

REPORT

ON THE

FIRST REGIMENT

NATIONAL GUARD OF HAWAII
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31st

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Headquarters First Regiment National Guard of Hawaii.

HONOLULU, February 3rd, 1905.

To the Adjutant, National Guard of Hawaii—

Sir: I have the honor to make the following report with reference to the First Regiment, National Guard of Hawaii, for the year ending December 31st, 1904.

Respectfully,

J. W. JONES,
Colonel First Regiment, National Guard of Hawaii.

EFFICIENCY.

The First Regiment, National Guard of Hawaii, is organized in conformity to the United States Army organization, and consists of nine companies, a signal corps and a hospital corps, the strength of which on December 31st, 1904, was 586 officers and men, and is fully armed, uniformed and equipped for service in the field.

With a view to facilitate the muster of the organized militia into the service of the United States as occasion might require, it was announced by the Secretary of War, in War Department General Orders No. 55, series of 1903, that in such States as shall have adopted a standard of physical examination for enlistment and re-enlistment prescribed by the Secretary of War, the organized militia shall be deemed under the law "fit for mili-

tary service" and shall be "duly mustered into the service of the United States as such."

In 1904 "Instructions for physical examination of applicants for enlistment in the National Guard" together with blank forms therefor were received from the War Department, and such physical examinations have been held, which will greatly expedite muster into the service of the United States, should occasion require.

The Commanding Officer of the Artillery District of Honolulu in his report on the encampment in June, 1904, states, "Discipline was good, and a sincere effort to improve was apparent on the part of every one.

"The spirit of the National Guard of Hawaii is excellent. They deserve great credit for the way they are keeping up under existing circumstances. These men are hardy, familiar with the Islands, can be cheaply subsisted, and in emergency might be of great value to the Government. Any assistance or encouragement to them would certainly not be misplaced."

Lieutenant W. W. K. Hamilton, U. S. Arty. Corps, detailed as instructor during the encampment of the First Regiment near Camp McKinley in the month of June, 1904, has made an exhaustive report on such encampment, in which he states as follows: "As to the matter of proficiency in all drills, the regiment as a whole may be classed as 'good.'

"The conduct of the enlisted men during the entire encampment was excellent.

"Guard duty was very well performed with a few exceptions on the part of the enlisted personnel. The officers and non-commissioned officers were well instructed. The sentinels on post were generally well instructed."

There has been no other field work performed by the regiment than that during the June encampment, and no rifle practice except that in the gallery and at the 200 yards range, because of the inability to meet the expense incident thereto. In order to keep at the proper standard of efficiency it is absolutely necessary that field work should be had by the regiment from time to time during the year and that rifle practice at long ranges should be had.

Regimental, battalion and company drills have been had as usual, and the companies are now hard at work perfecting them-

selves in the new U. S. Drill Regulations 1904, Manual of Guard Duty, firing exercises and gallery target practice, and visual and telegraphic signaling in preparation for inspections to be had shortly.

In January, February and March of 1904 the companies in Honolulu were inspected by Lieut. H. W. Newton, U. S. Arty. Corps, and in March and April of 1904, the First Regiment was inspected by Colonel McClellan, Commanding Officer of the Artillery District of Honolulu.

During Lieut. Newton's inspections every member of the company passing inspection was orally examined as to his knowledge of the U. S. Drill Regulations and Manual of Guard Duty by the inspecting officer, and demonstrated to such officer on the drill hall floor his ability to properly execute the requirements of such regulations. The inspections commenced at 7:30 o'clock in the evening and rarely concluded before 11 p. m., and in some instances were not concluded until after 1 o'clock the following morning.

The time and labor involved in such inspections is very considerable, but the time and labor of preparation therefor is much greater, and the average citizen has but little conception of the amount of time required and the close attention which must be given.

Any man, no matter what his walk in life may be, who works to prepare himself that he may, if called upon, efficiently safeguard not alone his own home, but those of his neighbors and his country's interests, is entitled to the commendation of his fellow citizens, and the State should afford him proper facilities and accommodations for such preparation.

ARMORIES.

The last regular session of the Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii appropriated \$40,000.00 for armories, \$5,000.00 of which was for an armory at Hilo, \$5,000.00 for an armory at Wailuku and \$30,000.00 for an armory at Honolulu.

The armory at Hilo is now under course of construction and will soon be completed. No armory has been erected at Wailuku by reason of the fact that a suitable site could not be obtained,

although I am informed that negotiations are now pending for an armory site.

No armory has been erected at Honolulu, although plans have been drawn therefor, for several reasons, chief among which is that it has been deemed advisable to attempt to get the drill shed lot reconveyed, if possible, to the Territory of Hawaii by the Federal Government, that site being considered to be the best for armory purposes in Honolulu, and for the further reason that the appropriation was deemed inadequate for the erection of an armory with sufficient accommodations for offices, storerooms, company quarters and drill hall, in which to properly perform the business of and care for the ordnance and quartermaster property of the National Guard of Hawaii, such property now being over \$63,000.00 in value, over \$42,000.00 thereof being property received from the War Department, the remainder being property purchased by the Territory of Hawaii.

Such a building is needed as would provide sufficient room for instruction free from the frequent showers of rain occurring at night, which not only injure the arms and equipments used during such time, whether such use is inside or outside the company rooms or the drill hall, because of the condition of the roof and the fact that the showers are blown into the hall and settle down on the arms, but also the arms in the gun racks, which, when not in actual use, must be kept well greased or oiled in order to prevent rusting. The building being an iron one moisture condenses therein and great care has to be exercised at all times to keep the arms in a proper condition.

The drill shed now being used as an armory in Honolulu is, as stated in the various reports of the United States Army Officers who have inspected it, but a mere makeshift, where proper facilities cannot be had for the proper care and preservation of the arms and uniforms which must necessarily be contained therein. "Prior to the issue of magazine rifles care should be taken to insure their preservation. This is important. In this connection there are apparently no adequate facilities in the armories. This is a moist climate and while the arms are not in use they should be kept in moisture proof lockers." (Report Capt. Nicholls, U. S. Artillery Corps, 1904.) "Armories in Hilo, Wailuku and Honolulu would stimulate enlistments and

be of incalculable benefit to the regiment." (Report of Lieut. Wesley W. K. Hamilton, U. S. Artillery Corps, 1904.)

I would therefore recommend that an appropriation of \$50,000.00 be made for the erection of an armory at Honolulu, as I believe the present appropriation will lapse before a site can be secured therefor.

RECORDS.

The business transacted at the Headquarters of the First Regiment during the year 1904 consisted in receiving from the War Department 17 invoices, consisting of 492 cases of ordnance, quartermaster, medical and signal corps supplies amounting in value to over \$25,000.00, properly entering and checking the same on the books, issuing a large portion thereof to the various companies upon proper requisitions, receipts and vouchers, compiling various detailed statements for reports to the War Department, the issuing of orders and many matters of detailed information and instruction to the various companies, the preparation of some of which required a considerable amount of time, together with the keeping of several sets of books for the different departments and the keeping of the regimental papers and records, which show that there have been upward of 500 letters and reports written and received during the year in the regular course of business, other than the printed orders and circulars received from the War Department. This work has been performed by the various officers of the regiment, with some clerical help from the companies, but in the last two months has so increased with the opening of new sets of company books received from the War Department that paid assistance has been had.

In taking care of the property of the Regiment there is over \$63,000.00 worth of property to be looked after, issued and received, checked out and in on proper requisitions, receipts and vouchers, all of which must appear by and be carried on the books of the regiment, so that its exact status may appear at any moment, and the accountability and responsibility shown therefor, and it will be almost impossible to carry on the business of the office without some clerical help.

CURRENT APPROPRIATIONS.

I would recommend that an annual appropriation of \$7,500.00 be asked for the current expenses of the organized militia of the Territory of Hawaiï, such appropriation to be expended in accordance with an allotment to be made by a board of two or more field and staff officers of the organized militia, appointed by the Governor; and would suggest the following purposes for which allotments should be made:

Regimental allowances for stationery, printing, advertising, incidental and labor in ordnance and quartermaster departments, transportation, etc., headquarters clerk, janitor for drill shed and range keeper.

Company allowances for current expenses, repair of uniforms and incidentals.

Field work, targets, ranges and target practice.

As a matter of further information I would state that, in arriving at the sum of \$7,500.00 as an annual appropriation, a proposed allotment was made under the various heads as follows:

| | One Year. | Two Years. |
|--|------------|-------------|
| Allowance for Regiment, Companies, | | |
| Signal Corps and Hospital Corps.... | \$4,260.00 | \$8,520.00 |
| Headquarters clerk | 900.00 | 1,800.00 |
| Janitor drill shed | 480.00 | 960.00 |
| Range keeper | 240.00 | 480.00 |
| Transportation | 200.00 | 400.00 |
| Stationery, printing and advertising... | 200.00 | 400.00 |
| Incidentals and labor in ordnance and quartermaster departments | 220.00 | 440.00 |
| Field work, targets and target practice. | 1,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Totals..... | \$7,500.00 | \$15,000.00 |