

H I S T O R Y
OF THE
TWENTY THIRD REGIMENT
N.G.S.N.Y.

Re-designated
the
ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH INFANTRY
A.E.F.

Now a unit of the Fifty Third
Infantry Brigade,
N.Y.N.G.

(Commencing January 1st, 1937)

Illustrated.

Volume Two

By

Lieut. Col. Rutherford Ireland, D.S.C.
formerly of the
23rd/106th Regiment.

CHAPTER VIII

The Seventy Fifth Anniversary.

A history of the regiment.

Death of the sole survivor of the
Gettysburg campaign.

War in Europe.

Winter training for the National Guard.

Issue of the new Garand Semi-Automatic rifle.

The year 1937 opened with an elaborate celebration of the Seventy Fifth anniversary of the birth of the regiment, which according to the old order of reckoning, fell on January 20th. The exercises opened with a banquet served on the main drill floor on the evening of January 16th; an old fashioned minstrel show given on the evenings of the 19th and 20th packed the armory to capacity. The celebration ended with a regimental review tendered Major General Frank R. Mc Coy, U.S.A., Commanding the Second Corps area; this occurred on the evening of January 23rd. The outstanding feature of the review was a representation of the Brooklyn City Guard, the parent organization of the regiment, by a subdivision of the 2nd battalion of the 106th Infantry, uniformed and armed as of the year 1858, when on August 23rd of that year the Brooklyn City Guard paraded in its distinctive uniform for the last time; the colors of the Corps were paraded on this occasion. It may be truly said that never before had the regiment in formation presented such a spectacle! The scarlet uniforms of the "Guard" topped with huge bearskins, the men armed with highly burnished muskets with bayonets fixed, the waving white silken color of the Corps, at times intertwined with the National Color, the whole mass silhouetted against the full dress grey of the active regiment, gave a sparkling effect long to be remembered.

Apropos to the subject of anniversary dates, there persists among the older veterans of the regiment, the erroneous supposition, — indeed a strong belief, that January 20th marks the advent of the

23rd regiment. So thoroughly convinced of this are the uninformed, that the naming of any other date has on occasions resulted in hot debate; to put at rest further discussion on the subject, the doubting reader is referred to chapter two of this history wherein is quoted the authority for claiming July 2nd as the correct date of its anniversary.

The death of Brigadier General James Robb occurred February 15th, 1937; during his long and faithful service he commanded respectively Company "C" of the old 23rd regiment, the 23rd Regiment, New York Guard, and the 2nd Brigade, N.Y.G. A history of the 23rd Regiment, N.G. S.N.Y., through the exigencies of war re-designated the 106th U.S. Infantry, A.E.F., at present a unit of the 53rd Infantry Brigade, N.Y.N.G., to which is prefixed a history of the Brooklyn City Guard, the parent organization of the regiment, was completed in February of that year; the work is by Lieut. Col. Rutherford Ireland, D.S.C., formerly of the 23/106th Regiment.

Colonel Frank C. Vincent was again honored in the continuance of his appointment as Aide on the Staff of Governor Herbert H. Lehman as of January 1st, 1937. On March 11th, representatives of no less than sixty one American Legion Posts and sixty five civic groups united in forwarding a concerted movement for the extension of the Bedford Avenue armory; by such an extension, the armory would embrace the square block bounded by Atlantic Avenue, Pacific Street, Franklin Avenue and Bedford Avenue; a bill introduced in the Senate on April 6th, providing for an appropriation of \$400,000 for the erection of such armory extension, received a second reading and was referred back to the Committee on Finance.

On April 24th, the regiment passed in review before Brigadier General Walter A. DeLamater, commanding the 87th Infantry Brigade, N.Y.N.G. Following the ceremonies, awards for achievements attained during

the year preceding were presented:- The Veteran Association Trophy for the greatest number of rifle marksmen and the **Moore** Efficiency Banner for rifle companies went to Company "E". The Admiral Josephthal **Trophy** for efficiency in rifle marksmanship Class "B" went to Company "C". The Service Company received the Veteran Association Efficiency Banner for Regimental and Battalion Headquarters units; the same company **received** the 106th Infantry Post A.L., Attendance Trophy.

In the Memorial Day parade, the 53rd Infantry Brigade was represented by the 106th Infantry; the Field and Staff superbly mounted, followed by the regiment in full dress grey, presented a picture **second** ~~honor~~ in the procession. The regiment furnished a provisional company to participate in ceremonies held on Governors Island on June 19th, 1937 commemorating the 300th anniversary of the purchase of the island from the Indians; the presence of other metropolitan regiments of the National Guard, all **in full dress**, added much to the impressive affair. July 2nd, 1937 marked the 75th anniversary of the birth of the regiment.

On the afternoon of Sunday, July 11th, the 106th Infantry Colonel Frank C. Vincent commanding, left its home station for Camp Smith, Peekskill, New York there to engage in two weeks field training; this change of station was made by motor trucks. A feature of the encampment was a review of the 53rd Infantry Brigade on Saturday July 24th, by Major General Frank R. McCoy, commanding the 2nd Corps area. Under the statutory age limit applying to officers of the military service, Chaplain Charles H. Webb was retired as of August 21st, 1937; he was succeeded by the Rev. Edward M. Pennell Jr., commissioned Chaplain with rank of Captain, September 16th of that year.

The achievements of the 106th Infantry in marksmanship for the year 1937 follows:- Competing for the National Guard and Naval

Militia Trophy, a team of ten defeated the 101st Cavalry by ten points with a winning score of 1163; in this match Private Sidney Graham of Company "F" was high with an aggregate of 124 out of a possible 125; the event constituted a third consecutive victory for the 106th and gave to the regiment permanent possession of the trophy. In the New York State Match competed for by teams of twelve the 107th Infantry scored high with an aggregate of 3938, the 106th Infantry taking fifth place with 3740. The 106th with an aggregate of 1655 held second place in the 53rd Infantry Brigade Match; the 105th Infantry won the match with a high of 1670. The Adjutant General's Match won by Company "K" 107th Infantry with a score of 274 placed the 106th team in third place with an aggregate of 267. In the Governor's Match (individual skirmish run) Major H. C. Gibb of the 107th scored high with 99 points to his credit; in this match Second Lieutenant J. F. Schaub, 106th Infantry scored 97, Private P. E. Nicolai 96, Corporal J. P. Nicolai 93, Second Lieutenant C. La Butis 92 and Captain E. K. Johnson 89.

The Thurston Memorial Trophy Match (embracing two hundred and eighteen individual entries) was won by Private J. B. Morrissey, 107th Infantry with a high of 96. Lieutenants J. F. Schaub, J. L. Tasetano, Sergeant D. A. Wills and Captain E. K. Johnson all of the 106th attained aggregate scores of 93, 92, 88 and 86 in the order named. In the State Pistol Match, Captain E. K. Johnson shot a high score of 176 on the regimental team of six. A regimental team of four from Company "M" scored 75.90 in the MacNab Trophy Match (dismounted pistol course) taking fourth place with Company "I" 107th Infantry in first place with a total of 93.87. Second Lieutenant J. F. Schaub, 106th Infantry attaining the highest aggregate score in all individual matches in the state of New York and the New York State Rifle Association for the year 1937 led the Governor's Honor Men with an aggregate of 473.

On Sunday afternoon, November 21st, the customary Memorial Service in honor of the dead of the regiment overseas, was held in the armory; as in previous years these services were well attended. The regiment was reviewed on the evening of December 4th by Colonel Bryer H. Pendry, Commanding the 245th Coast Artillery, N.Y.N.G. Following the passage in review, the rifle companies of the first battalion Major Edmund S. Massel Commanding, engaged in an exhibition drill; from the time the companies were presented to the reviewing officer, but one spoken command was given:- "Order Arms." From that point the entire drill, memorized by each officer and man of the battalion and based upon a system of silent counting, proceeded with unbelievable accuracy, ending with a line formation facing the reviewing party; considering the fact that repeated rehearsals of the numerous intricate evolutions engaged in were held outside regular drill periods, reflects the high esprit of the troops whose efforts were rewarded with tremendous and prolonged applause by an appreciative audience.

A regimental parade in the armory, the distribution of prize turkeys, numerous company Christmas parties and special exercises for the children with brilliantly lighted trees and a real Santa Claus who saw to it that every child present received a gift and candy, and the distribution of food to the needy of the several veteran posts of the regiment, brought to a close the year 1937; the exercises were held on the evening of December 23rd.

Again on January 1st, 1938 Colonel Frank C. Vincent's original appointment as Aide on the Governor's Staff was continued. The annual federal inspection conducted by Major Leslie E. Toole of the army extended over a period of four days, commencing January 31st, and on the evening of February 19th the regiment was reviewed by its several veteran organizations; presentations of awards followed the ceremonies.

The 23/106th Regiment Veteran Association Trophy for highest total of qualifications in rifle marksmanship once more went to Company "E" as did also the Moore Efficiency Banner for rifle companies and the 53rd Infantry Brigade Trophy for second place in small arms proficiency. Company "K" won the Admiral Josephthal Trophy for rifle marksmanship-- Class B, and the Medical Department Detachment (Attached) was awarded the Regimental Veteran Association Efficiency Banner for Headquarters units. The Service Company received the Chaplain Charles H. Webb Attendance Trophy for the highest percentage of men with 100% attendance; this company for the second time was awarded the 106th Infantry Post, A.L., Attendance Trophy. All of these awards were based on ratings and percentages attained during the preceding year.

The death of Major General (retired) Franklin W. Ward, late Adjutant General, State of New York and fourth Colonel of the 106th Infantry, 27th Division, A.E.F., occurred March 17th, 1938. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington, Virginia. On March 15th of the same year, death claimed the only surviving veteran of the old 23rd Regiment in the Gettysburg campaign, Charles H. Cotton whose enlistment dates August 5th, 1862 and who attained the remarkable age of ninety three years! Sergeany Cotton was buried with military honors at Greenwood. Still another much regretted loss to the regiment occurred March 24th, 1938 when Major Walter V. Moore of the Medical Department resigned from active service; he was succeeded by Captain Mortimer A. Lasky M/C commissioned a Major April 9th, 1938.

The regiment furnished a provisional battalion to represent the 23rd Infantry Brigade in the motorcade held April 30, in New York incident to the preview of the World's Fair scheduled to open one year from that date. The gigantic parade formed at the Battery and

moving north, crossed the Queensborough bridge arriving at the fair grounds where it disbanded; ~~on this~~ occasion the Regular Army, National Guard, the Navy and Coast Guard paraded their respective equipment of the latest type thereby showing the average civilian what has been attained in modern preparedness. Two officers, 1st Lieuts. Joseph L. Tasetano and Richard S. Estes, were detailed to the Fort Benning Service school for the 1938 courses.

As always, the regiment paraded on Memorial Day, May 30th; resplendent in its full dress uniform the 106th fairly sparkled under blue skies and bracing air. Early on the morning of Sunday, August 21st, 1938 the 106th entrained for "Pine Camp" Big Bend, Jefferson county, N. Y., for two weeks field training. Contrasted with unusually hot and humid weather experienced in and about New York City, climatic conditions in the Great Bend ~~Country~~ caused great wonderment among the troops; on Monday, August 15th the glass registered one hundred and ~~six~~ in the shade; in the short space of five hours the mercury dropped fifty six degrees accompanied by a heavy frost. Such are the vagaries of nature in those parts. It will be recalled that the regiment participated in the joint Army-National Guard manoeuvres at Pine Camp in 1908 and again in 1910; and it seems a remarkable fact that during the interim of thirty years but one officer, Colonel Frank C. Vincent ^{was} ~~is~~ the sole active survivor of the old 23rd Regiment to once more pitch his tent on those sandy wastes. ---- TEMPUS FUGIT:

During the year 1938 the War Department adopted (subject to a service test of one year) a new "slate blue" field uniform concerning which appropriate remark will be made hereinafter. The 106th Infantry was represented at the dedication of the "Court of Peace" on the grounds of the World's Fair by a provisional battalion commanded by Major Frank A. Conefrey, on Armistice Day, November 11th, and the annual Regimental Memorial Service in the armory followed on the afternoon of Sunday,

November 13th. The regiment passed in review before Brigadier General Bernard W. Kearney, commanding the 53rd Infantry brigade in the armory on the evening of November 26th, 1938. With the distribution of prize turkeys, under a brilliantly lighted Christmas tree, the glamour of a three ring circus and a new years party in the officers' club, the busy but eventful year came to a close.

A truly remarkable incident marked the opening of the year 1939. In a previous chapter, mention is made of the presentation of a stand of colors to Colonel Edward Leslie Molineux, commanding the 159th N. Y. Volunteer Infantry; this was in 1864 when the 159th was in active campaign. These colors, presented by the 23rd Regiment, N.G.S.N.Y., commemorated the fact that Colonel Molineux had served with the 23rd as its Lieutenant Colonel in the Gettysburg campaign; following his muster-out of federal service on the return of the 23rd regiment from the front, he accepted the Colonelcy of the 159th N. Y. Volunteer Infantry. On the death of Colonel (Major General by brevet) Molineux in 1915, fragments of these worn torn colors were distributed to every known survivor of that regiment in loving memory of its colonel.

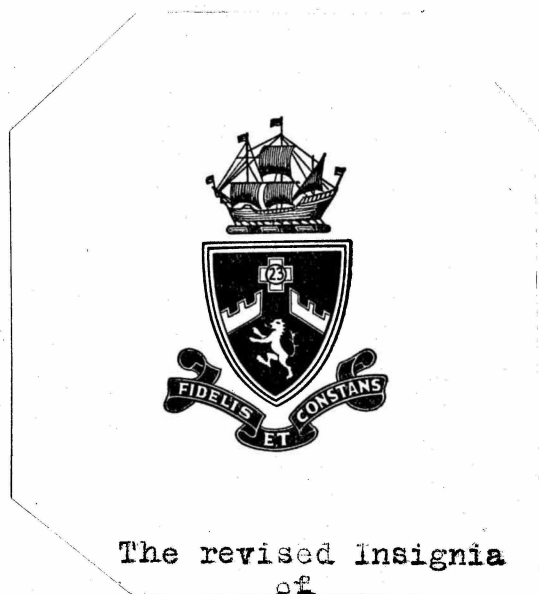
It was through the personal solicitation of Major Leslie E. Molineux, son of the General, that Captain William F. Tiemann, of Cavendish, Vermont, one of the few surviving veterans of the 159th, presented to the Memorial collection of the 106th Infantry, portions of these colors, together with an autographed history of that regiment of which he is the author. And so it came to pass that after a period of SEVENTY FIVE YEARS the colors came "home" for safe keeping as long as time shall last; these relics of inestimable value occupy a prominent place in the Memorial collection.

Again, the appointment of Colonel Frank C. Vincent as Aide on the military staff of Governor Lehman, was continued as of January 1st, 1939. The regiment stood annual inspection in its armory, January 31st to February 2nd inclusive; the inspecting officer for the United States was on this occasion, Lieut Colonel Joseph J. O'Hare.

On the evening of February 25th, the 106th passed in review before Master Sergeant Herman Grant (recently retired after thirty years of honorable service in the regular army). Following the unique ceremony, Sergeant Grant was presented with a fully equipped Chevrolet Master de lux Town Car; this token of esteem and friendship was made possible through voluntary subscriptions by officers and men of the regiment. The sergeant, whose assignment to the regiment as U.S. Instructor, for almost a decade, had, through constructive criticism and friendly advise, endeared himself to all ranks and grades; in his retirement, the army lost an efficient non-commissioned officer and a true gentleman.

In compiling the shooting record of the regiment for the year 1938, none but aggregates of third place or better are here recorded. In the 53rd Infantry Brigade Match the 106th Infantry with an aggregate of 1657, lost to the 105th Infantry by 12 points; in the Adjutant General's Match, the 106th Infantry took second place with an aggregate of 268. The 107th Infantry captured the 71st Regiment Trophy Match with a high of 1136, the 102nd Engineers stood second with 1128, and the 106th Infantry third with 1093. The Brigadier General James Robb Memorial Trophy for annual indoor small bore competition of Brooklyn Service Units, was won by the 106th Infantry. In the Governor's Match, First Lieut J.F. Schaub of the 106th stood second with a score of 98, losing to the 107th Infantry by 2 points, and in the Members Match, Second Lieut C. La Butis of the 106th took second place with a score of 185.

A second bill providing for an extension of the Bedford Avenue armory, introduced in the Senate by Mr. Coughlin February 7th, 1939, received a second reading and was committed to the Committee on Finance; this bill calling for an appropriation of \$750,000 superceded a previous bill introduced April 6th, 1937, calling for an appropriation of \$400,000. It was during the latter part of 1938, that the Regimental Insignia was modified to meet the original approved sketch in which the shield is of a shape shown in the accompanying illustration; also, Hudson's "Half Moon" identifies the regiment as one of the units of the State of New York.



The revised Insignia
of
106th Infantry, NYNG

Sunday, April 30th, 1939 marked the formal and gala opening of the New York World's Fair, in which the military took a prominent part, units of the regular establishment and of the New York National Guard participating in the impressive spectacle. The 106th Infantry furnished one company to the provisional regiment representing the state.

On the evening of May 20th, the regiment was reviewed by Major General Hugh A. Drum, commanding the First Army and

~~and~~ the Second Corps Area. Presentation of awards for the previous year followed the ceremonies of the evening. The Efficiency Banner for Rifle Companies went to Company "I", Captain Constantine Hilbert, Commanding, as did also the Chaplain Charles H. Webb Attendance Trophy for highest percentage of men with 100% attendance. Company "I" won also the 106th Infantry Post, American Legion Attendance Trophy. The Medical Department Detachment Attached, carried off the Veteran Association, 23rd/106th Regiment N.Y.N.G. Efficiency Banner (for Regimental and Headquarters units) and the Regimental Championship Basketball Trophy. Three classes of long service men i.e., ten, fifteen and twenty years, received the regimental "Vigilantia" decoration and the graduates from the regimental Officer Candidates School received their certificates. Dancing followed the ceremonies.

The annual Memorial Day parade, May 30th, held under ideal weather conditions attracted unusually large and enthusiastic crowds; the troops paraded in service uniform with steel helmets and bayonets fixed. On Sunday, June 25th, the 106th Infantry, Colonel Frank C. Vincent commanding, proceeded to Camp Smith, Peekskill, N.Y., for its customary two weeks field training; the movement was made by railroad without incident. The regiment was represented at the Fort Benning service schools for the year 1939 by one officer, First Lieut J.F. Schaub.

In rifle marksmanship for this year, the 106th Infantry attained prominence in carrying off coveted trophies. The performances of the regimental team and individuals of the team are recorded as being eminently worthy of note. In the 53rd Infantry Brigade Match, the 106th took first place with an aggregate of 1577, the 10th Infantry being second with a score of 1547. Sergeant D. Wills of the 106th Infantry won the Governor's Match with an indi-

vidual score of 98.97. In the Adjutant General's Match, Company "E" of the 106th Infantry held third place with an aggregate of 251; the regimental team finished second with a total of 1087, the 102nd Engineers beating them by four points in the General William N. Haskell Match. In the Camp Smith Match, the regiment came in second with an aggregate of 458. Second Lieutenant C.A. LaButis of the 106th won the Thurston Match with a high of 92. Corporal J.J. Babernitz attained third place with 48 in the General Kearney Match and Sergeant D.A. Wills took third place with an aggregate of 47 in the Slow Fire Match. In the Two-Man Team Match, Rzonce-Babernitz won third place with 91; the high score of 94 going to the 174th Infantry. In the New York State Match the 106th Infantry stood fifth with a total of 3788; the 107th won first place with 3884.

Foreign affairs with respect to the interests of our country had grown steadily worse; during the summer of 1939 it became apparent to the world that nothing short of war could stem the tide of the ever increasing menace of Nazi aggression; on September 1st of that year, German armies invaded Poland! Two days later, England and France declared war on Germany! On that day President Roosevelt addressing himself to the world, pledged the United States to strict neutrality; his address closed with these words:--

x x x "I hope the United States will keep out of this war. I believe that it will, and I give you my assurance and reassurance that every effort of our government will be directed toward that end." x x x

Declaring the ~~existence~~ of a state of limited emergency growing out of the complexities of the European war, President Roosevelt convened Congress in extraordinary session September 21st of the same year for the purpose of amending the then existing neutrality laws to a "Cash and Carry" basis.

In the meantime, by executive order of the President promulgated September 8th, the numerical strength of the National Guard of the United States was to be increased to maximum peace time allowances; under this order the total authorized enlisted strength of infantry regiments was placed at 1290; accordingly, an intensive recruiting drive was launched by the 106th Infantry to meet the demands of government. The following table shows the newly authorized strength by units.

ENLISTED PERSONNEL
OF A
REGIMENT OF INFANTRY,

	Total:
Nine Rifle Companies of 83 men each:--	747
Headquarters Company -----	1128
Service Company (including the band)---	85
Three B.H.Q. Companies of 20 men each--	60
Medical Detachment attached-----	36
Three Machine Gun Cos. of 78 men each--	234
<u>TOTAL:-----</u>	<u>1290</u>

(Authority: G.O. No. 12, A.G.O., S.N.Y., Oct. 1st, 1939)

Under the new table of organization adopted by the War Department, July 1st, 1939, the Howitzer Company ceased to exist as of September 30th, 1939 when it was absorbed into the Headquarters Company and designated the Anti-Tank platoon of that company. (G.O. No. 12, H.Q. 106th Inf. Sep. 18th, 1939). During that year Lieu't Col. John W. Foos, U.S.A., who for many years functioned as United States Instructor was relieved of his assignment with the regiment to accept the appointment as Senior Instructor; he was succeeded by Major Mark G. Brislawn of the army, assigned to the 106th Infantry. On July 1st, 1939 the War Department authorized what is known as the "Basic Field Manual and Infantry Drill Regulations"; the intricacies of this revised text book compels earnest and deep study by all ranks and grades.

The additional duties imposed upon the National Guard of the United States by executive proclamation already mentioned, called for double weekly armory drill periods and in addition, each unit of the Guard was required to perform seven days additional field training between October 17th, 1939 and January 31st, 1940. Some circles liked to believe this sudden reversal of regular schedules as purely routine; yet it appears significant that the concurrence in time of two important events, i. e., the signing of the revised neutrality law by the President and the commencement of troop movements conveyed a far deeper meaning than accidental synchronism set for November 4th, 1939. Because of this sudden activity the regimental memorial service scheduled for November 5th, was cancelled and the drive for recruits continued with renewed energy.

Shortly after noon of November 11th, the 106th Infantry marched from the armory in heavy field equipment, bound for Camp Smith on the Hudson, there to commence its first period of intensive field training; the regiment returned to its home station during the evening of the 12th inst. In the interim between November 12th and 24th double armory drill periods were performed and again on the 25th of November the regiment went into camp as before, returning to the armory on the evening of the 26th inst. The initial issue to the regiment of the newly adopted rifle on December 8th, 1939 warrants remark. This arm is officially known as United States Rifle Cal. 30. M1; it is often referred to as the Garand Semi-Automatic Rifle, Model 1936. It is a self-loading shoulder weapon; it is gas operated, clip fed and air cooled. It weighs nine pounds and the bayonet an additional pound; ammunition is furnished in clips of eight rounds, each weighing 0.5 lb. The principal characteristic of this weapon is its mechanical operation which enables the individual rifleman to deliver a large volume of accurate fire upon a designated point or area within range. The re

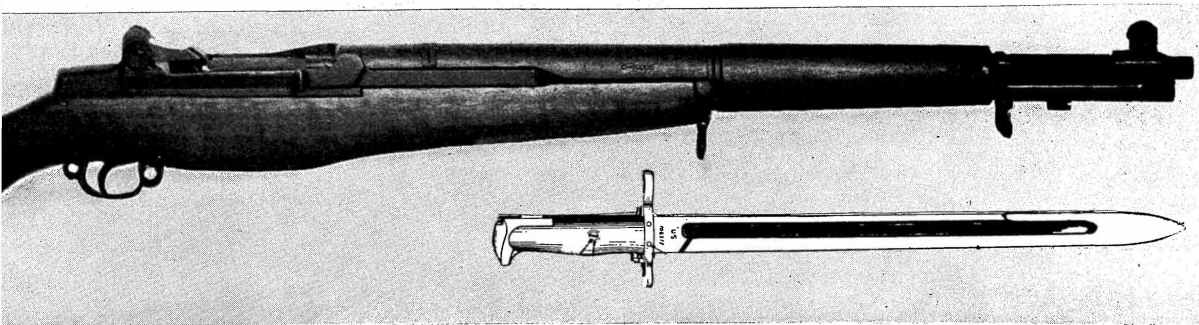
sight may be elevated to 1200 yards; by a single motion the piece is rendered unservicable.

The third and last period of field training commenced December 9th and terminated with the return of the regiment from Camp Smith on the 10th instant. (The original order calling for seven days field training having been amended, the seventh day was forfeited, thus reducing the total period to six days.) On the evening of December 21st, the annual regimental Christmas Tree party held on the drill floor, promised much to a happy gathering around a giant tree festooned with brilliant lights; this too was the occasion when prize turkeys were distributed to the winners of the lucky numbers drawn from a revolving barrel; with each drawing the men, seated on the great floor broke into song! Christmas carols reverberated throughout the armory! The like of it was never heard before.

The dawn of the year 1940 found the United States at peace with all the world despite three major wars raging in Europe and the far east. Congress had in the meantime, appropriated huge sums for national defense. On January 24th of that year, Major General, the Adjutant General, S.N.Y., Walter G. Robinson, died in New York City; he was succeeded by Colonel Ames T. Brown, Assistant Adjutant General, appointed the Adjutant General with rank of Brigadier General, as of February 9th. This officer achieved a splendid record in the World War, serving with the 106th Infantry in all its engagements overseas. The regiment stood its annual federal inspection in the armory, January 29th/February 1st. Major Ehly, U.S.A., conducted the inspection. Again, Colonel Frank C. Vincent's appointment as Aide on the Governor's Staff was continued for the year 1940.



Facing Page 15



No.

**United States Rifle Cal.30, M1.
(Garand Semi-Automatic Rifle)
Model 1936.**

Initial issue to the
106th Infantry, N.Y.N.G.,
December 8th, 1939.

Arms of the One Hundred and Sixth Infantry,
N.Y.N.G.

With each succeeding invasion of neutral countries by Germany, Italy and Russia, the whole world wondered! Czechoslovakia, Austria, Poland, Finland and Denmark had by April 1940, fallen under the heel of tyranny with Norway, shoulder to shoulder with the British fighting for her very life! Congress continued to set aside huge sums for defense! The regiment passed in review before Brigadier General Bernard W. Kearney, Commanding the 53rd Infantry Brigade on the evening of April 13th; a feature of the ceremonies was the presentation of awards for the year 1939:-- The 106th Infantry Rifle Team received the 53rd Infantry Brigade Match Trophy. First Lieu't Constantine A. LaButis, Company "G", Sergeant John P. Nicolai, Company "E", and Corporal John J. Babernitz of the same company having been awarded the Army Rifle Team Badges in the New York State Rifle Team National Matches, Camp Perry, Ohio, were duly decorated. In the Brooklyn National Guard and Naval Militia Rifle Tournament, the high individual score medal went to Private Harry Danylchuk, Company "G", and the medal for High Aggregate score, to Lieu't LaButis of the same company.

Veteran Association

The 23rd/106th Regiment/Trophy for Rifle Marksmanship,--Total Qualifications, having been won by Company "E", was duly presented to that unit as was the Efficiency Banner for Rifle Companies. The Admiral Josephal Trophy for Marksmanship--Class B, went to Company "A". Headquarters Company won the Veteran Efficiency Banner for Headquarters Units and the 106th Infantry Post, American Legion Attendance Trophy was won by the Medical Department Detachment Attached. During May 1940, the the 106th Infantry became officially known as the "106th Infantry (Rifle)". Captain Frank J. Cassidy was the sole representative of the 106th at the Fort Benning service school for the year 1940.

During the month of May both Holland and Belgium succumbed to the onrush of Nazi hordes. Again President Roosevelt appealed to Congress for additional sums for national defense, a modification of existing neutrality laws and authority to call out the National guard of the several states when in his opinion the services of these troops might be required.

On June 3rd, Governor Herbert H. Lehman ordered all armories closed to the public; coincident with this order, armed guards were established within ~~the~~ armories and arsenals, the 106th Infantry complying with orders immediately; these orders and dispositions were based on known activities of the so called "Fifth Column". The regiment in the meantime had recruited its full quota. Representing the 53rd Infantry Brigade, the 106th Infantry paraded on Memorial Day in service uniform, steel helmets and with bayonets fixed; its auxiliary weapons attracted much attention.

On June 10th, 1940, Italy declared war on England and France; on the same day Canada declared war on Italy. In the meantime the Germans had penetrated to within thirty miles of Paris! On the 11th, The Union of South Africa and the Government of New Zealand declared war on Italy as the Germans were knocking at the gates of the French Capital. With the final appropriation by Congress for national defense passed June 12th, the total amount set aside for that purpose, amounted to the staggering total of five billion, twenty one millions of dollars.--\$5,021,000,000.00.

In the meantime the German "Blitzkrieg" swept on with unabated fury. Holland and Belgium had succumbed to the onrush of Nazi hordes. Again President Roosevelt appealed to Congress for additional sums for national defense, a modification of existing neutrality laws and authority to call out the National Guard of the several states when in his opinion the services of these troops might be required. On June 3rd Governor Herbert H. Lehman ordered all armories throughout the state closed to the public; co-incident with this order, armed guards were established in all municipalities and arsenals. These orders and dispositions were based on known activities of the so called "Fifth Column".

By now the nation, thoroughly alarmed, clamored for national defense; recruiting drives went forward on a large scale; the 106th Infantry (Rifle), recruited its quota in May, but continued its drive well into June. As a unit of the 53rd Infantry Brigade, the regiment paraded on Memorial Day in service uniform, steel helmets and with bayonets fixed; its auxiliary weapons attracted much attention. Flushed with success, the Germans continued their assaults on Paris and on June 10th, France capitulated, asking for terms! In the meantime, Russia invaded Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia!

On June 24th, 1940, the Governor (by direction of the War Department) ordered a sweeping re-organization of the National Guard of our state by which a preponderance of artillery was allocated to the metropolitan area of New York City and its environs. Under the contemplated re-organization, the 106th Infantry (Rifle) would be transformed into a regiment of Field Artillery to be designated the 20th; this regiment would be armed with the formidable 155 mm Howitzer. Appropriate remarks will be made hereinafter concerning the final disposition of organizations affected.

Convinced that conscription for military service in the armed forces of the United States offered the only solution for raising and maintaining an adequate force to effectually back up the nation's interests in the western hemisphere, the General Staff of the Army pressed it's claim vigorously and without cessation. At the height of nation-wide heated debate pro and con respecting the drafting such a law, President Roosevelt on July 12th ordered to the colors four divisions of the National Guard, aggregating 75000 men, for "intensive field training" over a period of from one year to eighteen months! The divisions designated under this initial call and the states affected follow:-

30th Division
44th do do
45th do do
91st do do

New York, New Jersey, Tennessee, North Carolina,
South Carolina, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arizona, Col-
orado, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho.
