

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ADJUTANT GENERAL


OF THE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

FOR THE YEAR 1863.

TRENTON, N. J.

1864.



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REPORT.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Trenton, N. J., February 1, 1864.

*To His Excellency JOEL PARKER, Governor, Commander-in-Chief, &c., &c.,
&c.*

Being required by law to report "all proceedings relative to the details of the military force ordered by the Commander-in-Chief, upon requisition of the President of the United States," together with "the general state of the militia, as also any improvements to advance the discipline, and benefit the militia," I beg leave to submit the following report of military transactions through this department during the past year.

Although much miscellaneous business has been added, the organization of the department is the same spoken of in my last annual report, and no increase has been made in the clerical force.

Those at present employed have my entire confidence; their unremitting zeal meets my warmest approbation, while their promptness and accuracy is worthy of special mention.

The rolls on file in this office are perfected to January 9th, and all other records connected with the troops from this State in the service of the United States are complete to that date.

The system adopted by which information is received monthly from these troops proves satisfactory. It is believed to be the only method by which accurate and reliable information can be obtained, and this office be enabled to keep a perfect record of the officers and enlisted men in the respective regiments from the State. It has insured constant and intimate communication between the State and the troops, by means of which the status of each volunteer is known, and his record preserved to be hereafter found among the archives of the State.

The register of commissioned officers of New Jersey volunteers has been issued semi-annually, and changes in the same have been published monthly from this office.

The alphabetical list mentioned in my last annual report as being in the hands of the public printer has been printed and published.

The system adopted for assisting the troops in the transmission of money to their families has been in successful operation under the superintendence of Col. Jonathan Cook, who has disbursed through this office, during the past year, the sum of nine hundred and sixty-two thousand, one hundred and ninety-six dollars and thirty-four cents, (\$962,196.34). The promptness and accuracy with which this money has been forwarded and disbursed is a matter for special mention, evincing, as it does, remarkable energy on the part of the superintendent.

The troops from this State have everywhere maintained the high reputation they had formerly acquired, and the history of the past year has added many new glories to their unstained record. In all the highest qualities of soldiers, they are, at least, second to none, and vieing with each other in heroic deeds, have only excelled each other where opportunity has favored a particular regiment or brigade.

One regiment of cavalry, three regiments of infantry, and three batteries of artillery have been raised and forwarded during the past year; another regiment of cavalry has been organized and now awaits muster. In addition to this, the veteran regiments from this State have been largely augmented by forwarding recruits to fill their depleted ranks. The veteran batteries have been recruited to above the maximum standard, and the surplus of recruits forwarded for these batteries will be sufficient to fill all the batteries from this State.

In this connection I beg leave to report that application has been made to the War Department to raise one regiment of foot artillery, to be used as a reserve, and to be attached to the reserve artillery of the army of the Potomac.

It is proposed to recruit this regiment to a standard of fifteen hundred, and place in command the senior officer of artillery in service from this State. The need of such a regiment has been seriously felt, and this plan meets the approval of the general officer in command of this branch of the service, and, also, has the sanction of the General commanding that army.

The First Cavalry regiment at present numbers one thousand, and if recruiting continues, a few weeks will suffice to fill the regiments known as veteran regiments.

Four of these regiments, (the Fourth, Ninth and Tenth Infantry, and First Cavalry) have re-enlisted; the first of which has returned to the State, and the other three are daily expected on thirty days' furlough, in accordance with General Orders 191, current series 1863, and it is confidently expected that their reappearance will give a stimulus to recruiting, and enable them to leave the State at the expiration of the furlough with filled ranks, to sustain the enviable reputation they have already won.

Individual re-enlistments have been numerous, some regiments only lacking a few to enable them to return to the State in like manner.

The force mentioned in my last annual report as being in service from this State, has been depleted by the return of eleven militia regiments, whose term

of service expired in June last. It was hoped and confidently expected that the men of these regiments would have re-enlisted. I am informed that in many instances it was their intention so to do, but owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding, few have returned to the seat of war.

A question having arisen concerning the termination of service of these regiments, an opinion was given by the Solicitor of the War Department which not only decided the term of service, but involved the position these regiments occupied in the service. By this decision they were held to service for a longer period than had been expected, but being in the face of the enemy, they had determined to advance with the army, irrespective of the termination of service. Several regiments did advance, crossed the Rappahannock, and fought gallantly after their term of service had expired.

Their complaint seemed to be to the manner in which the decision was given, and that by that decision they were held to service under rules applicable to volunteers, while they were in all other respects treated as drafted men, and refused rights and emoluments promised to volunteers.

This appeared unjust, and engendered a feeling of distrust in the minds of the men and in the minds of their relatives in the State, which has never been entirely eradicated, and has been seriously felt in recruiting since to fill the quota of the State.

From their standpoint they could see that which affected them alone, and lost sight of the fact that a decision which would seem just to them might involve a principle very prejudicial to the service and injurious to the general good.

Before the decision was rendered, I in common with a large number in the State, feared that injustice might unwittingly be done these men, and urged the matter upon your Excellency in special report of May, 1863, as follows: "The order from the War Department under which these regiments were raised, was the order of August 4th, 1862, for three hundred thousand drafted men. The time fixed for the draft was the 3d of September, 1862.

"The order from the War Department, under which these regiments were raised, was to be continued from day to day, between the same hours, until completed. The quota assigned to this State was ten thousand, four hundred and seventy-eight (10,478) men.

On the 3d of September, at 9 o'clock A. M., the Governor of the State telegraphed the Adjutant General of the United States, that the requisite number of men had volunteered, and were then in camp, and requested of the War Department that they might be received as volunteers, and not placed upon the same footing as men actually drafted.

This request was denied, and the troops were then considered as drafted men by the War Department.

Rules for term of service applicable to and intended for volunteers cannot, therefore, justly be applied to these men.

They were in camp on the 3d day of September, were at once sworn into

the United States service, and were therefore enlisted as individuals for nine months from that date, to be organized and assigned as the War Department might direct. They were organized into companies immediately, but for various reasons the regimental officers were not appointed nor the regiments mustered as regiments until some days later, but the men were taken and kept as individual drafted men, although organized into companies, sworn into the service of the United States for the term of nine months from the time of their enlistment by the commandants of the different camps of rendezvous, appointed by the Governor under the authority of the General Government.

If they were in the position of drafted men, the enlistment was unquestionably the date upon which the United States required them to be in camp.

The organization of regiments was a matter of after consideration, the War Department providing how it should be done, thus claiming the men as individuals already in the service, to be assigned as might be deemed best.

In the volunteer service it was different. Volunteers whether for nine months, one, two or three years, were accepted by companies or regiments, not as individuals; the term of service therefore, commenced from the time the organization was complete, or in other words from the time of muster as a company or regiment; but these troops were taken as individuals, were required to be in camp at a certain specified time, were at the disposal of the United States from that time, and their term of service should, in my opinion, date from the time of individual enlistment, or in other words from the time they entered the service.

They were all in camp at the time specified for the draft to commence; they may not all have been sworn in on that day, nor were they all mustered in a day.

There were eleven regiments, and the organization necessarily took some time, but the commandants returned to me the number sufficient to fill the quota of the State, in camp on the 3d of September, and had there been sufficient officers at the respective rendezvous, they might have been all sworn in, organized and mustered on that day.

All were enlisted as privates, but as the regiments could not be moved until equipped, the selection of officers was delayed in order that the choice might be carefully made, and the men were kept in barracks as companies, and constantly drilled and instructed.

The men were then serving the United States as privates, and I am informed that they have been paid by the United States from the time they were sworn into the service at the rendezvous. Their term of service, I think, should expire nine months from September 3d, 1862.

This could give no trouble as a precedent, for this was the only State having her full quota ready on the day ordered."

In the Spring of 1863 Congress passed an act entitled "An act for enrolling and calling out the national forces," commonly known as the conscription act, and it was supposed to be the determination of Congress, that hereafter the armies of the United States should be increased or recruited by means of draft.

New Jersey, therefore, in common with her sister loyal States, became anxious that she should receive full credit for the service she had already rendered through volunteer enlistments.

In obedience to an order from your Excellency, I proceeded to Washington, made inquiry concerning the credits given this State by the Federal Government for troops furnished from the 15th of April, 1861, to 13th of May, 1863, and compared the same with the rolls of this office. An examination showed a full credit to the State of New Jersey for all recruits sent in State organizations, while no deductions had been made for casualties, therefore the amount carried to the credit of the State was larger than expected, for in the statement made to your Excellency from this office, preparatory to my departure for Washington, all deaths, discharges and desertions had been deducted, leaving as the balance claimed those actually in service at that time.

The amount of credit was the same as that reported to your Excellency as above mentioned, before the deductions were made, and amounted to twenty-seven thousand, eight hundred and thirty-six, (27,836,) exclusive of militia furnished in April and May, 1861, for three months' service, for which no credit was given to any State.

This was a large excess over all requisitions made upon the State: but I was informed that a deficiency existed of twelve thousand, five hundred and eighty-one (12,581), which was subsequently reduced to twelve thousand, five hundred and four (12,504), this being an alleged deficiency of service due from the State during the years 1861 and 1862. No quotas were assessed at that time, but in preparing the credits prior to draft the department had calculated the amount of service due from each State during these years, and credited that State with the number of men sent.

The difficulty under which the State suffers seems to be, that the principle upon which this calculation was made, presumes a state of affairs which did not exist in the year 1861, viz.: That each State was allowed to send her full quota, and if she did not or could not, the men were still in the State to be furnished by draft: whereas, in this State members were obliged to seek service elsewhere and have been credited to the service due from other States, although furnished by this State.

The enrollment is not sufficiently perfect as a basis to assess quotas retrospectively, and New Jersey not only furnished all the troops required of her during the years of 1861 and 1862, but all that it was possible to have accepted by the General Government. The Governor from time to time importuned the War Department to receive more troops from this State. The Secretary of war, writing in May, 1861, to His Excellency Governor Olden, says: "It is important to reduce the number allowed to the State rather than enlarge it, and in no event to exceed it."

An order from the War Department made it necessary to present to the mustering officer the order of acceptance from the War Department, before troops could be mustered into the United States service. An order of accept-

ance was therefore obtained in every instance before New Jersey commenced raising troops, and these orders of acceptance were sought for, and in many instances reluctantly given, as will appear more fully in another part of this report. I merely allude to it in this connection in making the assertion that New Jersey had raised every regiment or part of regiment for which she had been called upon, and was anxious to and could have raised more troops during the years 1861 and 1862, had she been allowed to do so.

All that it was possible to have accepted during these years amounted to a minimum of twenty-four thousand, eight hundred and fifty-nine (24,859), or a maximum of twenty-seven thousand, one hundred and ninety-nine (27,199). These men were sent and subsequently certain disorganized companies and regiments raised in this State by individuals, and accepted by the War Department in 1861, as independent organizations, were turned over to the State to reorganize, which, with recruits sent to regiments in the field, make a total furnished in State organization during 1861 and 1862 of thirty thousand, two hundred and ninety-two (30,292), being five thousand, four hundred and thirty-three (5,433) more than the minimum assigned to the State, and three thousand and ninety-three (3,093) more than the maximum.

This does not include a single man in any foreign organization, which if credited to the State would increase the number to ten thousand more than the minimum, and eight thousand more than the maximum (this including the three months' militia).

Large numbers of our citizens were obliged to seek service elsewhere because the Governor could not have them accepted from this State; they may be found by companies in the Excelsior Brigade, in the Irish Brigade, and in other New York organizations, some in the Anderson Troop, and in other organizations from Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia. These men preferred to enlist in New Jersey regiments, but the General Government positively refused to accept them from this State.

In order that this may appear more plainly, I would refer your Excellency to the manner in which the troops that have been raised were accepted, and the expeditious manner in which they were put in the field.

On the first requisition for seventy-five thousand men the quota of this State was announced on the 15th of April, 1861. The brigade was raised, organized, and equipped by the State, and marched for the defence of Washington on the 3d of May, 1861. This was the first full and effective brigade which arrived in Washington, and their prompt and timely aid met with sincere and heartfelt thanks from the War Department. The second requisition was granted at the request of his Excellency Governor Olden with the command that the number should in no case be exceeded, and the first regiment raised under this call, had the honor by its valor and intrepidity to assist in checking a victorious enemy marching on the city of Washing, after the first battle of Bull Run.

The third requisition allowed the State five regiments if tendered within a

reasonable time. After these five regiments were in the field the State was called upon for one company of sharpshooters in the fall of 1861. The Governor immediately raised a regiment of sharpshooters (which has received well merited praise for gallantry and effective services in North Carolina), and prevailed upon the Government to accept it, as well as two batteries, which they seemed very loth to do.

Hexamer's Battery remained organized in the State some six months before an acceptance could be procured, the members refusing to go in any but a State organization.

The Tenth regiment and First Cavalry were tendered by individuals and accepted by the War Department independent of the State, and while the State authorities were pressing their claims, these regiments becoming disorganized, were turned over to the State to re-organize, and credit has been claimed for them in the above statement, which will account for the number sent being in excess of the number allowed the State; but in this instance credit is claimed only for the actual number of men turned over to the State, and not the original strength of those regiments.

The fourth requisition was for five regiments of infantry, and was filled by the Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth regiments in the Fall of 1862, expeditiously and in advance of any other State. The fifth requisition was more than filled on the first day named for the draft, and no draft was necessary in this State to fill her quota. Thus the State of New Jersey has sent in State regiments, five thousand, four hundred and thirty-three (5,433) men more than the minimum number assigned her, and had in service on the 13th day of May, 1863, twenty-six regiments of infantry, one of cavalry, and two batteries of artillery, numbering only nine thousand three hundred and twenty-two (9,322) less than the number sent, or three thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine (3,889) less than the minimum allowed her, including four regiments mustered out.

This deficiency (caused by casualties alone) is more than made up by the credit she should receive for those citizens of the State enlisted in foreign organizations as before stated, but the State is not charged with casualties.

The reason the State of New Jersey sent no more troops during these years is well known, and the attention of the authorities at Washington was called to it by his Excellency Governor Olden.

In a letter to the Secretary of War, speaking of the number of regiments he had just put in the field, he said: "I have not called out more because I have not been authorized to do so by you, but if the occasion required their services, this State would willingly furnish twice as many regiments to serve during the war."

All the troops from New Jersey, except those furnished under the first call for seventy-five thousand men, and those furnished in lieu of the draft, were enlisted for three years.

It is a serious matter to this State that quotas have recently been assessed and charged upon the States to take effect retrospectively.

New Jersey suffers thereby for the reason that she was denied her full proportion of quota, her soldiers were consequently forced to seek service in brigades raised by individual authorities from Washington, and were credited to other States, no credit being allowed this State for men mustered in other States. What the quota of this State may have been under the respective calls had she been allowed to furnish it, I am unable to say, but any excess cannot justly be charged against her now, when for numerous reasons recruiting is much more less active in the State, than in the two first years of the war. I know that she filled every call made upon her, and feel confident that Governor Olden could have fulfilled the offer made by him in his letter to the Secretary of War, and was anxious at the time to do so.

He was not only not allowed to do it, but was complimented for performing his duty, and not accepting volunteers without authority, and thereby annoying the War Department to the delay and detriment of public business.

We should not suffer, then, for having done our duty, although in so doing we did not force the Government to take troops they did not want, nor gain acceptances like some of our more favored neighbors. The citizens of our State are thoroughly loyal, and are always ready to do their duty, but they feel the jealous care and anxiety incident to their situation; being a small State between our larger and more influential neighbors, Jersey men wish to be assured in these troublous times the interest of the State will receive the same fostering care extended to others. They cannot understand why it is in 1862, no time was allowed this State to raise men in lieu of draft, while in neighboring States the draft was postponed from time to time and at last slumbered.

New Jersey raised all the troops she was authorized to raise; no time was given her to prepare for the draft, yet she furnished (as I believe no other State in the Union did) her whole quota of ten thousand four hundred and seventy-eight men, and had them all in camp, on the 3d day of September, the day named for the draft to commence, and at that time she had all her three years' troops in the field. My duty must be my excuse for calling your attention to this matter. I am frequently called upon for statements of the facts, and silence is liable to misconception.

Proper representations made to the War Department at Washington, I think would meet with a ready response when it is known that New Jersey has quietly and steadily done her duty, not clamoring at the doors of power in Washington for changes, but obeying orders, fulfilling her whole duty, and preferring to be known in action, through her troops in the field, rather than by appeals for favors at Washington. I would respectfully suggest that the representatives of the State in Congress be requested to use their utmost endeavors to have this alleged deficiency cancelled.

During the Summer months while the enrollment under the conscription act was being completed, and until the Provost Marshal General should be prepared to commence draft, it was announced that volunteering in lieu of draft would be permitted, and the quota for this State was fixed at 8,783 men.

A difficulty arose in the assignment of quotas to sub-districts under this call, some portions of the State having furnished more than their proportion under previous calls, and the evidence of this appearing in this office, I was anxious to give the credits accordingly, but the draft was ordered to take place upon the enrollment made by the United States officers, orders were issued to have the lists of enrollment placed in the hands of the State authorities, in order that the assessment of quotas might be made upon that basis, and no choice was left the State authorities.

It was first thought the State could not be credit and drafted by sub-districts at all, and an application made by your Excellency to that effect was at first refused, but upon examination it was found that this mode was not only practicable but preferable on account of the manner in which the enrollment had been made in the State, and the system having been sanctioned by an order of the President of the United States, credits have been made directly to the various townships of the State.

In this connection I would say, that we are greatly indebted to the Acting Assistant Provost Marshal General of this State. Through his knowledge of his profession, and his pleasant intercourse with the State authorities they have been relieved from many embarrassments.

On the 3d of August the quota for each township and county in the State was published from this office, and details of all matters necessary to raising the required quota given. Six camps of rendezvous were established for the reception of recruits, respectively under command of Colonels Murphy, Grubb, Mindil, Yard, Cladek and Romar.

The organization of three regiments of infantry, and one of cavalry, and three batteries of artillery was commenced, and every inducement offered to recruiting, giving preference always to regiments in the field.

This recruiting continued until October 25th, notice having been received that on that day the draft was to commence in the State for any deficiency on the quota.

From the various recruiting stations reports were promptly sent to this office, and on the 25th I was enabled to make a consolidated report, showing that the State had had mustered into the United States service four thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight (4,998) volunteers on this call, distributed in new and old organizations as follows:

Thirty-Second regiment (Second Cavalry) Col. Joseph Karge.....	1,199
Thirty-Third regiment, Colonel George W. Mindil.....	994
Thirty-Fourth regiment, Colonel Lawrence.....	730
Thirty-Fifth regiment, Colonel John J. Cladek.....	945
Batteries, C, D and E.....	450
Recruits to Veteran regiments.....	679

The number of men having been ascertained and the credits properly adjusted, a statement was made by your Excellency to the President, that as

New Jersey had by volunteering raised for service much more of her quota under this call than had been procured by the enforcement of the draft in any other State, it would be manifestly unjust, as well as unwise, to draft here until the other States had been compelled actually to raise as large a proportion as ourselves.

The President admitted the force of the suggestion, and it was ordered that no draft should take place, but that the deficit should be carried to the debit of the State, as had been done in those States where the draft was actually made, and assurances were given that no draft should take place for such deficiency until the other States were called upon to make up their deficiencies. As some misapprehension has existed on this subject it would be proper to give the authority under which the State acted, also the mode of recruiting adopted under this call more in detail than would otherwise seem to be necessary, to prove that no authority was given to this State, that was not granted to all loyal States. In answer to the request made by your Excellency that the State might be allowed to furnish volunteers in lieu of draft, the President says: "It is a vital point with us to not have a special stipulation with the Governor of any one State, because it would breed trouble in many, if not all other States." He also adds that the State may proceed to recruit "on the reason that we are not ready ourselves to proceed, the best I can say is that every volunteer you will present us, within thirty days from this date, fit and ready to be mustered into the United States service on the usual terms shall be *pro tanto*, an abatement of your quota of the draft."

When the thirty days mentioned in the President's letter had expired no further authority was given, but as the draft had not been ordered, the State continued to send recruits until the 24th of October, at which time the Provost Marshal General of the United States was prepared to draft, and an order was issued to cease recruiting, but as it was discovered that New Jersey had furnished at this time a greater proportion of volunteers on this call than had been obtained by draft in any other State, the draft was not made, as has been already mentioned.

The recruitment was on the usual terms; all the three years regiments offered were to be accepted, provided, not more than five regiments of infantry and two regiments of cavalry should be under recruitment at one time. These regiments were recruited under General Orders 75, series of 1862, from the War Department, par. 86, Revised Mustering Regulations, and General Orders 105, series of 1862.

The organization of the respective regiments was governed by General Orders 110, series of 1863. Recruits for regiments in the field were recruited under paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Orders 88 of 1862.

Recruiting in the State was put in the hands of the various townships, their several quotas given them in order that each man might do his share in filling the quota.

Officers from the regiments in the field were stationed in different sections.

and recruits could be turned over to these officers who transported them to the general rendezvous at Trenton, or if the township authorities preferred, transportation was furnished by the State to the respective rendezvous.

In the month of October, the President made a call upon the loyal States for three hundred thousand additional volunteers, and on the 24th of the same month a letter was received from the Provost Marshal General, dated on the 21st, fixing the quota of this State at nine thousand four hundred and forty-one (9,441), and containing information that the quota for the next draft, should one be rendered necessary by a failure to raise sufficient volunteers, would be for all deficiencies charged against the State, in addition to this nine thousand four hundred and forty-one. Subsequently it was ordered that if the State furnished her quota upon the last call, or if sub-districts filled their respective quotas on the last call, the State or the sub-districts should not be drafted upon the draft ordered for former deficiencies. In proclamation issued 22d of October, you say that "The time for work is short, but if the people of New Jersey who have hitherto never faltered in the discharge of duty, will unitedly, and in the proper spirit, at once enter upon it, with the determination not to fail, they will succeed."

The people nobly responded to your call, and as they had become familiar with the system of recruitment, it was confidently expected that the number of recruits required under this call would be speedily obtained; but a serious delay was occasioned by a total change being made in the system of recruitment, and an order was received that all recruits must be enlisted for regiments whose terms of service expired during the years 1864 and 1865.

By the system adopted, no authority was given the State to recruit, no provisions made to pay any expenses of recruiting, but recruiting was confined to agents nominated by the Provost Marshals of the respective districts of the State through the Acting Assistant Provost Marshal General of the State, to be deputed by the Provost Marshal General, and who were to receive fifteen dollars for each accepted recruit other than a veteran, and twenty-five dollars for each accepted recruit who had served for at least nine months as a soldier. Out of this their recruiting expenses were to be paid.

The Governor of the State was requested to assist the Provost Marshals in their duties. The time was indeed short, as the 5th of January was the day fixed for the draft to commence. There was no time to question the wisdom of the change of the whole recruiting system at this critical moment; but under this method nothing was required of the State toward raising the quota required of her, and it being thought unwise to leave the interest of the State entirely in the hands of the Provost Marshals and their agents, it was deemed advisable that the State should recruit these veteran regiments under Circular 98 from the Provost Marshal General, which makes further provision for recruitment by officers detailed from the respective regiments.

The State authorities could render effective service by so doing, and at the same time, as no interference was made with the Provost Marshals, an opportunity was given to test this new method of recruiting.

Additional facilities were subsequently given, and the recruiting force increased, but owing to the delay, consequent upon the change above spoken of, it was not until the 6th day of November that the quotas of the various sub-districts and the plan for recruiting was laid before the people of the State in General Orders from this office.

The quotas were assessed upon the basis of the enrollment made by the United States authorities.

Those townships and wards which furnished men in excess of their quotas under the previous call received credit for the surplus, in this apportionment, and the deficiencies of those which failed to raise the number assigned them on that call were added, but the quotas and credits on the two calls were carefully separated so that recruits sent to veteran regiments could be credited directly on the last call.

The volunteers were enlisted by officers who were detailed from New Jersey regiments in the field for recruiting service in the State, under the direction of the Governor, and who were stationed at convenient points in the several counties to assist the local authorities in raising their quotas.

County, township and ward authorities, upon taking measures to raise their quotas, were instructed to designate a suitable person to take charge of the payment of any bounties which they might offer, and to forward recruits to the proper recruiting station. The persons thus designated reported in person or by letter to this office, when they were notified of the name and location of the recruiting officer to whom their recruits were to be forwarded.

A debit and credit account was kept with each township and ward in the State, and books prepared for that purpose, which contained on the one hand the quota on each call, and on the other the name of each recruit credited.

No erasures whatever were made in these books, and alterations were only allowed upon positive and sufficient evidence of fraud or mistake in enlistment, and then by tracing a light line through the recruit's name, and all the circumstances which led to the alteration noted opposite the name under the head of remarks. These accounts were kept at all times for the inspection of those interested. Much difficulty had been experienced in the payment of bounties offered volunteers by local authorities under the previous call which rendered it almost impossible to keep a correct account of credits to the sub-districts, while the delays in payment and consequent dissatisfaction among the recruits became very prejudicial to the service. The payment of these bounties had been made by agents appointed by the various localities for that purpose, and the system varied according to the recklessness or carefulness of such agents.

Some paid the local bounty upon enlistment and before muster, some upon the certificate of the mustering officer, while others were unwilling to disburse the money until the men were duly credited to their respective towns or cities upon the records of this office. Recruits paid upon enlistment, deserted before muster, and no credit could be allowed the sub-districts who had unwittingly paid the money.

Recruits for the old regiments could not be paid until they were about to leave the rendezvous to join their respective regiments, and when that time arrived if the promised bounty was not forthcoming, recruits enlisted for one sub-district would frequently change their residence on the ground that they were enlisted under false pretences, rather than leave the State without the promised money; nor would it have been proper to force the recruit to leave the State without the payment being made, or the guarantee of payment by responsible parties, for the larger number enlist under this inducement, and send it through this office to their families as soon as received.

In some cases recruits were detained until the local authorities could be communicated with and arrangements made for the payment of the bounty, in some it was discovered that the money to pay the bounty had not been raised, while many recruits were forwarded during the months of July and August who did not receive their bounty for months afterwards, and some have not yet received it. Whenever I have discovered instances of this kind I have applied for the bounty and forwarded it.

The money has been always promptly furnished, showing that failure to pay has not been intentional; nevertheless it engendered a feeling of distrust in the mind of the soldier, and should have been carefully guarded against. Errors occurred through the hasty manner in which some of the mustering officers had given to the local authorities certificates of credit. A number of men were found to have been paid bounty twice, and for others credit was claimed by two or more sub-districts.

The official rolls when forwarded to this office by the Superintendent of recruiting service furnished an unerring means of detecting these errors, and much time and labor has been spent in correcting them, and in adjusting the claims of the different localities.

This has been effected to the satisfaction of the people of the State, and the record of credits on file in this office for volunteers furnished by the respective sub-districts, under the calls referred to, is believed to be perfect. When, therefore, the quotas were assigned to sub-districts under the President's call of October, and the people of the State were called upon to respond, it became necessary that some means should be devised to avoid difficulties experienced under the former call, and some system be adopted which would combine the following important features:

To have daily and absolutely correct information at this office of all recruits furnished by the respective sub-divisions of the State; to insure to the sub-districts credit for the men furnished by them, and protect them from error in the disbursement of the large amounts appropriated by them for the payment of bounties; to protect the recruit from fraud; to secure to him the bounty promised him, and to insure his reception of the same before leaving the State.

To accomplish the first of these objects, I secured the co-operation of the United States mustering officers, and arranged with them that in addition to the muster-in-roll to be forwarded to this office, there should also be prepared

a certificate for each man, certifying that he had been mustered into the United States service; to this was appended a form of receipt for bounty, the blanks in which form were filled up at the time of muster with the name of the place stated by the recruit to be his residence, and the amount of local bounty promised him. These certificates were forwarded daily to this office, the volunteers credited to the various sub-districts, and a certificate of credit given upon the back of the certificate of muster. To accomplish the second and third objects aimed at, I proposed to the authorities of several of the counties, cities and townships, that some one person should be designated who should take charge of the payment of bounties for all.

The questions of credit and bounty were so closely connected that it was impossible to separate them. Many men were volunteering who had no fixed residence, or who were not enrolled, nor liable to draft in the district in which they resided, and who under the opinion of the Attorney General of the State might change their residence at will, so that it became necessary to establish the rule that recruits should be credited to the sub-districts from which they received bounty, provided they were mustered as of that locality.

The bounties offered by the different localities varied greatly in amount, ranging from one hundred to four hundred dollars, and under the previous calls, men who had been recruited by certain townships at considerable expense and trouble were induced under promise of higher bounty to give other places as their residence, and thus parties would fail to receive credit for the men they had taken the pains to recruit and send to camp, while in other instances the persons appointed to pay the bounties, not knowing when recruits were to be forwarded, would not be present to pay and the recruit would be forced to leave the State without the money which he had depended on as a means of support for his family. The local authorities saw at once the advantages of the plan proposed, and many of them solicited me to allow the bounties to be paid through my office.

The labor and responsibility that I foresaw to be involved in this, led me to hesitate, but the advantage to be derived both by the people of the State and the volunteers from a uniform system, and the necessity of having the money disbursed in accordance with the credits in this office were so great, that I at last consented.

The authorities accordingly deposited the money necessary to pay volunteers actually mustered, in some instances depositing a sufficient amount to pay the whole number of men to be recruited for their respective districts. Timely notice was sent to this office when detachments were about to be forwarded to the army, with lists of recruits to be forwarded; pay rolls were made out here with the place to which each man was credited placed opposite his name, as also the amount of bounty due him. The money was drawn from the bank, the amount due each man put in a separate package and the whole detachment paid just previous to their being placed on board the cars. In the case of the new regiments raised under this call, the recruits for which were mustered by companies, the muster-in-rolls were forwarded to this office as soon as

completed. These state the sub-district for which the men are mustered, and the credits being given therefrom, the recruits from each sub-district were paid their appropriate bounties. The plan has proved eminently successful. The difficulties referred to above have been avoided, as well as the confusion and delay which would have been unavoidable upon the departure of each detachment, had the agents of the different sub-districts to which the recruits were credited, been present and attempted to pay. The cash accounts which have been kept with all the sub-districts, which have thus deposited their money are open to the inspection of all, and upon examination by those interested, have been found to be correct and satisfactory, and I have been repeatedly thanked for affording the people the advantage of this system.

Allusion has been made to a new regiment raised under this call: this regiment was commenced under the call of July, and was being filled with poor success, as the bounties offered the recruits for this regiment were considerably less than those paid to recruits for regiments in the field, but the letter of the Provost Marshal General to Messrs. Bell and Bogart, of New York, was subsequently applied to this regiment, which placed it upon a footing with the old regiments as to bounty, and it was credited upon the last call made upon the State in October.

The regiment at present numbers over 1,200 effective men, and awaits regimental muster.

By the direction of the Secretary of War, dated September 19, 1863, an official copy of which was furnished from the Adjutant General's office for the information of this State, Captain William B. Lane, U. S. A., Chief Mustering Officer at Philadelphia, is instructed to muster into regiments of U. S. colored troops organizing at Philadelphia, all colored volunteers from the State of New Jersey who might be presented. Credit for these troops were given upon certificate of the U. S. Mustering Officer stationed at Philadelphia. The interests of these men could not be strictly guarded, as the men were recruited under the contract over which the State authorities had no control, and were delivered in Philadelphia, but the officers in charge of the mustering and recruiting United States colored troops in the city of Philadelphia have always been willing to unite with me in preventing any fraud being practised against these simple minded men.

Authority was subsequently given the superintendent of recruiting service for the State, to enlist these recruits in the State, which has resulted well, and has a tendency to prevent speculation which was being made in this class of recruits.

One of the most important features of this call was the credit allowed the State for the re-enlistment of those troops in the regiments in the field whose term of service expired during the year 1864.

To these men large Government bounties were given, and local bounties extended, as an inducement for them to re-enter the service of the United States, and the number re-enlisting exceeded all expectations.

These men have been credited to the localities from which they received bounties, and for which they had been enlisted and mustered.

No little annoyance was felt by reason of irresponsible parties from the State attempting to recruit from these regiments in the field, in some instances by false representations or by the withholding of facts, inducing the men to take a less amount than was due them from the localities to which they had been accredited, but a strict adherence to the principle that no credit should be given until the veteran had been duly mustered, and the evidence of the same forwarded through the proper channels to this office, has avoided any difficulty in the matter of credits.

The number raised on this call and credited to January 31st, is 4,953, of which number 494 were mustered by Provost Marshals.

A table showing the enrollment under which the quota was assessed, and the respective credits upon these calls will be found annexed to this report.

In concluding the subject, I would earnestly request that if volunteering be continued, and the policy of paying additional local bounties be adhered to, that some measures be taken by the present Legislature to limit those bounties and make the same uniform throughout the State, and that some means be taken to secure the services of some one responsible person to pay the same.

The system adopted for a prompt and economical payment of State bounty to the families of volunteers in regiments from this State has been in successful operation during the past year. The system is explained at length in my report of 1862. I allude to it in this connection to say that the recommendations then made as to the expediency of changing the system under which this money was paid I deem unwise to renew.

I remain of the same opinion as to the relative worth of the two systems then spoken of, but seriously doubt the wisdom of any change at the present time, even to substitute a more perfect system.

The officers charged with the distribution of this fund have now become familiar with the existing system, and the results of the past year have been much more satisfactory than formerly; any change of system, therefore, might embarrass the recipients of the bounty.

The total amount paid from this fund during the past year is six hundred and sixty-five thousand three hundred and fifty-four dollars and eighteen cents (\$665,354.18), as follows:

To the heirs of deceased volunteers and to discharged soldiers, single men, one hundred and forty-one thousand six hundred and thirty-one dollars and sixty-one cents (\$141,631.61).

To the families of married volunteers, five hundred and twenty-three thousand seven hundred and twenty-three dollars and twenty-three cents (\$523,723.23).

The amount paid to single men includes those mustered out with the eleven militia regiments, as also veterans who were discharged prior to re-enlistment, and is payment to those men of two to four dollars per month, as the case

may be, for various terms of service from nine months to two years, and is a final settlement. It will therefore be perceived that the annual cost to the State is much less than reported last year. This is partly owing to the fact that a few more men have been mustered out than have entered the United States service, but more particularly to the promptness and accuracy with which information necessary to correct the rolls is obtained and transmitted.

General Orders 105, series of 1863, from the War Department, provides for the organization of an Invalid Corps composed of two classes of men, viz.: those still borne on the rolls of their regiments, but who are unfit for active field service on account of wounds or disease contracted in the line of duty, and those who have been honorably discharged on account of wounds or disease contracted in the line of duty and who desire to re-enter the service.

Quite a large number of New Jersey volunteers had been transferred to this corps from regiments now in the field, and a number of discharged men, had enlisted as invalids, and having been organized with invalids from other States into companies, were doing garrison and provost duty at various hospitals and military posts throughout the country.

The order from the War Department provided that men transferred to the Invalid Corps should be dropped from the rolls of their respective regiments, therefore it became a serious question whether these men were entitled to relief under the State bounty act.

The matter was referred to the Attorney-General by a letter dated September 8th, and his opinion requested upon the following questions:

First—Are the names of New Jersey volunteers, who are transferred to the Invalid Corps, to be continued on the State bounty rolls?

Second—Are the names of the men who have been discharged from the service and who enlist in the Invalid Corps to be restored to the State bounty rolls?

An opinion was received on the 6th of November following, that under the law these men were not entitled to the State bounty, and it was so ordered. Subsequently, on the 18th of the same month, the Attorney-General revised this opinion and advised that the State pay be paid to the class included in the first proposition, and this is being done accordingly. The question of bounty to families of colored volunteers who are mustered into the United States service to the credit of this State, was at the same time submitted, and it being the opinion of the Attorney-General that this class of recruits, not belonging to the militia of the State, was not entitled to bounty under an "Act for the relief of such portion of the militia of the State as may be called into service," their names have not been placed upon the respective county rolls.

I must again call attention to the fact that the existing militia law of the State is inadequate for the purpose for which it was intended. The system necessarily imposes sacrifices, while it offers no inducements to cheerful compliance, no reward for superior excellence.

I would respectfully renew the recommendation made in my report of 1861, and add that the opinion then expressed I still entertain.

No good results can be expected from calling together occasionally, large undisciplined bodies without arms, organization, or any of the appliances necessary for such instruction as would repay them for the loss of time so expended.

The ratio of effective arms at command, as well as the number of persons willing to enroll themselves in uniformed companies of the active militia in the various brigades, and subject themselves to constant drill, is always small compared with the large number of persons liable to be called upon for military duty, and the effect of this is to leave each brigade organization with a few armed and comparatively efficient companies, amid a great mass of unorganized, undisciplined and unarmed militia.

The effective military force of the State is thus widely scattered, not only without central organization, but incapable of rapid concentration, and thus wholly inefficient to act together upon any single point.

To remedy this defect I would suggest that if it be thought inexpedient or improper to interfere with the military organizations of the several counties as they now exist, as the basis of our military system, and convenient centres of organization for the masses of active and reserve militia, that some plan be adopted, by means of which, whatever really efficient troops the militia contains can be capable of immediate concentration, and be ready to operate together when needed. This may be done by establishing one new brigade for the State, to be officered from time to time by the Commander-in-Chief, and to consist of such efficient companies of active and uniformed militia as may be successively detailed for that purpose from the various brigades throughout the State. These may be organized into regiments and battalions, and apportioned to the various districts of the State in such a manner that the companies attached to each battalion may be conveniently and economically brought together at convenient centers for drill in battalion movements, and if thought proper encamped for a short period for instruction in discipline and camp duties.

Even if this force should not exceed above four thousand men, the companies composing it may be changed as may be thought expedient, and others substituted for the more general diffusion of these advantages, and thus the State without more expense than is absolutely necessary, and without interfering with the present organization or sensibly increasing her military establishment, will always have an efficient force of well armed and disciplined troops, ready to act immediately and effectively whenever and wherever they may be required.

These troops should receive compensation from the State adequate to the duties actually required, apportioned and paid in such a manner as would insure the permanency and efficiency of the corps.

Experience has shown that a small amount to be paid directly from the State Treasury for duty actually performed, and for which a strict accountability

may be required, can be used to greater advantage than larger sums collected in comparatively irresponsible hands, and distributed without uniform system, and the absolute necessity for an efficient military organization being universally admitted, no reason can be seen why the expense actually necessary to its economical support should be in any way distinguished from the other necessary expenses of maintaining the Government.

Embarrassment has been felt during the past year from this want of power to concentrate the militia. The standard of the militia of this State is very high. The individual members can be depended upon to march at short notice to any part of the State where their services may be needed, and in discipline and drill they are second to no similar troops elsewhere, but the force is confined to a few uniformed companies, which are far removed from each other, and the delay necessary to concentrate them might enable evil disposed persons to organize and destroy a large amount of property.

Although the emergency is not anticipated, I deem it advisable to report that the State has not the power to subdue an organized and determined mob with the militia force at her disposal as at present organized, and it has become a question demanding the serious attention of the Legislature whether the State shall be put in a position to protect herself.

The idea that our citizens will rush to arms in an emergency, and form companies for the protection of property, has been exploded by experience. The State cannot depend upon militia raised in this manner.

The excitement and confusion prior to the organization of such a body would be exceedingly dangerous to the community, while the troops so raised would, as a military force, be little better than the mob they are expected to subdue.

The Sheriff of one of the counties of the State tried this experiment during the past year, before he appealed to the State authorities for military force to assist in the execution of the law in his county, and the result was ludicrous in the extreme. These impromptu guardians of the law were disarmed and the prisoners of the law rescued.

When requisition was made upon your Excellency, a militia organization from the city of Trenton proceeded, under orders, to the scene of action, succeeded in protecting the Sheriff in the discharge of his official duty, and when the leaders of the anticipated riot were arrested, the mob was found to have been largely reinforced and made confident by the success they had achieved. It was therefore deemed prudent to establish a post temporarily in the neighborhood of the threatened outbreak, and station a few troops at this point to maintain order.

The leaders of the riot received the full sentence of the law before this post was discontinued.

The prisoners taken stated that the rioters had determined upon resistance until they saw the bayonets glistening over the hill tops as the troops advanced upon them.

These men added: "We would have resisted them had they been like those the Sheriff brought with him, but these soldiers moved toward us too compactly, and showed, by the way they obeyed the commands given, that they understood the use of the weapons they carried."

This is not the only instance during the past year where judgment, vigilance and promptness on the part of commanding officers has prevented outbreaks in the State.

Every means has been taken to stimulate any feeling which might enure to the benefit of the militia during the past year, and when representations were made that the people of the State were anxious that a new corps should be organized, to be styled the New Jersey Rifle Corps, and that if this was done the effective militia of the State would be largely increased, measures were immediately taken to comply with their wishes.

By order of your Excellency, I examined the system proposed, and although nothing particularly new was discovered, the plan seemed to promise success, from the fact that the people of many parts of the State were interested in the matter; therefore, authority was given to Colonel William S. Rowland to organize forty companies, to be attached to this corps.

These companies were to be divided between the military divisions of the State, and to be attached to the various brigades of the State militia, independent of regimental organization.

In the authority given and the plan of organization adopted there was nothing which was not provided for by existing law, and therefore, while no injury could enure to the existing militia, an opportunity was given to test the truth of the statement that large numbers would enlist in this corps who would not otherwise join the militia.

The plan has been in operation since the month of June last. Owing to the tardiness of Colonel Rowland, who was relieved from duty on the 7th of October, the organization has not been entirely perfected, but members of the Legislature are conversant with the results already arrived at in the respective localities in which they reside, and can judge whether legislation is required to perfect the system.

The number of companies organized is as follows;

In the First Division, six Companies.

In the Second Division, eleven Companies.

In the Third Division, five Companies.

During the month of June considerable anxiety was felt by the citizens of this State, in common with those of her sister States, respecting a threatened invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania. Various rumors circulated about this time were calculated to increase rather than lessen this anxiety, and rendered it prudent to allay as far as possible the undue excitement created. The proclamation of your Excellency on this subject, united with the precautionary measures taken, had the desired effect.

On the 15th of the month a telegram from the War Department informed your Excellency that the movements of the rebel forces in Virginia were suffi-

ciently developed to show that General Lee, with his whole army, was moving forward to invade Maryland, Pennsylvania and other States; that the President, to repel this invasion, had promptly called upon Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Western Virginia for one hundred thousand volunteers for six months, unless sooner discharged, and your Excellency was requested to inform the Department what number, in answer to a special call of the President, you could raise and forward for six months' service without bounty, to be credited upon the draft then expected, to which answer was immediately made that every means would be taken to ascertain how many men could be raised for such service, and that the Department would be notified of the result as soon as ascertained. While this information was being obtained, an urgent appeal was made to you by the State of Pennsylvania for assistance in view of the expected invasion.

It was impossible to have men mustered into the service of the United States for six months' service as expeditiously as would seem to be required by the appeal of his Excellency the Governor of Pennsylvania; the nine months regiments had just been returned to the State to be mustered out, and the unfortunate misunderstanding before alluded to gave a hesitancy to such enlistment.

The Secretary of War was therefore informed of the appeal made, and asked by telegraph if recruiting for six months' service should be delayed, and State militia forwarded to Pennsylvania; to which answer was returned, "forward to Pennsylvania all the troops you can."

Under these circumstances all action under the request for volunteers or militia for the United States service was suspended, and your Excellency, by proclamation of date of 17th of June, called upon the citizens of the State to meet and organize as militia of New Jersey, to assist in the defence of their sister State.

It had been determined to raise a division of some twelve thousand militia, and from the hearty response which was made to this proclamation, it undoubtedly could have been done in a short time, but while these troops were being raised, it was deemed advisable to accept, for thirty days' service, a battalion of State militia, and the Twenty-third and Twenty-seventh militia regiments, under command of Colonels Grubb and Mindil, which had volunteered their services to the State.

These troops could be expeditiously forwarded to the succor of Harrisburg, then supposed to be in imminent danger, while they could be subsequently relieved by the division of State militia which was in process of organization as has been stated; but on the 20th of June, before this division left the State, it became evident that their services would not be required, for the enemy was concentrating his forces in preparation for battle with the army of the Potomac, which was then fast advancing in his rear, and Harrisburg was no longer in danger. The sudden change in the aspect of affairs in Pennsylvania, and the consequent announcement that transportation from the city of Philadelphia to Harrisburg would be furnished only to troops that had been mustered

into the United States service, caused your Excellency to pause in the exertions being made toward raising and equipping a large militia force, the expense of which must be borne by the State of New Jersey, and it became the part of wisdom to detain the troops preparing to start, and to disband all those who would not be mustered into the United States service for six months, as the urgent need for a volunteer militia force seemed to have passed. A telegram was therefore sent by your Excellency to the Secretary of War, and also to the Governor of Pennsylvania, announcing the fact that, unless otherwise requested, you would disband these troops and renew proceedings under the telegram of the 15th of June from the Secretary of War, which had been suspended as before mentioned.

The request of Governor Curtin, that the State militia in Pennsylvania should be mustered into the United States service, was denied, for the reason that these troops had been enlisted as State militia.

This militia remained in Pennsylvania until the expiration of their term of service.

An efficient militia system would perhaps have enabled the State to have furnished an organized force of militia within twenty hours after the appeal was made; but the delay incident to the raising and equipping this force, although only a few days, rendered the force unnecessary, and the portion raised was therefore disbanded.

The troops that were forwarded from this State had the honor of being the first effective force that arrived at the Capital of our sister State, and the exertion on the part of your Excellency was gratefully acknowledged by His Excellency the Governor of Pennsylvania, who telegraphed from Harrisburg that "The people of this State are under obligations to you for your promptness and energy in organizing and forwarding men to this place."

To a call for assistance made shortly after by the State of New York, it was impossible to respond, for at that time this State required all her available force.

In conclusion I respectfully suggest that a commission be appointed by the Legislature to have the militia law of the State carefully revised and reduced to a uniform system, that the defects which have been made apparent by experience may be remedied.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

R. F. STOCKTON, JR.,

Adjutant General New Jersey Militia.

