

CHAPTER IV

Controversary over right to wear
the Sixth Corps badge.
Re-organization of the Guard.
The State Camp opened by the 23rd Regiment.
The new Bedford Avenue armory.
Brooklyn Strike riots.
War with Spain.

Drab indeed was the year 1881. For the first time in its history, the 23rd regiment failed to ~~compete in the 2nd Division Match~~ ~~shot~~ at Creedmoor; the regiment also failed to enter the State Match. But one bright spot in its marksmanship for that year, was the qualification of one hundred and fifty one marksmen. There were eight formations of importance during 1881: January 29th, review tendered General Barnes, General Inspector of Rifle Practice, S. N. Y., when shooting decorations were awarded for the previous year. March 26th, review tendered General Molineux, Commanding 11th Brigade. April 23rd, review tendered General Jourdan, Commanding the 2nd Division. May 15th, Church parade of the regiment and its veterans. May 17th, the 23rd escorting the First Corps of Cadets of Boston through New York, en route to Yorktown, Virginia, May 21st, Parade of the 22nd and 23rd regiments at Prospect Park for purposes of review by Major General Shaler, Commanding the 1st Division. May 30th, Decoration Day parade. September 21st, annual inspection and muster at Prospect Park.

The recently appointed Chaplain William A. Leonard, resigned his commission February 7th, 1881; he was succeeded by the Rev. Charles H. Hall D. D., commissioned February 9th. Lieut. Colonel Willis L. Ogden resigned March 19th, and Major John B. Frothingham received his promotion to that post April 11th. Captain Charles L. Fincke took hie Majority, May 2nd, 1881.

It was about this time that some unknown individual

of the genus Pediculous opened a controversy through the medium of the press, claiming that the 23rd regiment had no authority for presuming to wear the emblem of the 6th Army Corps (with which it had been associated in the Civil War) and demanding that official action be taken in the matter. To substantiate the claim of the regiment that it held that right, Colonel Partridge submitted the question to the Society of the Sixth Corps. After months of research, the Society returned its verdict against the 23rd regiment. Thoroughly aroused at so foul a decision, Colonel Partridge brought forward proof that his regiment was legally and morally entitled to its cherished claim. We quote from the Colonel's correspondence addressed to the Secretary of the Society of the Sixth Corps, under date of November 14th, 1881:

x x x "In this report it is claimed that the Twenty Third Regiment was not attached to the Sixth Corps, or even to the Army of the Potomac, that no proof exists that the 23rd Militia were at any time, or were they in any way, connected with the Sixth Army Corps; though the report admits that during the Gettysburg campaign the regiment was in a Division of troops commanded by General W.F. Smith." x x x

"In reply I beg to call attention to the admission in your committee's report of the fact that the Twenty Third was in a Division commanded by General W.F. Smith, and also to an extract from Special Orders No. 190, dated H.Q. Army of the Potomac, July 15th, 1863, and signed "By Command of Major General Meade; S. Williams, A.A.G." which is on record at the War Department, and reads as follows:-

x x x "The troops composing the command of Brigadier General W.F. Smith, are relieved from further service with the Army of the Potomac and will be reported to Major General Couch for instructions." x x x

"This seems to me to be pretty good proof that ~~the Twenty Third Regiment was attached to the Army of the Potomac.~~" x x x "As to the right of the members of the regiment to wear the insignia, I would pronounce that expression as simply an opinion which the Society of the Sixth Army Corps has undoubted right to entertain." x x x

"I agree with the statement that this is a useless controversy -- at least as far as the Commandant of this regiment is concerned. Special Orders No. 30, Series of 1880, from General Headquarters, S.N.Y., published in accordance with the provisions of the Military Code and Regulations of this State, prescribes the uniform of this regiment, including the Greek Cross on the breastplate, and as Commandant of the regiment, it is a part of my duty to see that the order is obeyed. x x x

(Signed) John N. Partridge,
Colonel.

As to the 23rd regiment's connection with the 6th Corps in the Gettysburg campaign of 1863, Colonel Partridge very properly asserts that it is a fact easily proved by many reputable citizens of Brooklyn, former members of the regiment, that the 23rd was on ordered duty with troops of that Corps, were constantly mingling with them, that its members at that time wore the 6th Corps badge conspicuously and that no protest against its being worn was then made. Further than this, the War Department, in the year 1921, approved the claim of the regiment, authorizing the Greek Cross of the 6th Corps to be blazoned on its regimental color. If the writer has discussed the subject at too great length, it is to impress upon the reader the fact that the regiment never has or never will lay claim to achievements to which it is not entitled. With this we close the uninteresting chapter of the year 1881

Insignia of the
Twenty Third Regiment
N.G.S.N.Y.
In which is embodied
the badge of the
Sixth Army Corps.

The re-organization of the National Guard, effective January 1st, 1882, proved another step forward in spite of the fact that through the re-organization, some three thousand officers and men were mustered out of service, leaving a residuum of approximately twelve thousand five hundred rank and file; by this change the Guard was con-

solidated into four divisions of eight Infantry brigades and seven batteries of light artillery -- attached, as listed.

First Division:

Major General Alexander Shaler.

Comprising the First and Second Brigades, 1st and 2nd Batteries:

First Brigade:

Brig. Gen. Wm. G. Ward.

9th Infantry
11th Infantry
12th Infantry
22nd Infantry

Second Brigade:

Brig. Gen. J. M. Varian.

7th Infantry
8th Infantry
69th Infantry
71st Infantry

Second Division:

Major General James Jourdan.

Comprising the Third and Fourth Brigades and 3rd Battery:

Third Brigade:

Brig. Gen. C. T. Christensen.

13th Infantry
14th Infantry
17th Separate Company, Inf.

Fourth Brigade:

Brig. Gen. Wm. H. Brownell.

23rd Infantry
32nd Infantry
47th Infantry

Third Division:

Major General Joseph B. Garr.

Comprising Fifth and Sixth Brigades and 4th Battery:

Fifth Brigade:

Brig. Gen. T. Ellery Lord.

10th Battalion, Inf.
4th Separate Company, Inf.
5th do do
6th do do
7th do do
10th do do
11th do do
12th do do
14th do do
15th do do
16th do do
19th do do
21st do do
23rd do do

Sixth Brigade:

Brig. Gen. S. Dering.

3rd Separate Company, Inf.
9th do do
18th do do
22nd do do
24th do do
27th do do
28th do do
31st do do
33rd do do
35th do do
36th do do
37th do do

Fourth Division:

Major General William F. Rogers.

Comprising the Seventh and Eighth Brigades, 5th, 6th & 7th Batteries:

<u>Seventh Brigade:</u>	<u>Eighth Brigade:</u>
<u>Brig. Gen. D. H. Bruce:</u>	<u>Brig. Gen. John C. Graves:</u>
1st Separate Company, Inf.	65th Infantry
2nd do do	74th Infantry
20th do do	8th Separate Company, Inf.
25th do do	13th do do
29th do do	26th do do
30th do do	
32nd do do	
34th do do	
38th do do	
39th do do	
40th do do	
41st do do	
42nd do do	

Thus the 23rd regiment became a unit of the 4th Brigade, 2nd Division; the change marked the opening of a year filled with interesting happenings in the life of the regiment. Through his appointment as Fire Commissioner of the City of Brooklyn, Colonel Partridge felt obliged to sever his military connections; accordingly, he resigned February 15th, 1882. At a fairwell review held February 25th, the regiment was commanded by Lieut. Colonel Frothingham. As in the case of Colonel Ward, Colonel Partridge was destined to again command the 23rd as will be shown. Colonel Rodney C. Ward had in the meantime, been recalled with date of rank from March 8th, of that year.

An evening of ceremonial display followed by dancing marked a review tendered Brigadier General William H. Brownell, the newly appointed commander of the 4th brigade on March 11th, the occasion celebrating the reappearance of Colonel Ward at the head of his regiment; press notices commenting on the performance, agree that never has the 23rd shown to better advantage in appearance, steadiness and marching. In fancy we picture the march-past as the cadenced tramp of feet --

(151) "Kept time - time - time,
In a sort of rhythmic rhyme"

to the music of "The Grenadiers." This brilliant affair was followed by another of equal pomp On April 1st, when the regiment was reviewed by Major General James Jourdan, commanding the 2nd division; a promenade concert and the presentation of a dress sword to Colonel Ward by the Veteran Association preceded the review.

By direction of the Adjutant General, a board of Officer convened for the purpose of submitting a model "service uniform" for the National Guard of the State of New York; the board reported its findings and recommendations February 21st, 1882, and the adoption of such a uniform patterned after the recommendations of the board followed. A description of this bill of dress would indicate "full dress" rather than "service" as we understand the term; yet it was designated a service uniform nevertheless. (S. O. No. 185, A. G. O. Nov. 23rd, 1881: Report of board named under that order - Page 208, A. G. O. Report for the year 1882):

COAT: A dark blue double breasted frock; stock collar, shoulder tabs, slashes on sleeves and plaits in skirts of light blue.

HEAD DRESS: A black spiked helmet; chin-strap, buttons and helmet plate of brass; regimental designation superimposed in silver numerals.

TROUSERS: Light blue with dark blue stripes.

For purposes of fatigue duty, a cap with falling top and crescent shaped falling visor, commonly known as the "McClellan" cap, replaced the helmet; the writer recalls but one organization of the Guard who as late as 1894, retained the McClellan cap; this was the old 5th Battery of Syracuse.

The year 1882, marks the inauguration of the State Camp of Instruction at Peekskill, New York, and to the 23rd regiment belongs the distinction of officially opening the reservation. But before relating the details of its first tour of camp duty, let us note a few interesting facts concerning the camp site. The area originally com-

on a bluff overlooking the Hudson and what was then called "Peeks Creek": the site was secured to the State by a lease for one year from May 1st, 1882, at \$1,000.00 with the privilege of two more years at the same annual rental, and of the purchase of the land for \$13,000.00 at any time within the term of the lease. The ground, intersected by stone walls and covered to some extent with standing timber, required much clearing; under the able direction of state engineers the task was accomplished and in addition, a pump was installed for the camp water supply; a farm house known to older members of the National Guard as the "White House" stood directly on the south bluff over-looking the river. This old house served for many years as Headquarters and faced what was known as "Luxury Row," -- an area reserved for the military "Brass Hats" of the state who by virtue of their rank were permitted to while away the hours, days, weeks and months of each camp season, smugly basking in the light of their own importance.

But all this is changed. Gone is the White House and Luxury Row with its bevy of military drones. On the north bluff there now stands a modern structure which may properly be termed the "pulse" of the camp; this is Headquarters where efficiency is the keynote of all that transpires on the plain below; here too, constructive criticism has replaced the destructive criticism of the old days of which we speak. But to return to the year 1882: The installation of a rifle range, the construction of a substantial roadway leading from the lower highway to the camp and the piping of sweet water from a mountain stream to a pump house, completed the requirements for the reception of the 23rd regiment.

On the afternoon of July 1st, the regiment, six hundred and sixty seven strong, marched from the Clermont Avenue armory to Jewell's wharf and boarding the S. S. "Columbia", set sail for Peekskill. Then came the dusty march from Roa Hook and the heartbreaking

home stretch up and ever up until the plain was reached; here stood a tented city sparkling against the setting sun! Across the Hudson, Dunderburg Mountain (the reputed resting place of Rip Van Winkle) reflected green, gold and purple shades while to the west and north and east, a panorama of unsurpassed beauty and grandeur met the eye and soon were forgotten aching backs and chafing straps of the military harness as the regiment stood entranced at this truly glorious manifestation of the handiwork of the Great Creator. With the concluding notes of ceremony attending the official opening of the reservation, the 23rd proceeded to set up "housekeeping"; and as night settled over the camp the silver notes of the bugle echoed far and wide:

"Fades the light;
And afar
Goeth day,
Cometh night;
And a star
Leadeth all
To their rest."

We find but one discordant note to mar the otherwise happy experience of camp life; a large tent capable of accommodating the entire regiment, served the purpose of a mess hall. Its arrangement were perfect; long wooden tables, stools, crockery and tableware gave it the appearance of a huge restaurant; the tent was lighted by oil lamp chandeliers. Early on the morning of July 2nd, a very great wind descended upon the camp from the north west. At mess call, the companies fell in and were "played" to the mess tent - - a custom followed for many years; hardly had the men taken their seats, when with a roar of wind the center pole snapped, whereupon, that section of the tent collapsed! In quick succession the remaining poles split and down came the tent enveloping the regiment as it were, in the meshes of a huge bag from which there seemed no escape! Pandemonium reigned as dishes, stools, steaks and coffee sailed through the air inflicting more or less physical damage on the unfortunates enmeshed under the

billowing canvas!

To the company grouch, to his crony, the habitual kicker and to all those of the military profession who imagine themselves overworked during the present day period of field training, the appended schedule, copied from the Adjutant General's Report for the year 1882, and published especially for their benefit, may it is hoped, dispel such distorted notions; this then, is the schedule of duty followed by the 23rd regiment while at the Peekskill camp of instruction:

Drummers Call	4.30 A.M.
Reveille	5.00 A.M.
Coffee and bread served in company streets:	
Sick Call	5.15 A.M.
Drill call	5.30 A.M.
Recall	7.30 A.M.
Breakfast	8.00 A.M.
Guard Mount	8.30 A.M.
Drill Call	9.30 A.M.
Recall	11.45 A.M.
Dinner	12.00 M.
Target Practice	1.00 P.M.
Drill Call	3.00 P.M.
Recall	5.45 P.M.
Supper	6.00 P.M.
Dress Parade	7.00 P.M.
Retreat	7.30 P.M.
Tattoo	9.30 P.M.
Taps	10.30 P.M.

Following appropriate ceremonies commemorating Independence Day, concluded with the National salute fired by a detail of artillery at high noon, the regiment stood annual inspection and muster in the field. Relieved by the 12th regiment on July 8th, the 23rd returned to its home station, healthy, happy and greatly enthused over its first state encampment.

There were but two changes within the Field and Staff for that year. 1st Lieut. and Quartermaster William W. Rossiter resigned August 23rd, and Lieut. A. A. Thompson was commissioned in that rank, September 18th. In marksmanship for the year 1882, the regiment failed in competing for the State and Division trophies, the 7th

of New York winning the former and the 14th of Brooklyn, the latter. The question of new uniforms again confronts us: At a mass meeting of the regiment held December 16th, 1882, it was voted to adopt the new state service uniform already described. Accordingly, on the 10th, of January 1883, the 23rd regiment appeared for the last time in the traditional grey by which it had been indentified for so many years. It was at a review tendered Inspector General Philip H. Briggs that, the regiment appeared in the state service uniform; this was on January 27th, 1883. Self conscious, after the manner of a lad stepping into his first long trousers, the 23rd underwent the ordeal of favorable and harsh criticism for and against the change; contrasted against the handsome grey cross-belted full dress, the plain though dignified blue of the State gave the regiment a more solid appearance; on the other hand, the abolition of the grey uniform robbed the organization of that air of distinction which was its pride. In the ceremonies attending the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge, on May 24th, 1883, the 7th and the 23rd regiments performed escort and guard duty throughout the day, receiving the highest commendation for their services.

Through the courtesy of Colonel Charles Heywood, commanding the U. S. M. C., the annual inspection and muster of the regiment for the year 1883, was held on the Marine Parade of the Navy Yard; the 23rd numbered seven hundred and four officers and men at this muster. Commenting on the inspection, the Inspector General remarks: "The 23rd Regiment is one of the strongest, most efficient and reliable in the service." The regiment participated in the ceremonies incident to the Centennial celebration of the termination of the American Revolution at Newburgh on the Hudson, October 18th, of the same year, and on November 26th, a parade in New York commemorating the evacuation of that city by the British, was somewhat marred by a heavy rainfall; to the "old timers" of the 23rd, the occasion is referred to as "Saturation Day."

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A formal affair held in the armory on the evening of October 27th, preceded the opening of the regimental gymnasium and featured a unique gymnastic entertainment. This was followed by a review and inspection of the regiment by the division commander, General Christensen on November 22nd and a Christmas reception and ball held in the armory December 27th, brought to a close that busy year.

In marksmanship for the year 1883, the 23rd regiment again came into its own; the New York State Match was won with a score of 497, the 7th regiment being a close second with an aggregate of 496. The 2nd Division Match was won with a score of 477, the 14th regiment taking second place with a total of 451 points. There were but two changes in the Field and Staff for the year. 1st Lieu't and Commissary George W. Street resigned May 2nd; he was succeeded by Lieu't William H. Greenland, commissioned May 4th. Captain Walter N. Walker, Inspector of Rifle Practice, resigned October 10th.

The first duty other than armory drills, performed by the 23rd regiment in the year 1884 was a solemn one. On February 22nd the regiment participated in the funeral ceremonies in honor of the late Lieutenant Commander George DeLong, U.S.N., and his companions of the ill-fated "JEANETTE". This was followed by an item more cheering, with the muster-in of Company "I" on March 3rd of that year, the regiment boasted ten companies; the officers of this company were Captain William H. Langley, 1st Lieu't William J. Battey and 2nd Lieu't George W. Middleton Jr.

A reunion of the Society of the Army of the Potomac held in Brooklyn during June 1884, proved an event worthy of mention, in that the entire 2nd division paraded in honor of Meade's veterans, incidentally, there was no dissenting voice against the wearing of the 6th Corps badge by the 23rd regiment. At a review tendered Brigadier General Brownell Commanding the 4th Brigade, on the evening of May 14th, 1884, shooting decorations and trophies for the preceding year were present-

ed to the respective winners; among these were three decorations of great beauty and value donated by Lieutenant Richard Oliver of the 23rd regiment. viz:-

- 1: The Oliver Medal: Awarded annually to the company making the highest aggregate score in armory team matches.
- 2: The Oliver Aggregate Medal: Awarded annually to the individual making the highest score in team matches at Creedmoor.
- 3: The Oliver Diamond Badge: Awarded annually to the company recruiting the greatest number of men during the year.

Still another decoration greatly esteemed and eagerly fought for by members of the regiment, was the "Twenty Third Regiment Grand Gold Medal" awarded annually to the individual making the highest Marksmans score on the Creedmoor range. During the summer of 1884, two Provisional Regiments were designated to receive field training at the Peekskill camp of instruction; these regiments composed of Separate Companies were commanded respectively by Colonel Josiah Porter of the 22nd regiment and by Colonel Rodney C. Ward of the 23rd. Such consolidations made possible the bringing together of isolated units which by reason of their geographical locations throughout the state, seldom if ever engaged in battalion or regimental formations.

The regiment numbered seven hundred and thirty nine at the annual muster held October 14th. Adjutant Eugene W. Burd was on March 26th commissioned Captain of Company "E", 1st Lieut Henry D. Stanwood receiving his appointment as Regimental Adjutant, May 12th of the same year Commissary William H. Greenland was on May 12th, appointed Inspector of Rifle Practice with rank of Captain, and Lieut Richard Oliver received his appointment as Commissary of Subsistence as of that date.

In the matter of marksmanship, the regiment once more came into the fore. In this year the 2nd Division Match fell to the 23rd with an aggregate of 495 points, the 14th taking second place with 420. In like manner, the regiment won also the State Match with a high of 501, as against 496 rolled up by the 7th of New York. It was during the year

1884 that the Officers Association of the Twenty Third Regiment was formed with a charter membership of twenty seven. Colonel John N. Partidge served as first President of the association.

An interesting and instructive paper entitled "The Company" was read by its author, Colonel Ward before the National Guard Association in the Senate Chamber at Albany during the convention of that body on January 21st, 1885; the merit of the treatise may be judged by the fact that it was ordered published and distributed throughout the National Guard of the state with the compliments of the author and the Association. By vote of the Council of Officers, a committee appointed to submit a suitable design for a decoration signifying long and faithful service within the regiment, reported its findings on July 8th, 1885; the proposed decoration (adopted by the Council) is more fully described in an extract from that report:-

x x x " The design shall be in the form of a Greek Cross; to be of iron, with the figures 23 upon it, and with a scroll of bronze entwined bearing the inscription "FIDELIS et CONSTANTANS." The cross to be suspended by a double ribbon with two white and three blue stripes, from a pin of bronze bearing the motto "VIGILANTIA." The whole to be known as the "TWENTY THIRD REGIMENT IRON CROSS." x x x

x x x x x x x

Adopted: : Willard L. Candee, Captain,
Committee: : Arthur A. Thompson, 1st Lt & Q.M.
: Fred'k L. Holmes, 1st Lt & Adj't.
Brooklyn, July 8th, 1885.

Conditions governing the presentation ^{award}
of the Iron Cross.

" Those who have served or may hereafter serve ten years or more in the 23rd Regiment shall be entitled to the award of the Iron Cross as follows:-"

For 10 years service,	the Iron Cross	with bronze scroll.
For 15 years service,	do do	do silver scroll.
For 20 years service,	do do	do gold scroll.
For 25 years service,	do do	do gold scroll

with figures "23" set in diamonds.

"Ex-members of the regiment who have served their term of enlistment therein and who have served two or more years in the Army or Navy of the United States during the war, shall be entitled to the Iron Cross with bronze scroll."

"Active members of the Regiment who have not completed their term of service, but who have served two or more years in the Army or Navy of the United States during the war, shall, upon the completion of their term of service in the Regiment, be entitled to the Iron Cross with bronze scroll."

x x x x x

The death of General Ulysses S. Grant, Commanding the Armies of the United States occurred July 23rd, 1885, at Mt. McGregor, New York. Funeral ceremonies held in New York City, August 8th, were undoubtedly the most solemn and imposing ever witnessed in this country; a military procession in which was represented the Army, Navy and the National Guard accompanied the remains of the great soldier to their temporary resting place in Riverside Park on the banks of the Hudson; on this occasion, the 23rd regiment paraded as a unit of the 4th brigade, 2nd division, N.G.S.N.Y. National Guard.

The regiment performed its second tour of camp duty at Peekskill during the week of June 13th-20th, 1885, receiving from the Paymaster the neat sum of \$5,887.50 for services rendered; this munificent outlay of state funds was based on the then authorized rate of pay for any and all active military service within the State of New York:-

Privates and Musicians --	\$ 1.25	per diem.
All non-comm. officers --	\$ 1.50	do
Lieutenants, 1st & 2nd --	\$ 2.50	do
Captains -----	\$ 3.00	do
Field officers below the rank of Colonel -----	\$ 4.00	do
Colonels -----	\$ 5.00	do

The strength of the regiment during that year was somewhat less than usual; this for the logical reason that scrupulous care was constantly exercised in selecting material for its ranks. But while the muster returns for 1885 shows a membership of but six hundred and ninety, the 23rd stood first in attendance with a percentage of 91.88 -- the highest mark attained by any organization of the Guard.

We here turn to the subject of rifle marksmanship for that year. Lieu't John S. Shepherd rolled up a score of 47 out of a possible

50 at 200 and 500 yards -- 5 shots on each range; in achieving this remarkable record, he was one of fifteen sharpshooters scoring 42 or better. Four marksmen completed their eleventh qualification in that class. The regiment won the 2nd division trophy with an aggregate of 478; the 14th regiment scored second with 457. In the State Match the 23rd regiment won with a high of 487, the 14th claiming second place with 469, the 12th taking third place with 467 and the 7th, fourth place with 466.

In the Inter-State Match for that year, a team of thirteen representing the State of New York (of which six represented the 23rd regiment) beat the Pennsylvania team by 11 points, New York scoring 968 and Pennsylvania 957; but the New Yorkers were themselves beaten by the team of the Division of the Atlantic, U.S. Army, with a score of 997. In a competition to determine the Champion Marksman of the State of New York, the three contestants scored the following truly remarkable aggregates:-

Name:	200 Yards:	500 Yards:	Total:	
Ord. Sgt T. J. Dolan, 12th Regiment:	45	49	94	10 shots at each range; Total possi- ble, 100; Remington, Cal. 50
Pvt. J. F. Klein, 17th Sep. Co:	46	48	94	
Lieu't John S. Shep- herd, 23rd Regiment:	47	46	93	

Major Charles L. Fincke resigned February 18th, 1885 and Captain Alexander S. Bacon was commissioned a Major November 16th of that year. ~~Adjutant Stanwood resigned March 14th, 1885, Lieu't Frederick L. Holmes was on March 21st, appointed L. Holmes receiving his appointment as Adjutant March 21st; on June 3rd Regimental Adjutant, receiving his commission as Captain and assignment he was commissioned a Captain and assigned to Company "I", where upon Cap- tain Burd who had resigned October 16th of that year, was recalled Octobe- al Adjutant October 16th.~~

17th as Adjutant with rank of 1st Lieutenant. With the promotion of Col- onel Ward to the rank of Brigadier General on February 25th, 1886, and adier General on February 25th, 1886 and his assignment to the command his assignment to the 4th Brigade, Charles L. Fincke, recently resigned of the 4th Brigade, Charles L. Fincke who had resigned the year before.

Colonel Charles L. Fincke,
Commanding Twenty-third Regiment, NGSNY.

1886 -- 1887

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with rank of Major, was recalled and commissioned Colonel of the 23rd regiment, March 22nd. Lieu't Colonel John B. Frothingham resigned March 12th of that year and Major Alexander S. Bacon was promoted to fill the vacancy, March 22nd. Captain Charles E. Waters accepted his Majority as of April 19th. In the Medical Department, 1st Lieu't and Assistant Surgeon Edward S. Bunker resigned April 21st, 1886 and was replaced by William E. Spencer, commissioned April 26th. On April 21st of the same year, Chaplain Charles H. Hall tendered his resignation and George R. Van De Water, the eminent Brooklyn Divine received his commission as Chaplain, with rank of Captain, May 24th. Available records give no intimation of the cause of these wholesale resignations. Apropos to the subject of changes within the Field and Staff for that year, is the military record of Lieu't Colonel Bacon. Entering the United States Military Academy July 1st, 1872, Cadet Bacon, on the first anniversary of the event, stood second in a class of seventy four; at the close of his second year, he had attained second place in a class of sixty one; at the close of his third year at the academy, Bacon stood seventh in a class of fifty four, and in June 1876, he was graduated ⁿ Number four in a class of forty eight. While a Cadet, he held the appointments of Cadet Corporal, Sergeant and Cadet Captain. Upon graduation, he was commissioned in the Artillery, his service being divided between the Indian Territory and Fort Adams, R.I. Lieutenant Bacon resigned from the army in 1878.

During the year 1886, the regiment was reviewed by Brigadier General Charles F. Robbins, Inspector of Rifle Practice, S.N.Y., February 13th, and by Major General Josiah Porter, the Adjutant General, State of New York, on March 13th, when two hundred active and veteran members of the 23rd were decorated with the "Iron Cross", and General Ward received from his former regiment a complete set of horse equipment and uniforms appropriate to his new rank, together with a dress sword and belt; a new march entitled "The Iron Cross" composed for the occasion by the newly appointed Bandmaster Alfred D. Fochs and dedicated to the regiment, was

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received with tremendous applause. During the month of May 1886, the 23rd conducted a series of outdoor battalion drills; these formations were held in the Navy Yard, and on May 31st, the regiment received the signal honor of escorting His Excellency, Grover Cleveland, President of the United States, to the Presidential reviewing stand, the occasion being a review of troops participating in the Decoration Day parade, by the Chief Executive.

July 3rd marked the second excursion to Newport; passing the Brooklyn Club en route to the pier, Colonel Fincke, discerning the soldierly figure of General Molineux, (former Lieutenant Colonel of the 23rd Regiment) rendered him the honor of a marching salute. Arriving at Newport, the regiment pitched camp on the bluffs as before; this camp was named "Camp Wetmore" in honor of His Excellency George Peabody Wetmore, Governor of the State of Rhode Island. The return of the 23rd to Brooklyn on the 9th instant, brought to a close a week of ceremonies, entertainment and feasting.

The Guard experienced a shock during the summer of 1886, when on August 5th, it was once more re-organized; -- this time on a basis of Brigades. By this re-organization, all Division, Brigade and Staff officers of the National Guard as it existed prior to the promulgation of the order, were rendered "Supernumerary by disbandment" as provided for under the Military Code of the state; thus, General Rodney C. Ward, Commanding the 4th Brigade passed into oblivion in so far as his military career was concerned. Of the newly created brigades, our interest lies with the 1st and 2nd; the remaining two comprising up-state units having no bearing on this history.

First Brigade:

Brigadier Gen'l Louis Fitzgerald.

1st Battery, F.A.
2nd Battery, F.A.
7th Infantry
8th Battery
9th do

11th Infantry
12th do
22nd do
69th do
71st do

Second Brigade:

Brigadier Gen'l James McLeer.

3rd Battery-Gatling
13th Infantry
14th do
23rd do
32nd do
47th do
17th Separate Company, Inf.

Co-incident with this change, a report had been industriously circulated that the re-organization savored of politics, in that a Major General had been selected to command the New York Division -- if indeed, such was to be its designation; but in his report for that year, the Adjutant General says, "No such appointment has been contemplated, nor is it recommended by this Department." If we are to believe this blunt statement, we must accept the re-organization in the interests of efficiency. For the purpose of becoming better acquainted with the strength and efficiency of the newly organized 2nd brigade, Governor David B. Hill ordered a formation of this unit; accordingly, on October 7th, 1886, the brigade assembled on the Parade Ground at Prospect Park for inspection and review by His Excellency.

Again the question of full dress uniforms: At a mass meeting of the regiment held October 12th of that year, it was decided to abolish the "State service uniform", and adopt in its stead a grey full dress. Officers were however, to retain the State uniform and all ranks, both commissioned and enlisted, would retain the spiked helmet. The 23rd regiment appeared in the State service uniform for the last time at a review tendered Brigadier General Mc Leer on the evening of December 11th, 1886.

At its annual inspection and muster held October 25th, the regiment numbered six hundred and ninety five with a percentage of attend.

ance of 97.12. "This percentage", remarks the Inspector General, "far exceeds that of any other regiment for the year 1886." In marksmanship, the 23rd won the 2nd Brigade Match with an aggregate of 487; the 13th took second place with 437 and the 14th, third place with 418; but in the State Match the 23rd lost to the 7th by 5 points, high being 495. The regiment qualified twenty three sharpshooters and three hundred and seven marksmen as compared with eighteen of the former and two hundred and forty of the latter in the year preceding. The Figure of Merit within the regiment was won by Company "I" with a percentage of 80.87.

During the month of December 1886, a monthly regimental journal titled "OURS" made its initial appearance; this interesting magazine continued in circulation until the year 1889 when its publication ceased. It was in January 1886 that the Veteran Association presented to the regiment three handsome decorations known as "Veteran Recruiting Medals"; these were an annual award to the individual securing recruits as shown:-

Gold medal: For 7 recruits or over.
Silver medal: For 5 recruits.
Bronze medal: For 3 recruits.

We now enter upon the exceptionally busy and interesting year, 1887. Probably the greatest entertainment ever attempted by the 23rd regiment occurred on the evening of January 20th at the Academy of Music; the brilliant affair known as the "Silver Reception" proved a memorable social event in the history of the regiment in that it marked the twenty fifth anniversary of its existence. The Honorable David B. Hill, Governor of the State of New York and Commander-in-Chief of its military forces, reviewed the regiment in the armory, February 21st when for the first time the troops appeared in the new grey full dress uniform. Following this, the 23rd was on March 19th, reviewed by His Honor Daniel D. Whitney, Mayor of the City of Brooklyn; a feature of this review was the presentation of shooting trophies and recruiting

decorations for the year just passed. Still another event of note was held in the armory on May 7th, when Colonel William Everdell Jr., the first Colonel of the regiment, reviewed his old command, and the "Iron Cross" followed the ceremony. Colonel Fincke resigned from the service May 11th, 1887; it was not until October 17th, 1887 that Colonel Partridge was recalled to administer the affairs of the 23rd regiment; the command during the interim fell to Lieut. Colonel Bacon. This brilliant officer resigned October 25th of the same year.

With the coming of spring, the regiment participated in daylight skirmish drills on the Parade Ground and on July 16th, proceeded to the camp of instruction at Peekskill for a period of one week, thus completing its third tour of camp duty. Probably the greatest military event of the year, was the trip to Philadelphia; the occasion commemorating the Constitution Centennial celebration, inspired the regiment with a determination to excel in appearance and soldierly conduct as representatives of the Empire State; in the great parade of September 16th, the 23rd regiment received a tremendous ovation as it marched up Broad Street with solid fronts of thirty two files!

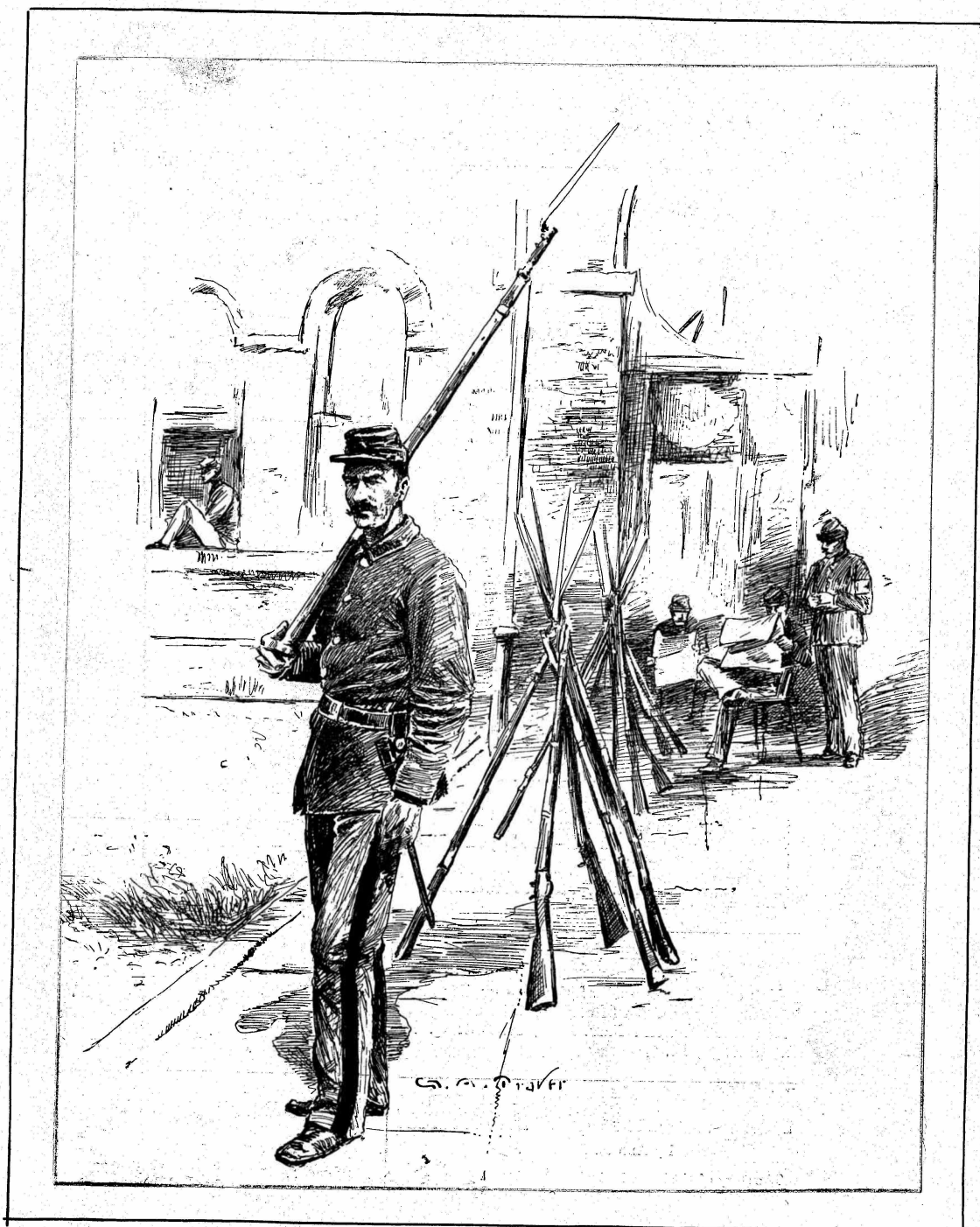
The annual muster held October 10th, of that year showed a total membership of six hundred and eighty six with a percentage of attendance of 97.37. In marksmanship for the year 1887, there were qualified four hundred and fifty six marksmen as against three hundred and seven in the preceding year; the regiment qualified forty one sharpshooters with scores of 42 or over, out of a possible 50. The 23rd Regiment won the State Match with an aggregate of 524; the 7th took second place with 500 points. The 23rd won also the 2nd Brigade Match with a total of 513, beating the 13th regiment by 12 points. As in the previous year, Company "I" attained the highest Figure of Merit in the 2nd brigade with a percentage of 88.38.

Captain Alexis C. Smith was promoted a Lieut. Colonel

December 5th, 1887. Major Surgeon Edwin A. Lewis resigned June 15th and was succeeded by Captain William E. Spencer, promoted a Major, M.D., November 28th. Henry L. Cochran was commissioned Assistant Surgeon with rank of Captain as of the same date. Captain William H. Greenland, I.R.P., resigned December 22nd. On January 3rd, 1888, Heywood C. Broun was commissioned a Captain and appointed Regimental I.R.P. First Lieu't Theodore W. Sillocks was appointed Regimental Adjutant January 25th, vice Burd retired as of the same date.

Compared with the activities of the year just passed, the regiment found but little diversion to break the monotony of routine drills. There was a review on January 21st by His Honor, Alfred C. Chapin Mayor of the City of Brooklyn; there was another dull review on February 25th, when Brigadier General McLeer presented shooting trophies. Still another meaningless review on May 2nd by Brigadier General Fitzgerald of the 1st Brigade. Then followed the Decoration Day parade, and after that, a review of the 1st and 2nd brigades by Governor Hill in New York, on October 19th, 1888. At the annual inspection and muster held November 16th the percentage of attendance was 98.05; total strength, seven hundred and seventy three. The first intimation of any thought of securing a new armory is found in the Inspector General's report for that year, in which he remarks:—"This excellent organization requires a more commodious drill hall and it would be creditable to the county to supply the need."

Under the provisions of G.O. No. 36, A.G.O., December 22nd, 1887, there was formed the "New York State Ambulance Corps", to be composed of enlisted men detailed from the several units of each regiment. It may be said of the 23rd regiment, that it was the first organization of the Guard to institute a course of instruction in this useful branch of the military service; on May 28th, 1888, the names of twenty five men of the regiment were published in orders as having satisfactorily passed the prescribed examination entitling them to wear the Red Cross brassard.



The State Fatigue Uniform,
Adopted 1888.

The regiment had by now received the state blouse; with this issue, the "fatigue" uniform of the 23rd consisted of a dark blue tunic, sky blue trousers with dark blue stripes, dark blue cap with straight visor and white leggings; add to this a leather knapsack with overcoat rolled thereon, canteen, haversack, cartridge box and scabbard, and we have the citizen soldier of New York as he appeared for field service. With respect to a distinctive button for the new dress uniform (which as we have said was at this period worn by enlisted men only) the accepted design shows a plain convex surface highly burnished with the numerals "23" surrounded by the regimental motto, "VIGILANTIA" above, and the letters "N.G.S.N.Y." below; the figures and letters raised; this button is still worn by the enlisted personnel of the regiment.

In rifle marksmanship for the year 1888, the 23rd regiment again won the State Match with a total of 521; the 7th regiment stood second with an aggregate of 495. The 23rd won also the 2nd Brigade Match with a high of 509, the 13th rating second place with 457. There were five hundred and forty nine qualifications as marksmen during that season. Once more, Company "I" carried off the brigade Figure of Merit with a percentage of 83.85.

Chaplain Van De Water had in the meantime resigned on July 11th, 1888 and it was not until November 26th of the same year that the Rev. Robert R. Meredith was inducted into the military service of the state as Chaplain with rank of Captain. A review tendered Brigadier General Robbins, General Inspector of Rifle Practice, S.N.Y., on January 26th, 1889, ushered in a year of increased regimental activity. The 23rd went through its motions before the brigade commander on February 23rd and was again reviewed on April 27th by Colonel Everdell, the ceremonies of the evening terminating with the presentation of the recently adopted One Hundred Percent Duty Medal, -- a regimental award. An imposing parade commemorating the Centennial of the inauguration of George Washington as first President of the United States was held in New York City, April 30th

of that year; in this parade, the State of New York was represented by its entire National Guard. Following the Decoration Day parade, the regiment went into camp at Peekskill, commencing its fourth tour July 13th, and returning to Brooklyn on the 20th.

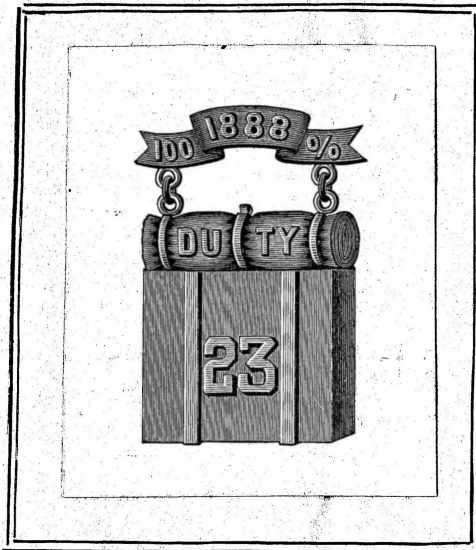
The announcement of the untimely death of General Rodney C. Ward on the 6th of September, 1889, was received throughout National Guard circles with deep sorrow. Accorded a full military funeral, the 23rd regiment, his old command, escorted the remains to and from Grace Church in Brooklyn where on September 10th, impressive services were held, a résumé of the military service of this distinguished officer is found in G.O. No. 30, A.G.O., September 10th, 1889:-

x x x "General Ward's service in the Guard began January 22nd, 1857, as a private in the Seventh Regiment, and ended actively, August 5th, 1886, as Brigadier General, Commanding the Fourth Brigade, the reorganization of the Guard, on the latter date, placing him upon the Supernumerary list."

" He was a Corporal in the Seventh Regiment, A Captain in the Thirteenth Regiment and a Captain in the Twenty Third Regiment, during the term of duty performed by those organizations in the War of the Rebellion, and afterwards, as Colonel of the Twenty Third Regiment, rendered the State most efficient and valuable service." x x x

Another military procession of note participated in by the 23rd regiment, occurred October 30th, 1889, when the cornerstone of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument at the entrance of Prospect Park was laid. Annual inspection and muster held in the armory November 12th, called for favorable comment and showed the numerical strength of the regiment as eight hundred and fifty seven, all ranks. There was but one resignation during the year. 1st Lieu't and Quartermaster Arthur A. Thompson resigned June 27th, 1889 and 1st Lieu't George Edward Hall received his appointment as Quartermaster November 20th.

In record shooting for the year 1889, the regiment stood second in the State Match, losing to the 7th by seven points, the winning aggregate being 501. Again, the 2nd Brigade Match fell to the



Regimental 100% Duty Medal,
Adopted 1888.

23rd regiment with 471 points to its credit; in this match, the 13th stood second with an aggregate of 426. The 23rd qualified thirty eight sharpshooters and five hundred and eleven marksmen, and for the third consecutive year, Company "I" won the brigade Figure of Merit with a percentage of 83.85.

In the year 1890 the Legislature passed a bill appropriating \$300,000.00 for the erection of a new armory for the 23rd regiment; the structure to stand on Bedford Avenue between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street, imposing and impregnable (according to the architect's specifications) would be worthy of the command it was to accommodate; the proposed armory will be more fully described hereinafter. The first review of the season occurred in January of that year and was tendered the Honorable Alfred C. Chapin, Mayor of the City of Brooklyn; and on February 15th, Inspector of Rifle Practice, S.N.Y., Brigadier General Robbins, reviewed the regiment and presented marksmanship decorations for the year 1889. Private G.S. Scott of Company "A" receiving the Oliver Aggregate Medal for the highest aggregate score in team matches at Creedmoor. The Twenty Third Regiment Grand Gold Medal went to Sergeant Fred A. Wells of Company "B" for the highest marksmans' score in the regiment at Creedmoor, his score being 47 out of a possible 50! The Veteran Trophy went to Company "I" in recognition of that company's achievement in attaining the highest percentage of attendance and in winning the brigade Figure of Merit in rifle practice on the first regimental practice day at Creedmoor.

On March 15th, 1890 the regiment was once more reviewed by its first Colonel, William Everdell Jr., on which occasion Regimental Long Service decorations, One Hundred Percent Duty Medals and Red Cross badges were presented to the respective winners. Two other reviews followed in quick succession; one, on April 5th, by Brigadier General J.C. Kelton, Adjutant General of the Army; the other by Brigadier General Mc Leer on April 26th, when the Oliver Diamond Badge was presented to Company "D"

X
for the highest percentage of increase in membership for the preceding year; then followed the Decoration Day parade on May 30th. Annual inspection and muster of the regiment held June 18th, shows the numerical strength of the 23rd to have been eight hundred and sixteen. Nothing of importance interfered with the summer rest period.

On November 11th 1890, the 23rd regiment received the shocking news of the death of Colonel Charles L. Fincke. Entering the regiment in the year 1869, he was for many years active and influential in contributing to its welfare; under his command the regiment prospered and in his death the 23rd lost a bright example of soldierly qualities and a devoted friend. He was buried from the First Presbyterian Church on Henry Street, November 14th, and although the regiment did not turn out as a body, it was well represented at the funeral services by all ranks and grades.

Colonel Loomis L. Langdon Commanding the 1st U.S. Artillery reviewed the regiment on the evening of November 15th and on December 17th, the 23rd passed in review before Governor Morgan G. Bulkeley of the State of Connecticut; it will be recalled that Governor Bulkeley had in years gone by, served with honor in Company "G"-- the Brooklyn City Guard. This brings us to the subject of rifle marksmanship for the year 1890. In the State Match the 23rd regiment won with a score of 487, the 7th regiment taking second place with 481. The 23rd (23rd) won also the 2nd Brigade Match with an aggregate of 486, the 13th holding second place with 448 points to its credit. Company "F" won the brigade Figure of Merit with a percentage of 68.01; there were thirty sharpshooter qualifications and five hundred and six qualifications as marksmen within the regiment.

The year 1891 opened with the resignation of Chaplain Meredith on January 8th. Customary company and battalion drills, officers' schools, interspersed with what may well be termed stereotypical reviews, occupied the first months of that year; this monotonous

X
schedule was broken when on June 6th, a provisional brigade composed of a battalion of the 1st United States Artillery, Troop "A", Cavalry, and the 23rd regiment, Colonel Langdon of the regulars commanding, participated in field exercises on the park parade ground. Following this event, the regiment performed a tour of field training at Peekskill during the week of June 13th-20th of that year. A regimental rifle team proceeded to Washington D.C. September 12th, to compete in a match with the National Guard of the District of Columbia's team; of the result, further remark will be made.

We here digress from generalities, focusing our attention on circumstances surrounding the acquisition of the site on which the proposed armory (the present armory) was to be constructed; in relating the interesting facts of the matter, the writer is indebted to Mr. William P. Pickett, at that time a 1st Lieutenant in the 23rd regiment; it may be said without fear of contradiction that through the singleness^S of purpose and untiring energy of this farsighted officer, the site was secured -- if only by a dangerously narrow margin. The original appropriation by the state of \$300,000.00 had been increased in 1891 by \$100,000.00. Immediately following the successful attempt of the 23rd regiment in securing appropriations for a new armory, Colonel David E. Austin, commanding the 13th regiment, determined to secure like benefits for HIS regiment, prevailed upon the Board of Supervisors of the county of Kings to arrange for a county armory.

There now arose the question of respective armory sites; of those considered, the three most prominent appear to have been that of the present 245th regiment on Sumner Avenue, that of the 14th regiment on Eighth Avenue and the site of our present armory on Bedford Avenue, by all odds the most desirable. Now it so happened that Colonel Partridge followed a pleasant custom of inviting his company commanders to meet with him at his residence on Sunday mornings to dis-

cusa regimental matters and for the enhancement of sociability; it was at one of these meetings held about April first, 1891, that the question of a site suitable for armory purposes was debated. Through the absence of Captain Candee who was abroad on business, Lieutenant Pickett represented Company "B" at this meeting; convinced of the desirability of the Bedford Avenue site, Lieutenant Pickett had on his own account, examined the real estate records and had ascertained the names of the owners who resided in the neighborhood of Poughkeepsie.

Thus informed, the Lieutenant laid the proposition before the meeting, backing his arguments with facts and figures and concluding his earnest appeal with a proposal that Colonel Partridge proceed at once to Poughkeepsie for the purpose of securing an option on the Bedford Avenue property; to this the Colonel agreed. On the morning of the following day Colonel Partridge fulfilled his mission, returning the same evening with the option; of the costs involving some thousands of dollars, it may be said that the Colonel advanced the amount from personal funds. But the point of the story rests in the fact that Colonel Austin of the 13th, unaware of Colonel Partridge's fortunate enterprise, himself approached the owners the day following the securing of the option, only to find that the 23rd had already consummated the deal.

On the afternoon of November 14th, 1891, the cornerstone of the new armory was laid with fitting ceremony by the Commander-in-Chief, Governor David B. Hill in the presence of the assembled regiment, the Veteran Association, officers prominent in military circles, city officials and distinguished guests. A silver trowel with ivory handle bearing on one side the emblem of the 23rd regiment and on the other, the inscription, "Used in laying the cornerstone of the armory of the Twenty-third Regiment, N.G.S.N.Y., by the Commander-in-Chief, Governor David B. Hill, November 14th, 1891." was according to custom, presented to the Governor at the conclusion of the notable event. Within the cornerstone, -- a gift of

Third armory of the
Twenty-third Regiment, NGNY
Bedford Avenue.

1894 --

the Veteran Association, were deposited a complete roster of the regiment, copies of the Adjutant General's Report for that year, of the Legislative Manual and daily papers; orders pertaining to the laying of the stone, a certified copy of the bill passed by the Legislature authorizing the construction of the armory, a concise history of the regiment and of the 155th N.Y. Volunteers commanded by Colonel Molineux, containing a reference to the 23rd Regiment and to a stand of colors presented the former by the 23rd in the Civil War. The regiment was reviewed by the Governor from a balcony of the Union League Club on Bedford Avenue; then followed an informal reception to the Commander-in-Chief, his Staff and invited guests.

A general description of the armory written by the architect Isaac G. Perry, would seem superfluous; but the following data may at some future time serve as a reference. With the breaking of ground for the structure on July 25th, 1891 by the contractor Mr. Attilio Pasquini, an area slightly in excess of two acres was excavated; i.e.: two hundred and seventeen feet on Bedford Avenue, four hundred and sixteen feet on Atlantic Avenue and four hundred and eighty four feet on Pacific Street. The building is a combination of Romanesque and Renaissance styles of architecture; the materials are of hard burned brick with massive copings, cornices and lintels of Carlisle brownstone; the great tower rises to a height of one hundred and forty four feet, the towers at either side of the main entrance being seventy feet from street level to crowning barbettes. The center of the base of the flag staff on the main tower

is Lat.	40 degrees:	40 minutes:	41.025 seconds:
Lon.	73 do	57 do	12.475 do

The drill shed measures two hundred by three hundred feet. Built to accommodate but ten companies, the details of the interior of the structure are too well known to the present generation to warrant further comment; but certain changes made necessary by the expansion of the regiment into a nineteen unit organization as it is today, called for cer-

tain items of reconstruction from time to time, and of these we make mention. The Band, Service, Headquarters, and Howitzer company rooms, as well as the Quartermaster's store room and quarters of the Field Music now occupy the area originally given over to the regimental gymnasium; a commodious suite which in the early days constituted the living quarters of the armorer, has for many years answered the purposes of a so-called officers' club; further mention of this club room, very recently transformed into a palatial rendezvous for the commissioned personnel of the regiment, will be made hereinafter. Veterans of the old regiment will recall the Squad Drill Room as being on the second floor. All is now changed; subdivided into a number of rooms, the area affords ideal quarters for the 106th Infantry Post, A.L., the Medical Detachment and the Battalion Commanders; it boasts also, a large and well equipped school room. The Squad Room is now located on the third floor and has more the appearance of a theatre. Still another floor which may properly be termed a mezzanine, has within recent years been constructed within the roof recess above the Squad Room; on this level, are to be found the rooms of the Battalion Headquarters companies, a store room, a laboratory devoted to the regimental telegraph and telephone sections and a modern toilet and wash room. We shall later speak of contemplated alterations designed for the comfort and welfare of officers and men of the regiment.

Having discoursed at length on the armory, let us turn to the ever fascinating subject of rifle marksmanship. In the State Match for the year 1891, the 23rd regiment won with a high of 520, the 7th taking second place with a total of 510. In the 2nd Brigade Match, the 23rd won with an aggregate of 501, the 13th standing second with 480. Two important matches were held at Creedmoor on September 5th of that year; the Inter-State Match and the Hilton Trophy Match. Both of these matches were won by New York State teams of twelve

men each. In the first instance, seven men were picked from the 23rd regiment; the remaining five were chosen from other organizations. In the second instance, the 23rd furnished seven men of the team of twelve the performances of the 23rd regiment representatives are certainly worthy of honorable mention as contributing factors in these widely heralded matches.

Inter-State Match

Representing the 23rd Reg't on the New York State rifle team:	200 Yards 10 shots:	Total:	500 Yards 10 shots:	Total:	Aggregate:
1: Lt. W. P. Pickett "B"	4554355445	44	5454555555	48	92
2: Lt. Geo. F. Hamlin "I"	4444444455	42	5554455555	48	90
3: Cpt. J. S. Shepherd "D"	4554354444	42	5545555445	47	89
4: Pvt. H. M. Field "F"	5444345544	42	4545554545	46	88
5: Pvt. S. C. Pirie "I"	4444444544	41	4544455555	46	87
6: Cpt. Ezra DeForest "C"	4354454444	41	5545455445	46	87
7: Sgt. F. A. Wells "B"	4443445444	40	5455554454	46	86

The New York State team won with an aggregate of 1026; the District of Columbia team second, with an aggregate of 996. Highest possible individual score, 100.

Hilton Trophy Match

Representing the 23rd Reg't on the New York State rifle team:	200 Yards 7 shots:	Total:	500 Yards 7 shots:	Total:	600 Yds 7 shots:	To. Ag.
1: Lt. W. P. Pickett "B"	5355444	30	5455544	32	5445544	31 93
2: Lt. Geo. F. Hamlin "I"	3454444	28	5555555	35	2542545	27 90
3: Sgt. F. A. Wells "B"	5445445	31	5555545	34	4434523	25 90
4: Pvt. H. M. Field "F"	4444444	28	5444435	29	4555454	32 89
5: Pvt. S. C. Pirie "I"	4444443	27	4555444	31	3445455	30 88
6: Cpt. Ezra DeForest "C"	3444344	26	5545555	34	4344444	27 87
7: Cpt. J. S. Shepherd "D"	3444344	26	5454455	32	4535443	28 86

The New York State team won with an aggregate of 1065; the District of Columbia team second, with an aggregate of 1007. Highest possible individual score 105.

A match between a team of the 23rd regiment and a team picked from the National Guard of the District of Columbia was shot at Washington D. C., on September 12th, 1891, in which the 23rd won with an aggregate of 1089, the District team losing by 104 points; the individual scores of the 23rd regimental team follow:-

Individual scores of the
23rd Regiment team in a
match shot at Washington
D.C. September 12th, 1891.

Name:		200 Yards 7 shots:	500 Yards 7 shots:	600 Yards 7 shots:	Aggregat
Sgt. F.A. Wells	"B"	31	33	33	97
Sgt. R. Finlay	"G"	31	33	32	96
Cpt. Ezra DeForest	"C"	29	32	34	95
Cpt. J.S. Shepherd	"D"	28	33	33	94
Lt. Geo. F. Hamlin	"I"	30	32	31	93
Cpl. George Ball	"F"	30	30	32	92
Sgt. G.T. Musson	"K"	30	28	31	89
Lt. W.P. Pickett	"B"	30	29	30	89
Pvt. H.M. Field	"F"	29	31	29	89
Lt. J.T. Hull	"F"	28	32	29	89
Sgt. H.D. Hamilton	"G"	28	32	24	84
Pvt. S.C. Pirie	"I"	29	25	28	82

Highest possible individual score at
each range 35:

Company "F", winner of the 2nd Brigade Figure of Merit,
showed a percentage of 74.13 for the year. The regiment qualified thirty
three sharpshooters and five hundred and thirty nine marksmen during the
Creedmoor season of 1891, and Sergeant George T. Musson of Company "K" won
the National Rifle Association gold Marksman's medal whose property it
now became, he having won it three times during that year; the final win-
ning score of this remarkable rifle shot is shown as follows:- ^a At 500
yards, 24 out of a possible 25; at 600 yards, a perfect 25! Total, 49 out of
a possible 50! Foremost among this galaxy of "Stars", we find the name of
Sergeant Robert Finlay of Company "G", winner of the military championship
of the United States in the President's Match shot at Creedmoor, with a
score of 109 out of a possible 120! Such is the record of the 23rd regi-
ment in rifle marksmanship for the year 1891.

On October 19th of that year, the Rev. H. Price Collier
received his commission as Chaplain with rank of _____ and during the
same month a revised system of drill promulgated by the War Department,
superceded Upton's Tactics, in use since 1867; the revised manual is known
as the "Infantry Drill Regulations, U.S. Army, 1891".

With the induction into office of Governor Roswell P. Flower on January 1st, 1892 the National Guard for the first time in its existence faced the problem of carrying on under a Commander-in-Chief hostile to its interests. The appointment by the Governor of Brigadier General Benjamin M. Whitlock as General Inspector of Rifle Practice produced a condition bordering on chaos; pronounced wholly unfit for the post by officers high in the military service of the state, General Whitlock instrumental in abolishing the National Rifle Association furthered the retrograde movement in rifle practice by assigning dates for general practice on the Creedmoor range which could not be well met by organizations of the Guard.

With respect to Governor Flower's attitude toward the National Guard the following incidents indicate clearly his unwarranted disregard for its welfare. (1) His refusal to authorize decent appropriations for needed repairs on the Creedmoor rifle range. (2) His refusal to consider appropriations for the repair of armories. (3) His order to abolish all state prizes and trophies for excellence in marksmanship. (4) His order for the obliteration of the National Rifle ~~Association~~ Association. (5) His refusal to grant needed appropriations for the completion of the new armory of the 23rd Regiment then in course of erection; it was only under tremendous political pressure that he was induced to sanction the needed appropriations for its completion. As a natural result of all this a marked indifference on the part of metropolitan regiments accustomed to putting forward their best rifle teams in competition manifested itself during the shooting season at Creedmoor; with no incentive, interest lagged.

Yet withal the Guard carried on in a spirit of true sportmanship confident in the hope of better things; in this a realization of that hope was theirs. The first function of the year was a review tendered Mayor David A. Boody; another review by General McLeer oc-

cured in February, when decorations and medals for marksmanship were presented. Routine drills followed until April 2nd when Colonel Loomis U.S.A., presented long service and duty medals to those of the regiment whose faithful service merited the award. It was during this period that the 23rd participated in field exercises at Prospect Park for the sole purpose of acquainting itself with the new drill regulations. During the week of July 30th-August 5th, a Provisional Company composed of detachments from the several companies of the regiment, proceeded to Peekskill for field training; this company was commanded by Captain Ezra De Forest.

During August of that year, the entire National Guard of the State was ordered on riot duty in aid of the civil authorities. Upon requisition of the Sheriff of Erie county for troops to handle a delicate situation growing out of labor troubles at Buffalo incident to a strike of railroad switchmen, the 4th Brigade received orders to proceed to the troubled area on the afternoon of August 15th; unable to guard no less than seventy miles of railroad yard property and six hundred miles of track, additional troops were called for. Accordingly, the entire Guard was mobilized.

The 23rd regiment left its home station during the night of the 18th, arriving at Buffalo the following afternoon; with the establishment of Headquarters in the Wagner Palace Car shops at Broadway and Bailey Avenue, the outposts of the regiment extended along the West Shore line from Broadway to Walden Avenue in Cheektowaga and along the "Belt Line" from William Street to Black Rock; the official designation given the sector covered by the 23rd regiment was "Camp 13." That no loss of life occurred within the sector was undoubtedly due to coolness and good judgement displayed by officers and men; an example of self restraint is reflected in the case of Private Sherman of Company "H"; struck in the face with a stone hurled by a rioter, this soldier might easily have killed his man; withholding his fire, he arrested the offender, turning him

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over to the civil authorities. With a settlement of the strike, a gradual withdrawal of troops commenced. The 23rd regiment relieved from duty on the 25th of August, returned to Brooklyn, and upon reaching its armory during the night of the 26th, was dismissed. For this service, the regiment was authorized to place upon the lance of its Regimental color, a silver band inscribed "BUFFALO, AUGUST 1892." The following communication received by Colonel Partridge and published for the information of the regiment, may be called a commendation.

Headquarters Second Brigade,
N.G.S.N.Y.

Hall of Recors,
Brooklyn, August 27th, 1892.

"The Commanding Officer,
Twenty third Regiment.-

"Sir:-

It is true that there are some men in this and other communities who fail to appreciate the value and importance of a National Guard until the moment of emergency is present. Fortunately however, the number is small compared to the great majority of our patriotic and law abiding citizens."

"The lesson of the past few days will therefore have a salutary effect upon this class of people, and especially will it be productive of good results upon those who seek redress by other than means within the scope of the laws of the State."

"I am very much pleased with the ready response of the organizations of this Brigade to the call of the Commander-in-Chief for active service, and appreciate thoroughly appreciate the sacrifices necessarily made by the men in leaving business and home at such short notice, as in the case of the Thirteenth and Twenty third Regiments, and the readiness to move at a moment's notice of the Fourteenth and Forty seventh Regiments, the Third Battery, Seventeenth Separate Company at Flushing and the Signal Corps."

"The forbearance of the men of the Thirteenth and Twenty third Regiments under the most trying circumstances at Buffalo in refraining from making the most effective use of their rifles when assaulted with stones, pieces of iron etc, is commendable and speaks well of their soldierly qualities and obedience to orders."

x x x x x x

Yours etc,

James Mc Leer,
Brigadier General.

The great Columbian Celebration held in New York in October, 1892 will be remembered as a pageant of surpassing grandeur in which the Regulars, the National Guard of this and other states and foreign

Colonel John N. Partridge,
Commanding Twenty-third Regiment,
NGNY

1880 -- 1882
and
1887 -- 1894

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troops participated; in this parade, the 23rd of Brooklyn made a handsome showing. On the 21st of the same month, the regiment again paraded (in Brooklyn) at the dedication of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Arch at the entrance to Prospect Park. Annual inspection and muster held in the open, shows a percentage of attendance of 94.88 and a total strength of seven hundred and eighty two officers and men. There were but two changes in the Field and Staff. Captain Ezra De Forest was on July 11th, promoted a Major, vice Waters resigned June 20th, 1892.

In marksmanship for that year, the regiment qualified fifty sharpshooters and five hundred and ninety five marksmen; the State Match was lost to the 7th regiment; the 12th regiment held second place and the 23rd, third place. Aggregate scores of competing teams follow.

7th Regiment	-----	984
12th do	-----	971
23rd do	-----	946

In the 2nd Brigade Match, the 23rd regiment won with an aggregate of 952, the 13th regiment taking second place with 923. Major De Forest, Captain W.L. Candee and Ordnance Sergeant C.E. Bryant made their eighteenth consecutive annual qualification as sharpshooters on the Creedmoor range. Company "A" won the brigade Figure of Merit with a percentage of 55.64. For the enlightenment of the reader not familiar with the method of computing these percentages, the rule is here given: The Company Figure of Merit is determined by the percentage of ordered attendance on the company's regular practice day, added to the percentage of hits in volley firing, divided by two.

On January 21st, 1893, the Honorable Calvin E. Pratt, second Colonel of the regiment, reviewed his old command and on April 28th the 23rd regiment by special invitation, paraded in New York with the 1st Brigade as escort to naval forces of foreign powers who on that day marched down Fifth Avenue as guests of the City. Memorial Day parade followed on May 30th. A revised manual of Guard Duty adopted

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in March 1893, called for drills in this important subject of the military curriculum, and more especially so as the regiment was scheduled for a tour of field training at the state camp commencing the week of June 10th. In the meantime, the regiment had, for administrative purposes, been formed into two battalions of five companies each; the First Battalion embraced companies "C", "D", "E", "F" and "G"; companies "A", "B", "H", "I" and "K" comprised the Second. Annual inspection and muster held October 26th found the organization in splendid shape with a membership of eight hundred and five all ranks. In accordance with orders all regiments of the Guard were required to form and maintain a Hospital Corps; it is a matter of record that in complying with the order, the 23rd regiment was the first in the state to report a completely organized hospital unit. Changes within the Field and Staff for the year show the appointment of 1st Lieu't Joseph T. Hull to the post of Regimental Adjutant, May 30th, and the resignation of Chaplain Collier on July 19th. Charles D. Napier was on May 5th, commissioned Assistant Surgeon with rank of Captain. For recruiting over a period ending March 31, 1893, Company "G" won the Oliver Diamond Badge.

In marksmanship, Company "D" won the Figure of Merit in the 2nd brigade with a mark of 59.09; again the State Match was lost to the 7th regiment by 23 points; but to offset this defeat, the 23rd regiment won the 2nd Brigade Match with a total of 915 points in its favor as against 878 scored by the 13th regiment which placed that organization in second place. By Executive Order dating March 23rd, 1893, a new and handsome decoration for excellence in marksmanship was adopted by the state; the medal is of bronze suspended from bars indicating the number of years of qualification in each class. i. e. - "Marksman", "Sharpshooter" and "Expert". The regiment qualified five experts, seventy one sharpshooters and six hundred and seventy seven marksmen for the year 1893, and it was during the same year that Captain John S. Shepherd

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of Company "D" won first place in the "Expert" class in the state with an aggregate of 9 out of a possible 10! The sudden and lamented death of this efficient and popular officer who by his superlative skill with the rifle had earned an international reputation, occurred in Brooklyn, February 16th 1894.

Replete with surprises and interesting happenings in the life and activities of the regiment, the year 1894 was ushered in with a review tendered Mayor Charles A. Schieren of Brooklyn on January 27th. On the 10th of the month following, the regiment marched in review before Brigadier General Alfred C. Barnes, and on the same day, to the surprise and sorrow of the regiment, Colonel Partridge resigned from the service. Lieu't Colonel Alexis C. Smith succeeded to the command of the 23rd Regiment February 26th of that year. Major Ezra De Forest received his commission as Lieutenant Colonel March 26th. The customary presentation of shooting trophies and decorations for the preceding year followed a review tendered Brigadier General Whitlock, G.I.R.P.S.N.Y., on the evening of March 10th; the resignation of Regimental Inspector of Rifle Practice, Captain Heywood C. Brown followed three days later. The Rev. Lindsay Parker, Chaplain of the regiment for many years received his commission March 19th, 1894.

Designated as escort to the remains of that outstanding figure in the great Civil War, Major General Henry W. Slocum, eminently successful Corps Commander, whose death occurred April 14th, the 23rd regiment paraded from the Church of the Messiah on Clermont Avenue to Greenwood, the final resting place of the distinguished dead. The returns of the annual muster held April 30th, show the numerical strength of the regiment as eight hundred and nineteen. On May 12th, 1894, an officer beloved by all who were privileged to know him, passed suddenly into eternity; through the death of 1st Lieutenant and

Commissary Richard Oliver (affectionately called "Uncle Dick") the regiment lost an efficient officer, a superb rifle shot and a true friend.

The adoption by the state of a decoration for Long and Faithful Service dates from October 1st, 1894; the medallion of this strikingly handsome award is suspended from a red ribbon (later changed to a red and blue striped ribbon) and is worn at the neck. There are four classes of this decoration:-

- 4th Class: Ten years service, bronze.
- 3rd Class: Fifteen years service, bronze and gold.
- 2nd Class: Twenty years service, bronze and gold.
- 1st Class: Twenty five years service, fine gold.

Still another decoration known as the "State Decoration for Valor" was adopted during that year; this is of silver and is in design, a counterpart of the Long Service decoration; it is inscribed "For Valor" and is suspended from a blue ribbon. This decoration must not be confused with the state "Conspicuous Service Cross", a post World War award. In this year also, the time honored leather knapsack gave way to a modern device known as the "Merriam Pack;" the outstanding feature of this clever invention is that the burden instead of resting on the shoulders, is transferred to the hips. Other items adopted during the year 1894, were the "campaign hat" -- a forerunner of the more modern "Montana Peak" well known to the present day soldier, and the Conical tent with its iron tripod pole base. A revised rate of pay adopted May 28th of the same year is shown by way of comparison with earlier tables:-

	per diem:
Privates and musicians,--	\$1.25
1st Sergeant,-----	2.00
Other non-comm. officers,-	1.50

To base rates was added 25¢ per day for re-enlistments; the term of enlistment in the National Guard was reduced from seven to five years, May 3rd, 1875. We now return to subjects more intimately associated with the regiment.

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Assured that the new armory would be ready for occupancy in November, Colonel Smith appointed an Executive Committee of which Major Spencer was Chairman, to formulate plans for a mammoth regimental fair to be held in the armory immediately following its formal opening. A Citizens Committee composed of the most influential of the elite of Brooklyn entered upon the campaign with hearty enthusiasm; of the fair, appropriate remark will be made.

On the afternoon of November 3rd, 1894, the 23rd regiment marched from the Clermont Avenue armory never to return; with the lowering of the flag for the last time, the old structure relinquished the honor of housing "Brooklyn's Own", second to none in the state. As the regiment headed by its superb band approached the new armory, the raising of the Stars and Stripes to the peak of the staff atop the main tower brought forth spontaneous and prolonged cheers from a great concourse of interested spectators; and so it was, that the regiment marched into its palatial four hundred and fifty thousand dollar home, where one more it was greeted with loud acclaim from crowded balconies. A reception followed the dismissal of the companies.

At eight o'clock on the evening of November 14th, His Excellency, Roswell P. Flower, Governor of the State of New York, officially opened the great fair, which from the first, attracted audiences far beyond the expectations of the committee. The main drill floor given over to attractive booths, were attended by bevy's of pretty girls in costume each vying with the other in disposing of their wares to a gullible public; in one corner of the hall, a steam fire engine coupled and ready for any emergency, proved a feature of the show; opposite, a Police booth manned with suitable details of bluecoats, gave a sense of security; there were Marionettes and Magic, art and photography; a printing press turned out a daily sheet called "Gurs" and a restaurant offered a menu unsurpassed. Voting and games of chance -- always popular, reaped a harvest. A

Colonel Alexis C. Smith,
Commanding Twenty-third Regiment, NGNY

1894 -- 1900

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museum of war relics caught the eye of the visitor, taking the price of admission out of his pocket with hardly an exception. The enterprise proved a huge success, reflecting great credit on all who contributed their time and money; the fair closed in a blaze of glory November 29th. In the meantime the old armory was taken over by the 3rd Gatling Battery, Captain Henry S. Rasquin, Commanding, and is now occupied by a battalion of the 105th Field Artillery, N.Y.N.G.

Through the death of Major General Josiah Porter, Adjutant General, S.N.Y., on December 14th, 1894, the National Guard lost an officer of high merit; he was succeeded by Major General Thomas H. McGrath. In the State Match for that year, the 23rd regiment stood third; the 7th regiment second and the 12th regiment first; but in the 2nd Brigade Match, the 23rd stood first with an aggregate of 958; the 13th took second place with a total of 803 points. The second competition for the Governor's Match trophy shot at Creedmoor October 30th, and participated in by representatives of organizations of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd brigades, was won by Lieu't Colonel De Forest of the 23rd with a score of 88 out of a possible 100. Company "I" again won the Figure of Merit within the 2nd brigade with a percentage of 64.88. There were seven qualifications in the Expert class, seventy five in the Sharpshooters class and six hundred and eighty seven marksmen. During the fall another change occurred in the Field and Staff of the regiment, when on October 29th Captain David K. Case was promoted a Major. Fred W. George, a veteran of Company "I", boasts the distinction of being the first to enlist in the new armory; date of entry, 11/5/1894. With the approach of the year 1895, a feeling of uneasiness was manifest in Brooklyn; on the signing of an agreement between the motormen of the trolley systems and the companies, much depended. Four traction companies were involved in the dispute; the Brooklyn Heights Railroad Company, the Atlantic Avenue Railroad Company, the Brooklyn, Queens and Suburban Railroad Company and the Brooklyn City and Newtown Railroad Company. Conferences and concessions offered by both sides failed and it

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now became apparent that a satisfactory settlement of grievances could not be reached; accordingly, a general strike was ordered to take effect on the morning of January 14th. Forty nine lines under the control and management of the companies named comprised a network covering not only the entire area of Kings county, but extended well into the county of Queens; by this it will be observed that anticipated disorder would create a situation hard to control. The Brooklyn City and Newtown R.R. Company had made an amicable settlement with its employees on January 17th and the strike on its lines was therefore called "off" on that day;

This left forty seven lines on strike, covering approximately three hundred miles of track, numerous car barns, repair shops and power plants. As is always the case in such emergencies, the vicious element taking full advantage of an inadequate police force, had precipitated riots in scattered quarters of the city and these were hourly becoming more frequent and destructive. During the evening of January 14th, after a conference between General McLeer, Mayor Schieren and Police Commissioner Welles, it was deemed advisable to post armed guards within the several armories of the brigade district.

Conditions growing steadily worse, the Mayor called for the National Guard in aid of the civil authorities; the call was made on Friday evening, January 18th and upon its receipt, the 2nd brigade was at once ordered under arms. Notwithstanding a heavy snow storm of blizzard intensity continuing through the night and well into the morning of the 19th, the troops assembled promptly and were marched to their appointed stations. Within the armory of the 23rd regiment, files expanded into squads, squads into platoons and platoons into companies; at the sounding of "Assembly" early on the morning of the 19th, detachments of the regiment departed in a blinding snow

in the order named:-

Companies "F" and "G" To the car shops, 5th Ave and 23rd St.,
designated Post 6:
do "A" and "K" To car barns, 7th Ave and 20th St.,
designated Post 8: (Later transferred to
9th Ave and 20th St., designated Post 7:
do "H" and "C" To car shops, Flatbush and Vernon Aves.,
designated Post 22:
do "D" and "E" To car barns, 9th Ave and 20th St.,
designated Post 7:
(Company "A" having been again transfer-
red to Post 11 at 5th Ave and 36th St.
and Co "K" to Post 23, 3rd Ave and 58th
and to Post 35, 2nd Ave and 58th St.)
do "B" To repair shops 3rd Ave and 25th St.,
designated Post 24:
do "I" To power house, 2nd Ave and 52nd St.,
designated Post 26:

With this disposition of his regiment, Colonel Smith in company with Lieu't Colonel De Forest visited each post, the tour of inspection consuming six hours of valuable time. As to his method of travel through ever increasing snow drifts, we quote from his official report; says he, x x x "I made a tour of all posts with a carriage" x x x At this blunt but honest statement we find it hard to suppress a smile; yet it may be that the buggy ride was attended with less danger of "stalling" than one might experience today under like circumstances.

The situation still out of hand, Governor Levi P. Morton on January 19th, called for additional troops. Within an incredibly short time, the 1st Brigade was on the march with Brooklyn as its objective; thus reinforced, the military forces increased to eight thousand and all arms, proceeded to bring order out of chaos. Combat patrols moving rapidly within assigned areas, closed saloons, removed obstructions, covered construction gangs, and dispersed unlawful gatherings; the bayonet and rifle butt, always effective, contributed mightily in suppressing the obdurate and lawless element. Probably the most trying problem was that of rationing and messing; the delivery of rations by trucks proved both uncertain and hazardous. Frequently attacked, the convoys could move no faster than the accompanying infantry; without field eq-

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equipment, company cooks were at their wits end in attempting the preparation of hot meals; but the old saying, "necessity is the mother of invention," once more proved true. Improvised stoves made of old bricks and scrap iron served the purpose and within a day or two rich stews simmered and hot coffee was available at all times.

Throughout the period of the strike, snow, sleet and zero weather added to the discomfort of the troops; indeed such was the bitterness of the penetrating cold, that sentries were forced to wrap blankets over their heads and shoulders to keep from freezing! Honorable mention is due the following named boys of the regimental Cadet Corps whose voluntary services as messengers and orderlies were of great value to Headquarters:-

C.B.Conner
C.W.Byars
S.E.Bennett
J.J.Dimock
H.S.Fairbanks
J.R.Parker
E.W.Stearns
W.G.Stokes

With the restoration of order, the regiment less companies "A" and "I", was relieved from further service and dismissed January 31st; the two remaining companies returned to the armory the next day when they too were dismissed. A small guard maintained within the armory was relieved February 11th. So ended the most exasperating tour of active service ever performed by the 23rd regiment; and be it said to its credit, the duty was performed faithfully and well without loss of life; unfortunately however, casualties from rifle fire occurred within the sector of the 1st brigade. For this service, the regiment was authorized to place upon the lance of its Regimental color, a silver band inscribed "BROOKLYN, JANUARY 1895."

We now turn to the more peaceful activities of the organization for that year. The twenty fifth anniversary of the regimental Veteran Association celebrated with a banquet on February 15th,

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brought together the class of '62 and those who later served under the banners of the 23rd. It is to these men, who by their loyalty and devotion carried the regiment through its darkest hours, that credit is due, and it is for the youngsters of the present regiment to live up to the standards set by those who have gone before. The important post of Regimental Inspector of Rifle Practice was filled February 25th, 1895 when Private George W. Coulston of Company "D", promoted a Captain, was assigned to the Staff in that capacity. It may be noted that this officer had previously served in the National Guard of Pennsylvania as I.R.P of the 1st Regiment and the achievements of the regimental rifle teams of which he was Captain, proved his worth as an expert rifleman. Still another promotion from the ranks was that of Private Joseph M. Vose of Company "C", appointed Commissary of Subsistence with rank of 1st Lieutenant, as of February 25th of that year.

The usual presentation of State Long Service and Recruiting medals by General McLeer on March 16th, brought to Company "F" the Oliver Diamond Badge for the year ending March 31st, 1895; following this event came the Veteran's Review tendered Colonel Everdell; on this occasion, the Iron Cross, Duty and Marksmen medals were presented. Co-incident with the dedication of the Washington Arch in New York on April 30th, 1895, the 1st and 2nd brigades of the Guard participated in a parade the like of which has seldom been witnessed. Annual inspection and muster of the regiment occurred May 6th and showed a total strength of eight hundred and forty four. A regimental "bicycle section" organized during the year 1895, participated in the opening of the cycle path skirting Prospect Park; there were now three clubs sponsored by the 23rd regiment; the Riding Club, the Fencing Club and the Bicycle Club. As for the Ward Rifle Club of which mention has been made, this had, ^{WITH} through the passage of time become but a memory.

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In Marksmanship for the year 1895, the 23rd regiment won the State Match with a top score of 991; the 12th stood second with 967 and the 7th third with 959. For the twenty first time the 23rd won the 2nd Brigade Match with an aggregate of 938; it is a remarkable fact that this match was lost to the 23rd but twice between the years 1873 and 1895, the winners in both instances being the 14th regiment.

Excitement ran high in competing for the Adjutant General's Match trophy; this match, open to teams of three from each company of every regiment, placed twenty five teams in competition; the ranges were three hundred and eight hundred yards with seven shots off-shoulder at three hundred yards and seven shots any position at eight hundred yards. The match was shot at Creedmoor and was won by Company "I", 23rd regiment with an aggregate of 149 out of a possible 210. This company won also the Figure of Merit in the brigade with a percentage of 70.04. In qualifications with the rifle, the regiment claimed thirteen *e* Experts, sixty six *s* Sharpshooters and seven hundred and sixteen *m* Marksmen for the year. Captain Coulston, I.R.P., won the 23rd Regiment Grand Gold Medal for the highest qualifying score at Creedmoor with nine "bulls" out of ten, and Sergeant Robert Findlay of Company "G" won the Oliver Aggregate Medal for highest score in teams competing for the New York State and 2nd Brigade trophies!

Three changes of status occurred in the Field and Staff during the year 1895. Major Frederick L. Holmes resigned October 11, and Sergeant Major George Albert Wingate was on November 11th, appointed Adjutant with rank of 1st Lieutenant. Captain Henry C. Everdell of Company "A" received his Majority December 2nd.

The year 1896 opened with a review tendered The Honorable Frederick W. Wurster, Mayor of the City of Brooklyn; this occurred January 4th on which occasion the Mayor (himself a veteran of Company "B") presented the State Long Service decoration to those who had served ten years or over. Complimentary indeed are the remarks of the Inspector

General following the annual inspection and muster of the regiment held January 14th; the following extract is taken verbatim from his report: "The regiment was presented for inspection in absolutely perfect condition. In the ability of its company officers and the personnel of its rank and file this regiment is excelled by no other in the State. Companies "A" "B" "F" "H" and "K" paraded with one hundred percent attendance; the numerical strength of the 23rd on that day was seven hundred and seventy four all ranks.

Major General Edwin A. McAlpin the Adjutant General State of New York reviewed the regiment on February 28th, and on March 7th, officers of the National Guard were ordered to wear the customary badge of mourning for thirty days in respect to the memory of the late Major General John B. Woodward former commander of the old 2nd Division N.Y.S.M. Commissary of Subsistence Joseph M. Vose resigned February 10th; and on March 16th, 1896 Fred W. Roe was appointed to that post. A parade of consequence held in Brooklyn April 25th, marked the unveiling of the Equestrian Statue of General U. S. Grant on Bedford Avenue; on this occasion the 2nd Brigade reviewed from the Union League Club made a particularly fine showing.

Under the provisions of an amendment to the Military Law passed May 22nd, 1896 Regimental Adjutants and Quartermasters were advanced in rank to Captain. With the resignation of Major Henry C. Everdell on July 1st, the post remained vacant until December 21st, when Captain William A. Stokes of Company "H" received his Majority. The regiment occupied the State Camp during the week of July 11th--18th inclusive. August 3rd, 1896 marked the passing of the Honorable Calvin E. Pratt second Colonel of the 23rd Regiment at Rochester, N. Y. It will be recalled that prior to Colonel Pratt's association with the 23rd he had rendered conspicuous service to the Union: cited for gallantry in action, he was promoted a Brigadier General of Volunteers in September 1862. In the battle of Mechanicsville he was seriously wound-

ed by a rifle ball which in passing through the left cheek lodged in his head! It was not until 1891 that the bullet was successfully removed!

Again the hand of death descended upon the regiment when on October 10th, 1896 Captain Coulston I.R.P., died suddenly; by his untimely demise the 23rd lost an officer of rare accomplishment. The vacancy was filled with the appointment of Captain Russel Hoag on November 16th, as I.R.P. A review of the regiment on December 15th, by Lieutenant Governor elect, Timothy L. Woodruff was the occasion of the presentation of a stand of colors in the name of the State of New York. During the fall of that year Bandmaster Alfred D. *Johns* resigned and Thomas F. Shannon took over; by this change the 23rd regiment for many years marched to the music of a band unequalled by any other in the United States. In his band were to be found Metropolitan Opera artists of international reputation who like their leader were acknowledged geniuses in their profession. Being of the "old school" Mr. Shannon detested that class of music termed "Jazz" it had no place in his curriculum and to the end he absolutely refused to indulge in its vagaries.

Let us now inquire into the shooting record of the 23rd regiment for the year 1896. The State Match was lost to the 12th regiment and the 2nd Brigade Match was won by the 23rd with an aggregate of 987; the 13th held second place with a score of 923 and the 47th third place with a total of 914. The 23rd regiment won also the "Eagle" trophy for that year and in qualifications at Creedmoor the regiment claimed eleven experts ninety three sharpshooters and six hundred and thirty seven marksmen. Company "G" captured the brigade Figure of Merit with a percentage of 71.40.

By virtue of his office the Honorable Frank S. Black newly elected Governor assumed command of the National Guard, January

1st, 1897; under his Administration, Charles W. Tillinghast 2nd became Adjutant General with rank of Major General. Brigadier General Edward M. Hoffman served as Inspector General and Brigadier General William M. Kirby as Inspector of Rifle Practice. During that year a regimental publication called "The Guardsman" made its appearance; but like other journals of the sort, it was short lived.

Three items of note are listed in their order of importance; i. e: The adoption of the United States Springfield rifle, Cal. 45; this arm is fitted with the "red" bayonet and although a single shot weapon, the simplicity of its action and its great effectiveness are to this day acknowledged by all who have tested its merits. With the issue of the Springfield to the National Guard, the leather cartridge box was superseded by a woven "thimble" belt capable of holding forty rounds of ammunition. Next in order was the issue of a field oven called the "Buzzacott"; this ingenious contrivance combining the features of oven and range into which was packed an assortment of pots, pans and skillets, has for many years served its purpose where the rationing of troops in the field is concerned. The third item refers to the Regimental Color; on January 30th, 1897, it was ordered that all regimental colors should henceforth be fabricated of buff colored silk with the Arms of the State embroidered thereon; the motive behind this ordered change is not apparent. In passing it may interest the reader to know that between the date of its adoption, March 16th, 1778 and the year 1916, the Coat of Arms of the State has appeared on all regimental colors of the National Guard under its several designations.

At the inaugural of President McKinley on March 4th, 1897, a provisional battalion comprising detachments from all infantry units of the 2nd Brigade, paraded in the City of Washington, and on April 27th the second Grant Memorial parade was held in New York, the occasion marking the transfer of the remains of General Grant to the permanent tomb in Riverside Park; the entire National Guard of the

Empire State participated in these impressive ceremonies. During the spring of that year, the customary reviews incident to the presentation of decorations and medals were held in the armory and on May 25th Quartermaster George E. Hall resigned; he was succeeded by Captain Bleecker Bangs, appointed July 12th. Another provisional battalion in which the regiment was represented, visited the Nashville Exposition in October and on "Brooklyn Day", paraded as escort to the Mayor and Citizen's Committee from Brooklyn.

In rifle marksmanship for the year 1897, there were qualified twenty three Experts, thirty nine Sharpshooters and six hundred and thirty seven Marksmen. In the State Match, the 23rd regiment stood fourth; but in the 2nd Brigade Match, the regiment won with an aggregate of 989; the 13th taking second place with a total of 877. In the Adjutant General's Match, the 7th won with a percentage of 81.1; the 23rd finishing second with 70.05. Company "B" won the Figure of Merit in the brigade and Corporal W.A. Stopford of Company "G" won the regimental Grand Gold Medal. The Oliver Aggregate Medal went to Captain Fred Wells of Company "B" with an aggregate of 176 out of a possible 200. The adoption by the state of a new design of decoration for rifle marksmanship, constituted the fourth issue of such decoration.

The events of the year 1898 moved swiftly. Before studying the cause and effect with respect to the status of the 23rd regiment in the Spanish-American War, there is here submitted a brief résumé of events leading to the termination of friendly relations between the two countries. Cuba, a possession of Spain since the days of Cortez, had through the tyranny of her oppressor, been reduced to political and economic serfdom. General Weyler, sent from Spain to operate against the insurgents, had through unspeakable cruelties, brought the situation to a crisis. The final issue came in 1898 through the activities of what was known as the Filibuster Party in Cuba and in

the States, whose sole object was to force a declaration of war between the United States and Spain.

In January of that year the U.S.S. "Maine" entered the harbor of Havana on a friendly visit; during the night of February 15th, the ship was blown up with considerable loss of life! When the astounding news was flashed over the country, the excitement and indignation of the American people knew no bounds. The findings of a naval board failed in fixing the responsibility; but a Spanish board of investigation openly charged the Americans with being responsible in as much as they (the Spaniards) insisted that the explosion came from within the vessel.

The people of the United States stung to a frenzy by this insult, demanded war! On April 11th, President McKinley sent a special message to Congress asking that he be empowered to use the military and naval forces of the United States to secure a full and final termination of Spanish rule in America, Congress responded on the 19th with full authorization and a war fund of \$50,000,000.00. On April 21st, Spain, accepting the challenge, dismissed United States Minister Woodruff this act constituted a declaration of war against the United States. President McKinley immediately ordered a blockade of all Cuban ports and on April 23rd called for one hundred and twenty five thousand volunteers for a term of two years or during the duration of the war! This recital of events leading to a declaration of war brings us directly to the point of our discussion.

We shall first note the composition of the National Guard of the State of New York in the year 1898. On February 9th, Major Charles F. Roe of Squadron "A", was appointed Major General and placed in command of the New York Division with Headquarters at Albany. On the same day the brigade organization in New York City was discontinued and the troops in that city formed into two brigades designated the First and Fifth Brigades; the Second Brigade of Brooklyn remained in tact and of the Third and Fourth Brigades we make no particular mention, suffice it to say that on March 21st, the separate companies of the Third

Brigade were organized into seven battalions and on April 2nd the Division organization of the National Guard was discontinued. General Roe was accordingly placed in command of the National Guard of the State, subject to the orders of the Governor; he entered the United States service on June 10th, 1898 as Brigadier General of Volunteers and returned to the service of the state, September 10th of the same year; while in the federal service, General Roe was replaced by Brigadier General James McLeer of the 2nd Brigade, ^{N. G. N. Y.} ~~N. G. S. N. Y.~~, Colonel Smith of the 23rd Regiment assuming command of the brigade for a like period.

The following extract is taken from a communication dating April 19th, 1898; it is addressed to Major General Charles F. Roe, Commanding the New York National Guard, and is over the signature of the Adjutant General:-

x x x "The Governor directs that you immediately quietly find out from the Commanding Officers of Cavalry, Artillery and Infantry, whether their respective organizations are willing to volunteer for United States service anywhere the President sends them, understanding that they will recruit up to the United States strength, and those that cannot volunteer be honorably discharged without prejudice."

"For an organization to be enlisted to go, probably 60 or 70 percent must volunteer." x x x

A communication received from the Secretary of War dated April 25th, directed the Governor of the State of New York to furnish twelve regiments of Infantry and two troops of Cavalry; this requisition was at once filled from "selected" units of the National Guard, the number of troops being twelve thousand, four hundred and sixty. Under the second call of the President issued May 25th, 1898, New York was called upon to furnish three additional regiments of Infantry and three batteries of Field Artillery; notwithstanding the fact that the state could have furnished its second quota from units of the National Guard, it was stipulated that enlistments must be from civil life. On April 26th, (the day following the receipt of the com-

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munication from the Secretary of War) a telegram interpreting the full meaning of that communication with respect to regiments of the National Guard volunteering for federal service, was received by General McLeer Commanding the 2nd Brigade; the telegram signed by Colonel Stephen H. Olin, A.A.G., reads as follows:-

Headquarters, National Guard

Albany,

April 26th, 1898.

General Orders

No. 5:

* Commanding Officer, 2nd Brigade, N.G.N.Y.
Hall of Records, Brooklyn, N.Y.

"In compliance with S.O. No. 64, C.S., A.G.O., which states-"As a demand has been made upon the State of New York by the President of these United States for Volunteers, and as he has requested that the quota to be sent from this State be made up as far as possible from the National Guard, Commander-in-Chief directs the Commanding Officer of the National Guard, to have the Commanding Officer of each Infantry organization in the State, assemble at once their respective commands in uniform in their armories, and there by individual expression freely and voluntarily given, learn how many officers and enlisted men of his organization desire to be mustered into the service of the United States for a term of two years unless sooner discharged, to serve where ordered by proper authorities,"

"The result of the above instructions to be telegraphed direct to General Headquarters, Albany, stating in the telegram the present enlisted strength of organization and the exact number of officers and enlisted men separately who desire to volunteer. A roll of those volunteering will be made. Acknowledge receipt."

"By Command of Major General Roe.
Stephen H. Olin, A.A.G.

A second telegram bearing the same date reads as follows:-

"Albany, April 26th, 1898.

"General James McLeer,
Hall of Records, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Personal:

"The telegraphic orders issued today mean that those volunteering are to serve in their present organizations, under their own officers."

"Charles F. Roe,
Major General.

The foregoing telegrams were supplemented by a third bearing the same date; it reads:-

"Albany,
April 26th, 1898.

" Brigadier General
James McLeer.
Hall of Records, Brooklyn, N.Y.

"When the result of the assembling of the commands is ascertained under orders issued by telegraph today, the respective commands will be dismissed until further orders. No present action will be taken relative to those who do not volunteer."

" Charles F. Roe,
Major General."

Accordingly, the 23rd Regiment having been assembled in its armory, the question of volunteering was propounded. Those accepting stepped six paces to the front; those declining the privilege, stood fast. The following table of percentages by companies, of those volunteering, indicates clearly the disposition of the regiment with respect to entering the federal service for the war.

Unit:	Strength of unit:	Number of volunteers:	Number declining:	Percentage of volunteers:
Field and Staff	15	10	5	66%
Company "A"	101	73	28	72%
do "B"	63	53	10	84%
do "C"	86	78	8	90%
do "D"	68	54	14	80%
do "E"	56	48	8	85%
do "F"	87	51	36	59%
do "G"	60	41	19	68%
do "H"	58	48	10	83%
do "I"	78	70	8	90%
do "K"	92	73	19	79%
	<u>764</u>	<u>599</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>78%</u>

The result obtained was immediately wired to General Headquarters at Albany. A roster of officers and men thus volunteering under the FIRST call of the President will be found in Appendix . Be it also said that between the first and second calls of the President, the 23rd Regiment volunteered no less than three times under any conditions pre-

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scribed by the Secretary of War. With the return from the war (which happily was of short duration) of Brooklyn Volunteers, Colonel Smith requested the honor of escorting them through the city. The offer accepted, General McLeer, on behalf of a Reception Committee, addressed himself to Colonel Smith, expressing appreciation of the proffer; the General's letter dated September 3rd, 1898, reads in part:-

x x x " The fact is appreciated and will be remembered that the 23rd Regiment, on both calls of the President for troops, volunteered for United States service with ^{OUT} making conditions; in fact, to serve in the Volunteer Army wherever sent."

" Although your offer was not accepted by the Government and the regiment assigned to duty at the home station, this does not detract from your patriotic offer of service, nor will it be forgotten by the thinking people of Brooklyn." x x x

Our attention is further directed to a report of the Brigade Commander dated December 15th, 1899--(A.G. Report for 1899, Page 133) in which he says:-

x x x " For a short time after their return to the home stations, there was a slight evidence of friction between those whom we may speak of as "war members" and the "stay-at-homes"; but this feeling has to a great extent become a thing of the past, and in a little while, I believe will entirely disappear."

" In this I do NOT refer to the Twenty third Regiment of this Brigade. This regiment stands well in its relation to other organizations of the brigade for the reason that the fact is familiar to all that this excellent organization on three occasions, volunteered for United States service unconditionally. That this regiment was not ordered for such service, but kept at the home station for any emergency which might arise, is NOT the fault of officers and men, whose patriotism is unquestioned." x x x

But why, the reader may inquire, is the case of the 23rd regiment presented in such painstaking detail? The answer is quite simple. From time to time futile attempts have been made by the uninformed and the ignorant, to injure by false and calumnious charges, the unsullied reputation of the 23rd Regiment. In rebuttal, there is found in official records abundant proof with respect to the honorable status

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of the regiment in the war with Spain; to put at rest for all time erroneous misgivings arising from insidious propaganda, such record and such proof are written into this history. We have made plain the truth that the 23rd regiment volunteered its services to the Federal Government in good faith and without reservation; we have determined also, the fact that its services were not accepted by the federal authorities for no other reason than for "Convenience of Government"; this phrase will perhaps be more readily understood in the words of Governor Frank S. Black when he says:-

x x x "The larger part of our National Guard therefore departed under that call. The whole Guard could not go, for New York's quota was not large enough to embrace its entire Guard. For that reason and for no other, some of our regiments and Separate Companies were left at home." x x x

But although the 23rd was denied the privilege of serving actively in the war, it was nevertheless, represented in the rank and file of the Regular Army, as well as in the Volunteer service. From first to last, the regiment contributed

Majors
Captains
First Lieutenants
Second Lieutenants
Non Comm. officers
Privates

A roster of officers and men of the 23rd regiment who served in the Armies of the United States in the war with Spain will be found in Appendix . Of these, two died in the service of their country.

CLARENCE G. DAVENPORT
Corporal, Co. "E",
23rd Reg't, N.Y.N.G.

Died at Ponce, Puerto Rico
while serving as Corporal,
Company "F",
FIRST U.S. VOLUNTEER ENGINEERS.

NORMAN J. G. MAC MILLAN
Private, Co. "A",
23rd Reg't, N.Y.N.G.

Died at Santiago De Cuba
while serving as Private,
Company "M",
SEVENTY FIRST N.Y. VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

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A bronze tablet commemorating the death of these martyrs in the cause of humanity has been placed over the main stairway in the armory; in bold relief near the lower margin of the tablet, appears the Latin proverb:—"DULCE ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA MORI" which interpreted, reads, "It is sweet and honorable to die for one's country". And lastly, it seems eminently proper to make honorable mention of the Regimental Veteran Association, the Regimental Cadet Corps and the ^eWomans' Auxiliary Corps for their loyalty to the cause in offering their services to the State and to the Regiment in any capacity the authorities might suggest.

In that year the annual inspection of the 23rd occurred^r February 28th and a review tendered the Veteran Association in the early spring, at which service and recruiting decorations were presented, terminated like functions for the season. A considerable turnover in the Field and Staff occurred^r during the first quarter. Major William E. Spencer, Medical Department, retired February 19th and Henry L. Cochran received his commission as Surgeon with rank of Major, March 26th. William E. Butler, commissioned Assistant Surgeon with rank of Captain, succeeded Major Butler in that capacity April 21st, 1898.

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Lieu't Colonel DeForest resigned March 15th and Captain Hoag, I.R.P., on May 5th. Captain George T. Musson succeeded the latter as I.R.P., May 5th. Owing to the war, there were no competitions in marksmanship on the Creedmoor range, nor was there a Figure of Merit awarded during the year 1898. To those who were in the service of the United States, the State of New York allowed a bar inscribed "18. U.S.V. 98" in lieu of the regular rifle qualification bar. The 23rd paraded September 29th as escort to the crew of the U.S.S. "Brooklyn", who on that occasion were decorated by the citizens of Brooklyn, and on December 12th the regiment was reviewed by Major General William R. Shafter, U.S.A.