

News from Our Division Units

15TH N. Y. INFANTRY

(Col. Wm. Hayward, Commanding.)

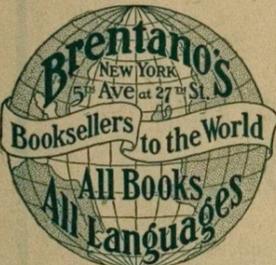
The New York Division re-assembling after a brief vacation discovers that there is a new baby in the family. A big dark healthy baby, glad to join, proud of itself and of the state that gave it birth. It is called the Fifteenth N. Y. Infantry and when you all get a chance to see this child, you will agree that it possesses all those elements which the country fondly hopes will be discovered in the army about to be formed. Here are 2000 men not reluctant, but glad to serve the Stars and Stripes—equal in enthusiasm to your old veteran regiments of the Division. Not yet technically equal to your best; but in morale, willingness, physical fitness and mental aptitude inferior to none. Our big brown giants laugh and sing, eat up the rations and eat up the work. They don't worry about tomorrow and they don't grouch about yesterday. If you want to be a surprised and happy line officer, spend a week with us and study our men. Learn how splendidly this new type is adapted to the best ideals of real soldiering. Can you imagine men frankly and wholeheartedly happy with the ration, the quarters, the pay, the life? Let me tell you a little story to illustrate why skilled mechanics are content to earn thirty dollars a month. I wanted a bit of skillful carpentering done and one of my companies sent me not only a skilled carpenter but an intelligent man quickly grasping a new idea. To my remark to his Captain, "I suppose he earns six dollars a day at home," the captain replied, "The Major forgets no colored carpenters can work on a union job." "He learned the trade in the navy, but must work at odd jobs only in the city and earn small and uncertain pay."

Yesterday, our splendid black chaplain preached a great sermon of straight from the shoulder, man to man, type. He talked a bit about the folk love of a Hymn, known to and sung by every one of the hundreds of men crowded into the service. He told why "Steal Away, Steal Away to Jesus" that plaintive melody meant so much to a race which in his boyhood had to steal away to the woods or hills for a service. Can you see why they are proud of their regiment and its official privileges.

Yes, to you who ask, we have some colored comrades in our family of officers. Fine, educated, competent line officers whose chief fault perhaps is the modesty with which they hold their positions. They enjoy the respect and cordial co-operation of their associates largely trained in your old regiments. We are up here at Camp Whitman just finishing physical exams and paper work. The mustering officers are new to all of us. We have seen none of the old Inspector Instructors we had known.

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The officer in charge is Capt. White, 28th U. S. Inf. with some fine youngsters just out of West Point. The State has provided model mess shacks just finished with excellent kitchen facilities including cement bases for our field ranges. We seat 150 men at tables in each house and there is one for each unit. Cooks? Well, we have so many skilled cooks that the rations grow wickedly tempting. Our personnel? The Colonel you now, although most of his soldiering was done in a Nebraska regiment. Colonel Hayward with his Legal and Public Service Commission experience added to military training which began under Gen. Pershing is a Colonel who having created his regiment guards its every interest with jealous care. He don't let us miss anything. You may be interested to know the origin of our officers so here is the roll so designated:

Col. William Hayward, 2nd, Nebraska. Lt. Col. Lorillard Spencer, Squadron A, N. Y. Maj. E. W. Dayton, 22nd Eng., N. Y. Maj. Munson Morris, 12th Inf., N. Y. Maj. Woodell A. Pickering, U. S. Marine Corps. Reg. Adjt. Capt. John Holly Clark, Jr., 7th Inf., N. Y. Adjt. 1st Batl., 1st Lieut. Edward Shaw, Squadron A. Adjt. 2nd Batl., 1st Lieut. Whitney Kernochan, Squadron A. Adjt. 3rd Batl., 1st Lieut. Horace Allen, Squadron A. Chaplain, William Henry Brooks. Supply Company.

Capt. Geo. F. Hinton, Idaho Infantry. 2nd Lieut. Herbert Slingso, 7th N. Y. Machine Gun. Capt. Julian F. Scott, 12th, N. Y. 1st Lieut. Aaron T. Bates, Squadron A, N. Y. 2nd Lieut. Wickliffe B. Lewis, 7th, N. Y. 2nd Lieut. Edward A. Walton, 7th, N. Y.

Company A. Capt. Emil Wenige, 14th, N. Y. 1st Lieut. Samuel Shethar, 14th, N. Y. 2nd Lieut. George Delafield, 7th, 1917.

Company B. Capt. Charles W. Fillmore, 9th, Ohio. 1st Lieut. George C. Lacy, 15th, N. Y. 2nd Lieut. Demus Lincoln Reid, 15th, N. Y.

Company C. Capt. C. H. Ranulf Compton, 2nd, N. Y. 1st Lieut. Edward B. Burke, 34th U. S. C. A. C. 2nd Lieut. Walter R. Lockhart, 1st Cav.

Company D. Capt. Robert F. Ferguson, Motor Battery. 1st Lieut. Edwin R. D. Fox, 7th, N. Y. 2nd Lieut. Herbert W. Maloney, 7th, N. Y.

Company E. Capt. Frederick Cobb, 10th N. Y. Inf. 1st Lieut. Eric S. Winston, M. B.* 2nd Lieut. Durant Rice, Squadron A.

Company F. Capt. Arthur W. Little, 7th, N. Y. 1st Lieut. Harold M. Landon, M. B.* 2nd Lieut. Roger Whitkesey, M. B.*

Company G. Capt. James Duglad White, M. B.* 1st Lieut. Chas. F. Frothingham, 7th N. Y. Inf. 2nd Lieut. Richardson Pratt, Squadron A.

Company H. 1st Lieut. Seth B. MacClinton, 69th N. Y. Inf. 2nd Lieut. William O. Waters, M. B.*

Company I. Capt. Napoleon B. Marshall, 15th N. Y. Inf. 1st Lieut. Edward V. Seidle, 7th N. Y. Inf. 2nd Lieut. William R. Sattler, 7th N. Y. Inf.

Company K. Captain Hamilton Fish, Jr., O. R. C. 1st Lieut. James Reese Europe, 15th N. Y. Inf. 2nd Lieut. Charles S. Dean, M. B.*

Company L. Capt. Louis B. Chandler, 25th U. S. Inf. 1st Lieut. John O. Outwater, M. B.*

Company M. Capt. David A. L'Esperance, 8th C. A. C. 1st Lieut. John W. Castles, Jr., M. B.* San. Det. Major Edward L. Whittemore. 1st Lieut. George W. McSweeney, 69th N. Y. Inf. 1st Lieut. John C. Bradner. 1st Lieut. Nils Henry Larson. —July 26.

*Motor Battery.

14TH N. Y. INFANTRY

(Col. J. R. Howlett, Commanding.)

The 15th of July found all of the officers of the "Fighting Fourteenth" at the Armory getting things in shape for the work of the morrow. On the 16th all the men, with few exceptions, were in the building eager for the work and on fire with enthusiasm. That the men met the call of the President in the right spirit was best shown by the way in which the various rumors were treated. Their spirits would go up when told that they were bound for France, and they were correspondingly depressed when some "know-it-all" told them that we were to go to the Philippines. The location of the training camp was a matter of indifference. It may be Louisiana, South Carolina, or Camp Whitman. All the men want to know is that they are to go to France. Of course we want to be with the New York troops if possible, but there is no question of criticizing the Army officers.

The work of physical examination and mustering in has been completed. We did not lose more than 100 men and that means that every man left in the regiment is physically perfect and free of all dependants that would hold him back. The work of recruiting went on at the same time and the number of new men exceeded those rejected. Some of those thrown out have tried to re-enlist by various

subterfuges. The strength of the Regiment is now over 1900, and before this article appears we will have been recruited to full war strength. There will be no conscripts but every man a volunteer. We marched away in '61 only 825 strong. Will the fall of 1917 see 2002 of the "Fighting Fourteenth" land in France ready for the intensive training preparatory to the trenches. Every man hopes so.

The various clubs of the borough organized themselves to boom the Regiment and bring it up to war strength. The Montauk, Crescent, and Hamilton clubs were among the social organizations helping us most vigorously. Also we had help from several political, scientific and religious clubs. Their work was of great value and when we leave there will be an efficient committee of prominent citizens who will give men of the Fourteenth the first chance when starting life anew. One of the pleasantest features in the recruiting campaign was the dinner given by the Montauk Club in honor of Col. Howlett and the officers of the Regiment. To the President of the club, Mr. William H. English, our thanks are extended.

The Fourteenth, not being in Federal service, could have no men detailed for recruiting. The work of the enlisted for men has been most meritorious. Some gave up their employments and devoted all their energy to recruiting the Regiment to full war strength. Such a spirit will tell in battle. When we think of the work involved in bringing almost 4000 men to the Armory to be examined the officers feel confident that their soldiers will be excelled by none.

The first company to reach full war strength was "G," Capt. Hardy in command. He was soon followed by Company "E," Capt. Conroy, who in turn was pressed closely by the Machine Gun company, Capt. Thompson. All of the companies now are close to the limit and each day sees another added to the list of full quotas.

The officers underwent their Federal examination with few casualties, but in the endurance test we were not so fortunate. On the Coney Island ride one gallant captain shed his blood in the service of his country. Of that hero we cannot boast as he was not wounded with front to the enemy. As our allies would say, "Au contraire."

The Regiment has had the Rev. Father Tyson attached to it as Catholic Chaplain. He was given a warm reception when presented to the boys at an evening entertainment. Mr. Walker, Director of the Prospect branch of the Y. M. C. A. has provided interesting and enjoyable evenings for the men. Our appreciation is thus expressed.

The enjoyment of these social evenings has been greatly increased by the playing of our band recently organized. The men march much better behind music and better yet with the 14th Regiment Band than any other. The men already show the effects of training. The recruits swing out from the Armory each day more like soldiers and when we go south they will be ready for regimental drills. They are learning the lessons of obedience, loyalty and discipline, and the few in the guard-house realize that ten minutes in the Army means more than a day in civil life. However, there has been little need for discipline and when the full task of the soldier is given them their spirit will carry them over all difficulties. The many friendships on the Border we all trust will be soon renewed "somewhere in France," and we hope that there we shall be a part of the New York division.

2ND N. Y. INFANTRY

(Col. Jas. M. Andrews, Commanding.)

The circumstances under which the Second Regiment, New York Infantry, received orders to mobilize for Federal service on March 25, 1917, were such as to test the efficiency of any semi-civilian military organization.

The commanding officer and the Adjutant were in New York City preparatory to the annual convention, on the following Tuesday, of the State Officers' Association, of which Colonel Andrews was president.

The first intimation of the mobilization was received at 5.30 p. m. by the First Battalion Commander from a newspaper dispatch from Washington on which a local reporter was seeking an interview. The Colonel was located by telephone and he having but a few minutes previously received official notice, directed that the companies be assembled. By 9 o'clock that evening all of the companies reported ready.



Sentry Box at Twin Bridges

When it is considered that the Troy Armory, in which were quartered Regimental Headquarters, Medical Corps, Supply Company and Companies A, C, and D, had burned to the ground but two months previously (January 16th), and all of the records and property of all of these organiza-

tions totally destroyed, the difficulties overcome in accomplishing this quick mobilization will be appreciated.

The operation of mustering into the Federal service proceeded promptly on the arrival of the regular army mustering officers the following Tuesday and was completed on Friday, March 30th.

The north-eastern section of New York State having been designated as the Second Regiment District, orders were received on Sunday evening, April 1st, for the regiment to move out. Within an hour the first outpost was established and sentries were on duty and as rapidly as transportation was available each company entrained.

The First Battalion was extended from Schenectady up the Mohawk Valley covering the N. Y. H. R. R., the West Shore R. R. and the State Barge Canal, the most distant outpost being established at Nyandons on the International Bridge crossing the St. Lawrence River.

The Second Battalion was distributed from Ballston Spa north to the extreme north-eastern corner of the State at Rouse's Point, covering the Barge Canal, Champlain Canal, Delaware & Hudson R. R. and the Boston & Maine R. R.



Guard Roost built at Little Ausable

The Third Battalion covered the middle section of the regimental district establishing outposts on the Delaware & Hudson R. R., the two canals and the Boston & Maine R. R. east to the Vermont state line.

In addition, reserves were established at one Government Arsenal and six large industrial plants manufacturing munitions for the U. S. government and one company was assigned to duty at the Sackett's Harbor Reserve Officers' Training Camp.

Most of the companies left their home stations between midnight and daylight, April 2nd, and the outpost details were dropped off the train with their personal equipment, tentage and rations near the bridges, tunnels and locks they were to guard, in the dead of night and located their positions from verbal instructions and descriptions given to the non-commissioned officers en route.

The last company reported its outposts in position at 6.30 a. m., April 2. In spite of the conditions under which the outposts were thus established, out of some 125 outposts only five proved, on subsequent inspection, to be incorrectly located, which speaks well, not only for the instructions given by the officers but for the intelligent execution of their orders by the "non-commissioned men" of the regiment.

The weather conditions in this district, especially in the northern portion, were very trying throughout the months of April and May. The resourcefulness of the company officers, the non-commissioned officers and the men themselves in constructing habitable quarters in positions exposed to the severity of winter weather, and in many instances dangerous because of the nature of the railroad construction, has, throughout the tour of duty, kept the health of the regiment excellent.

Five members of the Second have proven themselves "faithful unto death" and their companions have without hesitation replaced them immediately and kept up the work of guarding the property entrusted to them.

Altogether the experience has proven an excellent developer of efficiency and resourcefulness in the non-commissioned personnel of the entire regiment and has enabled the company commanders to discover and eliminate any whose qualities did not measure up to Second Regiment effectiveness.

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