

APPENDIX K

Concise Histories  
Of Units Comprising  
The  
23rd Infantry, New York Guard  
1917 - 1920

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APPENDIX K

COMPANY "A"

Following the authorization of March 31st, 1917 for organizing a Depot Battalion of which Major James Robb was given command, four companies were recruited; i.e.: "A" "C" "D" and "G." These units although raised for service in the contemplated Depot Battalion were mustered into the New York Guard as companies in a regiment authorized to be formed from the Depot Battalion. This authorization dated October 29th, 1917 and on that date Company "A" was mustered into the newly formed regiment denominated the 23rd Infantry, N.Y.G.

The officers assigned the company as of date of muster were:-

Captain Clifford F. Lamont  
1st Lt. Frederick C. Steckert

Company "A" received federal recognition January 22nd, 1920.

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COMPANY "B"

This company had its inception in an organization denominated "Sheriff's Reserves," sworn in as Deputy Sheriffs of Nassau county in June 1917 as a Home Defense unit to be known as "Lynbrook Unit, Home Defense Corps." Under authority of Section 5-A of the Military Laws of the State this unit was, on June 13th, 1917 mustered into the Home Defense Corps at Lynbrook, L. I.

On October 26th of that year the unit was mustered into the New York Guard by Major James Robb (later Colonel of the 23rd Infantry, N.Y.G. ) and designated Company "B" of that regiment. The numerical strength of the company on date of muster was three officers and seventy men; its officers were:-

Captain Philip Staudermen  
1st Lt. Hawley C. Slack  
2nd Lt. John J. Derrick

As a Home Defense unit the company was armed with single barrel shot guns; its officers with service revolvers. Cotton uniforms and cartridge belts secured through local subscriptions completed its equipment. The unit paraded with the Sheriff's Reserves in May 1917 on which occasion the entire Nassau county Home Defense organization assembled at the Min-eola Fair Grounds where it was addressed by ex-President Theodore Roosevelt.

As a precautionary measure in preserving the public peace the unit was on June 5th, 1917 ordered under arms during Federal Registration, and on election eve of that year the

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COMPANY "B"  
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company reported for duty at the armory in Brooklyn, returning to its home station at Lynbrook, L. I., after a fancied crisis had passed. For administrative purposes, the home section of the company was changed from Lynbrook to Brooklyn, and on November 20th, 1919 Company "B" received federal recognition thus becoming a unit of the 23rd Infantry, New York National Guard.

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COMPANY "C"

Following the departure of the 23rd Infantry, N.G.U.S., a Depot Battalion with Headquarters at 1322 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, was formed and commanded by Major James Robb, former Captain of Company "C" 23rd Regiment, N.G.N.Y., and later Colonel of the 23rd Infantry, N.Y.G.

Major Robb associated with him, Captains Thomas Fairservis, Clifford F. Lamont, Ethelbert Green and Vivian L. Outerbridge, all of whom had served with the old regiment. The organization of Headquarters, Companies "A" "C" "D" and "G" being accomplished and authorization having been granted on October 29th, 1917 to expand the Depot Battalion into a regiment to be denominated the 23rd Infantry, New York Guard, Company "C" was on that date mustered into the State service as a unit of that regiment.

The officers of the company on date of muster were:

Captain Thomas Fairservis  
1st Lt. Chauncey A. Pierce

Company "C" received federal recognition November 20th, 1919.

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COMPANY "D"

In August 1917 Captain V. L. Outerbridge, O.R.L., S.N.Y., was assigned to organize a company of Infantry to be attached to the Depot Battalion of the 23rd Infantry: ~~such a company~~ was duly organized and on October 29th, 1917 was mustered into the State service as Company "D" 23rd Infantry, New York Guard; authorization to expand the Depot Battalion into a regimental organization bearing that date.

The company contributed several men as a nucleus in organizing a Regimental Headquarters Company, mustered in as such March 11th, 1918. Enlistments in Company "D" of members of a civilian band was the foundation of a regimental band; these men were transferred to the Band Section on December 10th, 1917. The company officers as of date of muster were:

Captain Vivian L. Outerbridge  
1st Lt. John T. C. Waters

Company "D" received federal recognition January 7th, 1920 its status thereby changing from a unit of the New York Guard to that of ~~the~~ New York National Guard.

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COMPANY "E"

Early in September 1917 Professor J. Brace Chittenden of Polytechnic Institute, Brooklyn conferred with the Adjutant General at Albany on the subject of organizing a Battalion of Engineers to be comprised of officers and students of the Institute. The application was denied.

Immediately following the adverse decision, Brigadier General Dyer suggested to Professor Chittenden the forming of a company to be assigned the 23rd Infantry; the suggestion met with approval and Colonel Robb invited such a company to join his regiment.

The company have been recruited was mustered into the New York Guard in December 7th, 1917 and designated Company "E" 23rd Infantry, N.Y.G. The command was given to Captain Herbert W. Congdon. Professor Chittenden received his commission as 1st Lieut. in January of the year following. The company furnished many men to the U. S. Engineers during the World War. Federal recognition was given Company "E" February 20th, 1920.

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COMPANY "F"

This company was formed from a nucleus of men serving in the 9th and 12th Batteries, Veteran Corps of Artillery. Of these the 9th Battery having formally turned over to Company "F" 23rd Infantry, N.Y.G., its funds and property may properly be regarded as the parent organization. The 9th Battery was formed in July 1917 with a membership of one hundred and twenty four all ranks. Seventy two percent of its membership volunteered and served on the Aqueduct beginning August 15th, 1917; average individual duty performed, two weeks.

The 12th Battery was organized August 1st, 1917 from the Woodhaven Home Guard; fifty two names appear on the initial roll. The Battery was mustered into the Veteran Corps of Artillery, September 12th, 1917. Fifty percent of its membership volunteered for Aqueduct duty although not exceeding ten percent were called for that service.

When in the Autumn of 1917 it was announced that members of the V.C.A., were to be given the privilege of mustering into the service of the State a majority of the 9th Battery signified the 23rd Infantry, N.Y.G., as its choice; fourteen men of the 12th Battery followed. On November 14th, 1917 Lieut., and Colonel Praeger mustered these groups into the New York Guard as Company "F" 23rd Infantry.

The bulk of the membership of Company "F" was made up of residents of Richmond Hill and Woodhaven districts, Captain Raymond L. Taft commanded the company on date of muster.



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COMPANY "F"  
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Federal recognition was extended the company  
January 7th, 1920.

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COMPANY "G"

On July 24th, 1917 recruiting was commenced under the auspices of the Veteran Association of the "Brooklyn City Guard" (Company "G" 23rd Regiment) in organizing a company to be designated "G" 23rd Infantry Depot Battalion. By this, the new company would become a direct lineal descendant of the original "Brooklyn City Guard" which in turn was the parent organization of the 23rd Regiment.

Such a company was recruited and mustered into the service of the State October 29th, 1917 as Company "G" 23rd Infantry, New York Guard; the date authorizing the expansion of the Depot Battalion into a regiment being that on which the company was mustered. The officers assigned to Company "G" on date of muster were:

Captain Ethelbert Green  
1st. Lt. George K. Boyce

Company "G" received federal recognition June 30th, 1919.

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COMPANY "H"

This company had its beginning in Plymouth Church during March 1917. At the personal request of its pastor the Rev. Doctor Newell Dwight Hillis, a meeting was called for the purpose of organizing a unit known as "Plymouth Military Unit"; under authority of Section 5-A of the Military Laws of the State the unit would function in conjunction with the Home Defense Corps.

One hundred men of the congregation responded to the call and under the military guidance of Major George W. Rogers, C.A.C., N.Y.N.G., the unit developed into a well drilled body. The enthusiasm instilled in its members coupled with military knowledge acquired, resulted in seventy men of the organization enlisting in the regular establishment for war.

The unit had in the meantime associated itself with the Sheriff's Reserves: drills were held in the armory of the 13th Regiment and at the Sheepshead Bay Speedway. Its ranks now depleted through losses incident to the draft and enlistments the unit had reached an alarmingly low level and in all probability would have ceased to exist, had not the services of William F. Smith (later 1st Lieutenant) again raised the status of the organization to the level of a well organized body.

When the New York Guard was organized the unit made application to Colonel Robb for admittance into the 23rd Infantry. Accordingly twenty four members of the unit were

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COMPANY "H"  
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mustered into the service of the State on December 3rd, 1917 thus forming a nucleus of Company "H." The company had but one officer on date of muster; i.e:- 2nd Lieut. Dumont C. Mills. Company "H" was federally recognized March 26th, 1920.

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COMPANY "I"

Early in July 1917 the 5th Battery, Artillery Service Detachment, Veteran Corps of Artillery, reached its maximum authorized strength; the surplus of ten or a dozen men as a nucleus of a new organization designated the 11th Battery, V.C.A., carried on increasing in numbers and efficiency.

On August 22nd, 1917 both batteries left Brooklyn for duty on the Aqueduct over a sector running between White Plains and the Hillside Reservoir, this service continued until September 9th when the batteries returned to Brooklyn.

Following the organization of the New York Guard the question of enlisting therein was propounded to the members of the 11th Battery, a choice of two regiments was given; i.e.:- the 9th Coast Artillery and the 23rd Infantry. The choice being in favor of the latter the 11th Battery was on November 14th, 1917 mustered into the New York Guard as Company "I" 23rd Infantry. There being no commissioned officers assigned the company at muster, First Sergeant William D. Wilkes acted in the capacity of Company Commander pending the assignment of officers. The company was federally recognized January 31st, 1920.

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COMPANY "K"

Persuant to authorization granted by the Council of Administration of the Veteran Corps of Artillery in May 1917 two batteries were organized in the Borough of Brooklyn, one the 5th the other the 11th.

In July the 5th Battery having reached its maximum authorized strength the surplus of ten or a dozen men formed the nucleus of the 11th Battery. Captain Louis J. Praeger (later Colonel of the 23rd Infantry, N.Y.G.) commanded the 5th Battery.

Both organizations performed Aqueduct duty between August 22nd and September 9th, 1917 over a sector running between White Plains and Hillside Reservoir, Yonkers. With the organization of the New York Guard the 5th Battery was mustered into the State service on November 14th, 1917 and split into two companies designated respectively Company "K" and Machine Gun Company" 23rd Infantry, N.Y.G.

First Sergeant Willard C. Candee commanded Company "K" in that grade until November 23rd, 1917 when he was commissioned a 1st Lieut. Commanding. Company "K" received federal recognition February 27th, 1920.

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COMPANY "L"

The history of this company is unique. In April 1917 the Sheriff of Nassau county issued a call for volunteers to act in the capacity of "Sheriff's Reserves." Over three hundred men living in the towns of Cedarhurst, Lawrence, Woodmere and Hewlett responded to the call; these were formed into three units of Sheriff's Reserves.

The battalion commanded by Captain Leonard Sullivan until his induction into federal service, now fell to Major H. L. Bogert. Captain Warren Kelly functioned as Battalion Adjutant. In as much as the group comprising the Cedarhurst/Lawrence unit eventually became Company "L" 23rd Infantry, N.Y.G., our attention is centered upon that unit which was commanded by Captain Roy Pier; the average numerical strength of the unit was seventy five all ranks.

With the formation of the "Home Defense Corps" but sixty of the Sheriff's Reserves Battalion joined; of this number the majority came from Cedarhurst/Lawrence unit. On July 25th, 1917 a company of sixty five men designated the Cedarhurst/Lawrence Company, Home Defense Corps was mustered into the service of the State; the officers of this company were:-

Captain Warren Kelly  
1st Lt. Roy Pier  
2nd Lt. C. W. Woodford

Drills were held on Sunday of each week with an average attendance of sixty three; the company was presently recruited to eighty men. With the organization of the New York

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COMPANY "L"  
(Continued)

Guard, the Cedarhurst/Lawrence unit, Home Defense Corps was on October 14th, 1917 mustered in as Company "L" 12th Infantry, N.Y.G., the above named officers being duly commissioned in their respective ranks. On December 22nd of that year the company was transferred to the 23rd Infantry, N.Y.G., retaining its original company letter. The home station of Company "L" was transferred from Cedarhurst L. I., to Brooklyn, February 3rd, 1919. Company "L" received federal recognition March. 20th, 1919.

The following data refers to a company of "Sheriff's Reserves" organized at Inwood, L. I., in 1917.

This company was subsequently mustered into the service of the State as a unit of the "Home Defense." On October 25th, 1917 it was mustered into the New York Guard as Company "L" 23rd Infantry, and on December 22nd of that year was transferred to the 14th Infantry, N.Y.G.



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COMPANY "M"

This company had its beginning as a unit of the "Sheriff's Reserves" with home station at Glen Cove, Nassau county, L. I., where it was sworn in on March 27th, 1917 by the Sheriff of that county. The strength of the command was one hundred and twenty five men; its officers were:-

Captain Frank A. Mc Cahill  
1st Lt. Edward Lewis

On July 7th of that year seventy one men of the Sheriff's Reserves unit were mustered into the service of the State as the Glen Cove Unit of the Home Defense Corps. Immediately following the muster the officers named were elected:-

Captain Arthur W. Rossiter  
1st Lt. Edward Lewis  
2nd Lt. Henry L. Hedger

With the organization of the New York Guard, forty nine men of the Glen Cove Unit, Home Defense Corps were mustered in as Company "M" 23rd Infantry, N.Y.G.; date of muster November 14th, 1917; mustering officer Colonel James Robb, 23rd Infantry.

The original officers of the company were:-

Captain Arthur W. Rossiter  
1st Lt. Edward Lewis  
2nd Lt. Henry L. Hedger

Company "M" received federal recognition March 20th, 1920 by which time the home station of the company had been transferred to Brooklyn.

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MACHINE GUN COMPANY

The story of the organization of the Machine Gun Company, 23rd Infantry, New York Guard, is told in the history of Company "K" of that regiment. The salient facts are repeated:-

The Machine Gun Company was an offshoot of the 5th Battery, Veteran Corps of Artillery, which when mustered into the service of the State on November 14th, 1917 was split into two companies; i.e.:- Company "K" and "Machine Gun Company" 23rd Infantry, New York Guard. 1st Lieut. William L. Sayers commanded the Machine Gun Company on date of muster.

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HEADQUARTERS  
COMPANY

Company "D" furnished by transfer several men as a nucleus in the organization of the Headquarters Company; on this foundation the company was built by transfers from other units of the regiment and was mustered as a company March 11th, 1918.

Headquarters Company was originally commanded by Captain Louis W. Butler.

The organization received federal recognition March 31st, 1920.

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SUPPLY COMPANY

The Supply Company like other Headquarters units of the regiment was organized from existing companies each supplying by transfer its required quota of men. The company was mustered March 4th, 1918 and was commanded by Captain Charles H. Barnum, with George W. Mickelborough as 2nd Lieutenant.

The Supply Company was federally recognized March 26th, 1920

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SANITARY DETACHMENT

The Sanitary Detachment being an attached unit of the Medical Department, has no intimate bearing on the formation of the 23rd Infantry, New York Guard with which it functioned. The Medical officers originally attached were:-

Major Surgeon: James J. Keyes  
Capt. Asst. Surgeon : William C. Waggoner  
Capt. Asst. Surgeon: Henry L. O'Brien

The Sanitary Detachment was mustered into the New York Guard, March 11th, 1918: federal recognition was extended March 10th, 1920.