

HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE MILITIA IN IOWA
1898-1916

[This paper covers the period from the Spanish-American War to the recent mustering of the Guard into Federal service for border duty in 1916. Articles dealing with the earlier periods in the history of the militia in Iowa appear under a similar title in the IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for July, 1919, and January, 1920.—EDITOR]

During the Spanish-American War the entire National Guard of Iowa was either mustered into Federal service or discharged, so that for a time Iowa was without an organized militia of any kind. Technically, of course, all members were discharged from the Guard: those who volunteered for United States service were given honorable discharges as of the dates of muster-in of their respective regiments; those who failed to volunteer and those who were rejected upon physical examination were also honorably discharged from the service of the State.¹

Almost immediately many applications were received for the organization of Guard companies to take the place of the ones which had "volunteered to do battle for their country and flag." The Governor and Adjutant General decided that the vacancies created by the companies volunteering were to be "kept sacred for them until their return."²

The Fiftieth and Fifty-second regiments were mustered out of United States service in October and November of 1898 and were reorganized into National Guard companies and regiments, retaining their company and regimental designations and, largely, their war-time personnel.

¹ Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1899, p. 9.

² Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1899, p. 2.

There seemed to be a distinct feeling throughout the State that the National Guard was a valuable instrument of protection, and should be encouraged. The presence of war had emphasized the importance of the organization and the sentiment was general that it should be perpetuated. "The state has every reason to be proud of its gallant soldiers in the Spanish and Philippine wars," wrote Inspector General Lincoln in 1899, "but advantage should be taken of all learned by experience in the field, and old errors should be eliminated from the guard so we may be better trained for future call to service."³

The Fiftieth and Fifty-second regiments camped during the summer of 1899 — the Fiftieth regiment at Burlington and the Fifty-second at Clear Lake. Troop A, of cavalry, which had been organized at Des Moines late in 1898, camped with the Fifty-second regiment. Rain interfered with this camp, but drills and ceremonies were executed nevertheless and the conduct of the men was excellent. The after-war spirit, however, broke loose in the camp of the Fiftieth regiment, and, while ceremonies and drill were well attended to, discipline was poor. The use of liquor was said to be "entirely too free" and there were reported raids on private property in the vicinity of camp. Indeed, the Assistant Inspector General called the attention of the visiting staff officers "to the fact that their tour of duty, or visit at the camp, is not for the purpose of absorbing liquor, but to learn the duties of their departments".⁴

It was suggested after the encampment of 1899 that the Guard be encamped thereafter by brigades. "The late war proved", it was said, "how greatly we need officers competent from experience to handle successfully large bodies

³ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1899, pp. 14, 515.*

⁴ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1899, p. 517.*

of troops.”⁵ The criticism was made, also, that too much time was spent in useless parades and ceremonies. “What need of even such a thing as a practice review? Formations for attack may well be substituted for ceremonies.”⁶

Several of the recommendations of the Adjutant General in his report for 1899 are worthy of mention. He wanted the system of election of National Guard officers abolished for he was of the opinion that Iowa would never have a well disciplined Guard as long as the enlisted men were allowed to elect their own officers. This, he thought, was the greatest weakness in the organization of the State troops.

A permanent camp ground and target range owned by the State was urged as a necessity. It was also proposed that the State use its influence to secure legislation by the Federal government making State troops national in fact as well as in name. Finally, it was suggested that “the enlistment oath be such as to include any and all service under the general government.”⁷

By November 30, 1899, the time of the Adjutant General's report, three companies of the Forty-ninth regiment and one company of the Fifty-first regiment had been reorganized. Reorganization proceeded rapidly so that all four regiments were soon filled up and all camped in 1900. Enlistments in the Iowa National Guard were now in accord with the Regular Army standard, as laid down in Tripler's Manual.⁸

The legislation of 1900 repealed the Code section which provided for the organization of the Guard into two brigades, leaving the regiment as the highest unit. Thus there were left no general officers of the Guard aside from staff

⁵ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1899, p. 515.*

⁶ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1899, p. 515.*

⁷ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1899, pp. 20, 21.*

⁸ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1899, p. 19, 1901, p. 4.*

officers. The salary of the Adjutant General was increased to \$2000 and he was given a record clerk at a salary of \$1200. When State troops were employed in Federal service, the compensation of the Adjutant General was to be that of a Colonel in the Regular Army. He was also to act as Quartermaster General at such times. The grade of regimental quartermaster was changed from First Lieutenant to Captain.

The organization of the company, troop, and battery was changed somewhat. An infantry company could now have a first sergeant, quartermaster sergeant, and two cooks, in addition to the duty sergeants and corporals earlier authorized. Troops and batteries were allowed a farrier, blacksmith and saddler, but no veterinarian. In the medical and staff departments the changes were mostly occasioned by the abolition of brigades, thus making unnecessary brigade staff officers.

A new departure in militia legislation in Iowa was the following provision: "That there shall also be paid to each officer and soldier for attendance at company drill at the company station, the sum of ten cents per hour and not exceeding twenty cents in any one week, provided, that from any money due any officer or soldier for attendance at company drills shall be deducted the sum of ten cents per hour and not exceeding twenty cents in any one week for absence without leave from any such drills."⁹

A measure for the benefit of Spanish-American War veterans was promulgated as General Order No. 3, on March 23, 1900. By it all former members of the Iowa National Guard who had volunteered and had been mustered into United States service, as well as those who had passed the physical examination and had volunteered for United States service, but for whom there had been no opportunity to

⁹ *Laws of Iowa*, 1900, Chs. 72, 73.

serve because of the difference in organization of the Iowa National Guard and the volunteer regiments, and who had joined the Guard upon its reorganization, were given a record of continuous service.¹⁰

In June, 1900, orders were issued providing for the organization of a Signal Department and a Medical Department of the Iowa National Guard. The Signal Department was to consist, in addition to the commissioned officers authorized by the Code, of four sergeants, eight corporals, and twenty-eight privates, to be taken proportionately from the four regiments. The enlisted men of the Medical Department were to be four hospital stewards, twelve acting hospital stewards, and twenty-four privates similarly recruited.¹¹

Encampment in the summer of 1900 was by regiment; but in 1901 the Forty-ninth regiment and the Fiftieth regiment camped together at Dubuque, and the Fifty-first regiment and the Fifty-second regiment camped together at Council Bluffs, thus forming two provisional brigades. In both years Troop A of cavalry was assigned to camp with the Fifty-first regiment of infantry. Summer camps were by this time no experiment. Some were more successful than others because some officers were more conscientious than others. Always there were faults to correct and always there were things that might be improved. They proved themselves "experimental soldiers" in 1900 by flying the flag from a box kite instead of a pole, which was said to be "more novel than military".¹²

At the close of the camps of 1901 the Inspector General wrote that there were "three things our camps can dispense with to the good of the service, viz: Sutlers, Y. M. C. A., and women.

¹⁰ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1901, Appendix, p. 14.*

¹¹ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1901, Appendix, pp. 39, 40.*

¹² *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1901, Appendix, p. 74.*

“There is nothing the sutler sells the men would not be better without. The ration is sufficient for the authorized enlisted force in camp and does not need to be eked out with poor ices, ice cream, and so-called ‘soft drinks’ that are worse than slops and ruinous to the stomach.

“The Y. M. C. A. are not required in camp to either handle mail or advertise themselves on elaborate letter-heads erroneously printed. It should be part of camp instruction for a command to care for its own mail. In the short week of camp it is not really necessary to write many letters and the men should be taught to look out for themselves in regard to writing materials, stamps, etc.

“As to women living in camp, it is a difficult subject to properly treat. But if they do not know or care that they are a nuisance, underfoot, and a detriment to the good work and benefits expected of camp, they have so far unsexed themselves as to be for once on an equality with men and should be plainly ordered to stay out of camp. They become a nuisance as soon as they leave home with a command, crowding the cars to the discomfort of the men, and in camp they not only crowd the grounds, but eat to the detriment of the company messes, and I have never heard of their ‘chipping in’ to help out the mess Camps should not be made a military picnic.”¹³

In 1900 the first State rifle meet since 1897 was held. It seemed certain now that the militia was soon to be outfitted with the “Krag” rifle used by the Regular Army, or with some other high power rifle, and for this reason it was again urged that a permanent State Rifle Range be acquired and owned by the State.¹⁴

During the biennial period ending November 30, 1901, six companies of infantry were mustered out and five com-

¹³ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1901, p. 73.*

¹⁴ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1901, Appendix, p. 56.*

panies in other cities accepted in their places. Another was being organized at the time of the Adjutant General's report. Troop A of cavalry was also mustered out in August, 1901.¹⁵ Every year or almost every year saw some companies mustered out because of inefficiency or failure to maintain minimum strength. All men enlisting in Guard companies were now required to pass a physical examination; but it was alleged that the examining physicians did not always do their work carefully. Some companies still perpetuated the idea of the militia being a social organization by maintaining recruiting committees and voting on candidates for membership.¹⁶ Indeed, the cavalry equipment of the State was in the possession of a private riding club.¹⁷

The Twenty-ninth General Assembly in 1902 included a signal company in the authorized organization of the Guard, prescribed its personnel, and abolished the office of regimental signal officer. Deputy Surgeons were made Deputy Surgeons General, and Assistant Inspectors of Small Arms Practice became Assistant General Inspectors of Small Arms Practice. It was required that aids to the Governor must hereafter be men who had served in the regular or volunteer service of the United States or in the Iowa National Guard one year. It was prescribed that the duties of the Quartermaster General were to be performed by the Adjutant General, although the list of staff officers still included a Quartermaster General.

The *Code of 1897* provided that National Guard troops when in the service of the United States should receive from the State the same compensation and subsistence that the army of the United States received. The words "from the

¹⁵ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1901, pp. 3, 4.

¹⁶ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1901, Appendix, pp. 74, 76.

¹⁷ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1901, p. 76.

state" were stricken out in 1902. Reënlistments in the Guard must now be made within thirty days to insure a record of continuous service. The armory allowance was increased from \$200 to \$300 and the annual appropriation for Guard expenses from \$52,200 to \$57,350.¹⁸

A new departure so far as Iowa was concerned was authorized when this General Assembly enacted a law providing that at the discretion of the Governor there might be organized a naval force to be designated "Naval Militia" to consist of one ship's crew and commissioned officers therefor. It was provided, however, that said naval militia must be organized and equipped "without expense to the state of Iowa, or to the appropriation for the maintenance of the Iowa national guard, or the appropriation made by the general government to aid the national guard of the several states."¹⁹ As a matter of fact, this law never was made effective, because the "Naval Militia" was never organized.

The signal company authorized by law was organized in Des Moines in April, 1902.²⁰ During 1902 and 1903 eight infantry companies and one regimental band were mustered out — all but one upon the recommendation of the Inspector General's department — and others accepted to take their places.²¹

General Orders No. 19, under date of November 26, 1902, changed the designation numbers of the four regiments. The Forty-ninth regiment became the Fifty-third, the Fiftieth became the Fifty-fourth, the Fifty-first became the Fifty-fifth, and the Fifty-second became the Fifty-sixth. The State, furthermore, was divided up into four military

¹⁸ *Laws of Iowa*, 1902, Chs. 88, 89.

¹⁹ *Laws of Iowa*, 1902, Ch. 90.

²⁰ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1903, p. 95.

²¹ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1903, p. 4.

districts and counties were designated as being in certain districts.²²

The Guard camped in 1902 and 1903 by regiments. In the latter year the Fifty-fifth regiment went to Fort Riley, Kansas, for maneuvers with Regular Army troops. It had with it at this time detachments from the other regiments to bring its rifle companies up to the required strength. The Fifty-fourth regiment took part the same year in the dedicatory ceremonies of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. Company A, Fifty-third regiment, did strike duty at Dubuque in the month of June, 1903, in connection with a street car strike.²³

The well-known "Dick Bill", passed by Congress to increase the efficiency of the militia, became a law in 1903.²⁴ It was under the provisions of this act that the Fifty-fifth regiment had maneuvered with the Regular Army in 1903 at Fort Riley, Kansas.

In 1904 the General Assembly made a number of changes in the militia law, some of them necessitated by the legislation of Congress. Thus it was allowed that in lieu of encampments State troops might be sent to participate in maneuvers with the Regular Army for not more than fifteen days a year. The law as to payment for active service was rewritten and made clear and definite. Larger power over the men at encampments was given the commander-in-chief. Greater restrictions were set up on the selling of liquor near camp grounds used for drill, target practice, or other duty.

The regimental staffs, commissioned and non-commissioned, underwent minor alterations. So, too, did the or-

²² *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1903, pp. 200, 201.*

²³ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1903, pp. 6, 7.*

²⁴ For a discussion of the terms of this bill see *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XVII, p. 308.

ganization of the bands. Company organization now included an artificer. The medical and staff department sections of the Code were rewritten but not materially changed. The Governor was again authorized to appoint an Assistant Adjutant General with the grade of Major upon the recommendation of the Adjutant General.²⁵

The annual appropriation was increased to \$70,000 to take care of the added expense incident to payment for company drill. The provision for pay was also extended to include target practice as well as company drill. An additional emergency appropriation of \$10,000 was made to pay a deficit in running expenses. It was still further provided that when the act pending at that time in Congress by which some \$20,545.70 was to be given to Iowa in payment of Spanish War claims, was passed, the money should be expended for a permanent State camp ground.²⁶

In July, 1904, this permanent camp ground was purchased. It comprised a quarter section of land adjoining the Fort Des Moines Military Reservation, five and a quarter miles south of the city of Des Moines. Provisional brigade camps were held here in 1904 and regimental camps in 1905. Improvement of the grounds was hindered by lack of funds, but a few temporary buildings were erected and the entire tract was seeded. Indeed, it was recommended that a practice march combined with maneuvers take the place of the 1906 encampment, in order that the new growth of grass might be undamaged, and a perfect sod be formed.²⁷

No sooner did the permanent State camp ground become an actuality than many of the Guard officers decided it was a mistake to have one — that camping in the same place

²⁵ *Laws of Iowa*, 1904, Ch. 77.

²⁶ *Laws of Iowa*, 1904, Chs. 77, 151, 152.

²⁷ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1905, pp. 13, 14, 66.

every year was the wrong principle. One reason for dissatisfaction was the poor transportation facilities between Des Moines and the camp. The street railway company showed no disposition to coöperate with the military in this respect. "I would therefore recommend", wrote the Inspector General in 1905, "that if this condition is not changed and ample and satisfactory facilities are not provided or guaranteed by them before the next annual encampments, that the present camp grounds be disposed of by sale or otherwise and the permanent camp be located elsewhere."²⁸ This was not an objection to the system of a permanent camp, but merely to its location.

But other officers thought the system a failure. Lieutenant Colonel Hubert A. Allen, in command of the Fifty-third regiment, wrote in 1905, "I am convinced after two years camping at the permanent camp grounds at Des Moines, that a permanent camp ground located at Des Moines, is a detriment to the Guard for various reasons among which I might mention the following: Anything that tends to dampen the enthusiasm of the members toward attending camp is detrimental. That there is very little desire among men who have attended one camp at the permanent camp ground to attend another is well known to most company commanders, at least in the 53rd Regiment.

"I find that the best companies are those who have the earnest and hearty support of their home communities, that if their weekly drills are attended by their home citizens it has a very encouraging and beneficial effect upon the company. Why shouldn't the same thing hold true in camp. If there are large crowds out to see the drills, is there not an incentive for the men to make their most creditable appearance and do their best work. . . .

"Camps have been and should be a great inducement to

²⁸ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1905, p. 72.*

men to join and others to stay in. If a permanent camp fails to do this we should revert to the old method of 'passing it around.' In my way of thinking a yearly encampment in different cities give the officers and men standing and influence in every such encampment in a different city and adds that much to the constituency to the guard and after all we are much more dependent upon the state of Iowa than upon the National Government and the State must stand back of our future growth."²⁹

But Adjutant General William H. Thrift, who had been appointed February 1, 1905, favored the permanent ground. "I am decidedly in favor of the State Camp Grounds," he wrote, "and believe it would be a serious mistake should the Guard return to the old system of holding their encampments in regimental districts, as has been suggested."³⁰

Again in 1906 the legislature made a number of changes in the militia laws. It was enacted that when the Guard was ordered into service, it was to be "as organized and officered" unless otherwise directed in the requisition. The time within which a guardsman might re-enlist and have a record of continuous service was extended to ninety days. Some changes were made relative to the Governor's staff. The Quartermaster General was required to act as Commissary General. The provision for a Military Secretary was left out. It was directed that the staff might be appointed and commissioned by the Governor, or detailed from the Guard, or might consist of United States Army officers detailed for duty by the War Department. Such officers might be assigned grade in the Guard up to Colonel. Regimental hospital detachments consisting of a first class

²⁹ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1905, pp. 75, 76.*

³⁰ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1905, p. 14.*

sergeant, two sergeants, one cook, and twelve to fifteen privates were authorized.

The duties of the Adjutant General were prescribed, and it was provided that when in United States service he was to receive the pay and allowance of a Brigadier General. The ten day limit on camps was abolished. The Code section prohibiting compensation for company drill was repealed, having been repealed by implication before when such pay was authorized. Accountable officers were hereafter to give bond and it was made the duty of the Attorney General to prosecute actions on such bonds.

Inspections by Regular Army officers were authorized; and schools of instruction were to be maintained if sufficient funds were available. It was further provided that four regimental rifle ranges might be designated, and that \$2000 might be spent for the acquisition and construction of each; that \$200 might be spent annually for the rental and maintenance of such regimental ranges; and that each company might receive \$100 annually for the maintenance of a company range, "when sufficient funds are available beyond other requirements".

One hundred dollars annually was allowed each regimental headquarters, each company commander, and each regimental band, for postage, stationery, and clerk hire, as well as \$10 each to the Surgeon General, the General Inspector of Small Arms Practice, and each regimental Inspector of Small Arms Practice. Armory rent was increased to \$600 for each company or band and \$100 was allowed for each regimental hospital detachment. The Assistant Adjutant General was given a salary of \$1500 annually in time of peace. The total annual appropriation for the National Guard was increased from \$70,000 to \$82,000,³¹ still \$18,000 short of what the Adjutant General asked.³²

³¹ *Laws of Iowa*, 1906, Ch. 91.

³² *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1905, p. 12.

Again in 1905 there was a sentiment expressed against sutlers and the Y. M. C. A. "The selling of privileges, especially for a sutler's quarters," wrote the Colonel of the Fifty-sixth regiment, "I think very detrimental to the discipline and health of the regiment.

"This regiment, having a competent as well as an experienced Chaplain, could in my judgment do away with Y. M. C. A. quarters, as I can see no advantage and possibly some disadvantages. This being a school of instruction in Military duties instead of religion."³³

Field service in 1906, as had been recommended by the Adjutant General, consisted of practice marches with maneuvers for three of the regiments. The Fifty-third regiment marched from Dubuque to Maquoketa, the Fifty-fourth from Muscatine to Davenport, and the Fifty-fifth from Red Oak to Atlantic. The Fifty-sixth regiment maneuvered at Fort Riley, Kansas, with regular troops. The First Signal Company had been mustered out June 1, 1906, for failure to retain the required standard of efficiency. Prior to the practice marches there was held a school of instruction for officers.³⁴

Due to the change in the years of meeting of the General Assembly, a change was made in the time the Adjutant General should submit his report, so that General Thrift's next report was made in December, 1906. At that time all infantry regiments were full, no changes having been made since the previous report. The minimum strength of companies was fifty enlisted men and three officers. Each regiment had a hospital corps and a band. Every company but one had had rifle practice on its company range, and every company had been inspected by Federal officers. All in all, the Guard was an efficient organization.

³³ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1905, p. 85.*

³⁴ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1906, pp. 4, 96, 97.*

The legislation of 1906, in repealing section 7 of chapter 77, of the laws of 1904 had abolished the offices created by said section 7, according to an opinion given by the Adjutant General, and hence it was held that the tenure of office of the Commissary General, Military Secretary, Deputy Surgeon General, four Regimental Surgeons, eight Regimental Assistant Surgeons, Assistant Inspector General, four Regimental Inspectors of Small Arms Practice, and the Engineer Officer had terminated on April 12, 1906, the day chapter 91 of the acts of the Thirty-first General Assembly became law; and they were accordingly given honorable discharges from the service of the State. Major Surgeons were also instructed to muster out the enlisted men of their department.

Another section of chapter 91 of the laws of 1906 recreated some of these offices, and also provided for a hospital detachment for each regiment. These were regarded as new offices, and must be filled by new appointments, accordingly each regimental commander was ordered to make recommendations for one Major Surgeon, two Assistant Surgeons, one Quartermaster Commissary officer for each battalion, and an officer to serve as Regimental Inspector of Small Arms Practice. Major Surgeons were to make the required enlistments in the Hospital Corps.³⁵

The Thirty-second General Assembly did not materially change the militia law. The most important military act of this Assembly was one increasing the annual appropriation to \$100,000. The law which paid guardsmen for attending company drill was repealed and instead a lump sum of \$500 was authorized to be given to companies showing good attendance at drills. Lesser sums were authorized for bands and hospital corps. The incidental expense money for

³⁵ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1906, pp. 93, 94.*

bands was reduced to \$50 and that for staff officers was increased to \$50.³⁶

It was in 1907 that the Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers, for which Adjutant General Nathaniel B. Baker had pleaded so earnestly, was authorized. Still another law of 1907 made it possible to sell the permanent State Camp Grounds and buy a new one, the new site to be "adjacent to a rifle range to be acquired for the use of the guard by the United States."³⁷

In 1907 all regiments participated together in field maneuvers at Des Moines. In 1908 the Fifty-third and Fifty-fourth regiments went to Fort Riley, Kansas, while the Fifty-fifth and Fifty-sixth held regimental encampments at Clarinda and Spirit Lake respectively. Considerable attention was being given at this time to small arms firing. Smith W. Brookhart had been appointed General Inspector of Small Arms Practice in January, 1907. Iowa teams were competing successfully in the national and inter-State rifle meets. The new rifle range was completed in October, 1907, eleven miles north of the city of Des Moines. The Guard was now armed with Springfields, and each company put considerable emphasis on target practice.³⁸

The members of the Guard were making a strenuous attempt now to be real soldiers. Every effort was put forth to merit the approval of the Federal government. The Captain of a Davenport company was courtmartialled for disobedience of orders in not stopping a prize fight. Objection was made that the first sergeant of Company L, 56th Infantry, lived in South Dakota, and held a commission as aid on the staff of the Governor of South Dakota, and hence was not properly even a member of the Iowa National

³⁶ *Laws of Iowa*, 1907, Ch. 117.

³⁷ *Laws of Iowa*, 1907, Chs. 223, 241.

³⁸ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1908, pp. 6, 8.

Guard. The Iowa Rifle Association was a big help in getting people interested in the Guard. The Division of Militia Affairs was created in the War Department in 1908, and there was active coöperation between State and nation. Federal officers inspected the Guard regularly. The company minimum had now been set by Congress at fifty-eight enlisted men and three officers, which minimum must be reached by the State by January, 1910.

A statement made in 1908 by one of the inspecting officers corroborates the opinion of those who argued for the doing away with the permanent camp ground at Des Moines. "It is the duty of the state," he wrote, "to consider the individual as well as the public welfare. For many members of the guard, the summer encampment or maneuver is the only outing they have and the state should, therefore, select places for encampments and maneuvers which, while affording reasonable advantages from a military standpoint, would also give the soldier, when not engaged in military work, an opportunity for enjoyable recreation. This year's camp of the 56th regiment at Spirit Lake was ideal in that respect. There the men when off duty could swim, fish, row, and engage in other outdoor sports desirable for young men."³⁹

The Thirty-third General Assembly, in 1909, repealed all former militia laws⁴⁰ and enacted an entirely new Military Code. Under it the militia was extended to include "every able-bodied male of foreign birth, who has declared his intention to become a citizen, who is between the ages of 18 and 45 years," as well as male citizens between those ages.

The new law was very compact, yet so elastic as to allow the Governor to change the organization of the Guard from

³⁹ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1908, pp. 8, 228, 239, 318, 368, 457.

⁴⁰ This enactment removed the authorization for Naval Militia.

time to time, so as to conform to the requirements for the organized militia under the laws of the United States. Indeed, it was made mandatory for him to so do.

The four regiments of infantry were continued, a machine gun company was authorized as well as a medical department consisting of a medical corps and a hospital corps. The term of general, field, and line officers was made eight years. The Governor's staff was to be made up of an Adjutant General, an Assistant Adjutant General, and twelve Aids. The salary of the Adjutant General was made \$2200 in peace time, and the same as that of a Brigadier General in war time. Divisional, brigade, and regimental staffs were provided. Thus while the law did not specifically provide for brigades, or a division, it implied that such were to be organized.

A significant provision in this law was one which allowed the President of the United States to call the National Guard for service outside the United States. The time limit on the annual encampments was removed. Armory rent was increased to \$800 annually for each company, with \$500 for each band and \$300 for each hospital corps; and armories were made exempt from taxation. Incorporation of companies was made allowable, and the annual appropriation for the entire Guard was increased to \$140,000.⁴¹

In accordance with this law, a brigade was organized on July 5, 1909, consisting of four infantry regiments. The Medical Department was made a separate organization. Plans were made for creating a field hospital company and an ambulance company. Officers were commissioned and assigned to the Adjutant General's Department, the Judge Advocate General's Department, the Quartermaster's Department, the Subsistence Department, the Ordnance Department, the Engineer Corps, and the Signal Corps, but

⁴¹ *Laws of Iowa*, 1909, Ch. 131.

these organizations were not further perfected. Regimental organizations were changed to conform to War Department regulations. Machine gun companies could not be organized because of a change in the model of gun for this branch of service. This reorganization was spoken of as a "remarkable change in the National Guard of this State," the most remarkable feature of which was "the stride taken toward efficiency and an assumption of the organization of the United States Army."⁴²

This reorganization was effected largely by General Orders No. 13, published on June 25, 1909, which established offices, corps, and departments, presented tables of organization, provided for election of officers and made some assignments.⁴³

Encampments in 1909 were by regiment. Two troops of United States Cavalry were detailed for duty with each camp. In 1910, the First Brigade, less one regiment (Fifty-fourth Infantry) maneuvered with troops from the United States Army at Camp McCoy, near Sparta, Wisconsin. The Fifty-fourth Infantry went into regimental camp at Iowa City in conjunction with two troops from the Sixth United States Cavalry.⁴⁴

By General Orders No. 9, issued under date of April 29, 1910, the State Camp Ground eleven miles north of Des Moines was named Camp Dodge, in honor of Major Grenville M. Dodge.

Iowa showed up particularly well in the national rifle shoot in 1910. In the skirmish, the most important part of the national match, Iowa made the high run. This feat put Iowa in third place in the national match. The Marine Corps tied with Iowa in points, but for technical reasons

⁴² *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1910, pp. 3, 4.

⁴³ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1910, pp. 246-253.

⁴⁴ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1910, p. 8.

was ruled out. It was the first time an Iowa team had won a place.⁴⁵

Regimental camps were held in 1911. Only one regiment, however, the Fifty-sixth Infantry, to which was attached the Field Hospital, camped at the State Camp Ground at Camp Dodge. In 1912 the entire First Brigade was ordered in maneuver camp with one squadron from the Sixth United States Cavalry at Iowa Falls.

Adjutant General Guy E. Logan, who had been commissioned on February 1, 1909, reported in December, 1912, that the only change in organization since the last report was the organizing of a Field Hospital, completely equipped with operating tables, surgical instruments, tentage, and the like. There had also been received full equipment for four machine gun companies, but the companies had not been organized. There had, of course, been the usual number of companies mustered out and others mustered in to take their places.

Iowa guardsmen won two places on a team of eight marksmen who represented the United States in the Olympic games. Lieutenant Colonel Smith W. Brookhart, too, was selected to captain the rifle team which competed in the Palma match with Canada in 1912. The Guard, undoubtedly animated by rumors of possible Mexican service, was reaching a high plane as a potential fighting force. Colonel William T. Chantland, who terminated his active command of the Fifty-sixth Infantry in 1912, made an interesting commentary on this development: "It seems entirely useless," he wrote, "to compare the Guard when I entered it in 1892, with it now, twenty years after, in 1912. It is not at all the same institution. At that time it was, at its best, a well-drilled, half military, half display institu-

⁴⁵ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1910, pp. 335, 373. But see *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1912, p. 7.

tion. Now, at its best, it is a well-equipped military institution nearly, if not quite, ready to take the field for active service. Officers and non-commissioned officers now are devoting every bit of spare time and energy to the study of the problem of field service, equipment, sanitation, maintenance and efficiency. In other words, now the force is in dead earnest for the ultimate object of its existence, namely, to put the greatest number of effective men on the firing line, in the highest state of efficiency, when needed."⁴⁶

Colonel Chantland had some very definite ideas, too, as to the summer encampments, which are worth repeating. He wrote:

I conceive in general the object of an encampment of the National Guard to be fourfold:

(1) To ascertain, by the experience in camp and field, how nearly the commands are fit for actual service on short notice.

(2) To provide remedies as fully as possible for the then and there ascertained deficiencies.

(3) To provide general instruction for officers and men, more particularly in the field work and of a nature which it is impossible for the organizations and officers to receive at the home stations of troops stationed, as our Iowa troops are, with only one or two companies at a post, and where the larger units are combined only once a year at such camp.

(4) Through encampment and its different work, to add such interest and variety to the life of a National Guard soldier as will enable the company commander throughout the year to recruit up and maintain his organization in the steady grind of the year's work, and to maintain it during all of said time in a fairly efficient condition.

I hold that encampment to be most successful which does most in each of these lines. It may be suggested that such a statement is merely another way of saying that that camp is most successful which does the most work. That is error. In my judgment a camp may be a very hard working camp and yet if it fails distinctly in

⁴⁶ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1912, p. 118.*

any one factor enumerated, it will be of no lasting or substantial benefit to the organizations participating.

Frankly, I believe that National Guard camps whose routines are so crowded with work as not to enable the men to complete their schedule of work and incidental duties properly in an ordinary 8-hour work day, will, if persisted in, do more harm than good to the National Guard service. It will kill the *esprit* which enables the company commanders to recruit.

And, just as frankly, I believe that so-called "joint camps of instruction," to which arbitrary, ungentlemanly, and for the most part merely ordinarily efficient junior officers are sent by the Federal authorities, constitute merely a useless expense on the Federal Government for such officers' traveling expenses. No regular army officer, of whatever rank or ability, who is either unacquainted or out of sympathy with the problems with which the National Guard has to deal can be of valuable service at such camps of instruction. No better example of the truth of this could be afforded than the details to this encampment. With the exception of two or three officers who were splendidly interested and efficient, those at this camp, from the senior officer detailed, fall within one or both of the named classes. How the War Department expects to send officers with letters of warning and prejudice, to an encampment of the National Guard of a sovereign State, and expect to get results of value either to itself or the State, is beyond comprehension. . . .

Instead of benefit, I believe distinct harm comes of the sending of such officers. For it is shock and disappointment to National Guard officers to find that what we have had so thoroughly instilled into us by our superiors, and particularly by the Brigade Commander of the Iowa Guard, viz., that the first qualification of being an officer in the regular service was to be a gentleman, was error or had marked exceptions; likewise to discover that the claimed indispensable attribute of thorough courtesy or at least full respect to all superiors, was sorely lacking, might well have done much to break down discipline in the Guard, but for the continual example that was before us of the forbearance and restraint exhibited by our own Commander under continually, peculiarly exasperating and trying conditions which the situation brought about. And an inexplicable thing about it all was that such situation continued after a seemingly plain and clear understanding and *modus operandi* had been agreed upon.

The net result of the situation was to firmly convince me that the value of so-called "joint camps of instruction" must depend entirely upon the harmony in which the officers of the Regular and Guard service work. The distinction between such result at this camp and those at which Colonel Boughton and the officers with him were present with the Iowa Guard, enforces me in this conclusion. Colonel Boughton seemed not only fully to understand the problem of the National Guard, but to be in full sympathy with the efforts being put forth and work being done by every officer and man of the Guard. In this camp, on the other hand, a splendid, well thought out and progressive plan of work devised by our able Brigade Commander, was so disarranged by designed interference as to make the work done fragmentary and of greatly reduced value.

I therefore recommend that no Iowa troops be hereafter sent to such so-called "joint camps of instruction" until after full knowledge of the kind and character of the so-called instructors that are to be present on duty with our troops.⁴⁷

It may be that this letter is the expression of a personal opinion only and not representative of the attitude of the Guard as a whole; but it is evidence that not all guardsmen sanctioned unqualifiedly the system of joint camps; and it shows that there were some drawbacks as well as some advantages.

Twice during 1911 the Guard participated in tours of riot duty. Early in April companies B, C, D, and I, of the Fifty-fourth Infantry, together with the 2nd Detachment Hospital Corps, were ordered to take command of the situation in Muscatine where a buttonmakers strike was in progress. After maintaining order for some four days, they were relieved from duty. Again, late in the same month companies C, D, and I were again called out, this time, it is reported, upon request of the strikers. A few days later Company M replaced Company C. The 2nd Detachment Hospital Corps was on duty during all the time

⁴⁷ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1912, pp. 119, 120.*

that troops were on duty. Early in May the situation settled and troops were again relieved. "During all of such service the troops performed their duty in an orderly, soldierly manner, absolutely enforcing law and requiring order at all times and should be highly commended for such service as the conditions were in a state of anarchy. No favor was shown to anyone. The rich, the poor, the employer and the employe were made to obey the same rule. All sales or deliveries of liquor, fire arms, dynamite and explosives of every nature were prohibited and to all appearances we had the hearty support of all good, law-abiding citizens."⁴⁸

The Thirty-fifth General Assembly in 1913 repealed that section of the militia law passed in 1909 which permitted sheriffs to call upon a militia company for aid in case of riot. Allowance for armory rent was increased to one thousand dollars per company and the total Guard appropriation was increased to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.⁴⁹

Adjutant General Logan reported in December, 1914, that the changes in the organization of the Guard for the biennium consisted in the organization at Clinton of one battery of field artillery, fully uniformed for field service and fully equipped with the latest model guns and equipment by the United States; and the reorganization of the former regiments of infantry into one brigade consisting of three regiments — the Fifty-third, Fifty-fourth, and Fifty-fifth — and one separate regiment — the Fifty-sixth. Staff corps and departments were reorganized to meet the requirements of the War Department, and the policy of retirement at the age of sixty-four was adopted.

Encampment was by regiment in 1913 at various Iowa cities. In 1914 the First Brigade, the Fifty-sixth Infantry,

⁴⁸ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1912, pp. 7-9.

⁴⁹ *Laws of Iowa*, 1913, Chs. 181, 182.

and the Field Hospital maneuvered at Camp Dodge with Regular Army troops. The usual small arms firing practice was encouraged and the usual success in shooting matches resulted. Company M, Fifty-fifth Infantry, and Company F, Fifty-sixth Infantry, did duty as guards at the State Fair in 1914.⁵⁰

The "Dick Bill" of 1903 marked the beginning of an earnest Federal interest in the militia of the States. One of the most important schemes for the betterment of the National Guard was inaugurated by the Division of Militia Affairs a few years after the passage of the act. This was known as the Tactical Divisional Plan. Under it, it was designed to divide the country into geographical divisional districts, each district to have its Guard formed into a tactical division. In the perfection of this plan, it was discovered that there was an excessive organization of infantry to the neglect of auxiliary troops. A general reorganization was necessary, whereby this defect might be remedied. Circular No. 8, issued by the Division of Militia Affairs in August, 1913, (which, it has been claimed, "stands next in importance to the organic Organized Militia act") supplemented by Circular No. 19, Division of Militia Affairs, December 29, 1914, directed this reorganization.⁵¹

The Thirty-sixth General Assembly, which met in 1915, enacted some militia legislation to comply with the new organization thus outlined. By chapter 94, the National Guard of Iowa was reduced from four regiments of infantry to three. The annual appropriation was increased from \$150,000 to \$165,000. Allowance for armory rental was increased, as was also the amount allowed each company as expenses for drill.

The grade of the Assistant Adjutant General was changed

⁵⁰ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1914, pp. 3-7.

⁵¹ *War Department Annual Reports*, 1917, Vol. I, p. 850.

from Colonel to Major. The terms of the Adjutant General and Assistant Adjutant General were fixed at four years, the first four year period to begin on July 4, 1915. The commissions of divisional, brigade, and regimental staff officers were made effective for eight year terms. Additional provisions were enacted as to absence without leave and trial therefor; and the sheriff or any peace officer was thereby required to arrest and turn over any such enlisted men absent without leave, whenever so requested by a company commander.⁵²

In reorganizing the Iowa Guard the exact recommendations and requirements of the War Department were followed out. It was necessary, of course, to break up one of the infantry regiments. Colonel Ralph P. Howell gave facility to the situation by agreeing to surrender his command and allow the individual companies of his regiment to be transferred to auxiliary troops or to other regiments.

Accordingly General Orders No. 12 was issued on July 3, 1915, outlining a complete new organization for the Guard in Iowa. It was thought best at this time to change the designation of infantry regiments to First, Second, and Third. The general organization now comprised one brigade of infantry consisting of three complete regiments, one squadron of cavalry (four troops), one battalion of field artillery (three batteries), one engineer company, one field hospital company, and one ambulance company, as well as three provisional machine gun companies. Staff corps and departments comprised an Adjutant General's department, a Judge Advocate General's department, a Quartermaster Corps, a Medical department, and an Ordnance department.⁵³

All Iowa troops were ordered on a ten day tour of camp

⁵² *Laws of Iowa*, 1915, Chs. 94, 96, 137, 139, 171.

⁵³ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa*, 1916, pp. 493, 499.

duty in the summer of 1915 immediately after reorganization. Regimental infantry camps were held at Iowa City, Clear Lake, and Camp Dodge. There was a cavalry camp at Iowa City; and field artillery batteries, the field hospital company, and the ambulance company went to camps of instruction with regular troops at Camps Robinson and McCoy in Wisconsin.

On June 18, 1916, the Secretary of War sent a telegram to Governor Harding, ordering him to call into the service of the United States all of the Iowa Guard. Organization commanders were instructed to assemble their commands in the armories and commence drill and instruction until further orders. As soon as the necessary arrangements could be made, the troops were moved into Camp Dodge and placed in command of Brigadier General Hubert A. Allen. All troops were in camp before the arrival of the Senior Mustering Officer.

Some difficulty was experienced by the fact that the mustering officer required the men to take an additional oath before they would be accepted for Federal service. This oath did not specify any length of service and many of the men were reluctant to take it. The decision of the War Department that the oath was not necessary came too late to be of any benefit.

All in all about a month was spent at Camp Dodge before the trip to the border. All Iowa troops were assigned to duty at Brownsville, Texas, with the exception of the squadron of cavalry which was assigned to duty at Donna, Texas.⁵⁴

The later history of the National Guard of Iowa is the story of their muster out of Federal service after the border hitch, their almost immediate muster back into the Federal service upon the entrance of the United States into the

⁵⁴ *Report of the Adjutant General of Iowa, 1916, pp. 7, 9, 10, 44, 45.*

World War, and the present organization of a new National Guard. The story of the Iowa guardsmen on the border should be chronicled, and the story of Iowa troops in the World War should be told. They are, in a sense, of more importance than a tracing of legislation and organization. But they hold no place in an historical survey, and so, as in the case of the Civil War and the Spanish-American War, we leave the glorious record of Iowa soldiers while in Federal service to other chroniclers.

CYRIL B. UPHAM

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