

HISTORY OF THE EIGHTEENTH REGIMENT, DUQUESNE GREYS, PERIOD 1878 to 1917

By Brigadier General Albert J. Logan

The history of the Eighteenth Regiment of the Pennsylvania National Guard is bound up with the history of Pittsburgh. The Eighteenth Regiment has always proudly borne the title Eighteenth Regiment (Duquesne Greys) National Guard of Pennsylvania. The term "Duquesne Greys" has always been a part of the regimental insignia. It is the purpose of this paper to continue the story of the Duquesne Greys under the title, Eighteenth Regiment.

While it is true the Duquesne Greys for several years had been called the Eighteenth Regiment, the history of the Eighteenth Regiment properly begins with the re-organization of the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1879. The story of the Eighteenth Regiment from this time is closely allied with the story of the National Guard of Pennsylvania so that the influence affecting the National Guard affected the regiment and the story of the growth and service of this regiment is the history of the growth and service of the military force of the city, state, and nation.

As you have already been told, although the Duquesne Greys performed their full measure of service in the industrial disturbances in 1877 and did so with honor to themselves and credit to the organization, many of the military organizations in existence at that time did not prove as efficient as they should, due to the system of control or lack of control, and organization. The Pennsylvania Assembly in 1878 adopted a Military Code (Act 1878 P. L. 173 enlarged by Act 1879 P. L. 85). Up until this time the National Guard was composed largely of a number of independent organizations but under the new code the National Guard of Pennsylvania was made a definite cohesive organization to be conducted "as nearly as possible along the lines of the United States Army."

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This code did not provide, however, for any definite term of enlistment or for any way of compelling service. In fact the whole system was purely voluntary both as to its beginning and continuance. The Code provided for organizations adopting by-laws and providing for expulsion of members.

After the service of the Duquesne Greys in 1877 the officers and men re-organized the regiment under the provisions of the Military Code of 1878. Owing to the feeling so generally prevalent that the military organizations were not likely to be required as a national defense, the public did not give generous support to the state militia, and the organization and support of the regiment was due entirely to the work of the members. The history of the old Duquesne Greys set a high standard for the re-organized regiment and the members worked hard and faithfully to maintain it and succeeded. The personnel was very good and the regiment performed its full duty. From 1879 until 1887 when another Military Code was adopted by the State of Pennsylvania the country was at peace and the state was free from industrial disturbances. A system of annual encampments was put into effect and beginning with the encampment of 1880 at Thompsons' Station in Allegheny County the Eighteenth Regiment participated in the annual Regimental Brigade and Divisional Encampments each year until 1915. The regiment also attended many of the presidential inaugurations at Washington, gubernatorial inaugurations at Harrisburg, and took part in all the parades held by the military in the City of Pittsburgh, several in Philadelphia and two in New York City. During this period the regiment was commanded by Col. Presley N. Guthrie from January 12, 1874 to February 4, 1883; by Col. Chambers McKibben from February 5, 1883 to September 29, 1884; by Col. Norman M. Smith from September 30, 1884 to May 7, 1899.

In 1887 the State of Pennsylvania adopted a new Military Code (Act 1887 P. L. 23). This code provided for a military organization of the same strength substantially in detail as the previous code but in addition provided for a definite organization in detail for an enlistment of three years and for a complete system of Courts Martial. It also

provided for calling troops into the service of the state in the event of invasion or insurrection. It is obvious that this was quite a change from the rather fast and loose arrangement of the past. This might well be designated the second period and may be considered as extending from 1887 to 1903.

The service in the National Guard during this period called for a great deal of sacrifice on the part of the members. The enlisted personnel was called upon to perform the weekly drills, to attend the annual encampments and also to perform a number of times the disagreeable duty of suppressing disturbances and preserving order during industrial trouble. The regiment lacked armory facilities and the support of an enthusiastic public. The officers were compelled to give considerable part of their time to recruitment, the maintenance of their units in strength, and the superintendence of routine work by the men, while the disagreeable service required a very high degree of leadership.

In 1891 the regiment was called into service for duty in the Coke Region of Westmoreland County where an industrial disturbance was in progress. Within six hours after receiving the order from the Governor the regiment was under arms. It served for ten days at Mt. Pleasant and Scottdale.

In 1892 the regiment was again called out for service on account of the industrial disturbance at Homestead where it had the distinction of leading the troops into the town.

In 1902 the regiment was called for the third time to serve the state on account of the industrial disturbance in the coal regions in Central Pennsylvania.

It is worthy of note that whenever the civil authorities had called upon the National Guard to aid in establishing order and maintaining the laws, immediately after the Guard had taken charge of the district to which it was assigned, order was established, and it is equally noteworthy that in the period from 1878 until the present time but one single life was lost after the National Guard had taken charge of the district. The able manner in which those in command conducted the work and the splendid

conduct of the men almost immediately established confidence in the community and normal conditions were assumed without the interference of the rights of any citizen.

During this period occurred the Spanish American War. True to the traditions of the regiment it at once volunteered its services to the United States and when called to Mt. Gretna it enlisted to a man. Col. Norman M. Smith, commanding from 1884 to 1899, was in command of the regiment with Frank I. Rutledge as Lieut. Colonel. The strength of the regiment was about fifty men to each company and there were eight companies in the regiment. Before going to Mt. Gretna the regiment was quickly recruited to full strength, sixty men to each company. After reaching Mt. Gretna the regiment was ordered to fill the companies up to the strength of one hundred men. Recruiting parties were sent back to Pittsburgh and in a few hours the regiment was at the full strength of one hundred men per company.

Like many other fine regiments of volunteers, the Eighteenth Regiment was not given an opportunity to reach the field of battle but they performed their allotted duty faithfully and well until the close of the war. After leaving Mt. Gretna companies A, B, C and G were sent to Fort Battery Point, Delaware; Companies D, E. and H were sent to Fort Brady at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; and Company F was sent to Alliance, Ohio, to guard the Morgan Engineering Works which were engaged in government contracts. This period of service by the regiment covered the period from May 11, 1898 to October 22, 1898.

Upon returning from service the regiment was reorganized and Frank I. Rutledge elected Colonel (May 9, 1899-May 9, 1909). Four companies of the Seventeenth Regiment National Guard of Pennsylvania (which was organized during the period the Eighteenth Regiment was in the Federal service) were assigned to the Eighteenth making this regiment a full twelve company regiment of three battalions. At this time the armories of the regiment were very inadequate. Eight companies were housed in the old County building on the site of the present Morgue at the corner of Ross and Diamond streets, two

companies at 510 Wylie Avenue, one company at the corner of Shady Avenue and P. R. R., East End, and one company at Belmar place, Homewood. In the spring of 1901 the Ross Avenue and Diamond Street Armory was torn down and it was necessary to find new quarters, and the companies were housed severally in different parts of the city. In October 1904 the regiment purchased the old Clark property at the corner of Craft Avenue and Emily Street, and all the companies were brought together at this place with the exception of Co. K which remained in the East End. The armory facilities at the new location were not of the best. The old Clark residence was used as an administration building and a large wooden shed was erected for a drill hall. There was nothing attractive about the armory and the organization was heavily in debt caused by the purchase of this property. Nevertheless, the officers worked hard and the regiment continued to do its full share of the duties required of it as part of the National Guard of Pennsylvania. On May 9, 1909 Col. Frank I. Rutledge retired from command after having served as colonel for ten years and after a much longer period of faithful and honorable service with the regiment.

On May 17, 1909 Col. Albert J. Logan was elected Colonel of the regiment and served as its commander until he was promoted to Brigadier General and placed in command of the Second Brigade National Guard of Pennsylvania, September 12, 1912. Shortly after Col. Logan took command of the regiment, through the joint action of the County of Allegheny and the State of Pennsylvania, the new armory of the regiment in the Schenley Farm district at the corner of Bayard and Thackeray Streets was commenced and the present building erected and dedicated. The present building is the administration section of the completed armory as planned. In the new home the regiment was much more attractively and conveniently housed. It provided for club and athletic facilities for the officers and men and it was hoped that with the new armory and the new location the young men of the city would be attracted to service in the National Guard.

After the Spanish American War the material and financial support accorded the National Guard by the city

and later by the Federal Government became more and more generous. In return therefor more was required of the National Guard. Each year the requirements as to efficiency and preparedness were raised. The annual encampments were periods of very hard work and intensive training conducted under the supervision of the Regular Army. In 1912 the regiment participated in a camp with the Regular Army at Mt. Gretna where it for the time was under the command of a camp commander from the regular army and served with other troops of the regular army for instruction. Each year the officers were required to attend an officers' training camp at Mt. Gretna which was conducted by the regular army. The fact is that the National Guard of Pennsylvania was expected to reach the same stage of efficiency as the regular army.

During all of this time the regiment maintained a high place in the Pennsylvania National Guard Division and was rated well by the regular army. The officers worked very hard. They sacrificed business and pleasure to the regiment. Too much can not be said of the officers and men of the regiment for their untiring labor. During the latter part of Col. Logan's term and during all of the time Col. James H. Bigger was in command of the regiment (Oct. 2, 1912-Feb. 1916) the disturbances in Mexico were threatening the peace of this country and during this period the Eighteenth Regiment was constantly ready for any service. In May 1916 the industrial disturbances in the Turtle Creek Valley required the calling out of the state troops and within a few hours after the call came the Eighteenth Regiment was on duty and served there for a short time.

During the year 1915 the American Congress took up the consideration of federalizing the National Guard bringing it in closer relationship as to training and federal service with the regular army to the end that in June, 1916, the National Defense Act became effective. It provided that the National Guard should receive certain assistance in the way of equipment and training from the Federal Government and would be subject to call by the President for service within the United States. The act further provided that under certain conditions the Presi-

dent could draft the organizations of the National Guard in the federal service when they would stand discharged from the National Guard and become part of the National Army.

Upon the retirement of Col. James H. Bigger from the command of the regiment (Feb. 1916), Lieut. Col. Edward L. Kearns was elected Colonel Feb. 26, 1916. While Col. Kearns was in command the regiment was called to the Mexican Border. On June 23, 1916, when the call came to the state from the federal government for the state National Guard, the Eighteenth regiment after recruiting rapidly to the maximum strength fixed by state law, was sent to Mt. Gretna. While there the regiment was required to increase its strength and a call was sent to some of the old officers of the regiment who quickly organized a recruiting campaign and in a few days sent to Mt. Gretna the required number of men to fill the regiment to the strength required by the Federal Government. On July 4, 1916, the regiment started for Texas. The history of this service is so recent that it is not necessary to go into details about it. The regiment was not sent into Mexico but it spent many weary months training in the hot sun of a Texas summer and the disagreeable sand storms and "Northerners" of a Texas winter. The regiment returned to Pittsburgh on Christmas 1916 and was given an ovation by the City of Pittsburgh which they justly deserved. The regiment returned home a well organized, well equipped, and well drilled military body. It was discharged from the Federal service January 5, 1917.

Fate so willed it that citizen soldiers of this regiment were not permitted much opportunity to return to civil life. On April 12, 1917, upon the declaration of war between the United States and Germany the regiment was called into service and assigned to the duty of guarding the railroad bridges in Western Pennsylvania. The regiment was relieved from this duty and drafted into the service of the United States on August 5, 1917. Under the National Defense Act of the United States, the Eighteenth Regiment ceased to be a part of the National Guard of Pennsylvania on August 5, 1917, although it continued to be known as the Eighteenth Pennsylvania Infantry until

October 11, 1917, at which time the Pennsylvania Guard Division was re-organized into the 28th Division and the Eighteenth Regiment, after absorbing the Sixth Pennsylvania Infantry, became the One Hundred and Eleventh Infantry. The history of this regiment after August 5, 1917, is the subject of another paper.

In review, the history of the Eighteenth Regiment from 1879 to 1917 has been the repetition and continuation of the history of the Duquesne Greys, its honored predecessor. It has passed through the deadly routine of peace times, the unpleasant periods of industrial disturbances, and the embroglios with foreign powers, with faithfulness and honor. Its record is unblemished. Its roster of officers and men is a record of the young men of Pittsburgh who were willing to give of themselves at the sacrifice of their business and their pleasure to maintain a military organization of which Pittsburgh, the State of Pennsylvania, and the Nation are proud. The officers and men of the old Eighteenth, whether they are serving or have served in the One Hundred and Eleventh Infantry or in any other organization in this great World War, have kept alive and fostered the spirit of the Duquesne Greys and the Eighteenth Regiment (Duquesne Greys) National Guard of Pennsylvania.