

FOLLER'S DRUG BRIGADE.

A Band of Buckeye Boys Who Rendered Famous Service.

By CHAS. I. ADKINS, Co. K, 27th Ohio.

This story is intended to represent, characteristically, the individual in some cases, and in others it will be understood to be collective, the company as a whole, and their service, during the period covered. The Lieutenant, Uncle Dan, Pap W., and the Shanghai Impersonator will be readily identified by members of the company; while the good Corporal, the tall man, the Colonel's confidant, Stubby, the Forager, old Claude, and others may be remembered collectively, by the name of the native mind may recall them.—CHAS. I. ADKINS.

CHAPTER I.

Nearly four months had passed since the Declaration of War, when the military company which furnishes the incidents for this story was organized. On April 15, 1861, President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to serve for three months. The number required from the State of Ohio was a little more than 12,000, but nearly twice that number were enlisted and organized for field service. The most of them, experienced active service in Eastern campaigns. It was soon discovered that an army far superior, both in strength and length of service, would be required to successfully cope with the enemy that threatened the destruction of the Union. Hence, on May 3, the President called for 200,000 volunteers, to serve an enlistment of three years, or during the war. In this call the quota designated for Ohio was 25,000.

This call, from the strength designated and length of service required, awakened intense anxiety and war excitement throughout the whole North. It was a way for many to show the character of their patriotism who hitherto had been deprived of that gratification in consequence of the limited patriotic reasons from some one that had gone at his country's call.

"TAKE YOUR GUN AND GO, JOHN." Fathers and mothers said, "Go!" Sisters and brothers said, "Go!" Friends and neighbors said, "Go!" Sweethearts said, "Go!" and all felt that it was their duty to go. The company was organized at home, would be very likely to soon find that his favorite girl was watching the post office and longing for a letter from some one that had gone at his country's call.

I feel sure that I would be safe in saying that this influence was an incentive for far more recruits than were credited. Not only did sweethearts do good service as recruiting agencies, but when the boys were in front nothing did more to dispel the idea of cannon balls and make the dangers of war less dreadful, or the hardships of campaigns more easily endured than did the letters that were received from the thousands of kind girls left behind.

It will be readily recalled by all who had at that time attained an age to remember that in less than 20 days after the first call had been made every village, city, hamlet, and crossroad town gave unmistakable evidence of war fever of an epidemic type. The "Go" for war was heard from the church, the school, the street corners, the groves and hill sides throughout the country. Military camps, for drill and discipline, sprung up through the State.

Notwithstanding the Government had called a half million men to arms, it was generally believed that the war would be brief and that its termination would preserve the Union. The superiority of the North in the forthcoming conflict was so certain in the North, that many foolish and ridiculous remarks became common expressions in the current war talk of the day. "This war will only be a breakfast day." "The Southern people don't know how to fight a war." "I could take a brigade of women down there and clean out the whole Confederacy!"

On the other hand, the South was as intense and as confident, holding the men of the North as only "mudsills," incapable of war; believing most confidently that their number would surpass in war strength five Yankees.

We went; we suffered; we conquered. But we did not conquer until 2,500,000 men had been called to arms, and 390,000 that number were sent to their graves. The first battle of the war was fought at Big Bethel, Va., June 10, which resulted in a Union defeat. Then came the great disaster at Bull Run, followed by a similar Northern defeat at Wilson's Creek, Mo., early in the month of August. Each brought in its turn a new wave of increased war excitement, and developed more and more interest in behalf of the Union.

NORTH UNPREPARED. Although the call for 500,000 men was made May 3, it was not until the beginning of 1862 that the troops were ready for field service. Perhaps the principal cause for the delay was shortage of arms and military supplies. There was no lack of men willing to enlist, and, in fact, their eagerness did much to impede progress.

The manner of recruiting was done in the beginning of the war will explain why regiments were not more readily organized. In every locality some one was well known, perhaps a school teacher, a preacher, or a school teacher, or a storekeeper, perhaps a Justice of the Township Court, or perhaps a good fellow.

It was no doubt that the rich man's son in this case; but almost any man who felt that he had sufficient prestige in his community to raise a company, could do so if he made a timely effort. War pluck or military qualifications were unimportant until later on.

RECRUITING RALLY. When notice was given that a recruiting rally would take place at some stated place, men and boys by the hundreds would rally from a radius of miles, with their ideal leaders from perhaps a half dozen separate neighborhoods, all full to the brim with loyalty, with patriotic hearts that beat in rhythmic accent to the music of the fife and drum.

The recruiting rally was ready and the names of volunteers were written in rapid succession, of far to exceed the required number.

While the roster was being filled, the fife and drummers discoursed favorite and martial airs, such as "My Daddy and Mammy were Irish," "Jaybird, Jaybird," or "Bonnyport's Retreat from Moscow, Missouri."

Some one chosen as the speaker, and generally it was the aspirant for command, stepped in front to address the crowd with a Fourth of July, spruce-gale speech, impressing upon all their duty to serve the country, and he, for one, was willing to serve his country at the head of a company or as a private in the rear rank.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE: WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1908.

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The canal is without locks, being at the level of the entire distance. The length of time occupied in passing through the canal averages about 18 hours. By the use of electric lights throughout the entire length of the canal, the passage is made at night with nearly equal facility of that of the day. The tolls charged are nine francs per ton net register, "Danube measurement," which amounts to slightly more than 42 cents per ton net register. Steam vessels passing through the canal are propelled by their own power.

THE CRONSTADT AND ST. PETERSBURG CANALS. The canal connecting the Bay of Cronstadt with St. Petersburg is described as being of great importance to Russia. The canal and sailing course in the Bay of Cronstadt are about 16 miles long, the canal proper being about six miles and the bay channel about 10 miles long together, and from Cronstadt, on the Gulf of Finland, to St. Petersburg. The canal was opened in 1860 with a navigable depth of 20 1/2 feet, the original depth having been about 10 feet. The width ranges from 220 to 350 feet. The total cost is estimated at about \$10,000,000.

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