.N.G.team:	375	308	683
Points in favor of the N.Y.team:	70	110	180

In competing for the "Army and Navy Journal" trophy, the 23rd came off a close second with a score of 304, the 2nd Connecticut winning with an aggregate of 306, thus beating the 23rd by the narrow margin of 2 points. In the year 1875, the 23rd regiment qualified thirty one marksmen; the regiment now held the shooting laurels in the 2nd division.

On September 8th, Colonel Ward called a mass meeting of the regiment to consider ways and means of defraying expenses incidental to the proposed visit of the 23rd to the Centennial Exposition to be held at Philadelphia the following year. Equally important to the success of the anticipated visit to the city of Brotherly Love, was the matter of recruiting the regiment which would represent Brooklyn. As the Colonel arose to address the meeting, a tremendous volley of applause greeted him; his opening words were, "My motto is DEEDS, not WORDS". Then followed the blunt announcement, "The 23rd is going to Philadelphia in 1876 with ONE THOUSAND MEN!" A profound silence followed; suddenly from somewhere in the mass, a single voice rang out "WE WILL!" This burst of enthusiasm so electrified the audience, that several minutes elapsed before the roars of supporting approval by the regiment were hushed; the

Colonel had issued the challenge; the regiment had accepted it. The narration of this incident answers we believe, a question often asked concerning the origin and significance of the simple yet forceful slogan, "WE WILL" which even to this day is used by the regiment.

Governor Tilden ^e reviewed the 2nd division at the Prospect Park Parade Ground on October 12th and the 23rd regiment stood annual inspection and muster on the 26th of the same month with a total strength of six hundred and twenty four, a gain of fifty one over the preceding year. At a meeting of the Veteran Association held October 14th, 1875, the adoption of a distinctive uniform for that body was considered; this would consist of a blue double breasted coat after the pattern worn by staff officers, with pantaloons to match; gold epaulets and belt, staff officers sword, rapier pattern, with gold mounted hilt and silver scabbard, and plumbed chapeau after the French style. The absurdity of such a get-up, designed no doubt to pamper the vanity of the wearer, seems to us as meaningless as a high hat on an American Indian; the measure was ignominiously defeated.

Numerous changes in the Field and Staff occurred during the year 1875. Major John N. Partridge resigned from the service March 16th; returning to the 23rd regiment on May 10th of the same year, he was re-commissioned a 1st Lieutenant and appointed Commissary, and on June 14th was again promoted a Major. Charles E. Bridge was on August 16th, appointed Commissary with rank of 1st Lieutenant. Wingfield G. Burton, commissioned ~~a~~ Captain August 16th, was appointed Inspector of Rifle Practice, and on September 23rd, Quartermaster Robert C. Ogden resigned; he was succeeded by John C. Budd commissioned 1st Lieutenant and Quartermaster as of the same date. Company "I" had in the meantime been disbanded for no other reason than its deficiency and feebleness resulting from what may be termed "dry rot"; once again the regiment was reduced to the status of an eight company organization.

The fifth series of regimental band concerts opened at the armory on the evening of December 11th, with a well chosen program, Signor Conterno conducting; both musically and socially, these concerts proved even more brilliant and enjoyable than the many previously given. A regimental New Years Eve party grotesquely unique and cleverly executed, brought to a close a year memorable in the career of the 23rd regiment.

The year 1876, opened with routine drill schedules and a determination to better if possible, the already remarkable shooting record of the regiment; to this end, the management of the Ward Rifle Club announced the following prizes to be awarded its members making the required scores.

First Class:

Open to all members who, previous to the match shall have made at least 90% of a possible total from five or more shots with the Remington rifle.

Second Class:

Open to those members making between 70% and 90% under the above conditions.

Third Class:

Open to all other members.

Brigadier General Ira L. Beebe succeeded General Meserole as commander of the 11th Brigade on March 16th, of that year, and on May 3rd, the newly appointed Brigadier reviewed the regiment; this occasion marked also the date of the second annual Creedmoor reception, when Private D. C. Pinney of Company "D" won the armory competition shot for by the regimental rifle team of the preceding year. Still another review tendered Brigadier General William G. Ward of the 1st brigade and held in the armory May 24th, was followed by the famous Centennial Reception and concert described as a superb military display and a brilliant social event. The resignation of Lieut. Colonel Farnham

on June 16th, resulted in the promotion of Major John N. Partridge commissioned Lieutenant Colonel, June 26th. In a match between the U. S. Engineer Corps of Willets Point and the 23rd regiment, the former lost by 44 points; this was at Creedmoor, May 31st, 1876.

A month later, on June 30th, the 23rd regiment left Brooklyn to participate in the Centennial ceremonies at Philadelphia, passing in review before Mayor Frederick A. Schroeder and the Common Council of the City of Brooklyn on its march to the ferry. Arriving at Philadelphia, the regiment proceeded to Fairmount Park where camp was pitched, appropriately named after the former division commander, "Camp Woodward," ideally located, proved a source of great attraction to visiting thousands. On this historic occasion, the State of New York was represented by the 7th of New York and the 23rd of Brooklyn: speaking for the 23rd, it may truthfully be said that it won for itself golden opinions. The remarkable discipline and fine soldierly bearing of the men and especially the attention to all points of military ceremony and etiquette in which the regiment was scrupulously drilled, were admirably observed; also, the 23rd paraded more men than any organization present, its formation being thirty two files front. Returning to Brooklyn July 6th, further activity was reserved for the coming fall.

Annual inspection and muster for the year 1876, called for the highest praise from the inspecting officers; we quote from the official report of General Woodward, Inspector General of the state.

x x x "In the inspection which followed, dress, arms and equipment were found in the best possible condition; in a word, I consider this regiment so completely organized, efficiently officered and so fully equipped as to be ready at all times to discharge any duties required of it. The regimental books are perfect in their keeping and comprehensiveness; the descriptive book is a marvel of convenience and completeness of detail. The books and papers of the several companies were in

fine order and correct in every particular; the attendance is excellent and the muster will show it to have a smaller percentage of absentees, no doubt, than any regiment in the state. x x x The muster rolls of that year show a total membership of six hundred and forty four; a gain of twenty over the year 1875. The 2nd division passed in review before the Commander-in-Chief at Prospect Park, October 2nd, and on the 28th, of the month following, the regiment was reviewed by Mayor Schroeder.

The record achieved by the 23rd on the Creedmoor range for that year, is prefixed by remarks concerning a shooting decoration known as the "Nevada Badge"; this gold medal, presented by the National Guard of Virginia City, Nevada, to that company of the National Guard of the State of New York annually making the highest average at 200 and 500 yards, was competed for by teams of the 47th, 7th, 23rd and 71st regiments: in this competition the 23rd took third place with an aggregate of but 956 points as against 1169 rolled up by the 47th regiment.

This brings us to the fall matches. For the fourth consecutive time, the 23rd regiment captured the 2nd division match; the "Gatling Match" and the "Army and Navy Match" were also won by the 23rd, but in competing for the State Match, the 14th regiment scored a total of 346, thus winning from the 23rd by one point! The regiment qualified a total of sixty six marksmen for the year; a gain of thirty six over the preceding year.

On December 9th, 1876, the 23rd regiment performed a grim duty in escorting the remains of unidentified victims of the Brooklyn Theatre catastrophe to Greenwood Cemetery; the horror of the disaster is too well known to warrant further comment. To the changes of status within the Field and Staff for the year already cited, may be added the resignation on May 18th, of Captain and Assistant Surgeon Fuller Walker and the appointment to that rank of N. Gerhard Hutchinson as of the same date. Captain Edward L. Partridge also of the

Medical Department commissioned June 12th, and discharged July 10th, after serving but twenty nine days, and the return to the regiment of Alfred Cutler Barnes, Commissioned a Major, October 23rd, 1876.

The eventful year of 1877, opened with the resignation of Chaplain Norman Seaver and the appointment of the Rev. Joseph T. Duryea D. D., with rank of Captain, both changes occurring as of April 16th. Through the untimely death of Captain and Ass't Surgeon Hutchinson on April 10th, Captain Edward A. Lewis succeeded to that post; a full military funeral accorded the late Captain closed the unpleasant chapter; on this occasion Company "F" acted as escort. A Full and Honorable discharge dated April 26th, went to Drum Major W. W. Beavan, who was replaced by Sidney S. Dayton, appointed and warranted May 1st.

In the spring of that year a splendid innovation designed to benefit the families of deceased members of the regiment, was propounded by the Council of Officers; under this plan of insurance, a beneficiary would receive in cash, as many dollars as there were members, each member being assessed ~~one dollar and ten cents~~ upon the demise of a member. The "Mutual Benefit Association of the Twenty Third Regiment" as it was called, received at once the unanimous approval of both active and veteran members of the regiment.

The third annual Creedmoor Reception held in the armory in May, attracted the usual representative audience which on this occasion witnessed the shoot-off of 1876 regimental team; an improvised range laid out on the drill floor, offering an excellent view of the proceedings. Private F. H. Holton of Company "G" scoring the greatest number of qualifying hits, received not only the plaudits of the spectators, but the gold medal as well; following the competition, the regiment passed in review before Mayor Schroeder.

The formation of a regimental Cadet Corps in 1877, always popular with lads still too young to join the Guard, attained marked proficiency under the personal guidance of Major Barnes, assist-

ed by experienced drill masters from the ranks of the 23rd; the uniform of the Corps was **grey** with white cross-belts; it was armed with the Cadet Model, **Remington** rifle. The term of "enlistment" was one year; during the first year of its existance, the Cadet Corps shot a creditable competitive match on the Creedmoor range and within two years, its membership had increased to one hundred and fifty. Of the contribution made by this **group** of youngsters in the organization of a new company within the regiment, further remark will be made.

The 23rd paraded in New York on May 19th, as guests of Colonel Josiah Porter's 22nd Regiment, the brigade passing in review before Colonel Ward, commanding the 1st Brigade; this review was held at Union Square, the present day rendezvous of communistic groups whose impudent though harmless defiance of American institutions is a blot on the escutcheon of our city, state and nation. A Field Day held in Brooklyn, May 30th, in which all troops of the 2nd division participated, terminated in a review of the division by His Excellency, Governor Tilden. The 23rd regiment had in the meantime been reviewed by Inspector General Woodward on the 21st, of the same month. It will be observed that within a period of eleven days, the regiment stood no less than three formations for purposes other than drill.

During the summer of 1877, serious labor troubles swept through the United States! Along the lines of the Erie Railroad operating within the State of New York, the vicious element indulging in acts of violence and quite out of control, openly defied the constituted authorities. Realizing the dangerous situation, Governor Tilden called upon the National Guard for duty in aid of the civil authorities; co-incident with the mobilization of the 2nd division, Colonel Ward, early on the morning of July 22nd, received orders to proceed with his regiment to Hornellsville in support of the 74th regiment, the 110th battalion and a section of artillery of the 20th brigade already on duty at that point.

Fearing a repetition of conditions growing out of the Draft Riots of 1863, still fresh in the minds of the authorities, and being warned of impending disorder, the balance of the 2nd division performed guard duty at strategic points within the county of Kings.

The 23rd regiment marched on the evening of the 22nd, and entraining at Jersey City, had arrived at Susquehanna early on the morning following; here the regiment was met by a mob indulging in nothing worse than a noisy demonstration; but at Waverly, midway between Owego and Elmira, it was found necessary to employ the bayonet in protecting construction gangs engaged in repairing broken rails and spiked switches. Arriving at Addison, the regiment was ordered to abandon its day coaches and load itself into box cars; in the meantime, a mob surrounding the "trooper," had succeeded in disabling the locomotive and uncoupling cars; the engine crew, forced to desert their posts, created a situation easily imagined! These overt acts of violence might well have been met with volleys; yet Colonel Ward, acting with coolness and tact, withheld the order to fire. Guards were at once thrown around the locomotive with sharpshooters on pilot, running boards and cab; the engine was re-linked, cars were coupled and an emergency engine crew forced into the cab at the point of a bayonet.

By now the entire regiment had detrained and flanking the cars on either side, the whole mass moved forward, the troops keeping abreast of the train. In the meantime another mob had collected and preceding the train, had removed rails and spiked switches, thus causing frequent stops. Captain Williams of Company "G" was now ordered to charge; with pieces loaded and bayonets fixed, the order was executed with thoroughness and dispatch, But still there remained scattered groups to harass the troops; forming line, the order was given to "AIM!" At this, the rioters scrambled to cover and the train proceeded without further molestation.

Arriving at Corning, another attempt to rush the train was easily repulsed with bayonets; but not until the last car had been boarded and a brakeman dragged off. At Painted Post the engine was derailed and more rails removed! Again the regiment detrained, holding the ever increasing mob at bay while repairs were made. It was not until the afternoon of the 23rd that the regiment made its objective. A detachment of the regiment comprised of those of its members who for good and sufficient reasons were unable to march with the main body, left Brooklyn on the evening of July 23rd, under Major Barnes: this detachment finally arrived at Hornellsville during the night of the 24th, after an exciting journey. Serious riots had now broken out in Buffalo along the lines of the New York Central, the Lake Shore and the Michigan Southern systems. Urgent appeals for the return of the 74th regiment were unheeded by the military authorities, every available man being required to cope with the desperate situation at Hornellsville; indeed, a call for re-inforcements had been made from that city! But numerous contingents of troops proceeding to Buffalo were arriving hourly and by this re-inforcement the Buffalo sector remained well in hand.

A tentative agreement between employers and employees ratified July 26th, relieved the situation to such an extent, that a gradual withdrawal of troops commenced that day. The accompanying order shows clearly the esteem in which the 23rd regiment was held by the General Commanding:

HEADQUARTERS, SEVENTH DIVISION
N.G.S.N.Y.

Special Orders: Hornellsville, N.Y.
No. 28 July 26th, 1877.

1: The Twenty third Regiment is hereby relieved from further duty at this post. Transportation will be furnished to New York upon application to these Headquarters.

2: The Major General Commanding takes this opportunity of conveying to Colonel Ward Commanding and through him to his officers and each member of his command, his best wishes and thanks for the able sup-

port he has received during this campaign.

Their promptness, courteous and soldierly bearing has impressed him with the belief that the National Guard does not possess a better regiment, and he believes that their exhibitions of drill and discipline can but be the means of raising this arm of the service to a much higher grade of efficiency in the military organizations in Western New York.

By Command of
Henry Brinker,
Major Gen'l Commd'g.
Lieu't H.B. Berry, H.H. Smith, A.A.A.G.
Aide-de-Camp.

Its services no longer required, the 23rd returned to Brooklyn, reaching its home station late during the night of the 27th. In recognition of this service, the regiment received authorization to place upon the lance of its regimental color, a silver band inscribed "HORNELLSVILLE, JULY 22nd, 1877." In his report, Major R. L. Howard commanding the 8th division of the National Guard says:

x x x "I am informed by residents of Hornellsville that the rioters said the arrival of the Seventy fourth Regiment on Sunday evening broke their hearts; but when the Twenty third came in on Monday, the back bone of any riotous or incendiary demonstration was broken." x x x

The muster rolls of the regiment as of October 20th, show a strength of six hundred and ninety three; an increase of forty nine over 1876. In markmanship for that year, the regiment did not so well; although the winner (for the fifth consecutive year) of the 2nd Division Match in which the 14th regiment lost by one point, the 23rd lost the State Match to the 14th by 13 points, scoring but 407 against the 14th's 420. Entering the "Nevada Badge" match, the regimental team was deprived of shooting because of foul weather. In the Inter-State match (in which the 23rd regiment was represented by Adjutant Frothingham) the New York team took third place; in this match in which Connecticut, New Jersey, California and New York were represented, California won by 24 points over Connecticut, 28 points over New York and

251 points over New Jersey, Connecticut beating New York by 4 points; there is no question that the placing a "bull" on the wrong target cost the New Yorkers second place. In this contest, California and New Jersey used the U. S. Springfield Cal. 45, Connecticut the Peabody Cal. 45, and New York the Remington Ca. 50. The summary of the match follows

Place:	State:	200 yards:	500 yards:	Aggregate:
1	California	499	496	995
2	Connecticut	505	466	971
3	New York	480	487	967
4	New Jersey	411	333	744

In the year 1877, the regiment qualified one hundred and twenty one marksmen; a gain of fifty five over the preceding year. A new medal for marksmanship adopted by the state in the year 1876, was first awarded those qualifying on the Creedmoor range during the season of 1877. The medal is of bronze, the obverse side showing the sun rising over the mountains of the Hudson; the reverse side bears the inscription "NATIONAL GUARD STATE OF NEW YORK." With each successive qualification a bar indicating the year and class of such qualification was suspended from the medallion; this constituted the second issue of marksmanship medals by the State of New York. A marked similarity between this medal design and the label affixed to tins of a widely advertised and popular brand of stove polish of that day, is responsible for dubbing the decoration the "RISING SUN STOVE POLISH MEDAL." Nothing of special interest aside from ordered formations and drills within the armory and the annual band concert given in December warrants comment; and so the year of 1877, passed in history.

Brigadier General Beebe commanding the 11th brigade reviewed the regiment in its armory on the evening of March 13th, 1878, and on April 27th, the 23rd regiment received the 22nd of New York, both commands proceeding to Fort Greene Park, there to be reviewed by the brigade commander; following the ceremony the visiting guests were entertained at the armory of the 23rd. The brigade participated in Field

Day exercises at Prospect Park on May 30th, now designated "Decoratio: Day"; the reviewing officer on this occasion being the Adjutant Gener- of the state, Major General Franklin Townsend, special stress laid on pearance and correctness of maneuver resulted in one of the prettiest exhibitions ever given by the 11th brigade.

Through the death of Major General Thomas S. Dakin, com- manding the 2nd division, N.G.S.N.Y., on May 13th, 1878, the National Guard suffered a great loss; by this occurance, the command fell to General James Jourdan, a worthy successor. It will be recalled that in assembling the regiment for active service at Hornellsville, the system of communicating orders proved unsatisfactory; valuable time lost in contracting members resulted in forwarding to the regiment hundreds of men in total ignorance of orders, failed to report in time to march with their companies. The promulgation of a circular calling attention to an order issued in 1868, revived a long forgot- ten custom; in substance, this order provided that a large red flag showing the numerals "23" in white, should be displayed on the armory staff on all occasions when a sudden call to arms precluded the issu- ing of written orders. All members of the regiment who by chance discovered the signal, were charged with the duty of spreading the news to fellow members and then reporting to the armory for orders; the flag officially known as the "Riot Flag" was flown for the last time in 1901, when the 23rd was ordered to Albany for riot duty.

First Lieut. and Quartermaster John C. Budd resigned July 19th, 1878, and was succeeded by John T. O'Hara, commissioned and appointed as of August 5th. Through the courtesy of Brevet Lieut. Colonel Broome, U. S. Marine Corps, the annual inspection and muster for that year, held at the Navy Yard, showed a total strength of six hundred and ninety five and a net gain of two men. The inspect- ion conducted by Inspector General Woodward developed the cheering

fact that the 23rd regiment stood first among the three representative organizations of the state. Referring to the General's report we find the following statement:

Table showing the three highest percentages of attendance at annual inspections for the year 1878.

<u>Place:</u>	<u>Organization:</u>	<u>Officers:</u>	<u>Other Ranks:</u>	<u>Percentage:</u>
First	23rd Regiment	100%	93.47%	96.75%
Second	7th Regiment	95%	88.%	91.5%
Third	22nd Regiment	93%	84.23%	88.4%

Under the caption "Organization of Regiments", the report says: "The Military Code prescribes the organization of a company of Infantry to be three commissioned officers, six sergeants, eight corporals, two musicians and from thirty to eighty four privates." From the (above) table it will be noticed that the only COMPLETELY organized company as provided by law, is Company "A", Twenty -third Regiment, commanded by Captain Joseph G. Story." x x x "In perfection of equipment, the relative standing of the three regiments would be: Twenty-third Regiment FIRST, Twenty -second Regiment second, Seventh Regiment third."

"From this analysis, it follows that the position to be accorded the three regiments named, basing the standing upon attendance at muster, organization and perfection of equipment, is":

Twenty-third Regiment: FIRST PLACE in all three:

Seventh Regiment: Second place in attendance
and organization; third place
in perfection of equipment:
SECOND PLACE.

Twenty-second Regiment: Third place in attendance
and organization; second
place in perfection of equipment:
THIRD PLACE.

Bandmaster Luciano Conterno resigned from the service October 7th, and on the same day Charles W. Wernig, a musician of rare talent, was appointed and warranted in that grade. For the first

swords, the occasion being the Creedmoor Reception Review held December 10th, 1878. A grand reception given at the Academy of Music on the evening of December 17th, brought to a close the social activities of the regiment for that year; it was then, that the now familiar name "OURS" was first applied to the 23rd. The advent of armory athletics dates from December 31st, 1878, when the first games were held in the Clermont Avenue armory; glancing through a program of fifteen events, we find two boxing bouts, a fat mans' race, climbing a greased pole and a scramble for a greased piglet! The impropriety of holding indoor games on New Years Eve naturally suggests itself; yet on this occasion, the armory was packed to capacity. As the years passed, regimental games became a feature and not a few indoor records were broken on the armory track of the 23rd regiment.

But we have still to examine the achievements of the regiment in marksmanship for the year 1878. The 23rd won for the sixth consecutive time the 2nd division match with an aggregate of 432, beating the 14th by 41 points, the 47th, by 82 points and the 32nd, by 122 points; in the State match the regiment took second place with a total of 433, losing to the 7th, by 5 points. The 23rd regiment not being represented on the New York State team, the score made by that team in the Inter-State match has no particular bearing on this history; suffice it to say that, the New York carried the match by 68 points. The regiment did not participate in the "Nevada Badge" match. Two hundred and twelve Marksmen qualified on the Creedmoor range, thus raising the rating of the regiment by eighty nine over the preceding year. In his report on small arms practice for 1878, Colonel George W. Wingate, General Inspector of Rifle Practice, designates the 23rd regiment as leading all other regiments in the state in rifle marksmanship.

During the spring of 1879, the regiment stood no less than four parade formations within the period of one week; the first

of these occurred May 24th, when the annual inspection and muster was held on the green at the Navy Yard. On this day the 23rd mustered a total of seven hundred and five all ranks, and earned for itself the exceptionally handsome percentage of 94.75; then followed a parade and review in New York. On May 26th, the regiment escorted the 13th of Brooklyn upon the latter's return from Montreal and on the 30th, of that month the 23rd participated in the Decoration Day parade.

The re-organization of Company "H" on June 23rd, 1879, again raised the status of the regiment to a nine company organization; material for the new unit selected from the regimental Cadet Corps forming the nucleus upon which the company was built. Captain W. J. Cowing was its first commanding officer. A noteworthy military excursion extending over the period of a week, added new laurels to the good name of the 23rd. Embarking on the evening of July 3rd, the S. S. "Old Colony" set sail for Newport, Rhode Island, arriving early on the morning of the 4th, of July. Upon sighting the vessel, the Newport Artillery saluted the visitors with cannon and standing by until the regiment came ashore, assisted in the ceremonies attending a reception by the Mayor and other dignitaries.

Escorted by the Newport Light Infantry and the Company of Artillery, the march was taken up for camp located on the bluffs overlooking the ocean; this beautiful spot named "Camp Robinson" in honor of Lucius E. Robinson, Governor of New York, was the center of brilliant activities throughout the week. On the day of its arrival the 23rd participated in a parade the like of which had never before been witnessed in Newport. Not only was the State of Rhode Island represented by its National Guard, but troops of the Regular Army and Navy arriving from Fort Adams and from vessels of war in those waters, added much to the display. A series of banners suspended at intervals along the line of march proved a feature of the parade; just a few of the legends appearing on the banners are here given as evidence of the spirit of friendship felt for the

23rd regiment:

"You have Rhode Island on your roll;
and from this moment let us vow an
eternal friendship"

"The little Island greets the long"

"The men and boys will cheer and shout,
The ladies, they will all turn out
To welcome you to our Island home"

"Emulate the Spirit of '76
Newport honors the Spirit of Liberty"

By invitation of the Commanding Officer of Fort Adams, regimental rifle teams were organized for a friendly match on the ranges of the fort; in this the 23rd regiment beat the regulars at every turn; but the officers and soldiers of the army accepting their defeat after the manner of true sportsmen, acknowledged the excellent shooting qualities of the regiment. And so the week passed in a succession of brilliant reviews and social functions, until July 10th, when the 23rd regiment returned to Brooklyn, thoroughly exhausted but happy.

August 25th, and September 5th, assigned the regiment for practice and record shooting on the Creedmoor range resulted in the qualifications indicated, for the year 1879.

SHARPSHOOTERS, 7: Scoring 35 points or over in 10 shots (5 each at 200 and 500 yards) without repetition: 50 highest possible.

MARKSMEN, 1st Cl, 39: Scoring 25 or over (but less than 35) in 10 shots (5 each at 200 and 500 yards) without repetition: 50 highest possible.

MARKSMEN, 2nd Cl, 35: Scoring 25 or over in 15 shots (5 for repetition at either 200 or 500 yards.)

MARKSMEN, 3rd Cl, 107: Scoring 25 or over in 20 shots (5 for repetition at BOTH 200 and 500 yards.)

In these qualifications, the 23rd carried off the honors in the 11th brigade by a very great margin. The Division Match shot at Creedmoor September 7th, resulted in the regimental team winning for the seventh consecutive time, the 2nd Division trophy; the totals scored by

competing organizations follow:

<u>Regiment:</u>	<u>200 Yards:</u>	<u>500 Yards:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
23rd	199	205	404
14th	208	170	378
47th	158	103	259
32nd	138	71	209

In competing for the State trophy, the 23rd took eighth place with an aggregate of 412 as against the winning score of 450 made by the 20th Separate Company of Binghamton; the regiment was not represented in the "Nevada Badge" match for that year. During the year 1879, the State decoration for Marksmanship was modified. To each officer and man making five consecutive annual qualifications, there was awarded a silver medal in the form of a Greek Cross bearing the Arms of the State: this suspended from a silver bar inscribed "VETERAN MARKSMAN" at once placed the wearer in a distinctive class.

Field maneuvers, referred to in those days as "sham battles" in which the 11th brigade participated, were held at Staten Island, October 4th, and on December 23rd, the activities of the year were brought to an appropriate close by a review tendered General Edward L. Molineux, now commanding the 11th brigade, on which occasion the presentation of shooting trophies and marksmens badges were made a feature of the evening. At a meeting of the Council of Officers held November 1st, it was voted to equip the band with a new and distinctive uniform; by what reasoning this vote was cast does not appear. On checking the matter, we find the band already uniformed in what appears both appropriate and strikingly handsome; a description of the uniform follows; Dark blue frock coat trimmed with gold and crimson; grey trousers with crimson stripe; black shako with scarlet plume; scarlet epaulets; white cross-belts and waist belt. In like manner, we find the Field Music uniformed in grey frock coat and trousers trimmed with scarlet; black shako with scarlet pompon; white worsted epaulets; white waist belt. Further remark concerning the proposed change will be made hereinafter.

Deeply regretted by all ranks of the regiment, was the retirement of Colonel Ward on December 26th, 1879; this followed his appointment as Collector of Internal Revenue. But his work as a soldier was not yet finished; on March 8th, 1882, he was recalled to the command of his old regiment. Colonel Ward was succeeded by Lieut. Colonel John N. Partridge, commissioned Colonel, January 10th, 1880. Captain Willis L. Ogden of Company "K" was on the same date commissioned Lieutenant Colonel. Captain Joseph G. Story brevetted a Major, September 11th, 1879 and promoted a Colonel, January 20th, 1880, was appointed Assistant Adjutant General and Inspector of Rifle Practice.

Adjutant John B. Frothingham received his Majority, January 10th, 1880, and was succeeded by 1st Lieut. Eugene W. Burd, appointed Adjutant, January 26th. 1st Lieut. and Quartermaster John T. O'Hara resigned July 9th, 1879, and 1st Lieut. William W. Rossiter was appointed to that post January 26th, 1880. On January 19th, of that year 1st Lieut. and Commissary Charles E. Bridge was promoted a Captain of Commissary on the Staff of the 11th Brigade; he was succeeded by 1st Lieut. George W. Street on February 2nd, 1880. Major Surgeon George K. Smith resigned January 29th, 1880; his successor was Captain Edwin A. Lewis, appointed Regimental Surgeon, January 29th, of the same year. Edward S. Bunker received his appointment as Assistant Surgeon, February 2nd, 1880. Chaplain Joseph T. Duryea resigned May 7th, 1879, and the Rev. William A. Leonard received his appointment as Chaplain as of the same date. Felix I. Eben succeeded Charles W. Wernig as Bandmaster, July 1st, 1880.

Turning to the year 1880, we are again confronted with the subject of distinctive dress uniform for officers and men of the 23rd regiment; voted on by the Council, March 8th, the motion was lost; we therefore omit describing the proposed bill of dress; but we are impressed with the contemplated variegation of plumage designed for officers

For Field Officers

Aigrette of white heron feathers.

For Staff Officers

Adjutant: Drooping plume of buff cock feathers topped with white.
Quartermaster: do do do do do do do light blue.
Commissary: do do do crimson cock feathers.
Surgeon: do do do buff cock feathers topped with green.
Inspt'r of Rifle
Practice: do do do do do topped with scarlet.

For Line Officers

Drooping plume of white cock feathers

Whoever was responsible for killing this monstrosity most certainly rendered a signal service in the interests of good taste. In the meantime, a series of band concerts was in progress in aid of the uniform fund. On the evening of January 24th, 1880, Colonel Ward as guest of the 23rd regiment, reviewed his late command and on this occasion there was paraded for the first time, a set of colors presented by the State of New York to the regiment in December of the year just ended. Following the review, the retiring Colonel was made the recipient of a handsome gold watch suitably engraved as an expression of the high esteem in which he was held by the regiment; in addition to this, Colonel Ward received two pictures, both gems of the engravers art.

The customary Decoration Day parade held May 31st, followed by the annual inspection and muster of June 7th, on which occasion the numerical strength of the regiment was eight hundred and five, ended the activities of the 23rd for the summer. On September 17th, the Regiment visited Boston, participating in the pageant incident to the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the settlement of that city, and on November 15th, the 23rd passed in review before General Emory Upton, U. S. A.

In marksmanship for the year 1880, the regimental team won for the eighth consecutive time, the 2nd division trophy. In the State Match, the regiment stood sixth, the 35th Battalion of Watertown winning

with an aggregate of 476. The total number of Sharpshooters qualified was eighteen; of this number the following scored 40 or better out of a possible 50:

Corporal F. A. Hand, Company "D"
do G. L. Fox, Company "A"
Lieut. W. L. Candee, Company "B"
Major J. B. Frothingham, F & S.
Lieut. Ezra De Forest, Company "C"
Lieut. F. L. Holmes, Company "I"

The regiment qualified a total of 97 Marksmen 1st Class. Two decorations for marksmanship were eliminated during the year 1880; one, the ancient bone of contention involving constant discussion leading to Courts of Inquiry, was the "Nevada Badge"; the other, the silver "Veteran Marksman" badge which had been adopted the previous year. Night battle exercises held at Fort Greene, December 16th, brought to a close the year 1880.
