

## News from Our Division Units

## 1ST N. Y. INFANTRY.

(Col. James S. Boyer, Commanding.)

War may be all that General Sherman says it is, and then some, but, take it from us, it has nothing on the muster and mobilization of a guard regiment, composed of separate companies located here, there and "Somewhere in New York State." The First New York Infantry managed to pass through it without any casualties and "came up smiling," notwithstanding an almost continuous cannonading throughout the "Line of Communications" and "Field of Operations," interspersed with attacks and counter-attacks by the Blank Form Field Army. What the "B. F. B.'s" lacked in mobility and adequate ammunition they more than equalized in stubbornness, familiarity with the sector of the line we controlled and an adequate supply of gas bombs. Even their administrative units took part in the five days battle and our reinforcements gave out time after time before the engagement ended.

An armistice was declared today. Every last one of us is happy, including the enemy. A peace commission including some of the most important personages of the Blank Form Government has arrived at our headquarters under a flag of truce. How long the present state of affairs will last is not known, but since the temporary cessation of hostilities, the war does not seem so bad.

Come what may, we are mobilized and ready. Our regiment is at full war strength and was the first infantry outfit from the Empire State to so report. In addition to this we have a reserve unit numerically as strong as any in the field and, the personnel of the men, their average intelligence and physical qualifications are as good, if not better than any in the field. Where we really "shine" however is in teamwork. Talk about machinery, we have yet to see a mechanical device work as smoothly and with the cohesion of the different parts of our outfit.

We could write from now until the end of the war overseas explaining at length the wonderful ability and unique qualifications of "the best National Guard outfit in the country" but what's the use. In the first place, we are modest anyway. Secondly, it costs money to publish a newspaper these days and it's a safe bet there will be plenty of stereotyped stuff in "The Rattler" on this phase of the Mobilization of the Guard.

To those with Missourian tendencies, the First Regiment has this to say, however, they'll be shown, all right, alright.—Utica, N. Y., July 21.

## THE DENTAL CORPS.

The efficiency of the New York Division and the spirit and remarkable powers of accomplishment of the National Guard as an institution, are well illustrated by a new and extraordinary piece of work just concluded by 1st Lieutenant Bissell B. Palmer, Jr., of the New York Dental Corps. About five weeks ago the Division Commander took up with Colonel Terriberry, Chief Surgeon of the New York National Guard, the matter of getting the teeth of the men in first class condition for field service. Until recently it was not appreciated what an important relation this subject bears to efficiency. Of course all know that a good sound body is largely dependent on good digestion, and in turn good digestion is dependent upon the condition of the teeth. But only recently has it become known that infected teeth frequently are a source of bodily disease, particularly of rheumatism, and that many teeth unknown to their owners, are infected.

As our Guard readers will know, the Guard works very largely for nothing, and hence the problem was affected materially by the fact that no funds were available for the work contemplated. As often happens in the Guard, however, there was a Guardsman to do the trick. The matter was turned over to Lieutenant Palmer for solution. He obtained the co-operation of the Preparedness League of American Dentists. Voluntary service without compensation of many dental surgeons throughout the State was promptly obtained. One detachment was organized as examining surgeons and another as operating surgeons. The magnitude of the work done may be gathered from the following statistics.

The teeth of 17,005 men of the Division were examined. 10,052 teeth were extracted and 8,685 teeth were filled. The New York Division will go to France better able to masticate the Army ration than ever before.

## HEADQUARTERS 3RD BRIGADE.

(Gen. James W. Lester, Commanding.)

These headquarters were mustered into the U. S. service by Captain Grosvenor L. Townsend, U. S. A., mustering officer at 11 A. M., Monday, July 16th.

No members were disqualified by the Medical Examiners.

Major John H. Barker succeeds Major Chandler as Adjutant of the Brigade. Major Barker was formerly Ordnance Officer of the Brigade and is a very competent officer. He is a lawyer by profession with offices in Glens Falls.

The headquarters of the 3rd Brigade, in time of peace, are at Albany, N. Y.

## WAR DOGS AND THEIR WORK

The method adopted by the war dogs to bring aid to badly wounded men is to take the soldier's cap and carry it back to the stretcher-bearers. Then the latter follow up the dog, which takes them to the owner of the cap. The soldiers are instructed to whistle and hand their caps to any ambulance dog at work, but the dog, if left to itself, will find the wounded man and immediately set to work to secure his hat.—"Shooting Times" and "British Sportsman."

## 2ND N. Y. FIELD ARTILLERY.

(Col. G. A. Wingate, Commanding.)

The middle of last June the members of the 2nd New York Field Artillery, in common with the other citizen soldiery of the National Guard, were happy in various degrees in the belief that they had a month to go before they were called into the Federal service, and were curiously interested in the newspaper reports that OLYMPUS was going to put the fatality off until August 5th because of mysterious infelicities in rank which would be occasioned by calling forth the Guard in echelons.

On June 23rd they were interested to read in the newspapers that their brigaded comrades in the 1st and 3rd Field had been called into service to aid in the instruction of student officers at Plattsburg, Madison Barracks and Fort Niagara, thanked their stars that no such sudden upset had come to them, and, it being Saturday, went joyously upon their week-end vacations, to be shocked upon their return by the receipt of an order saying that they had been substituted for the 3rd Field Artillery and were to go to Madison Barracks and Fort Niagara as soon as they could be mustered in. The week following was a confused hustle of closing out business affairs, bidding farewell to employers and families, and winding up the matters that had been left until the last moment.

A telegram on the morning of June 30th "inducted" the Regiment into service forthwith, civilian occupations ceased, and, with the assumption of military apparel, the members of the Regiment were enabled to ride free on subways, elevated and trolley cars. Sad eyed, kind faced mustering officers came to our two armories and initiated us in the mysteries of Special Regulations No. 55, which were written for a different set of facts and circumstances than those confronting the 2nd Field, and required endless interpretation and modification to conform to the tactical situation. While the paper work was being done, undone, and done over again, and everybody was being given the once over by the Surgeon, all hands were busy with the packing up process, which, in the field artillery game, is some spring house cleaning.

The need of the artillery students at Fort Niagara and Madison Barracks was so great that the guns and caissons had to be sent on in advance of the muster in, and they were shipped on July 2nd with a detail of one officer and ten men from each battery, to the great sorrow of those left behind, for the field artilleryman feels when he is separated from his guns that all hope is lost.

While the 2nd Field was waging peace on the Border its turn to go to Sterling Ranch for field firing did not arrive until the late fall, and it spent the entire month of October at that delightful summer resort, returning to dear old McAllen in time for its Thanksgiving Dinner. While it was up on the range, it never could persuade any inspection officers to separate themselves from the metropolitan pleasures of McAllen and Division Headquarters long enough to condemn its worn out property, and after the Regiment got back from the range its property was in such shape that the inspector disposed of great quantities, and the announcement of its return just after Christmas was given as a reason for not replacing the supplies condemned. At muster out a lot more stuff was condemned and destroyed, so that equipment was very short as requisitions never were filled. It was still in this condition when the call came, and the Department Commander decided that it better stay in its armories until it had received sufficient mess furniture to supply each individual member with the implements of the dinner hour and sufficient canvas to house them, which wise decision met with the hearty approval of the entire command, though the prolonged stay in the cramped army quarters was demoralizing and disheartening. Picture to your mind an armory built for 133 men with 700 men quartered in it, and you can get an idea of the conditions that prevailed.

The embarrassments of being located at two posts were largely overcome by the prompt efficiency of the Army Board in providing additional and direct telephone communication, but the crowding was excessive and the men gladly accepted the opportunity afforded of sleeping in their own homes.

The Regiment was at war strength when the call came and suffered but few losses from physical rejections and those incident to the ordinary wear and tear of human life, but a surprisingly large number of dependent relative cases arose, despite the efforts of Battery and Company Commanders to have all such eliminated before the call came. Far too many lads lacked the nerve to be thought quitters by their comrades when family needs really required that they should get out, and many youngsters ran away from responsibilities and enlisted, only to be found out by the dependents reporting the facts to the Commanding Officers.

The time was filled with recruit drills and an effort to make veterans with two days' service, wear their clothes and walk and salute like old timers, which, through the excellent spirit of the men, was far more successful than one would be readily inclined to expect. The buildings were too crowded for indoor work, but when the weather permitted, which it occasionally did, the streets were used for drill purposes and the initiation of the field artillery into the mysteries of close order drill similar to the infantry, which could not be done in the limited army space. Drilling a battery of 190 men is no small proposition.

As time wore on the reservists began to report and frantic efforts were made on the part of Battery Commanders to get back into service

old non-coms to replace those who had gone to the Officers Training Camps, but the rules could not be changed and the reservists dawdled about, anxious to go and very greatly needed, but unavailable. Whether they will yet be able to join us, or whether they will go to some other lucky organization as a nucleus of trained men, or whether they are to be a part of our "Reserve Battalion" has not been disclosed up to this writing.

When compared with the hysterical hurly-burly of last year's muster in, the peaceful and orderly transmission to Federal service this summer has seemed a successful and rational proceeding, and we feel that we are beginning our work with everything in shape so that we shall know where we are and what we have done, we having learned by experience as well as others.

How long our service will be at the detached post to which we are going, we cannot tell, but the 2nd Field sincerely hopes that it will be able to join the Division in its Southern mobilization camp before the intensive training has proceeded too far to catch up.—July 16, 1917.

## 3RD N. Y. FIELD HOSPITAL

(Major A. W. Slee, Commanding.)

Probably the most active of the smaller organizations mobilized at the present time is the Third Field Hospital Co. of Brooklyn under the command of Major Arthur W. Slee. This organization, consisting of five officers and eighty men, gained a splendid reputation for efficiency in hospital work at Camp Whitman when over one hundred cases of paratyphoid were handled. Colonel Page of the regular Army at that time notified the War Department at Washington of the splendid work of the Third Field Hospital and highly commended the work of the organization.

When the Company reached McAllen, Texas, much of the work was put up to the Brooklyn lads. Several men were detailed to the base hospital, acting as orderlies and assistants in the laboratories. A convalescent hospital was established at the quarters of the Third Field Hospital and about one hundred and fifty men were fed and cared for each week.

At the present time many changes have taken place in the Company. Two Lieutenants, one Sergeant and nine men, including Lieutenants Reynolds and Harding, Sergeant Richardson and First Class Privates Browne, Adeock, Ehrman, D'Arán, Andrews, Henecker are at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, undergoing a three-months' training course. Recently Sergeants Bechtold and Fox were detailed to the Boys' Training Camp at Peekskill, N. Y., where they inoculated two thousand boys against typhoid with the assistance of ten first class privates, including Tim Ryan, Walter Miller, Julius Broggelwirth, Joseph Rottman, Edward Knight, Harry Mall, Ainsworth Rankin, Harry Krueger, Charles Cox, and Reeves McGillicuddy.

Sgt. 1st Class S. Stark, who acted as Mess Sergeant last year is now Top Sergeant of the Company, taking the place of Sergt. Callow, who was recently discharged. Other appointed Sergeants are Arthur Buff, Bertrand Reville, late of the N. Y. Quartermaster Corps, Harry Browne and Seth D'Arán.

The Third Field Hospital Co. with the motto "Kindness and Care" is again ready to take the field and keep up the splendid reputation earned in the past.—July 26.

## 8TH N. Y. C. D. C.

(Col. E. F. Austin, Commanding.)

The Eighth Coast Defence Command, Colonel Elmore F. Austin, commanding, was mustered into the United States service at its new armory, Jerome Avenue and Kingsbridge Road. The rapidity with which the preliminaries and the muster itself was accomplished speaks for itself of the efficiency of the Command and incidentally sets a new speed record.

The command consists of twelve companies, numbering consecutively from the 25th to the 36th and all of which were mustered into the service at full war strength. An interesting feature of the muster was the notably few rejections for physical disability by the U. S. Examining Surgeons, which was due to the rigid physical examination to which the men of the 8th C.D.C. have recently been subjected by its own Medical Department. The organization of the Depot Battalion has been in progress for some time under the direction of Major Tests and is now well in hand.

It will be recalled that the 8th C.D.C. took possession of its new home, which, by the way, is the largest armory in the world, only four weeks before the date of the mobilization, and it is eminently pleased with the quarters. Since July 15th the heavy ordnance, consisting of a 12-inch mortar, a 10-inch disappearing rifle and a 3-inch coast gun have been put into service, and the companies are now going through daily drills at the batteries. This is a source of much satisfaction, as the command has never known what it was like to have guns of its own. The schedule also includes daily Infantry Drills which are taken out of doors, the locality affording excellent opportunity for this, with its broad boulevards and open country.

The officers and men of the 8th C.D.C. extend most cordial greetings to the readers of "The Rio Grande Rattler," and hope to have the pleasure of meeting you often through its valuable pages.—July 26.

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