

**REPORT OF THE ADJUTANT
GENERAL OF THE
STATE OF MICHIGAN,
FOR THE YEARS 1891-1892**

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Report of the Adjutant General of the state of Michigan, for the years 1891-1892 by Various

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VARIOUS

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BY AUTHORITY

LANSING
ROBERT SMITH & CO., STATE PRINTERS AND BINDERS
1892



REPORT.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT, MICHIGAN, }
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
Lansing, November 1, 1892. }

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, EDWIN B. WINANS,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

SIR—I have the honor to submit the following report of this Department for years 1891 and 1892.

STATE TROOPS.

At the close of the year 1890 according to the returns of September 30, the Michigan State troops, including the General Staff, consisted of:

Commissioned Officers	165
Enlisted Men	2,333
Total strength	2,498

The militia laws of this State were so amended by act of Legislature in 1891 as to provide for four additional companies but limiting the total strength to forty companies of infantry.

Applications were filed from a number of organizations in different parts of the State, and a company was accepted from each of the following named cities: Owosso, Cheboygan, Detroit and Ironwood, which made necessary a complete reorganization of the troops, and as the battalion organization had been adopted in the United States army, the entire command of forty companies of infantry was organized into one brigade of five regiments, each regiment divided into two battalions of four companies each, all of which are now fully armed, equipped and uniformed.

Each regiment is provided with a regularly enlisted band of twenty musicians each who have been furnished with new uniforms.

This reorganization also necessitated the making of an entire new roster

of the troops, which is now complete. By the aid of the commanding officers of the several companies this office has been enabled to so perfect the records that from the present organization the dates of all enlistments, promotions, discharges, receipt of returns and total membership, the time of inspections and number present at such can be readily given. A very marked improvement is noticed on the part of officers in the accuracy of and promptness in forwarding returns and reports.

A manual of the militia laws, and a revised edition of the rules and regulations for the government of the State troops having been adopted by the State Military Board, June 1, 1891, and approved by the Governor, was issued in one volume, properly indexed. The work is of pocket size, convenient for ready reference and well adapted for use in quarters or camp.

Under these new rules and regulations a new department has been organized, known as the Medical Department, consisting of a Surgeon General with rank of Lieut. Colonel and a Surgeon and Asst. Surgeon with rank of Major and Captain respectively, for each regiment, together with a full non-commissioned staff; its necessity and effectiveness can be best judged by the very full and complete report of Surgeon General Chas. M. Woodward, to which reference is hereby made.

The present strength of the troops as shown by the returns of quarter ended September 30, 1892, is:

Commissioned Officers	185
Enlisted Men	2,732
Total	2,917
Total Sept. 30, 1890	2,498
Increase	419

During the past two years there have been issued 187 commissions to officers in the State service; 2,691 enlistments, including 277 re-enlistments; 2,238 discharge papers issued, 318 of which were dishonorable, the offense being non-attendance at drills, or non-payment of dues, in most instances; 60 certificates of 6 years' honorable and continuous service in the State troops have been issued by the State Military Board.

ENCAMPMENTS.

The annual encampment of State troops for 1891 was held at Whitmore Lake near Ann Arbor from July 16 to 20, inclusive, and for year 1892 the camp was at Island Lake from August 18 to 22, inclusive, in compliance with General Orders A. G. O. No. 3, dated May 1, 1891, and General Orders A. G. O. No. 7, dated May 26, 1892.

The above orders, together with the several Brigade Orders establishing the camps, are made a part of this report and marked exhibits C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and K, of the appendix.

The reports of Brig.-Gen. Henry B. Lothrop, Inspector General, marked A and B, also the report of Captain Cornelius Gardner, U. S. A., Marked "M" Inspector detailed by the War Department to visit the camp of 1891, are thorough and complete, and have been printed in General orders and distributed to the troops.

Captain Frank D. Baldwin, U. S. A., was detailed by the War Department to visit and report as to efficiency, etc., of the State troops as shown at the camp of 1892. It is to be regretted that this officer's report is not out, as it should have been made a part of this report.

PERMANENT CAMP GROUNDS.

The practice of changing the place of holding the annual encampment each year has proved expensive and unsatisfactory, and I have no hesitation in recommending that a law be passed providing for the purchase, of suitable lands necessary for State encampment purposes, and that such selection of grounds be made by the Governor, Adjutant General, Q. M. General, Inspector General and Brigade Commander.

The State troops have been greatly benefited by the presence of and example of detachments of the regular army at our camps.

The regular army officers are greatly interested, they work faithfully, more hours of actual hard field service at our camps, and instructing our soldiers and officers, than do many of those of the State troops. Our troops and State were honored this year with the presence of Major General Nelson A. Miles, U. S. A., and staff at the annual encampment; the opinion formed as to the efficiency of our State troops by this distinguished officer is expressed in the following letter:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI. }
Chicago, Illinois, August 25, 1892. }

GENERAL J. S. FARRAR,

Adjutant General, State of Michigan, Lansing, Michigan:

MY DEAR GENERAL—

* * * * *

I was very much gratified to see the fine and effective appearance and the good discipline that seem to characterize your National Guard.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed)

NELSON A. MILES,

Major General, U. S. A.

The canteen, or post exchange system, has been on trial at the annual encampments the past two years. Under supervision of commanding officers the soldiers can purchase tobacco, cigars and light drinks, including beer. It is believed that placing such supplies for use directly in camp takes away the desire to seek questionable resorts outside of camp, and when the men know that any reasonable amount will not be denied them, it places them on honor to not permit extravagant use or abuse of such liberty. At the same time there is no doubt but that if officers and men would strictly abstain from all use of strong liquors for the few days in camp, there would be marked improvement in every direction.

TROOPS AT CHICAGO, OCTOBER 1892.

The Governor having accepted an invitation to be present with his staff and participate in the exercises and ceremonies incident to the dedication of the buildings at the World's Fair at Chicago, October 19, 1892, Michigan was requested to furnish a quota of troops for the occasion, but as no funds were available for such purpose a circular was issued from this office setting forth the facts and stating that only such troops as would go without expense to the State, could be accepted.

Fourteen companies having volunteered, were accepted and organized into a provisional regiment of three battalions, as follows:

Colonel E. W. Bowen, 1st Infantry, commanding.
 Lieut. Col. Wm. T. McGurrin, 2d Infantry, second in command.
 Lieut. Chas. M. Hemphill, Adjutant.
 Lieut. C. H. Kline, Quartermaster.
 Major J. F. Denslow, 1st Infantry, Surgeon.
 1st Infantry Band of Adrian, 20 Musicians.

First Battalion.—Lieut. Col. John R. Bennett, Fifth Infantry, Commanding. Lieut. R. S. Babcock, Fifth Infantry, Acting Adjutant.

	Officers.	Enlisted.	Total.
Co. B, First Infty., Adrian.....	3	35	38
" D, " " Jackson	3	34	37
" E, " " Lansing	3	40	43
" A, Fifth " Big Rapids	3	34	37
" C " " Muskegon	2	41	43

Second Battalion.—Lieut. Col. C. L. Boynton, Third Infantry, Commanding. Lieut. E. G. Weithoff, Acting Adjutant.

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	Officers.	Enlisted.	Total.
Co. A, Third Inftry., Flint	2	32	34
" G, " " Owosso	2	35	37
" E, Second " Grand Rapids	3	41	44
" H, " " " "	2	40	42

Third Battalion.—Major F. H. Case, Second Infantry, Commanding.
Lieut. G. S. Bennett, Acting Adjutant.

	Officers.	Enlisted.	Total.
Co. A, Second Inftry., Coldwater	3	41	44
" B, " " Grand Rapids	3	38	41
" C, " " Kalamazoo	3	38	41
" D, " " Three Rivers	3	43	46
" F, " " Grand Haven	3	39	42

It is extremely gratifying to be able to report that the troops as above mentioned by their soldierly appearance, steady marching and excellent conduct during the trip to Chicago sustained and added to the high reputation so long established by Michigan troops.

WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION, 1893.

The plan recommended by Major Gen. Miles, and approved by resolution adopted at the convention of Adjutants General, at which the Adjutant General and Col. E. M. Irish were delegates, held at Chicago, October 27, 1891, to petition Congress to enact a law providing for the mobilization of the National Guard of the United States at Chicago from August 10 to August 25, 1893, is strongly endorsed.

The expense of transportation and subsistence of the troops to be paid by the general government.

If such plan shall be adopted and carried into effect, the troops will be expected to go into regular camp of instruction and drill, under strict discipline for ten days, for which time to receive pay for their services the same as at our regular annual camps, the remaining five days the troops remain in camp to be permitted to visit the exposition without pay from the state, this camp to take the place of the regular State encampment for year 1893.

ROUTINE OFFICE WORK.

The demand for "certificates of service" during the rebellion is yet very great; this document is required when the original discharges have been lost or destroyed to aid in the prosecution of claims for pension, for gaining admission to soldiers' homes, proving up service in claims for homesteads, and various other purposes. The work involved in