ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

For the Year 1915

ALBANY
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1916
ORGANIZATION

National Guard.—The organization of the several arms, corps, and departments conforms in large measure to the tables of Organization prescribed for the by the War Department. Effort is being made in all cases where organized militia by the War Department. The organization of the division at present is complete with the exception of 2 field hospitals and the provisional companies or troops (headquarters, machine gun, and siege artillery) required for regiments of infantry and cavalry. The armament of the machine gun and siege artillery has been organized while the tables of Organization company and 3 machine gun troop have been organized while the tables of Organization include 1 machine gun company for each regiment of infantry and 1 section of 1 machine gun company for each regiment of cavalry—a total of 14 for the National machine gun troop for each regiment of cavalry.

Naval Militia.—The organization of the Naval Militia conformed practically to that established by the Navy Department.

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

4th Ambulance Company with station at Syracuse, October 27.
6th Air Corps, Signal Corps, with station at New York, November 22.
1st Artillery, Artillery Battery, with station at New York, December 1.

NAVAL MILITIA

7th Division, 3rd Battalion, with station at Brooklyn, March 28.
Air Division, 1st Battalion, with station at New York, October 28.
3rd Aviation Section, 1st Battalion, Signal Corps, with station at New York, August 24.
1st Battalion, Signal Corps, with station at New York, August 24.

The members of the Naval Aviation, Signal Corps, and Artillery Section have been presented to the National Guard and Naval Militia and have been activated, to be accommodated at this camp.

Mobilization Camps

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

A bill will be presented to the Legislature for an appropriation of $60,000 for the purpose of procuring a tract that will meet the requirements of the State being called upon to mobilize a force for the defense of the country.

Small Arms Practice

Troops cannot be considered efficient unless they are properly instructed in the use of the weapons with which they are armed and they can receive such instruction only through practice. As the rifle is in the arm with which most of the troops of the United States are armed, the training of the individual in the use of the rifle is a matter of great importance. The fundamental principles of aiming, holding, and shooting can be taught in the armory, but actual practice on the range is necessary. The figure of merit in small arms firing at the State Camp of Instruction at Ymskull, New York, and with local rifle range convenient for practice during the summer months, is far better than that of troops located within the city who are required to practice at Ymskull where facilities are limited and the time spent in travel tends to minimize results.

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

Property

Storage and Safe Keeping.—The matter of the proper storage and safe-keeping of public property has received special consideration during the past year. A board has been appointed with full power and authority to inspect the armories that have served in the active militia or in the army, navy, or marine corps of the United States. The interest taken in military affairs by former members of the active militia is evidenced by the great number of applications to be placed on this list which have been received. Bills will be introduced at the next session of the legislature for the acquisition of such property, and it is hoped that the necessary funds can be provided for a reservation list of militia property.