

**"TIN SOLDIERS"; THE
ORGANIZED MILITIA
AND WHAT IT REALLY IS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649048168

"Tin Soldiers"; The Organized Militia and What It Really Is by Walter Merriam Pratt & George E. Thorne

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WALTER MERRIAM PRATT & GEORGE E. THORNE

**"TIN SOLDIERS"; THE
ORGANIZED MILITIA
AND WHAT IT REALLY IS**

THE MILITIA MANEUVERS



MILITIA MANEUVERS TAKE ON THE ASPECT OF REAL WAR AT TIMES

“TIN SOLDIERS”

The Organized Militia and What
It Really Is

WALTER MERRIAM PRATT

Author of

*“The Burning of Chelsea,” “The Maritime Provinces as seen from an
Automobile,” “Through Europe on One Hundred Dollars,” etc.*

With Foreword by

CAPT. GEORGE E. THORNE, 24th Infantry, U. S. A.

Aide-de-Camp, Governors Island, N. Y. Officer in charge of Militia
Affairs of the Dept. of the Eastern Division.



RICHARD G. BADGER

THE GORHAM PRESS
BOSTON

Copyright, 1912, by Richard G. Badger

All Rights Reserved

UA42
PB

The Gorham Press, Boston, U. S. A.

TO
THE PURITAN CLUB, BOSTON

*among whose members are many officers
in the different branches of the service
and where an officer of the Regular Army
or the Organized Militia is sure to re-
ceive a cordial welcome,*

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED

334254



FOREWORD

FROM the beginning of our national existence the militia has been very much maligned. This has been the logical result of our people failing to appreciate the true value of military training. Because the militia, lacking in organization, equipment, and training, with empty stomachs, and marched aimlessly about by *untrained leaders*, were not always able to withstand the onslaughts of a well-trained enemy, they were compelled to suffer, in addition to defeat, the further humiliation of being called by their unappreciative fellow townsmen, and even by statesmen in the Halls of Congress,* that word which comes so readily to those who have never experienced the terrible strain of battle — COWARDS. To say that these patriotic men who volunteered to defend their neighbors' fireside and the honor of their country were as a class deserving of such an epithet is preposterous. It was simply a lack of organization, equipment, training (team work) and qualified *leaders*. Only by such an explanation is it possible to account for the action of the men who fought in the battles of the first Bull Run and at Gettysburg.

The American people are rapidly awakening to the

*Report of the congressional investigation after the battle of Bladensburg and the burning of the capitol during the war of 1812.

true value of military training, not only as a means of national defense, but also as a potent factor in modern business. The time is ripe for a book which will create an interest in the militia — the men who have kept the military spark aglow — and which will place them before the people in such a light as to demand their respect and support. To do this without favor or hope of reward has been the author's avowed purpose in this most worthy undertaking.

Mr. Pratt has had considerable practical experience, having served in the cavalry, field artillery, and infantry branches of the militia, and at present holds a commission as first lieutenant in the Eighth Massachusetts Infantry. He has participated in practically all the large maneuvers during the last ten years, either in the line of duty or as war correspondent, and in writing this book has done his country the highest service possible by assisting in bringing home to our citizens the necessity of building up in time of peace an adequate national defense.

GEORGE E. THORNE.

Governor's Island, N.Y.,

4 February, 1912.