

POPULAR FEELING HIGH FOR WAR WITH SPAIN

From the History of 109th Field Artillery

(Continued from last week)

After the blowing up of the Battleship Maine, Spain was asked to abandon her sovereignty over the island of Cuba. The greatest activity prevailed in National Guard circles and all departments were alert. Mount Gretna had been determined upon as the point for mobilization of the troops and the quartermaster and subsistence departments were arranging and perfecting all details as to transportation and subsistence.

The Federal Government called on the State to supply ten regiments of infantry and four batteries of artillery and our regiment was ordered to arrive at Mt. Gretna on April 28th. We left the armory at 7:15 p. m., April 27th, escorted by the local Civil War Veterans and the Fire Department.

A recruiting detail had been ordered to remain at home station for the purpose of securing replacements and increasing the strength of the companies. Their first assignment was to police an area on the Public Square which was to be occupied by the regiment while listening to a farewell address by Judge Stanley Woodward. So great was the crush of people who had assembled to see the departure of the regiment and to hear the address that the detail of ten men was pressed back shoulder to shoulder at the foot of the steps leading up to the First National Bank when the regiment arrived. Patriotism was at a high pitch and the Junior Order of United American Mechanics presented us with a flag. After the departure of the regiment there were many people who hurled taunts and slurs at this recruiting detail each day, thinking that they had refused to volunteer for Federal service.

The regiment arrived in camp next morning, pitched tents in a blinding snow storm and began their training. On May 4th the regiment was paraded for muster and to give every man an opportunity to declare his intention with regard to entering the United States Army as a volunteer. Some were rejected for physical reasons and a number did not volunteer; their places were filled by recruits obtained by the detail at home station. The muster was completed on May 11th when all companies had their minimum strength of 77 men.

"Transportation rations and coffee money" were furnished by the Depot Quartermaster and Chief Commissary at Philadelphia and New York City respectively. There was considerable delay in receipt of these supplies due to inexperience of both departments in handling large movements of troops. It was a complicated system, when the division organization of the Pennsylvania National Guard could have handled the movement with the same promptitude displayed on many previous calls to duty. The regiment as a result did not move until the 17th. The first section was composed of camp equipment and horses and a few miles from Mount Gretna a car containing officers' baggage and twelve thousand rounds of ammunition was found to be on fire. Due to the cartridges exploding railroad employees could not approach to extinguish it and the officers sustained a considerable loss of clothing. We arrived at Chattanooga, Tennessee, on May 19th and remained in the cars in the railroad yards for twenty-six hours due to congestion of the single track railroad line to Chickamauga. We finally arrived at Camp Thomas, Lytle Station, Chickamauga Park on May 20th. The place assigned for our camp, in the shade of second growth oak trees to shelter us from the hot Georgia sun, seemed ideal. The natural beauty of the place was refreshing and we little dreamed of the sickness, disease and death that pest hole had in store for us. Many fine young men gave up their lives due to the mismanagement of officers who had splendid technical ability but absolutely no practical experience as to health and sanitation. Our camp had only seventy-five feet between the road and kitchen line of sinks, both latrine and mess.

In the early stages of sickness among the men the canteen profits were a source of great benefit as they were used to purchase medicines and ice for the sick. When the number of typhoid cases had increased to two hundred the regimental commander and surgeon again protested to the brigade commander about the close proximity of the sinks to the kitchens. We were then directed to have the sinks at the back of the regiment removed to the far side of the road and the ground thus cleared thoroughly policed and put into good sanitary condition. Within an hour after this order was issued we had a detail of twelve men from each company digging new sinks in the drill field one hundred yards from the camp. When the pits were about one foot deep the division commander appeared upon the scene and said: "Stop digging in this fine drill field—by whose authority are you doing this?" Surgeon W. G. Weaver replied, "By my authority as surgeon, responsible for the health of the men of this regiment. I command these men to proceed with the digging." We finished the job with Surgeon Weaver in command.

However the damage had been done and typhoid fever cases increased in number. On August 4th the regimental commander made a personal appeal to the camp commander and received permission to move our camp to the Smith White field, an open field a mile distant. Details were sent to the field and the camp was laid out after a well-drawn plan. Sinks were placed some distance away from the kitchens and were covered when not in actual use. An inspector said our colonel used good judgment in the selection of this camp. "I started my inspection of this regiment six

Loses To British



The Duke of Aosta

Last reports, according to London, placed the Duke of Aosta, Viceroy of Ethiopia and commander of Italian forces there, in the vicinity of Dessye, which has just been captured by the British. Dessye was one of the last strongholds left to the Italian forces in Ethiopia.

It was not long before the ground about the sinks became a mass of putrefaction. Strenuous efforts were put forth by the surgeons of the regiment to have the sinks moved across the road and as far as possible away from the kitchens and tents, because they soon swarmed with maggots and were a constant and fearful menace to health. Many protests were made by regimental officers but without avail until the graves had been opened for men, the victims of a mismanagement that was cruel and criminal. Another cause for sickness was the arduous duty required to be performed in a hot climate by men who but a few days before had pitched tents in a snow storm.

The long tour of daily routine began with first call at 4:30 a. m., and a schedule of drill and ceremonies, together with large working parties continued through the day, keeping all on the jump until taps at 9:00 p. m. The results of overwork and unsanitary conditions were soon apparent. The men were first assailed with acute diarrhea. Two of our three surgeons were detailed to duty in a division hospital which was then organized and the twelve men of our regimental hospital corps were transferred to the general hospital. Hundreds of sick men were taken to the division hospital daily where there was a shortage of drugs and supplies to care for them.

Early in June our surgeons diagnosed the first cases of typhoid fever but their conclusions were disputed by the Chief Surgeon. Typhoid fever spread alarmingly in the regiment and from ten to eighty cases a day were reported. The capacity of the division hospital was overtaxed, then the regimental dispensary became a regimental hospital in fact through the good people of Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Valley who most generously came to our aid with money and supplies to alleviate the distress and furnish hospital necessities which the Government had failed to provide.

Home improvements here, there and everywhere, keep our shop men busy. A sink for Kenneth Tewksbury at Meshoppen and a bathroom and pump for Ross Hibbard at Rushville are among the recent jobs.

Lewis Lord of Noxen and E. E. Lintner of Towanda are doing complete House Painting Jobs with Moores. Others are finding this fine paint just the thing for floors and furniture. Priced at 65c a quart and up.

Henry Northrup of Dalton, John Franko of Falls and Franklin Stark of Nicholson are new users of Prime Electric Fence. Prime is the only high line set safe enough to be approved for safety by the underwriters' laboratories.

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hours after a twelve-hour steady rain, the streets were dry, the water closets for each company inclosed and well ventilated. * * * A person standing near one of these sinks would never detect any odor." This is only cited to prove that if Pennsylvania National Guard officers had the opportunity of following their own ideas the health and welfare of the men would have been better than under the regulations.

Before moving to the Smith White field, under the second call of the President for 75,000 men, the quota assigned to Pennsylvania was first applied to the recruiting of companies of Infantry to 106 men and the organization of a third battalion for Infantry Regiments. This brought the strength of our regiment to 1323 officers and men. In this recruitment twenty men were enlisted as musicians and detailed as members of a band which soon attained a high degree of proficiency. The companies of the third battalion were recruited as follows: Company G from Reading; Company K from South Bethlehem; Company L from Summit Hill and Company M from Towanda. The last company of the third battalion arrived in camp on July 16th.

Officers and non-commissioned officers of the new companies were instructed daily by experienced officers and men of the older companies of the regiment. The men and officers of the new battalion were earnest and enthusiastic soldiers and it was not long before they attained a commendable efficiency. The entire regiment, officers and men, were busily engaged from the time of their arrival in camp at Chickamauga in theoretical and practical instruction, practice marches, outpost duty and battle maneuvers. Through the efforts of Brig. Gen. Wiley, a former National Guard officer, rifle practice was inaugurated. He personally superintended the target practice of the division. Matches were shot between teams composed of both officers and men from each regiment in the division. Our regiment led our division, which had accomplished a great deal in marksmanship training.

Supply of the regiment was very unsatisfactory. When the clothing did arrive it was of heavy weight suitable only for winter wear. Eight weeks after our arrival at Camp Thomas, at Sunday morning inspection, there were eight men present in their bare feet and in old civilian clothes although requisitions were forwarded before leaving Mount Gretna, duplicated a number of times and supplemented by daily requests of the regimental quartermaster. About the time we moved to the Smith White field we were in need of additional canvas to make room to care for the sick. A requisition approved by the Corps Commander for a mess tent, formerly belonging to Company E but now stored in Chattanooga was presented to the Chief Quartermaster only to be refused on the ground that we now had more hospital canvas than we were entitled to. The regimental commander, quartermaster and surgeon then called on the Chief Quartermaster and made a personal appeal for this private property of the regiment and explained the extreme urgency of the situation, only to be refused. A telegram to Wilkes-Barre for another tent to be shipped by express provided the ultimate solution to the problem.

(To be continued next week.)

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Clown Lou Jacobs holds Esther Hussey on his lap as the Ringling Brothers-Barnum and Bailey Circus put on a special performance in New York for underprivileged children. Eight-year-old Esther and Willie Picken, the boy next to her, were two of the group of sightless children, guests of the New York Jewish for the Jewish blind, who attended.

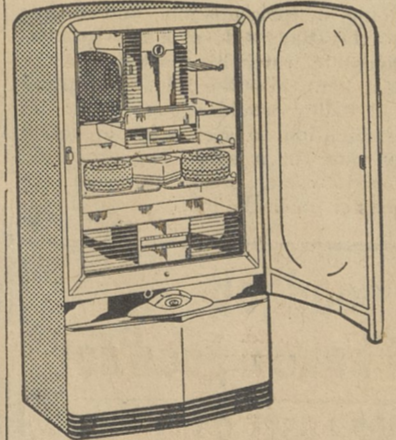
Dallas Township Republican Men Hear Judge Hourigan At Banquet

Members and friends of the Men's Republican Club of the Dallas Township South District enjoyed a banquet and get-together at Thomas Bunney's on Thursday evening. A delicious dinner was prepared and served by Mrs. Mae Newberry. Arthur Newman introduced the speaker of the evening, Judge Andrew Hourigan. Several others attending gave impromptu remarks. Present were Earle H. Layaou, Ben F. Brace, Paul A. Carlin, Lewis Stritzinger, Milton E. Perrego, Thomas S. Moore, Wilson Ryman, Charles R. Jones, Herman Kern, H. J. Major, John H. Daniels, Lewis

Nulton, Charles Martin, Albert Perrego, David J. Bevan, John Shields, A. L. Jones, H. A. Smith, John Anderson, Floyd Chamberlin, Clyde Lapp, Donald Coughlin, Judge Hourigan, Arthur Newman, Clarence Elston, Bruce Spencer Charles H. Weiss, Charles Bennallack, Remmel W. LaBar, Marty Walsh, Russell Case, Fred Hughey, Peter D. Clark, William J. Shiber, C. M. Laidler, Clive D. Hope, George M. Bonell, Willard Lozo, A. H. Perrego, W. E. Platt, Charles H. Killian, Al Bryden, Harry Martin, Peter Stritzinger, John Q. Yaple, Willard Cobleigh, Jack Honeywell, William C. Berry and Giles Wilson.

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Mrs. Edward Sowers Is Hostess To Ladies Aid

Mrs. Edward Sowers, Fernbrook Road, Fernbrook, entertained members of the Ladies' Aid of the Glenview Primitive Methodist Church, on Friday evening. Plans were made for a Mother and Daughter banquet to be held on May 9th, with Mrs. Lewis Stritzinger as general chairman.

Present were Mrs. John Monroe, Mrs. Corey Crispell, Mrs. Earl H. Layaou, Mrs. Lewis Stritzinger, Miss Verna Lamoreaux, Mrs. George Coleigh, Miss Charlotte Mintzer, Mrs. Samuel R. Nichols, Annjane and Esther Layaou.

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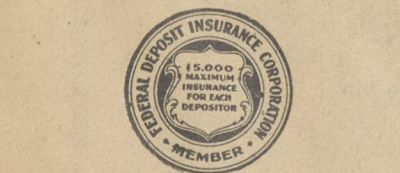
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