MEN WHO HAVE EARNED THEIR CHEVRONS

GEORGE KELLY. Color Sergeant. — E. E. MERRILL. Signal Sergeant. — A. C. E. VON NYVENHEIM. Ordnance Sergeant. — W. G. ATKINS. Commissary Sergeant. — ALBERT KRATZKE. Post Quartermaster Sergeant. — JOSEPH KARSHEIMER. Color Sergeant.

Twenty-First Infantry's Non-Commissioned Staff.

Teh regimental and post non-commissioned staffs of the Twenty-first infantry, stationed at Fort Snelling, are composed of men who have been long in the service, and who have had extensive military experiences in the Indian wars and in the recent conflicts in Cuba, the Philippines and China.

The sergeants and corporals are always men who have been found competent and trustworthy. They have been graduated from the ranks and their promotion is invariably the result of long service, regular habits, sobriety and honesty. On these men depends greatly the maintenance of proper discipline in the ranks, for by their example and their attention to the conduct of their subordinate comrades they help to preserve the high standard that characterizes the army of the United States.

To them a great deal of the hard work incident to the management of a large body of men is intrusted by the higher officers, who are not able to keep in touch so directly with the rank and file. The men with the chevrons stand between the commissioned officers and the enlisted men, and bridge the gap between. The former depend upon them for the execution of the orders and the observance of military regulations, and the latter have a natural confidence in them, which helps to preserve harmony and order.

At Fort Snelling the duties of sergeant major are discharged by George Merdinger, who has served Uncle Sam for thirty-one years, and is still only forty-five years of age. He was eligible last May for retirement on three-quarters pay and full allowances, but Sergeant Major Merdinger believes himself quite fit to serve his country, even though he has worn the blue for over twenty-seven years. The difference between the actual term of his service and the length of time he is credited with having been in the army is due to the double time allowed soldiers who have fought in the Philippines.

He was born in Alsace, Germany, but at an early age came to America. At the age of sixteen, joined the United States marine corps in New York, May 15, 1875. He remained in that branch of the service for five years. In 1877 the great New York Central railroad strike occurred, and the marines, among whom Merdinger was serving, were sent to Albany to help quell the strikers. It required eight months to accomplish this, and many of the troops were seriously injured. The strikers used everything available as weapons. Stones, sticks, rotten eggs and fruit were among some of the missiles employed, and many of the blue jackets sustained broken limbs and other wounds. Sergeant Merdinger escaped without a bruise.

He was honorably discharged in 1881. At Fort Slocum, N. Y., he enlisted in the Twenty-first infantry, and he has been with that regiment ever since. In August of last year he was appointed sergeant major.

In the Indian Wars.

In 1883 the Indians took the warpath in the territory of Washington. The Twenty-first was ordered there, and followed the Indians till the braves were glad to bury the tomahawk.

In 1885 the Twenty-first, while stationed in Wyoming, was called upon to take part in the quelling of the Chinese labor riot, in the town of Rock Springs, Wyo. The entire Chinese quarter of that town was burned to the ground in one night, and hundreds of the Celestials died in the flames. The laborers seemed to have gone mad with hatred of the Chinamen, and nothing but martial law saved the town from entire destruction. The troops were there six months.

In 1890-91 the Sioux Indians, under Swing Bow, went on the warpath, and the Twenty-first was ordered from Fort Robinson, Neb., to subdue them. Sergeant Merdinger was with the command all through the campaign against the Sioux till at the close of 1891 they made terms for peace.

Then came a long grind of garrison duty for the Twenty-first, reaching to April, 1898, when war was declared against Spain.

During this war First Sergeant Merdinger had charge of a platoon, and at the close of hostilities he was presented with a certificate of merit signed by President William McKinley, for "meritorious service in Santiago de Cuba."

Peace with Spain was then declared, but fighting was still to be done in the far-off Philippines, and the Twenty-first, among other regiments, was sent.

Three years the boys of the Twenty-first spent in the islands, taking part in fights at Calamba, Lipe, Las Pinas and Mount Niaga.

Has Long Cheered Soldier Hearts.

Charles Waters Graves, chief musician, familiarly known as "Charlie," was born in Ohio thirty-six years ago. He has served sixteen years in the United States army, having enlisted in the Third infantry in 1887. He saw service at Fort Shaw and other Montana points up to the outbreak of the late war. He went to Cuba as chief musician of the Third and served the entire campaign. When that regiment was ordered back to the United States, Chief Musician Graves was transferred to the Twenty-first infantry. Chief Musician Graves is recognized as one of the most accomplished musicians in the army.

Battalion Sergeant Maj. Joseph Drescher is the next in rank. He was born in Freiheit, Austria, thirty-eight years ago and enlisted in the Twelfth United States infantry on May 5, 1888, serving until Mal 5, 1893, at Forts Sully and Bennett, S. D., and Fort Yates, N. D. During this time Big Foot, the terrible Sioux chief, led his warriors on the warpath, and it was during the ensuing campaign that the battle of Wounded Knee was fought. Sergeant Drescher participated in that conflict.

In May of 1893 Drescher's term of enlistment expired, and intending to leave military life, he donned the civilian's raiment and went to Chicago. He was there employed as guard at the world's fair and at the end of the exposition the longing for the soldier's life induced him to re-enlist. He accordingly did so and was detailed with the First infantry. For a time that regiment was stationed at Angel island, San Francisco bay, but later was removed to San Diego barracks, near the Mexican border. There Drescher was employed as post sergeant major and regimental clerk. Then there was another move to Benicia barracks for a stay of six months, during which time the Spanish war broke out. The regiment in which Sergeant Drescher was serving remained at Tampa until the close of the war. It was then ordered to the Philippines. Sergeant Drescher received honorable mention for assisting in the repulse of an attack on San Jose, Oct. 24, 1901. Another for a hand-to-hand conflict with bolomen near Soro Soro, Batangas province, Dec. 23, 1901. He was also one of a party on an expedition sent to clear of rebels the country between San Jose and Binan.

Have Long Served Uncle Sam.

Ferdinand Nau, quartermaster sergeant, was born in Hessen, Germany, and has seen over twenty-five years of service in the United States army. He is fifty-five years of age and has filled his present position of regimental quartermaster sergeant since Oct. 24, 1893. He has seen service in Cuba and the Philippine islands with the Twenty-first infantry and bears upon the army books a record of "excellent."

William G. Atkins, commissary sergeant, has served Uncle Sam for almost twenty-two years. For thirteen years he was in the artillery service, for three years he was in the ranks of the infantry and for four and a half years he has been a member of the non-commissioned staff of the Twenty-first infantry. In November of 1900 he was made commissary sergeant.

George Kelly, color sergeant, was born in Flemington, N. J., forty-three years ago. In May of 1888 he enlisted in the Twenty-first infantry, was moved to Fort Sidney (Nebraska) and has been with the regiment ever since. During the campaign in the Philippines he filled the post of drum major, chosen because of his commanding stature.

Ordnance Sergeant Alphonse C. E. von Nyvenheim, a Prussian by birth, first enlisted in the United States service in the Seventh cavalry in the summer of 1878. From that regiment he was transferred to the Sixth cavalry in 1883, and it was from the latter regiment that he received his appointment as ordnance sergeant in 1884. For years he had been sergeant major of the Sixth before receiving his appointment in the line of promotion. Sergeant von Nyvenheim's life has been a succession of changes. The Sixth, as is well known, was the mainstay of the middle West during those years when Geronimo kept the pioneers in constant fear of their lives. It was the fortune of Sergeant von Nyvenheim to be a participant in the Pine Ridge trouble in 1890 and 1891, the Chicago riots in 1893 and the chase after the wily old Geronimo in 1895 and 1896. During the Spanish war he served at Port Tampa, and during the boxer uprising in China he served at Tien Tsien. Among other duties, he was official interpreter, as he speaks four languages fluently. He left China May 26, 1901, and went to Manila, and from there, after a stay of about six weeks, he returned to the United States and was assigned to Fort Snelling.

Post Quartermaster Sergeant Albert H. Kratzke attends to a large part of the clerical work at the post. He keeps in order all the accounts of stores, supplies, clothing etc. He was born in Belgard, Prussia, thirty-seven years ago, and has been in the United States army nearly fifteen years. He was promoted to his present position July 22, 1898.

In Many Wars and Battles.

Signal Sergeant Edward E. Merrill has been at Fort Snelling but a short time, having ben ordered to that post last December from Fort McDowell, California. He was born in Howard county, Missouri, thirty-nine years ago. He has been with the army fourteen years. He spent five years in Battery I of the Fourth artillery corps, and three years in the Nineteenth infantry and signal corps.

Joseph Kassheimer, color sergeant, enlisted in the Eleventh infantry in the year 1871 and served in that regiment until 1881. During that period he saw a chequered course of service, mostly spent in quelling the frequent uprisings of the Banock Indians. Principal among the leaders of these bands of braves was Big Lightning, against whom an expedition was directed in 1878. Setting forth from Fort Custer under the command of Gen. Miles, the infantry met the redmen and engaged at the ford of a stream, now known as Bennett's creek. The stream was named in honor of Capt. Bennett, who was killed in one of the sanguinary skirmishes. In the ranks, as first sergeant of H company, was Joseph Kassheimer. In 1881 Kassheimer doffed the blue and determined henceforth to be content with the life of a civilian; but in 1888 an uncontrollable longing for the service overcame his determination and he again entered the army. This time he was placed in the Twenty-first infantry, in which he has been ever since. For ten years he was first sergeant of G company. He went with the regiment to Cuba, was present in his capacity of first sergeant in the fighting at Santiago de Cuba during the days of July 1, 2 and 3, 1898. For his services in that war he received from President William McKinley a certificate of merit.

At the termination of hostilities in Cuba he was removed with the regiment to the Philippines and took part in the fights at Calamba, Lipa and Mount Niaga. While at Lipa, in 1901, he was made color sergeant. Sergeant Kassheimer has but one year and eight months to serve before he is entitled to retirement, having been in the service twenty-four years and ten months.

WEIGHING IN A CANDIDATE

Examining a Youth Who Wants to Enter the Navy.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

A New, Effectual and Convenient Cure for Catarrh.

Of Catarrh remedies, there is no end, but of catarrh cures, there has always been a great scarcity. There are many remedies to relieve, but very few that really cure.

The old practice of snuffing salt water through the nose would often relieve, and the washes, douches, powders and inhalers in common use are very little, if any, better than the old-fashioned salt water douche.

The use of inhalers and the application of salves, washes and powders to the nose and throat to cure catarrh is no more reasonable than to rub the back to cure kidney disease. Catarrh is just as much a blood disease as kidney trouble or rheumatism, and it cannot be cured by local treatment any more than they can be.

To cure catarrh, whether in the head, throat or stomach, an internal antiseptic treatment is necessary to drive the catarrhal poison out of the blood and system, and the new catarrh cure is designed on this plan and the remarkable success of Stuart's Catarrh Tablets is because being used internally, it drives out catarrhal infection through action upon stomach, liver and bowels.

Wm. Zimmerman, of St. Joseph, relates an experience with catarrh which is of value to millions of catarrh sufferers everywhere. He says: "I neglected a slight nasal catarrh until it gradually extended to my throat and bronchial tubes, and finally even my stomach and liver became affected, but as I was able to keep up and do a day's work, I let it run along until my hearing began to fail me, and then I realized that I must get rid of catarrh or lose my position, as I was clerk and my hearing was absolutely necessary.

Some of my friends recommended an inhaler, another a catarrh salve, but they were no good in my case, nor was anything else until I heard of Stuart's Catarrh Tablets and bought a package at my drug store. They benefited me from the start, and in less than four months I was completely cured of catarrh, although I had suffered nearly all my life from it.

They are pleasant to take and so much more convenient to use than other catarrh remedies that I feel I cannot say enough in favor of Stuart's Catarrh Tablets."

St. Paul Boys Want to Sail Under Stars and Stripes.

The fact that a naval recruiting party is in the city is causing much speculation on the part of mothers whose boys are anxious to go and serve Uncle Sam on the ocean wave. Many of these mothers know nothing of the service and are not certain whether they would care to have their sons become seamen.

Somehow they imagine that the seaman leads one of the roughest and toughest of lives—that all a sailor does is chew plug tobacco, swear long, strange oaths by the honor of the topmizzen-m'st and drink incredible quantities of rum. Such impressions, however, are the result of the old sea traditions that have come down from over a hundred years ago. But conditions have changed. The men on Uncle Sam's men-of-war today are subjected to strict discipline and their habits and conduct are closely watched.

When a young fellow applies at the recruiting station for the purpose of enlisting in the navy he is closely questioned. He is asked as to his citizenship, parentage, age and general health. The first thing to be found out is whether he is of age, and, if not, whether his parents know of his intention to join the navy. If they are not aware of his intention he is given two "consent" papers and told to bring them back signed by each of his parents and certified by a notary public. When he brings these back he is examined by the medical examiner and a complete abstract of his stature, weight and appearance is made. Every missing tooth is noted, every wart, mole and scar is carefully catalogued; and good, indeed, must be the health of the man who passes the scrutiny.

If the applicant is an adult he must bring all available references as to character and proficiency in the department of service he would enter, and it is generally deemed better by the recruiting officers if union cards are presented.

The embryo seaman gets his first schooling at the receiving station to which he is sent. There he begins as a third-class apprentice and there he remains until he has satisfied his superior officers of his fitness for promotion, or has shown his inability to meet the requirements of the service. He remains a third-class apprentice until he has completed his first tour of service on a cruising training ship.

Not All Joy.

To the uninitiated this tour looks like fun, with the picturesque harbors of the West Indies as a background. And it is real fun for a boy who has within him a real taste for the sea, but to the one who has a taste for shirking work, or, as the sailors call it, "cursed with perpetual seasickness," there is nothing about it that appeals to him; for it means hard work.

The first eight months the apprentice gets $9 per month and then comes the cruise on a training ship. All this time he has been lying at Coaster's island, Newport, R. I., and after the cruise and he passes his examination to be a second-class apprentice, he receives $15 per month. When he shall become a first-class apprentice depends altogether upon his application and proficiency. When he does pass, he receives $21 per month and, of course, everything in the matter of clothing, etc., is furnished by the government.

The mistaken idea prevails that the word apprentice is used in its land sense—that the word implies that the lad will be taught a trade. Such is not the case; he is taught the mysteries of navigating the waters of the globe.

In the case of a landsman who has enlisted for training as a seaman, he is sent direct from the recruiting station to the United States ship Franklin, at Norfolk, Va.

The Landsman's Life.

For the first four months he receives $19 per month, or until pronounced a trained seaman, and then his pay is increased to $24 per month. Now is the time for him to give himself up to close application, for it may not be long till he is a petty officer should he show the proper degree of proficiency.

Those who, after a time of training, express a deire or show an aptitude for electrical work, are sent to the government electrical class at the Brooklyn navy yards, New York. Men of this stamp are eagerly sought out, and all the officers have strict orders to keep close watch for men who exhibit any inclination in the direction of electrical work.

One of the most important classes is that of "landsman for yeoman." These are the men who fill the ranks of what are the men who fill the ranks of what are known as clerks. Men who are familiar with the typewriter, good at figures, and, above all, men who can operate a shorthand system. The manner of schooling them is in the generality of cases as follows:

The successful applicant is sent to the United States receiving ship Columbia, and entered in the yeoman class at a salary of $16 per month. Here he is thoroughly grounded in all the different systems of government bookkeeping, taught the different forms used in the many offices of the naval department. It usually takes about from five to six months to develop him into a third-class yeoman, at a stipend of $30 per month. When he passes his second-class examination he gets $35, and when his first-class papers are given him he receives $40. And now he is on the highway, with every possibility, if he behaves himself, of becoming a chief yeoman.

The cruising trips are generally made through the comparatively warm and tranquil waters of the Mediterranean sea, about the Madeira islands, through the Suez canal, sometimes rounding the Cape of Good Hope, but nearly always returning by way of the West Indies.

The recruiting party at present in St. Paul is composed of Lieut. J. P. J. Ryan, in charge; John Collins, chief master-at-arms, and Ray Menard, apprentice. Success of a more than ordinary character is attending their efforts in this city. Up to Friday evening forty-one men and lads had made application for enlistment, and of those eighteen had passed the examination successfully and accepted.

THEY DO THE RECRUITING

Warrant Officer Collins and Apprentice Menard Waiting for Recruits to Turn Up.

Next Good Roads Convention.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 28.—Extensive preparations are bing made for the national and international good roads convention, to be held here April 27 to May 2.

RELIGIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Methodist.

FIRST—Dayton avenue and West Third street; H. V. Glyler, pastor; preaching at 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m.; Sunday school, 12 noon; Junior Endeavor society, 4 p. m.; Y. P. S. C. E., 8 p. m.

FIRST GERMAN—Van Slyke Court and Olive street; J. Berger, pastor; 10:30 a. m., subject, "The Word of God a Power;" 12 noon, Sunday school; 7 p. m., Epworth league bible study; 7:45 p. m., preaching service.

Miscellaneous.

NEW JERUSALEM (or Swedenborgian)—Virginia and Selby avenues; Rev. Edward C. Mitchell, pastor; service at 10:30 a. m.; Sunday school at 11:45 a. m.; subject of sermon, "Zechariah's Vision of the High Priest in Filthy Garments."

PEOPLE'S—Pleasant avenue; at 10:30 a. m. Dr. Smith will preach on "The Prayer Gauge of God," and at 8 p. m. he will deliver an address on "The Devil Quoting Scripture;" special song service by the choir; Sunday school at 12 noon; Christian Endeavor at 7 p. m.; mid-week meeting at 8 p. m. Wednesday.

ST. PAUL'S (Universalist)—Mackubin street, near Ashland avenue; Rev. H. B. Taylor, pastor; at 10:30 a. m., "The Universalism of the Bible."

ST. PAUL (Spiritual Alliance)—Closing day of annual Spiritualist mass meeting, Odd Fellow's hall, Fifth and Wabasha; morning services commence at 10:30; Mrs. C. D. Pruden will deliver the address; Mrs. E. A. Sauer and Miss Alice Wickstrom will give tests; lyceum, 1:30; afternoon services commence, 2:30; Mrs. J. P. Whitwell will deliver the address; Mrs. M. White and Mrs. Eva McCoy will give tests and messages; evening services, 7:30; address by Mrs. C. Tryon; tests and messages by Mrs. Eva McCoy and Mrs. C. D. Pruden.

UNITY (Unitarian)—Wabasha street, foot of Summit avenue; Rev. Richard W. Boynton, the minister, will preach on "The Days of the Son of Man;" service at 11 o'clock; Sunday school at 10; at 12:30 the first in a series of informal talks on Unitarian principles will be given; subject, "What Is Religion?"

THE TEMPLE—Tenth and Minnesota streets—Dr. Rypins will lecture on "The Modern Temple" at 11 o'clock.

Episcopal.

CHRIST—Fourth and Franklin streets; Rev. Charles D. Andrews, rector; holy communion, 8 a. m.; Sunday school, 9:45 a. m.; litany, sermon and holy communion, 11 a. m.; children's service, 4 p. m.; evening prayer and sermon, 7:30; morning subject, "Studies From the Life of St. Barnabas;" evening subject, "Trials of Faith."

ST. PAUL'S—Ninth and Olive streets; Rev. John Wright, D. D., rector; first Sunday in Lent; holy communion, 8 a. m.; sermon and holy communion, 11 a. m.; choral evening service, 7:30 p. m.; Rev. F. L. Paxton, of Kemper Hall, Kenosha, will preach morning and evening.

Presbyterian.

HOUSE OF HOPE—Fifth and Exchange streets. Rev. W. H. W. Boyle, D. D., pastor. Services 10:30 a. m. and 8 p. m. The pastor will preach at 10:30 a. m.; subject, "Making a Good Life Record; Some Helps and Some Hindrances." What in me must I conquer in order to win out? At 8 p. m., the pastor's theme will be, "The Place of Music in Worship." A paragraph on safe music for the home will be given.

CENTRAL—Cedar street, opposite old capitol. John Mayhew Fulton, D. D., pastor. Preaching by the pastor 10:30 a. m. and 8 p. m. Morning subject, "Samson's Riddle; or, Honey From Strange Hives;" evening subject, "Character Building," a special sermon for rising manhood and womanhood.

Congregational.

PLYMOUTH—Summit and Wabasha. Rev. George M. Morrison, pastor. At 10:30 a. m., sermon topic, "The First Word From the Cross." The service will be followed by communion. At 8 p. m., in the chapel, following the young people's meeting, the pastor will give the first of a series of lectures on church history; topic, "The Apostolic Age."

PARK—Holly avenue and Mackubin street. Dr. Alexander McGregor, pastor. Morning subject, "The Making of Character." No evening service.

Monte Carlo Chess.

MONTE CARLO, Feb. 28.—The second half of the international chess tournament commenced today. In the first round Mieses beat Marshall, Danish gambit, in twenty-four moves, and Maroczy defeated Taubenhaus, Sicilian defense, in forty-three moves.

MILTON'S FAMOUS STAR BRAND BUTTER

Our facilities and long experience in the Butter business fit us to make the Best Butter in America. We have the finest equipped sanitary creamery in the country—fitted with the most modern, air-tight, germ-proof refining vats and churns. We have made butter-making a study, and for the past 13 years every process, from the milking of the cow down to the retailing of the finished product, has been under our own personal supervision. We believe Star Brand to be a perfect butter, pure, sweet and always reliable.

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