

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

For the Year 1915

ALBANY
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With the compliments of
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ORGANIZATION

National Guard.—The organization of the several arms, corps, and departments conforms in a large measure to the Tables of Organization prescribed for the Organized Militia by the War Department. Effort is being made in all cases where differences exist, to bring the organization in conformity to the requirements of the War Department.

The organization of the division at present is complete with the exception of 2 field hospitals and the provisional companies or troops (headquarters, machine gun, and supply) required for regiments of infantry and cavalry. One machine gun company and 1 machine gun troop have been organized while the Tables of Organization prescribe 1 machine gun company for each regiment of infantry and 1 machine gun troop for each regiment of cavalry—a total of 14 for the National Guard of this State.

The formation of these provisional units is now receiving attention and it is hoped that they will be organized in all of the regiments of infantry and cavalry during the coming year. The formation of machine gun units is of especial importance as the present European War has shown that such units are essential to proper fire effect in combat.

Naval Militia.—The organization of the Naval Militia conforms practically to that prescribed by the Navy Department.

New Organizations.—The following new organizations have been authorized during the year:

NATIONAL GUARD

- 4th Ambulance Company with station at Syracuse, October 27.
- Aero Company, Signal Corps, with station at New York, November 22d.
- 1st Armored Motor Battery, with station at New York, December 1st.

NAVAL MILITIA

7th Division, 2d Battalion, with station at Brooklyn, March 26th.
Aviation Section, 1st Battalion, with station at New York, October 28.
The Aviation Detachment, Signal Corps which was organized under authority from this office dated August 24th and attached to the 1st Battalion Signal Corps will form the nucleus of the Aero Company.

Aeroplanes have been presented to the National Guard and Naval Militia and the members of the Aviation Detachment, Signal Corps and Aviation Section Naval Militia are now receiving instruction, 56 flights having been made by the members of the Aviation Detachment during the month of November.

Disbanded.—To meet the requirements of the War Department, the Medical Reserve with station at Syracuse was disbanded on October 27, 1915, the enlisted men serving with that organization being transferred to the newly organized 4th Ambulance Company.

Depot Units.—Section 120 of the Military Law provides for the organization of depot units to take the place of organizations called into the actual service of the United States. This section as amended by chapter 287 of the Laws of 1915 authorizes the formation of depot units in advance of the entry of an organization into the actual service of the United States.

The importance of organizing these units in advance of the entry of an organization into the actual service of the United States cannot be over estimated. They would at once take the place in the active militia of the organization called out and the members would be available to make up deficiencies in strength in the organization for which the unit was formed. They would form a recruiting base of great efficiency for organizations in the service of the United States.

The organization of a depot troop for Squadron A, Cavalry, has been authorized and several other depot units are in process of formation. There are a great many former members of the active militia who for business reasons cannot give the time to military service required of the active militia but who are available for duty with depot units and who would be willing to perform active service in time of need, and it is proposed to utilize the services of these trained men in such units as far as possible.

Reserve List for Officers.—Section 80 of the Military Law as amended by chapter 460 of the Laws of 1915 provides for a reserve list for commissioned officers who

have served in the active militia or in the army, navy, or marine corps of the United States. The interest taken in military affairs by former members of the active militia is evidenced by the great number of applications to be placed on this list which have been received. Bills will be introduced at the next session of the Legislature to amend the law so that effective use may be made of officers on this list.

Reserve List for Non-Commissioned Officers and Enlisted Men.—Section 80-a of the Military Law (chapter 330 of the Laws of 1915) provides for a reserve list for non-commissioned officers and enlisted men of the active militia. Regulations are being prepared with a view to making this list an effective reserve for the active militia.

APPROPRIATIONS

It is of utmost importance that ample appropriations be made at the next session of the Legislature for the military establishment. A comprehensive scheme of field exercises has been prepared for 1916 which cannot be carried out unless funds are made available. The armory instruction given to organizations during the winter months is largely wasted effort unless supplemented by actual experience in the field during the summer. In the interest of economy timely appropriations for current needs should be made as it is impracticable for this office to properly perform its functions unless the availability of funds is assured. The experience of several years has shown that less than five per cent of the cost of government is allotted to the military establishment.

MOBILIZATION CAMPS

The organizations of the active militia when called into the actual service of the United States are required to assemble at points designated by the Governor and known as Mobilization Camps. The duty of providing the sites for these camps and placing them in proper condition for the reception of troops rests on the State authorities. The preparation of these camps for the reception of troops would include suitable railroad facilities, erection of buildings, installing an adequate water system, and the construction of a well equipped range of large target capacity. The grounds should be sufficiently large to accommodate depots, corrals, hospitals, etc., and the encampment of troops without crowding, and with ample space for exercise and instruction. The State Camp of Instruction at Peekskill is at present the only location available for mobilization purposes in this State and not over a brigade could be accommodated at this camp.

A bill will be presented to the Legislature for an appropriation of \$50,000 for the purpose of procuring a tract that will meet military necessities in the event of the State being called upon to mobilize a force for the defence of the country.

SMALL ARMS PRACTICE

Troops cannot be considered efficient unless they are properly instructed in the use of the weapon with which they are armed and they can receive such instruction only through practice. As the rifle is the arm with which most of the troops of the National Guard are equipped, the training of the individual in the use of this weapon is of the utmost importance. The fundamental principles of aiming, holding, and trigger control can be taught in the armory, but actual practice on outdoor ranges is essential for proper instruction. The figure of merit in small arms firing of troops outside the city of New York, and with local rifle ranges convenient for practice and available for instruction purposes throughout the summer months is in most instances much higher than that of troops located within the city who are required to practice at Peekskill where facilities are limited and the time consumed in travel tends to minimize results.

It is believed that organizations should have at least five days practice on outdoor ranges each year and that officers and men who qualify as marksmen or better should receive pay during the period of such practice.

PROPERTY

Storage and Safe Keeping.—The matter of the proper storage and safe-keeping of public property has received special consideration during the past year. A board has been appointed with full power and authority to inspect the armories