

It is not the purpose of "The Rattler" to sting, but to get out a rattling good newspaper.

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"The Strength of the Wolf is the Pack, but the Strength of the Pack is the Wolf"

A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

Capitol, Albany, August 18, 1916.

"I am deeply grateful of having the opportunity to express my pride and that of every citizen of the State in the splendid spirit shown by the soldiers of the National Guard of New York, who so willingly answered the call to arms when it sounded.

"Our State not only furnished promptly the quota required, but prepared to send many more, each unit at war strength. Those who were forced to remain behind showed by their keen disappointment their patriotism and their desire to serve their country.

"No one appreciates more than I do the sacrifices which have been made by the soldiers of New York in order to fulfill their obligations to the country and to the flag. Again our State has done more than that which was merely required of it in order to protect the United States.

"I believe the entire nation is deeply grateful to New York which has furnished such a large proportion of the troops at the Border and such a splendid force."

CHARLES S. WHITMAN.

ON HIKE AND IN BIVOUAC All Brigades Start Regiments in Field Maneuver --Supply Officers Test SOLDIERS STANDING TEST WELL

The program for the practice marches and maneuvers of the infantry commands of the New York Division commenced on August 18, and it is expected that eleven days of hiking and field work will have been completed by each regiment before September 8. The 14th, 71st and 3rd Regiments, of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Brigades respectively, have now been on the march for a week, and the other outfits will follow at intervals until August 28, when the 12th, 69th and 74th which are the last to start, will get under way.

The object of these practice hikes is, primarily, to test the efficiency of the Supply Officers who will work under conditions entirely new to most of them and to give the line officers experience in handling their troops in this kind of country. Also, the men will become thoroughly hardened by the marches and skirmishing and will gain valuable experience in taking care of themselves in the field, which will prepare them for any eventuality later on.

Every care has been taken by the commanding officers to provide for the comfort of the men and to see that these field maneuvers are not any more of a hardship than is absolutely necessary. Naturally, the greatest difficulty has been in locating sufficient and suitable water supplies along the route, but profiting by the experience of the divisional cavalry organizations who have already covered the route, it is expected the men will not be put to any serious discomfort for lack of water. At Young's Ranch, where each outfit camps at for one night, there is a swimming hole, which is large enough to give an entire regiment a comfortable bath and swim.

The program has been arranged so that each command will cover 82 miles in approximately eleven days. The farthest point from their camp they reach will only be about 25 miles. The first day out some of the regiments will cover six miles and the rest 3 miles according to the station they start from, and work up to 16 miles, which will be the longest single day hike of the trip. There will be two days for each outfit when they will cover but 3 miles.

Owing to the comparatively short distances covered each day, there will be ample opportunity for field maneuvers, which will be held at the discretion of the commanding officers of the respective units. Each regiment will advance as they would if proceeding through hostile territory, outposts being stationed at every halt. Officers will keep war diaries, daily field orders will be issued and route sketches made. Of course each man will carry his full field equipment with rations, and each regiment will be accompanied by its field ambulances, wagons, auto trucks, etc., making the hike have all the appearances of actual service and rendering it as interesting as possible to the men.

The 1st Brigade located at Mission, camps at the following points in rotation: Alton, Sterling's Ranch, La Gloria, Sterling's Ranch, Laguna Seca, Youngs Ranch, Edinburg, McAllen and back to Mission. The 14th, of this Brigade, is already on the road and will complete the itinerary by August 26th. On August 22nd, the 2nd Regiment will get under way, followed on August 24th by the 69th Regiment.

the route outlined above. The 71st is already seven days on its way and will be followed by the 7th and 12th Regiments on August 22nd and 28th respectively.

The 3rd Brigade, whose home station is at Pharr, will bivouac the first night at McAllen and then Mission and complete the same itinerary as the 1st and 2nd Brigades. The 3rd Regiment, as was stated above, started out on August 16th and will be followed by the 23rd on August 22nd and the 74th on August 28th.

In Mission, Pharr, McAllen and Edinburg the men will be granted town leave at the discretion of their commanders. Facilities will probably be afforded the men for sending back mail every day or so. The entire march of course, will be in the flat open country with which the men have become familiar in their camp drills. One portion of the route, however, embraces a practical desert and it will be a severe test of endurance as the trail will be either choked with loose, drifting sand or thick mud.

These field maneuvers are being held under conditions which are entirely different from anything the New York Division has yet participated in and every officer and enlisted man will be on his mettle to demonstrate to the public at home and abroad that the United States National Guard is capable of taking its place side by side with the regular army and of giving a most excellent account of itself.

A FEW TELEGRAMS

Copy of telegrams sent to prominent statesmen and soldiers by our editor:

"Confidentially, when will the N. Y. Division return north?"

Replies to Date

"The matter will have careful consideration at Cabinet meeting to be held about Nov. 15." — WOODROW

"The weather here is very warm." — LEONARD WOOD

"Tomorrow, if my influence has any weight at Washington." — CARRANZA

"Grape juice should be added to the ration." — BILL BRYAN

"Suggest Kaiser William and possibly Emperor of Japan as only persons who might facilitate. Think it over." — BILL ORR

"We have just arrived." — O'RYAN

"Arrived at Winnepeg today, still suffering from Texas heat. No time to answer. Am continuing north." — DARLINGTON

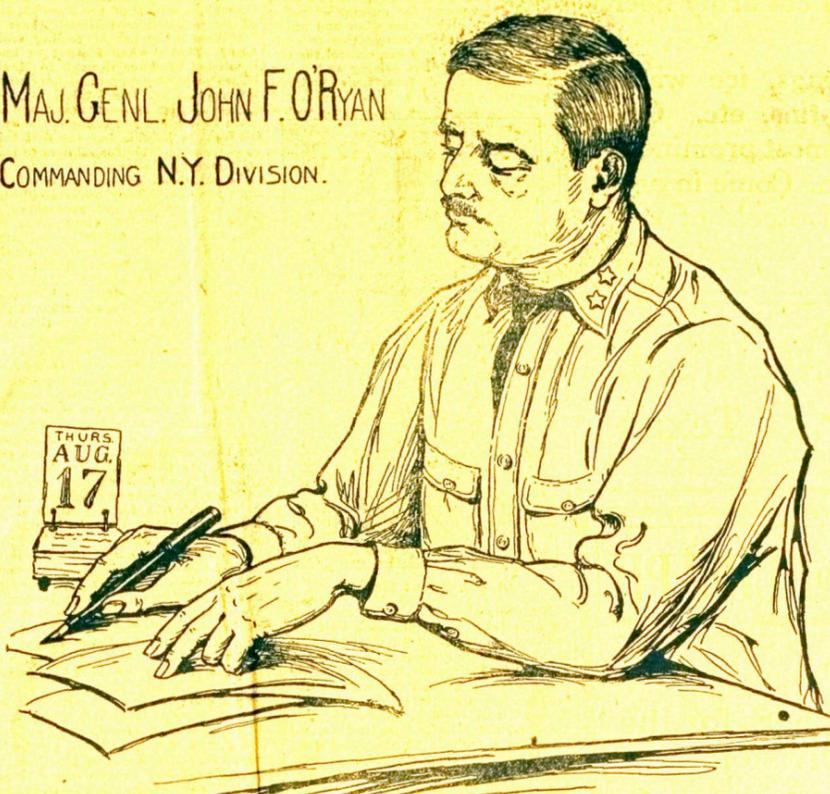
CAUSE FOR THIRD ALARM!

"Fire! Fire!" the piercing cry of warning rang out upon the morning air. Even the policeman on the beat was startled into apprehensive attention, and as the thick, black smoke rolled sluggishly out of the top window of the crowded tenement and the flames burst forth with a roar and a crackle.

But we are forgetting ourselves. The fire did not take place on Delancy Street but right on the railroad tracks in front of Division Headquarters on Thursday, the hottest day of the week. Several hundred bales of new hay were destroyed.

The whole regiment of 3rd Inf., bivouacked at Headquarters, deserted the Federal pay-master and served manfully as freight engines to push a train of box cars out of the danger zone. A squad from the headquarters detachment rescued a mule after it had been seized by the quick and intense heat of the flames.

MAJ. GEN. JOHN F. O'RYAN
COMMANDING N.Y. DIVISION.



Pvt. D. Emery, N. Y. AMB. CO. NO. 3, N. G. U. S.

ADJUTANT GENERAL ARRIVES IN CAMP

Commences the Work of Giving Troops State Pay --Welcome News

STATE FUNDS TO BE ADVANCED

Brigadier General Louis W. Stotesbury, The Adjutant General of New York, arrived at McAllen last week and began immediate preparations for paying the Division the difference between federal pay and that authorized by the state when the National Guard is on duty for state purposes.

In an interview on Friday last, with a reporter for The Rattler, Gen. Stotesbury said:

"I am here prepared to pay the New York troops the difference between the state and federal rate of pay from the date of the call for mobilization until actual muster into the federal service. The state forces were, as a matter of fact, under federal jurisdiction and subject to federal pay from the time of reporting at company rendezvous.

"The state rate of pay for officers while in the state service is from ten to forty per cent more than the base pay of National Guard officers in the federal service, the increase being made according to length of service. For enlisted men the base pay in the federal service is about one third of that provided under military law for like grades in the state service.

"The Governor has ordered that for purposes of pay the troops will be considered as in the state service until actually mustered into the U. S. service. This will make a difference of from ten to twenty dollars for enlisted men and as high as forty per cent difference for officers.

"It is Governor Whitman's desire that this payment be made with all possible dispatch, avoiding all red tape and adherence to prescribed forms where it is not absolutely essential. When federal rolls have been prepared, I am computing the difference and making payments on retained copies. Being right here on the ground, necessary corrections can be made and certificates obtained, which would otherwise have involved weeks of correspondence with its attendant delay in paying the troops.

"I have been here less than a week and have already paid four organizations approximately fifty thousand dollars. From now on I expect to be able to take care of an organization a day.

"It is all real money too, continued General Stotesbury, "I am making all payments in cash and this is the first time within my knowledge that the state has paid in currency. I came prepared to pay by check if desired, but upon submitting the question to commanding officers I found that cash would be preferable.

"There is another proposition which the Governor has approved that will be

of interest to organizing officers down here. The military law of the state provides an allowance for organizations equal to \$1.60 for each enlisted man present for duty at each of five compulsory drills or parades, for the purpose of defraying necessary military expenses. This fund which amounts to eight dollars per man per year is ordinarily made available at the close of the calendar year, based upon returns filed in December. In order to make part of this fund available to meet present emergencies in the field, it is proposed to divide the fund into two payments making the allotment for the first six months immediately available. The drills and parades reported should be for the period prior to the mobilization.

"Considerable criticism has been heard at home upon the delay in equipping our state forces—not only those mustered into the federal service but those organizations left at home which upon the President's call were promptly brought to war strength and ordered to our mobilization camp in anticipation of an emergency that was then thought to exist. It was deemed the part of reasonable foresight and patriotism to have these additional forces ready to supplement the troops actually called into service.

"The public generally did not understand that all of our military equipment and clothing comes from federal sources. It cannot be procured from other sources. It is not a question of having funds to purchase. The prescribed clothing and equipment can only be obtained from the federal government and not elsewhere.

"For years in New York we have been trying to induce the federal authorities to store the war strength property within the state, offering to set apart in our armories adequate storage room which might be held under the control of federal officers, so that in case of a call the clothing and equipment necessary for the increase to war strength would be on hand. As a matter of fact in all armories recently erected by the state such a room has been included. Legal obstacles, however, were found to such an arrangement, and so when the call came, the property was not on hand and organizations ordered to the mobilization camp either had to take men unequipped or leave them at home stations. The ruling of the federal authorities was that no property with the exception of blankets and mess kits, could be issued until the organization was actually mustered into the federal service. It took weeks to bring about an adjustment which finally enabled the state authorities to fully equip the organizations that were left at home. They stood up manfully under the hardships and discomfort which such delay entailed, but when they were finally equipped at full war strength they were splendid military units. If occasion should come they are prepared to join the troops here on the border, for after forty days of intensive field training which they drilled at Camp Whitman, they will not be found far short, in condition or capacity for arduous work, of the troops in service here.

"I think the troops here have accomplished wonders, from reports of the intense heat conditions generally I expected to see men with drawn faces

A REMARKABLE HEALTH RECORD

Rigid Rules of Discipline Make Health Conditions on Border Ideal

ATTRACTING FAVORABLE ATTENTION

The health of the New York Division due to the character of its personnel, its discipline and the rigid rules regarding "booze," is so remarkable that the official reports concerning the sick rate should be of interest not only to the men of the Division but to those misguided and emotional persons at home who have been breaking into the press about "conditions on the border."

The figures given below indicate that the highest sick rate was that of July 27, when but two and a fraction men out of every hundred were ill. After the first few days of August and down to the present time the rate has been that heretofore attainable only by well seasoned troops.

STATISTICS—Daily sick rate.

July 19	.....	.0141
July 20	.....	.0132
July 21	.....	.0169
July 22	.....	.0177
July 23	.....	.0145
July 24	.....	.0181
July 25	.....	.0208
July 26	.....	.0228
July 27	.....	.0276
July 28	.....	.0270
July 29	.....	.0263
July 30	.....	.0229
July 31	.....	.0265
Aug. 1	.....	.0245
Aug. 2	.....	.0245
Aug. 3	.....	.0202
Aug. 4	.....	.0193
Aug. 5	.....	.0196
Aug. 6	.....	.0168
Aug. 7	.....	.0162
Aug. 8	.....	.0144
Aug. 9	.....	.0131
Aug. 10	.....	.0130
Aug. 11	.....	.0136
Aug. 12	.....	.0140
Aug. 13	.....	.0124
Aug. 14	.....	.0123

and weary eyes. I have seen no man out of condition and the percentage of sick is below that of any locality from which the men are drawn. Of course that is because they are picked men in the first place, but there seems to be magic in the air for in spite of the heat and hard work the men seem filled with energy, enthusiasm and determination "to see the job through" even if it does take until after Christmas.

General Stotesbury is assisted by Major Francis L. V. Hoppin, 1st Lieut. Frank J. Kirwin and six civilian clerks of the "pay fleet."

OUR MISSION ON THE BORDER

Major General O'Ryan Gives Our Representative Interesting Interview
NEW YORK DIVISION FIT

A staff representative had an interview with the Major General commanding Saturday in reference to obtaining a few words to the members of his command in the first issue of The Rattler. The General said:

"I presume they would prefer to have me answer two questions rather than speak on the subject of discipline, sanitation or training. The two questions I have in mind are: 1—What are we here for? 2—When are we going home?"

In answering the first question my sole source of information is the President's Proclamation. In that proclamation the President says: "Having in mind the possibility of future aggression on the territory of the United States and the necessity for the proper protection of same, the President has thought proper to exercise the authority vested in him by the Constitution and laws and call out the Organized Militia and National Guard necessary for that purpose."

As we know from conversation with people along the border aggressions were more or less continuous up to the arrival of the National Guard, and that since that time all aggressions have ceased, and our fellow citizens of Texas, residents along the border have enjoyed a feeling of security which they had not experienced for many months before our arrival here.

I cannot answer the second question as to how long we shall be here, because I have no information affecting the question except that which is patent to all. I have read and enjoyed a little verse rumored to have been written by one of our cavalry on the subject of the length of our stay, entitled "Christmas at McAllen," based upon a statement attributed to me that we would eat our Christmas dinner here. Anything further I might say in regard to this second question therefore would be in the realm of speculation.

The occasion seems opportune to say a few words concerning the results of our stay here. These results may be classed as those personal to us, and those that affect us as a tactical unit. So far as the first class is concerned it is common knowledge that many officers and men are performing their service here at great personal sacrifice. A substantial percentage of this class have been discharged, but the total number of discharges and requests for discharge, when the strength of the Division is considered, is relatively small. Some regimental commanders report the number of men to be discharged in their regiments for any cause other than expiration of period enlistment, is practically negligible. A substantial number of the men whose terms of enlistment have expired are re-enlisting. In some cases where excess officers are required to be mustered out by the War Department, they have accepted commissions in lower grades in order to remain with the Division on the border.

Contrary to the predictions of those who continue to give publicity to the hostile views in the New York press, the record made by the National Guard of the country is regarded by all soldiers as the National Guard subscribed en masse to the new Federal oath, and with remarkable speed and absence of confusion were transported, in most cases more than two thousand miles, to the border. This country has never seen such fine regiments as some of those we have in the New York Division. Perhaps other National Guard Divisions now have similar regiments. The Second New York Infantry, for example, has a strength of 1688 officers and men. The Third N. Y. Infantry has a strength of 1595 officers and men. The 71st N. Y. Infantry has 1543 officers and men. Signal Corps and Sanitary units, Cavalry and Field Artillery were practically at war strength for months preceding the President's call, and hence these organizations have few recruits.

If the people of New York state could see the thousands of strong bronzed young men constituting the N. Y. Division swing by on their marches, they would thrill with pride over their representatives in the U. S. Army.

Upon the arrival of the Division in Texas an order was issued prohibiting the men of the Division entering saloons or drinking any form of alcoholic drink, and from subjecting their bodies to infection. A published appeal was made to the men to carry out this order in letter and spirit, the response to this request being remarkable. There have been practically no cases of intoxication and the number of men who have violated the regulation about the use of liquor have been negligible. The result of all this is that the men of the Division are physically fit, alert and ready for service. That 19,000 men will go without liquor in any form and faithfully comply with such rigid regulation affecting their morals, indicates a standard of discipline and a self respect that are sources of genuine pride.