

CLARION COUNTY IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR¹

THEOPHILUS L. WILSON

WAR is a contest between nations or states, carried on by force. It may be an offensive or defensive war. We also have had holy wars such as the Seven Crusades, religious wars, civil wars, Indian wars, economic wars, foreign wars, and domestic wars. The United States in its comparatively short history has had all of these wars, except holy and religious wars, and in every instance at the start we were illy prepared and poorly equipped.

Many people do not know, and many historians have overlooked, the fact that the Spanish-American War in 1898 was the second time soldiers of Pennsylvania were engaged in war against Spain, and that in the first of these wars United States troops first engaged an enemy on another continent. Spain had acquired control of the ports of South America and shipping to and from these ports, which barred England from having a part of this trade. In October, 1739, England declared war on Spain and in 1740 got together the largest fleet ever to leave England up to that time. The fleet was accompanied by fifteen thousand sailors, twelve thousand land troops, and also by three thousand six hundred men recruited from our country, of which Pennsylvania sent eight companies of one hundred men each. The expedition was a failure: of the three thousand six hundred men sent from the United States of America to participate in this war three thousand perished, and of the one thousand sent by the New England states nine hundred perished by reason of dissension and failure of co-operation between the land and sea forces.

¹ This is an article, only slightly revised, which was contributed by Judge Wilson to the *Clarion Republican* in the fall of 1940, and published in an anniversary edition of that newspaper celebrating the centennial of the organization of Clarion County. The author was formerly president judge of the eighteenth judicial district of Pennsylvania, a jurisdiction coterminous with Clarion County.—*Ed.*

As to the Spanish-American War of 1898, previous to the sinking of the "Maine" the Cuban Revolution had been on for a long time and by reason of alleged cruel and unjust treatment of the Cuban population by the Spanish and the forced concentration of the Cubans in camps and fortified cities for a considerable length of time, a radical newspaper propaganda was carried on in the United States and was finally taken up by the churches, which aroused our nation and those in authority. The sinking of the battleship "Maine" in the harbor at Havana, Cuba, on February 15, with a death loss of 2 officers and 257 men, and the later death of 7 men from injuries, was the spark to the powder keg. It was generally considered that President McKinley was personally opposed to the war, but he went into it under pressure from the press and the church people. On March 28 the findings of the board of inquiry, as reported to the House and Senate, pointed to the explosion of a mine under the battleship "Maine" on her port side, because deep sea divers found the plates and the keel bent inward. Spanish officers had been invited to join in the investigation, but had stayed around only one day. However, no evidence was produced, nor has any evidence ever been produced, to show that the Spaniards were responsible for the explosion.

War was declared on Monday, April 25, and on the next day orders to move were received by Company D, Fifteenth Regiment, Pennsylvania National Guard, located at Clarion. On Wednesday, the twenty-seventh, the Fifteenth Regiment and other Pennsylvania troops were on their way and arrived at Mt. Gretna, Pennsylvania, the next morning. At that time, under Pennsylvania National Guard regulations, a company had sixty enlisted men and three officers. On or about May 3, the various companies were recruited to seventy-five enlisted men, and after President McKinley made his second call for seventy-five thousand more troops, each company was recruited to three officers and one hundred and six enlisted men.

At the time Company D left for service, it was composed of the following officers and men from the town of Clarion and other parts of Clarion County:

OFFICERS

Capt. A. J. Davis *1st Lt.* F. L. Pinks *2nd Lt.* F. J. Hackett

SERGEANTS

D. S. Bigley R. G. Long I. J. Hanhold
W. J. McCammon J. H. Cornman

CORPORALS

F. L. McCarthy P. H. Allmacher A. H. Finnefrock
C. M. Sampsell E. S. Rimer H. C. Rhea
S. L. Pickens C. W. Benn

PRIVATES

F. Agey	C. C. Finnefrock	H. Passer
G. Agey	C. E. Fleming	F. R. Rimer
W. R. Anderson	G. C. Freck	C. M. Sayers
J. H. Baker	C. E. Ganoe	B. M. Spence
M. O. Baker	W. O. Ganoe	————— Stoyer
O. H. Borland	C. S. Harpst	C. F. Walker
B. W. Boyles	Delbert A. Harriger	W. R. Walker
Ed. V. Bradenbaugh	W. S. Hosey	A. B. Whitehill
J. H. Brookbank	M. C. Kinard	D. C. Williams
C. Brush	H. B. Lohr	C. C. Wilson
R. Burford	J. T. Lowry	T. L. Wilson
C. E. Campbell	R. M. Lowry	J. A. Wurdack
E. Carnahan	W. C. Lowry	A. J. Wyman
Harry Corbett	H. W. McCammon	Geo. E. Wyman
W. C. Craig	Ira McDowell	S. B. Yeany
B. L. Davenport	F. McEntire	
H. R. Ditweller	C. A. Newell	

Before the company was sworn into the United States service on May 11, the following were released from war service and returned home, because of failure to pass the physical examinations, or for personal reasons: Sergeants Hanhold and Cornman, and Privates F. and G. Agey, M. O. Baker, Borland, Burford, Carnahan, Craig, Ditweller, W. C. Lowry, McDowell, McEntire, Stoyer, C. F. Walker, A. J. Wyman, and Yeany.

The Pennsylvania National Guard at Mt. Gretna in May, 1898, numbered 8,546 officers and men, of whom 7,939, or 568 officers and

7,171 enlisted men, volunteered for service in the United States Army. Those who declined to enlist were 13 officers and 794 men. However, the full quota of 10,800 officers and men was secured by recruiting. About May 6, Captain A. J. Davis returned to Clarion and vicinity and recruited twenty-nine men, among whom were Ward Hulings, Ed. Bell, Lot Say, Henry Botzer, John and Charles Schreckengost, John Rapp, and James Turk from Clarion and its vicinity; C. Whitehill of Knox; William Books and David Long of St. Petersburg; Ralph Clover, Harry Showers, and Win Crowe of Strattonville; H. H. Fisher and Herman McClain of Shippenville; and Robert C. Wilson of Greenville. Others were from Rimersburg and its vicinity. Some of these men were rejected for one reason or another, so their names do not appear in the complete and final roster of the company given below.

Company D was a well-trained, good-shooting organization. Enlistments were as a rule for a three-year period, and weekly drills were held in the old Presbyterian church building at Clarion, where a very satisfactory armory was maintained. During the summer months frequent outdoor drills and maneuvers were held. Indoor shooting was engaged in at the armory and for many years a well-equipped rifle range was maintained on the Sloan farm at the east end of Clarion. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania furnished plenty of ammunition to the different companies and organizations in the National Guard and encouraged shooting by awarding medals of different classifications. A number of the older members of the company who had served during the Homestead Strike had white metal keystone-shaped medals showing their service in that crisis. All other medals, with the exception of that of Captain A. J. Davis, who wore his medal for service in the War of the Rebellion, represented marksmanship. As the latter had been awarded for quite a number of years back, and as many of them are in Clarion County, I think it well to give a brief description of them so that people finding them in the future will know what they represent.

A member of the National Guard, in order, in the first instance, to become a qualified marksman, shot at one hundred, two hundred, and five hundred yards, and for making a score of under forty points out of

a possible fifty, was awarded what was called a Qualified Marksman's Medal—a bronze disc, one and one-eighth inches in diameter, bearing on the front the words "Marksman's Badge" and the coat of arms of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and on the reverse side the letters "N.G.P.," representing the National Guard of Pennsylvania. To this medal at the top was attached a narrow strip, one and one-half inches in length, decorated with crossed rifles and having the year of the qualification marked thereon. A bronze strip showed that a man was a qualified marksman; a silver strip, which required forty to forty-five points out of a possible fifty at two and five hundred yards, contained the wording, "First-Class Marksman," and the year; and anyone making between forty-five and fifty points at the same ranges received a gold bar bearing the word, "Sharpshooter," and the year. For five years of qualified marksmanship one was awarded a silver keystone containing a small facsimile of a target at the top, the numeral "V," signifying five years, the letters "N.G.P.," and the word "Marksman." To this medal on each succeeding year was attached a pendant containing the number of additional years as a qualified marksman. If the pendant was silver with a blue enamel inlay it showed you were a qualified marksman. If it was gold with red enamel inlay it signified you were either a first-class marksman or a sharpshooter. Almost every member of Company D was a qualified marksman in one of the above classifications.

For ten or more years' rating as a qualified marksman in one or another of five classes, the commonwealth awarded a different medal—a five-pointed, enamel-tipped cross, with a keystone in the center showing a soldier standing at attention with gun in hand. Around the circle was the name of the class attained, in a distinctive color, with "P.N.G." under it. Three members of Company D. had received this medal: Captain A. J. Davis, Second Lieutenant Frank J. Hackett, and First Sergeant David S. Bigley.

In addition to the medals given by the commonwealth, practically all the companies in the Pennsylvania National Guard, in order to keep up the interest in marksmanship, awarded company medals. In Company D the individual marksmanship medal was a rather large gold medal, hav-

ing on it crossed rifles, a facsimile of a target, and a flying eagle at the top. It was suspended from a gold pendant bearing the wording, "Company D Fifteenth Regiment."² Also, the company was divided by lot into shooting squads and the eight in the squad making the best average scores for the year were awarded small bronze medals in the shape of a Maltese cross. When the company went to war these squad medals were held by Corporal C. M. Sampsell, and Privates J. A. J. Wurdock and G. F. Vowinckel, Jr., but I am unable at this time to recall who held the other five of these company medals.

By reason of the different National Guard companies having been sworn into the United States service for the war with Spain, they could not hold their customary range-shoots for qualification in the year 1898. Consequently, to those marksmen in the National Guard who entered the service the commonwealth gave quite nice medals, consisting of a large bronze pendant, on the front of which was a standing soldier with a rifle and the initials "N.G.P.," and on the reverse side, "To the marksmen of National Guard of Pennsylvania who entered United States service in War with Spain 1898." This medal was suspended from a bar-pin containing the marksmanship classification and the year 1898: for the qualified marksman it was of bronze, for the first-class marksman, silver, and for the sharpshooter, gold. Also, the United States government later gave quite nice medals one and one-fourth inches in diameter, bearing on the front the wording, "For service in the Spanish War," and on the reverse side the United States coat of arms, crossed guns, crossed sabers, crossed cannons, and a space for the name or organization of the owner. This was suspended from a green and yellow silk emblem.

The equipment of the soldiers of Company D was as follows: Each officer purchased his own uniform, cap, sword, and Colt revolver. His cap bore the coat of arms of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The enlisted man was equipped with a 45-70 caliber, single-shot, breech-loading Springfield rifle, with bayonet and bayonet scabbard; a heavy

² When Company D went to war, this individual gold medal was held by the author.—Ed.

leather belt with leather cartridge box attached, and with a large brass buckle inscribed "N.G.P."; a knapsack with shoulder straps; a haversack with cooking pan, iron knife, fork and spoon, and large tin cup; a round flat canteen with a canvas cover for carrying water or coffee; a cap bearing an emblem of brass crossed guns with white keystone center and with the numeral "15" at the top and the letter "D" at the bottom, signifying Company D, Fifteenth Regiment. The uniform consisted of a dark blue jacket and light blue trousers, with white chevrons and white stripes for the noncommissioned officers, canvas leggings, and one cape overcoat. The tops of the caps worn were pasteboard discs covered with cloth, and they became very hot and warped badly when wet by rain. Consequently shortly after the troops arrived at Fort Sheridan, Virginia, the caps were discarded and the men were issued the regular service or roughrider felt hats. Also each soldier had one rubber blanket and one wool blanket.

In the several days preceding the declaration of war, and until Company D left for service, there were stirring times in and around Clarion. Everyone was much excited about the crisis and the necessity of troops going from this county. Members of Company D were all under orders to report at the armory at the ringing of the old Presbyterian church bell, which was still suspended in the old church building. There were two or three false alarms before we actually were on our way. About eight o'clock on April 22, the Friday evening before we left, the ringing of the armory bell caused not only the members of Company D, but also a large crowd of people of the town, to rush to the armory in the expectation of orders being received for the company to proceed to war. However, at ten o'clock that night, Captain Davis made the announcement that the soldiers could go home for a couple of hours to say good-by to their relatives and friends, and he requested them to report again at the armory ready to start, which was done, but the order did not come until the following Tuesday evening. On the Saturday morning preceding the leaving of the company, April 23, most of its members attended chapel at the Normal School and a number of patriotic addresses were made.

On Tuesday morning, the twenty-sixth, handbills were passed around

town announcing a meeting for that evening at the Normal in the interests of the soldiers. Prominent speakers of the town who were well informed on things pertaining to war gave interesting addresses and the chapel of the Normal was crowded shortly after it opened at about seven o'clock in the evening. The entire company filed in and occupied the front seats, which had been reserved for them. The band from Greenville (Limestone) came up specially to take part in the exercises of the evening and rendered a very good musical program. Major J. J. Frazier, a former captain of Company D, made some announcements, and the benediction was pronounced by the Reverend Mr. Delo. The exercises were opened with prayer by the Reverend Mr. Goodchild, and during the evening prayers were offered by the Reverend Messrs. Robinson and Bucher. It was estimated that there were from one thousand to one thousand five hundred people in the audience.

The company left Clarion at twelve o'clock noon, April 27, and escorted by a large company of the citizens marched through the mud about two and one-half miles to Clarion Junction, as the B. & O. trains had stopped running into Clarion the fall of the preceding year. At the station there was a crowd of at least seven to eight hundred people who had come to see the company leave. It had been specially escorted to the station by the Grand Army and the Tsuga Club, whose members wore light overcoats, hats to match, white gloves, and canes, and marched in military formation.

The company arrived at Camp Hastings, Mt. Gretna, the following evening, and had a rather rough experience, as no tents or food were available. It was necessary to enter some cottages at a camp ground forcibly, and Captain Davis secured some food for the company from Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Among the most disagreeable times experienced during the war were the first ten days at Mt. Gretna, because it rained or snowed every day; there were no floors in the tents; and at different times tents were blown down, including the mess tent. However, there were no complaints and all of the boys faced the unpleasant situation with rare good humor.

The next thing of importance was to decide who among the members

of Company D would enlist for two years or the duration of the war in the service of the United States of America, and those who had families to support or would suffer severe business losses, or who could not pass the physical examination, were given the right to decline to enlist. On May 11, those willing to enlist were mustered into the United States service.

After President McKinley made his second call for seventy-five thousand more troops, Lieutenant Colonel Mechling, Major Heilman, and the writer were sent out on recruiting service for the Fifteenth Regiment. The last named arrived at Kittanning on June 10, and in two days recruited forty-three men who were assigned to the different companies in the Fifteenth Regiment along with the twenty-one men recruited by him at Clarion. Lieutenant Colonel Mechling and Major Heilman took recruits from Butler, Mercer, and other places to the extent necessary to put the Fifteenth Regiment on a full war footing, and the three of us, together with the recruits from the different counties, joined the regiment at Point Sheridan, Virginia, on or about June 23. Shortly after that the men were given uniforms and guns and engaged in intensive drilling.

The national capital at that time was principally defended by two large forts on the Potomac River a few miles below Washington, which were manned by heavy artillery of the regular army, and the Fifteenth Regiment was assigned to assist in the guarding and protection of these forts. The name Fort Sheridan was afterward changed to Fort Hunt. Late in June the regiment was split and four companies were moved across the Potomac River to Fort Washington, leaving four companies—B, K, D, and F—on the Fort Sheridan side of the river.

The different companies forming the Fifteenth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, were as follows: Companies A and C from Erie, B from Meadville, D from Clarion, E from Butler, F from Grove City, G from Sharon, and K from Greenville.

Forts Washington and Sheridan were equipped with ten-inch and fifteen-inch cannon mounted on disappearing carriages—the first heavy artillery of this kind any of us had ever seen. Different squads from the

different companies were assigned to practice in the manning of these guns and on June 25 each of the batteries was inspected by Major Crozier (who was in charge of the heavy artillery for our government during the World War), the inventor of the carriage. The three big disappearing guns at Fort Sheridan were then fired for the first time. They were aimed at a target about two miles down the river and the preliminary drill and firing were done with accuracy and celerity, receiving the commendation of the inspectors. There were only five shots fired as these shots cost one hundred and ten dollars each.

The company settled down to the usual routine of military camp life, the monotony of which was varied by occasional trips to the National Cemetery at Arlington, to Mt. Vernon, which we could see from our camp, and to different summer resorts along the Potomac River. At different times members of Company D were assigned to patrol duty at the recreation centers referred to and on the steamboats from Washington, D. C., to Marshall Hall and Indian Head, because at times the soldiers became so unruly that it was necessary to have military patrols to keep good order. Also, a squad from the Fifteenth Regiment was sent to the Arlington Cemetery to act as the firing squad when the body of Major Alan Capron, the first regular army officer to be killed in the Cuban campaign, was brought to Washington for burial.

Pursuant to telegraphic instructions from the war department, the regiment was relieved from duty at Point Sheridan, Virginia, and Fort Washington, Maryland, on September 9, under orders to proceed to Camp George C. Meade, near Middletown, Pennsylvania, and report to the commanding general of the Second Army Corps for duty. The command left at 6 P.M. on September 9, arriving at Middletown at 8 A.M. the next day, and was assigned to the First Brigade, Second Division, Second Army Corps. There was a very large encampment there, made up of troops from many parts of the United States. At that time there was no Pennsylvania state patrol, and the situation became so bad in Harrisburg that the city police could not adequately handle it. The Fifteenth Regiment was therefore ordered on provost duty at the camp; squads were sent out into the farming sections; and a large selected

Musician Harry Corbett, Clarion
Musician Edwin N. Stover, Vandergrift
Artificer James T. Lowry, Clarion
Wagoner Urban B. Howard, Dunkirk, N. Y.

PRIVATES

Allmacher, Harry J.	Freck, Gilbert C.	Newell, Charles A.
Anderson, Walter R.	Ganoe, Chambers E.	Passer, Henry A.
Baker, John H.	Gerheim, John W.	Rairigh, Charles A.
Barger, Joseph F.	Gillingham, George W.	Rimer, Frank R.
Beatty, Walter C.	Goughler, John W.	Robb, Robert R.
Black, Adam	Hamilton, Ezra D.	Robinson, Hiram P. H.
Blake, Murray E.	Harriger, Delbert A.	Say, Lot B.
Boocks, William A.	Himes, Earl R.	Sayers, Charles M.
Boyles, Bird W.	Hosey, William S.	Shannon, Arthur E.
Bradenbaugh, Ed. V.	Hulings, Ward P.	Shoup, Harold A.
Brookbank, James H.	Iscman, Homer J.	Showers, Harry B.
Brothers, George W.	Jewart, John F.	Sipler, George A.
Brush, Charles F.	Johnson, William O.	Snyder, Charles J.
Christy, Robert R.	Kinard, Moses C.	Spence, Bernard M.
Clover, Ralph W.	Knowles, Forqus F.	Spence, Richard P.
Cochrane, Charles D.	Lohr, Harry B.	Stafford, Thomas E.
Corbett, Hazel E.	Long, George H.	Walker, James S.
Cunningham, Frank W.	Lowry, Robert M.	Walker, William R.
Davies, George	McCammon, Harry W.	Whitehill, Clare E.
Davis, Charles L.	McClain, Herman L.	Whitehill, Arthur B.
Finnefrock, Clyde C.	McElhinney, Robert J.	Williams, Dana C.
Fisher, Arthur J.	Mahood, William H.	Williams, Earl E.
Fisher, Harry H.	Martin, James E.	Wilson, Robert C.
Fitzgerald, Jay E.	Miller, Casper A.	Woodling, Thomas L.
Fitzsimmons, David M.	Montgomery, Robert R.	Woodward, Elmer E.
Fleming, Charles E.	Morrison, Harry H.	Wurdack, Josef A.
Fleming, Robert L.	Neil, James J.	Wyman, George E.
Frampton, Benj. W.	Nevel, Maurie B.	Youkers, Frank G.

In addition to the Clarion County men who served with Company D, a number of residents of the county enlisted with other units. Among them were Lindsay McEntire, who enlisted in Company M, Fifth Regi-

ment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry; Otis Sowers, who served in the Philippines with the regular army, as did Joseph L. Smith; also Harry Nale, who served with Company B, Sixth Infantry, in the regular army, and saw service in Cuba; Ed. Campbell, who served in the navy for three or four years and was on the flagship "Brooklyn" at the time of the battle with Cervera's Spanish fleet; Frank L. Ludwick, now of East Brady, who served with Company F, Sixteenth Regiment, P.V.I.; Willis Mong and Ed. Youkers, who served with a West Virginia regiment; C. O. McElhatten, who was with Company G, Fifteenth Regiment, P.V.I.; and Al. Campbell, who served with Company K, Fourteenth Texas Regiment.

It is interesting to note that all three of the Campbell brothers served in this war, as Charles E. Campbell served with Company D, Fifteenth Regiment.³

One of the things in this war that were difficult for the enlisted men to understand or reconcile was the way the troops were moved around. They were kept up North during the cold spring weather, taken to the southern camps during the extremely hot weather, back North late in the fall when it was getting comfortable in the South, and then later taken South again. During the summer months the troops were in fever districts and the death rate was very high. For every man killed in the Spanish-American War, fourteen died from fevers alone, and the death rate was higher among the regiments that did not have combat service than it was among those that did. While at different times Company D had as high as a fifth of its men down with fever at one time, we were remarkably fortunate, because during the entire period of the war we lost only one member by death, a fine young man by the name of Gilbert C. Freck, who was a student at the Clarion State Normal School at the outbreak of the war. While at his home on sick leave he died from the results of fever.

At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War the navy of United States was listed sixth among the navies of the world, and Spain ranked

³ Charles E. Campbell's name does not appear in the final roster of the company because he was severely injured at Mt. Gretna and was discharged and sent home.

seventh. In this war the navy to a great extent saved the day for the army, and we all knew, after the destruction of the two Spanish fleets, that the war would be of comparatively short duration.

The Spanish-American War, principally by reason of the sympathy aroused for Cuba and other Spanish possessions by the intense newspaper propaganda and the interest of the churches, was what is termed a popular war, and it called forth the only army ever raised in the United States in which every man was a volunteer. When recruits were required many more offered their services than were selected for enlistment. The men engaged in the Spanish-American War numbered 458,151, and the average service was fourteen months, which exceeded the average service in either the Civil War or the World War. The monthly pay of privates was fifteen dollars and sixty cents per month.

The cost of the war to the United States was \$1,200,000,000, which includes the payments to Spain for islands. The fatalities were twenty-eight per cent as against fatalities of fourteen per cent in the Civil War and eleven per cent in the World War. The value of the property acquired by the United States was eight billion dollars, and it is interesting to note that in the Philippine Islands one American-controlled gold mine has produced in value more gold than was paid Spain for the entire group of islands.

In this war sixty-one per cent saw foreign service as against forty-six per cent in the World War, and in the Civil War only members of the navy saw foreign service.

After the mustering out of the company at Athens, Georgia, on January 31, 1899, it returned to Clarion and the citizens of that town gave the returned members a grand welcome. A very considerable sum of money was collected by donations from the business men of the community which enabled them to give the soldiers a warm reception. The parade that had been arranged for was formed in front of the courthouse on Main Street at three-thirty in the afternoon and was one of the finest parades ever seen in Clarion. The marshal, Major J. J. Frazier, with his aides, Harry H. Arnold and D. Clark McClelland, Theo. L. Wilson and G. Fred Vowinckel, Jr., headed the parade, fol-

lowed by the Fryburg brass band, the Tsuga Club, mounted, the Clarion Zouaves, the county officials, the borough council, the Women's Relief Corps, the fire company, the Grand Army of the Republic, the Normal students, Blanchard's Artillery, the New Bethlehem coronet band, and Company D under the command of Sergeant Long. Captain Davis, who had been on the sick list for several weeks, rode with the Grand Army of the Republic. Quite a few citizens in vehicles turned out to swell the parade; the large crowd of visitors from near-by towns gave the boys the glad hand; and cheer after cheer was given them all along the line of march.

At seven-thirty the members of the G.A.R., Company D, and citizens, accompanied by the two bands, marched from the armory to Normal Hall, where an immense audience awaited them. As the boys entered, Gus Graham's orchestra, stationed in front of the hall struck up "Home, Sweet Home," and the cheers and shouts of welcome almost raised the roof. Major Frazier, as chairman, finally called the meeting to order and his remarks were followed by music by the orchestra and by the Fryburg band. Major B. J. Reid, a veteran of the Civil War, was then introduced and delivered the address of welcome. Major Reid's address was followed by music by the orchestra, and Captain A. J. Davis responded in behalf of the company to the address of welcome. His address was followed by music by the orchestra and by the Fryburg band, and then the members of the company formed in line across the front of the hall and received the hearty hand shakes and kind words of the large audience present. After the reception, Company D and other soldiers of the war—members of other companies present—were given a fine banquet in the large dining hall at the Normal School by Professor R. G. Yingling. After this was over the members of Company D and other soldiers present returned to the armory and had a farewell party of their own.

Inasmuch as Company D was a member of the National Guard of Pennsylvania at the time of its leaving for service in the Spanish War, and as it may be a long time before this subject is written up again so far as the local history is concerned, I think it well to give a brief history of

the National Guard in Clarion County. It was always a very well-trained, well-disciplined military organization and always had many fine marksmen in the different organizations. The first company in Clarion to become a member of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, I am informed, was a combination of those interested in military affairs with the old Perry Guard, and was a company unit of the old Seventeenth Regiment established many years ago. Later it was identified as Company G of the Sixteenth Regiment, and was made Company D of the Fifteenth Regiment some time in the winter of 1881. As such it successfully maintained its organization through a long period of years.

In addition to the military training described above, Company D each year attended a National Guard camp, which was either a regimental, brigade, or division encampment, where it received special training in large troop movements and also engaged in competitive shooting with other organizations. In July, 1897, the year before the Spanish-American War, Company D attended its last encampment as a part of the National Guard—the Second Brigade Encampment of one week at Conneaut Lake, Pennsylvania, which cost Pennsylvania about fifty thousand dollars. The soldiers used at this encampment 35,000 loaves of bread, 6,000 pounds of hard-tack, 20,000 pounds of fresh beef, 8,500 pounds of ham, 2,700 pounds of beans, 4,000 pounds of sugar, 12,000 pounds of rice, 3,500 pounds of coffee, 50 pounds of canned salmon, 60 pounds of soft soap, 4,000 bars of toilet soap, 1,100 pounds of salt, 65 pounds of pepper, 25 bushels of onions, 175 barrels of potatoes, 1,250 cans of corn, 820 gallons of canned tomatoes, 3 barrels of vinegar, and other sundries such as matches, candles, and oil.

The different officers of Company D, covering a long period of years, were as follows:

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 Captain Anthony Beck | 3 Captain J. J. Frazier |
| First Lieutenant O. E. Nale | First Lieutenant Tom Near |
| Second Lieutenant W. T. Alexander | Second Lieutenant Colonel ⁴ Thompson |
| 2 Captain O. E. Nale | 4 Captain M. A. K. Weidner |
| First Lieutenant John McEntire | First Lieutenant _____ |
| Second Lieutenant W. S. Ganoe | Second Lieutenant _____ |

⁴ Second Lieutenant Thompson's first name, not a title.

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| 5 | Captain A. J. Davis
First Lieutenant John Near
Second Lieutenant Charles Arnold | 7 | Captain Theo. L. Wilson
First Lieutenant G. Fred
Vowinckel, Jr.
Second Lieutenant Frank Hackett |
| 6 | Captain A. J. Davis
First Lieutenant Fred L. Pinks
Second Lieutenant Frank Hackett | | |

Of these officers, J. J. Frazier of Clarion, and A. J. Davis attained the rank of major, and Walter W. Greenland, the rank of adjutant general.

Through someone's oversight a peculiar situation developed during the Spanish-American War as to the military formation of the National Guard of Pennsylvania. In the United States Army and in the National Guard of the other states a regiment consisted of three battalions made up of twelve companies, while in the National Guard of Pennsylvania the regiments were made up of two battalions containing eight companies, and were known and designated as "bobtail regiments." When they were placed in a brigade to be composed of three regiments, it left that brigade short four companies, or over four hundred men. In order to correct this situation after the Spanish-American War, the Pennsylvania National Guard was re-formed, and its regiments were established on a twelve-company, three-battalion basis. To effect this change some of the old regiments were mustered out of service and their companies distributed among the other regiments. By reason of this change, the Fifteenth Regiment was mustered out of service and four companies were placed as a battalion with the Sixteenth Regiment. One of the companies mustered out was Company D located for so many years at Clarion.

Company D of the old Fifteenth Regiment, by reason of its military efficiency and standing, participated in different presidential inauguration parades at Washington, D. C., and at different inaugurations of governors at Harrisburg. It also did military service during the famous Homestead Strike and was there practically all of one summer. Also, it participated as a part of selected troops in a large parade in New York City, and in the large military parade at Philadelphia at the unveiling of the monument by the Society of Cincinnatus. It always had a military record in which Clarion County could take pride.

In those days the only pay received by members of the National Guard was when on service at the annual week-long encampments, and the controlling influence in keeping these organizations going was the interest the members of the companies took in military affairs, with the idea of being of protective service to their government.

During these days of such strong differences of opinion over military preparedness by this country, and on account of the terrible war conditions existing among European countries,⁵ I deem it a proper time to go on record by stating that I have no sympathy whatever with the radical pacifist movement which for some years past seems to have been gaining ground in the United States. While I believe that war is a terrible thing to happen to any country, I am very firmly of the opinion that for many years to come there will always hang over this country the danger of becoming involved in a war. I thoroughly agree with the old prize fighter that "a good offense is the best defense," and firmly believe in adequate and timely preparedness. War methods have changed and progressed as much in our history as changes and developments have occurred in all other lines. For instance, there were more men killed in the Battle of Gettysburg than Washington ever had under his command at any one time. Now, modern warfare has become so highly mechanized and scientific that no nation can quickly arrive at a condition of adequate preparedness, and today with our national wealth, large gold reserves, natural resources, and huge land possessions, our country is the most tempting bait in the world for nations without these possessions.

When I hear some rabid pacifist expound against preparedness and the horror of war, I first think of Henry Ford's Peace Ship, then of Andrew Carnegie's International Peace Conciliation Bureau upon which millions were spent, and the Hague Peace Tribunal, all of which were

⁵ It will be recalled that the observations here introduced were made over a year before Pearl Harbor, while to many Americans the matter of our preparedness was still a debatable question.—*Ed.*

possibly working along the right lines, but were far, far, ahead of the time for such accomplishments. I then think of what wars have done for the United States and conclude that almost everything we have in this country of high value was brought about by a war. The early wars brought about religious freedom; the Indian Wars brought us untold wealth in lands; the Revolutionary War brought us our independence, and, until the last few years, freed us from excessive taxation; the War of 1812 brought about freedom of the seas and stopped the Indian depredations in the old Northwest; the Mexican War gave us Texas and California; the need for money brought about by European wars enabled us to make the Alaska Purchase and the Louisiana Purchase; the Civil War abolished slavery, changed a large, dependent, non-tax-paying population into a self-sustaining, independent, taxpaying, property-owning population, and saved the union of the states; the Spanish-American War freed vast territory from the hands of tyrants and spoilers, changed the ownership of territory at our back door from unfriendly hands to friendly hands, woke us up to our military unpreparedness, gave us property to the value of eight billion dollars, and last but not least, showed us the causes of fevers and practically eradicated them. As to the World War, it proved to the world what a sleeping giant we were and how dangerous we were when aroused; I firmly believe that it saved us from the most disagreeable military experience in our whole history—that of being a conquered nation.

The total number of Americans killed in this country's wars, including the Confederate dead, stands at 244,375. From 1920 to 1935 there were 388,936 people killed in automobile accidents, and it seems to me that it would be better for the extreme pacifist to try to correct the automobile situation than to discourage and obstruct military training and military preparedness.

In the cemeteries and elsewhere in Clarion County are buried soldiers of the Indian Wars, soldiers of the Revolutionary War, soldiers of the

War of 1812, soldiers of the Mexican War, soldiers of the Civil War, or War of the Rebellion, soldiers of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, soldiers of the Spanish-American War, soldiers of the World War, sailors and others who have served in the armed forces of the United States, and we residents of Clarion County who are about to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the organization of the county honor and salute you for serving your country in its times of need.