

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ADJUTANT GENERAL

OF THE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,


FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31, 1871.



TRENTON, N. J.:

PRINTED AT THE GAZETTE OFFICE.

1872.



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REPORT.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
TRENTON, October 31, 1871. }

To His Excellency, Theodore F. Randolph, Governor and Commander-in-Chief:

SIR:—I have the honor to submit the following report of this Department for the year 1871:

The regular business of the office continues about the same as in the other years since the war. Applications for information on every conceivable subject relating thereto, come to us from officials and from private individuals, and prompt replies have so far been furnished.

A number of claims for State pay have been examined during the year, but many more have, as yet, not even been presented.

Much data relating to the records of volunteers from this State, has been collected since my last report, and every day it becomes more exact, more complete, and hence more valuable.

In the month of June, 1870, you directed me to prosecute, as far as possible, certain researches I had made among the records of Jersey men who took part in the military service of this country during the Revolutionary War. Joint Resolution No. 5, passed by the last Legislature and approved by you March 21, 1871, appointed a commission to publish and distribute the same as shall appear to them most judicious. This work has been completed, and at this date is passing through the press, to be issued, it is hoped, at the opening of the next session of the Legislature. To my report therein contained, you are respectfully referred.

On the 31st day of October 1870, the National Guard of this State numbered forty-nine (49) companies of infantry, two (2) companies in process of organization, two (2) batteries of artillery and nine (9) vacancies reserved by law for and only to be filled by the counties unrepresented. Since that date, one company,

Company F, Third Regiment, has been disbanded, one county, that of Hunterdon, has filled her quota, and one new company, Company E, Third Battalion, has been organized.

The National Guard now stands, fifty-two (52) companies of infantry and two (2) batteries of artillery, leaving eight counties—Cape May, Gloucester, Morris, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex and Warren—without military organization.

The National Guard I again report as full, according to the limits made in Section I, of the act organizing the same. New companies, by authority of Brigade Boards, can only be mustered in where a vacancy occurs.

The Third Annual Competitive Trial of Skill in Musketry, by order of the Major General commanding, took place at New Brunswick, October 20th. The contest was conducted with the usual fairness, and must result in increased interest to the members of the force.

The parades and inspections of the several organizations have been held as required by law. The annual review of the Second Brigade took place at Elizabeth, June 14th. The review of the First Brigade, although ordered, will not occur until next month.

Two occasions, during the year, have required the calling of a portion of the force into active service. On the afternoon of November 8th, 1870, in consequence of an election riot at Centreville, Camden county, the Sixth Regiment was called out by the sheriff of that county. With commendable promptness, this command reached the scene and restored the authority of law.

Again, on the 12th of July, according to your order of the previous day, the entire First Brigade was placed under arms in Jersey City and Newark. The efficiency, the good, soldierly conduct, and the rapidity with which troops were moved that day, has become well known to the people of the State and is duly appreciated.

The General Government have officially informed us that the quota of this State of improved breech-loading guns and accoutrements is about to be forwarded, and it is hoped that before the close of the year, the National Guard will be provided with this effective arm. While other States are arming with new and different patents, you have rightly deemed it best to conform strictly to the weapon used by the Regular Army.

I trust, sir, that at the close of your administration, you may look and speak with pride of the military force of this State, recreated by your order, fostered in every way by your care, and to-day presenting a compact, well disciplined, and most effective organization.

The report of the Assistant Adjutant General, chief of enrolling and drafting, has been received and is herewith annexed.

The report of the Inspector General, with the returns of

Brigade Inspectors of the National Guard, is subjoined, to which you are referred for special information as to its numbers, and general efficiency.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM S. STRYKER,
Adjutant General of New Jersey.

REPORT OF ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
BUREAU OF ENROLLING AND DRAFTING,
TRENTON, December 1, 1871. }

GENERAL:—I have the honor to report that the number of the reserve militia of this State, which comprises all “persons between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years who are liable to perform military duty,” is, according to the best data accessible to this bureau, one hundred and twenty-nine thousand five hundred and ninety.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

S. M. DICKINSON,

Colonel, and Assistant Adjutant General of N. J.

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM S. STRYKER, *Adj't Gen'l of N. J.*

APPENDIX.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
ELIZABETH, December 27, 1871. }

GENERAL:—I have the honor to transmit to you my annual report for the year 1871, together with the returns, in detail, of the inspections of the various companies composing the National Guard. This report has been delayed far beyond the time fixed by law, by reason of the non-reception at this office of the returns from the First Brigade, the last of them having reached me but yesterday.

From the detailed reports herewith sent you of the First Brigade, you will see that there has been no regular inspection held in that Brigade, as required by law. A few of the companies have been inspected by Lieutenant Colonel Munn. The Fourth Regiment was inspected by the commanding officer, Colonel Van Buskirk, and the reports from the balance of the command are simply the Orderly Sergeants' returns or the consolidated return of the Sergeant Major. The excuse for this delay and omission, I am informed, is because the position of Brigade Inspector has been vacant. Upon examination, I find that Lieutenant Colonel Ryerson, who was the former Brigade Inspector, tendered to his commanding officer his resignation September 26th, 1871, but the resignation was not acted upon by him until November 27th, when it was by him approved and forwarded, and upon that day, Lieutenant Colonel Blewett was appointed, vice Ryerson resigned. Thus the position of Brigade Inspector was virtually vacant during the very time in the year when the only duties required by law of such an officer, are directed to be performed. As under the present law of the State, an allowance of five hundred dollars is paid to each company having a legal organization, and as these payments should not be made to companies falling below the minimum, these inspections should in all cases be rigidly made by the proper officer, and he should be well satisfied that each company has at least forty enlisted men actually doing duty in the company, and should require the absentees to be properly accounted for.

The inspection returns of this year show that the National Guard is now composed of fifty-two companies of infantry, which are divided into six regiments and four battalions, and that there are two batteries of artillery.

The entire force is divided into two brigades. The First Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General Joseph W. Plume, whose headquarters are at Newark, is composed of the First Regiment with six companies (viz. Companies A, B, C, D, E, and F), having an aggregate of 274 officers and men; the Second Regiment with seven companies, (viz. Companies A, B, C, D, E, F and H), having an aggregate of 247 officers and men; the Fourth Regiment with seven companies, (viz. Companies A, B, C, D, E, F, and G), having an aggregate of 333 officers and men; the Fifth Regiment (veteran) with seven companies, (viz. Companies A, C, D, E, F, G and H), having an aggregate of 423 officers and men; the First Battalion with four companies, (viz. Companies A, B, C and D), having an aggregate of 226 officers and men; the Second Battalion with one company (viz. Company A), having 50 officers and men, and Battery A, with 68 officers and men. Adding to this the brigade commander and his staff of six officers, the entire strength of the First Brigade is 1628 officers and men, of which number 143 are commissioned officers. Of the above number, 946 are reported as having been present at inspection.

The Second Brigade is composed of the remaining twenty companies of infantry and one battery of artillery, and is under the command of Brigadier General Uriah De Hart, whose headquarters are at New Brunswick. The infantry companies compose the following regiments or battalions: the Third Regiment with six companies, (viz. Companies A, B, C, D, E and G), with an aggregate of 295 officers and men; the Sixth Regiment with seven companies, (viz. Companies A, B, C, D, E, F and G), with an aggregate of 310 officers and men; the Third Battalion with four companies, (viz. Companies A, B, C, D and E), with an aggregate of 220 officers and men; and the Fourth Battalion with two companies, (viz. Companies A and B), with an aggregate of 150 officers and men. Adding to the above the strength of Battery "B," which has 70 officers and men, and the brigade commander and his 5 staff officers, the entire strength of the brigade is 1051 officers and men, of which number 100 are commissioned officers. The return of the Brigade Inspector shows that 497 were present at inspection. It appears, however, from his return, that he did not himself inspect Companies E, of the Third Regiment, or D of the Third Battalion, or B of the Fourth Battalion, and they are not included in the above number given as present. The reports from their respective captains show that they made their own inspections, and that 131 were

present at inspection, which, added to those noted in the above return, would swell the number present at inspection in the Second Brigade to 628 officers and men.

From examination of the returns, I am compelled to honorably mention both of the batteries, and also Company A, of the Second Battalion, commanded by Captain J. V. Moore. If all the companies would emulate the example set them by the last above mentioned company, which, upon a telegraphic order, turned out at short notice 45 officers and men for inspection, out of a total membership of but 50, the National Guard of New Jersey would be, in reality, as efficient as its numbers on paper now lead its warmest friends to hope it may become. Company A of the Third Battalion, deserves also a passing notice, as the inspection has shown that it has a reliable, effective strength. I regret, however, to be obliged to say that, from the reports as gathered from the returns of the Orderly Sergeants in the First Brigade, many companies, while among the absent they show enough members to entitle them to still be considered and treated as a company, yet appear to be useless branches of the militia organization. Company C, of the Fifth Veteran Regiment, is among that number, for while it reports 46 as absent from parade, it shows that upon parade there was 1 captain, 2 sergeants, 2 corporals, 2 musicians, and only 3 privates. If it can muster no more than that number upon an annual inspection, it seems to me that it is useless for the State to expend, annually, five hundred dollars for such a company, and I therefore recommend that the appropriation for that company for the ensuing year, be withheld until a further inspection is made by the newly appointed Brigade Inspector, or such officer as may be designated by the Commander-in-Chief, in order that it may be ascertained with certainty what actual strength is represented among the 46 members reported absent without leave.

The remarks and suggestions by me above made in reference to Company C, Fifth Regiment, will apply likewise to Company F of the Fourth Regiment, which reports 3 sergeants and 8 privates as present at inspection, and 3 officers and 40 enlisted men as absent.

I find also that the following companies fall below the minimum fixed by the act, and I recommend that they be disbanded, viz. Company C, of the Fourth Regiment, and Companies C and F, of the First Regiment.

The total effective strength of the National Guard, according to my last annual report, (exclusive of the State and General's staff), was 3113, and this year it is but 2679, showing a decrease during the past year of 434. The proportion absent from inspection this year, I regret to say, is also greater than it was last year.

In submitting this, my annual report, I would beg leave to suggest whether it would not be advisable that a muster, for pay, be made during the month of March, 1872, of all the companies in the National Guard, and that the State allowance be only paid to such companies as shall have filed a properly certified muster roll. In this way only, it seems to me, can it be ascertained whether the men absent from inspections are genuine members of the companies whose numbers they thus tend to swell. There are within my own knowledge several localities in the State where large companies can readily be recruited, which would be a credit to the National Guard, but as long as only a limited number of companies are allowed in the State, and that number is filled up by companies having merely a nominal existence, the Guard is deprived of the benefit it would derive by a healthy increase, and the standard is kept below what the standard of New Jersey troops should be. I simply desire that the dead limbs of the Guard be lopped off, so that room may be made for new and desirable organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

J. AUGUSTUS FAY, JR.,

Brigadier General and Inspector General.

To Brig. Gen. WILLIAM S. STRYKER,

Adjutant General of New Jersey.

INSPECTION RETURN OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.

FIRST BRIGADE.

FIRST REGIMENT.	STATION.				
	Officers present.	Men present.	Officers absent.	Men absent.	Total present and absent.
Field and Staff.....	6	...	...	...	6
Company A.....	3	27	...	17	47
Company B.....	3	31	...	18	52
Company C.....	3	22	...	12	37
Company D.....	3	26	...	16	45
Company E.....	1	20	1	25	47
Company F.....	3	17	...	20	40
	<u>22</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>274</u>
					Newark.
					Newark.
					Newark.
					Newark.
					Newark.
					Newark.

INSPECTION RETURN OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.

FIRST BRIGADE.

SECOND REGIMENT.	STATION.				
	Officers present.	Men present.	Officers absent.	Men absent.	Total present and absent.
Field and Staff.....	11	..	1	..	12
Company A.....	15	22	..	22	46
Company B.....	15	33	1	20	56
Company C.....	3	25	..	17	45
Company D.....	2	20	..	23	45
Company E.....	1	32	2	8	43
*Company F.....	..	..	..	..	..
*Company H.....	..	..	..	..	..
	21	132	4	90	247

*Not Inspected.

INSPECTION RETURN OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.

FIRST BRIGADE.

FOURTH REGIMENT.	STATION.				
	Officers present.	Men present.	Officers absent.	Men absent.	Total present and absent.
Field and Staff...					
Company A.....	15	137	11	170	333
Company B.....	2	11	...	30	43
Company C.....	3	24	3	40	54
Company D.....	1	17	1	32	51
Company E.....	1	14	...	12	29
Company F.....	3	36	1	15	54
Company G.....	...	24	...	25	52
Jersey City.	...	11	3	40	54
Hudson City.	15	137	11	170	333
Hudson City.	2	11	...	30	43
Hudson City.	3	24	3	40	54
Bergen.	1	17	1	32	51
Jersey City.	1	14	...	12	29
Jersey City.	1	14	...	12	29
Bayonne.	3	36	1	15	54

FIRST BRIGADE.

APPENDIX.

INSPECTION RETURN OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.

FIRST BRIGADE.

SECOND BATTALION.	STATION.				
	Officers present.	Men present.	Officers absent.	Men absent.	Total present and absent.
Company A.....	3	42	...	5	50
					Leonia.
Battery A.	3	61	...	4	68
					Weehawken.

SECOND BRIGADE.

THIRD REGIMENT.

STATION.

Officers present.

Men present.

Officers absent.

Men absent.

Total present and absent.

Field and Staff.

Company A.....
Company B.....
Company C.....
Company D.....
Company E.....
Company G.....

Elizabeth.
Elizabeth.
Elizabeth.
Elizabeth.
New Brunswick.
Elizabeth.
Kewport.

INSPECTION RETURN OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.

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APPENDIX.

SECOND BRIGADE.

SIXTH REGIMENT.	Officers present.	Men present.	Officers absent.	Men absent.	Total present and absent.	STATION.
Field and Staff.....	11	...	2	...	13	Camden.
Company A.....	2	26	1	21	50	Burlington.
Company B.....	3	24	...	18	45	Camden.
Company C.....	2	24	1	17	44	Camden.
Company D.....	3	20	...	37	60	Camden.
Company E.....	3	19	...	25	47	Camden.
Company F.....	2	25	1	23	51	Atlantic City.
*Company G.....	...	...	...	...	...	Toms River.
	<u>26</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>310</u>	

*Not Inspected.

INSPECTION RETURN OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.

SECOND BRIGADE

THIRD BATTALION.	STATION.				
	Officers present.	Men present.	Officers absent.	Men absent.	Total present and absent.
Field and Staff.....	7	..	..	..	9
Company A.....	2	37	1	19	59
Company B.....	2	23	1	30	56
Company C.....	1	24	2	20	47
Company D.....	..	..	3	46	49
*Company E.....	..	..	..	..	..
	12	84	9	115	220

* New Company.

INSPECTION RETURN OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.

SECOND BRIGADE.

FOURTH BATTALION.	STATION.					Total present and absent.
	Officers present.	Men present.	Officers absent.	Men absent.		
Field and Staff.....	...	...	...	...	...	Millville.
Company A.....	2	34	1	35	72	Millville.
Company B.....	...	...	3	75	78	Bridgeton.
	2	34	4	110	150	
Battery B.....	4	43	1	22	70	Camden.

RECAPITULATION.

REGIMENTS, BATTALIONS AND BATTERIES.	Officers present.	Men present.	Officers absent.	Men absent.	Total present and absent.
FIRST BRIGADE.					
First Regiment.....	22	143	1	108	274
Second Regiment.....	21	132	4	90	247
Fourth Regiment.....	15	137	11	170	333
Fifth Regiment (Veteran).....	24	197	3	199	423
First Battalion.....	24	115	1	86	226
Second Battalion.....	3	42	...	5	50
Battery A	3	61	...	4	68
	112	827	20	662	1621
SECOND BRIGADE.					
Third Regiment.....	22	126	9	138	295
Sixth Regiment.....	26	138	5	141	310
Third Battalion.....	12	84	9	115	220
Fourth Battalion.....	2	34	4	110	150
Battery B.....	4	43	1	22	70
	66	425	28	526	1045
Total.....	178	1252	48	1188	2666

