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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

WAR DEPARTMENT

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1897.

REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY OF WAR.
MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS.



WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1897.

A.—GENERAL RETURN ON EXHIBIT OF THE ACTUAL STRENGTH OF THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES JUNE 30, 1897.

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

ENLISTED MEN.

MILITARY ACADEMY.

General officers.	COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.										ENLISTED MEN.										MILITARY ACADEMY.																										
	Lieutenant-general.	Major-general.	Brigadier-general.	Colonels.	Lieutenant-colonels.	Majors.	Able-de-camp.	Captains.	Adjutants (extra lieutenants).	Regimental quartermasters (extra lieutenants).	Battalion adjutant.	Battalion quartermaster.	First lieutenants.	Second lieutenants.	Additional second lieutenants.	Chaplains.	Ordnance storekeepers.	Total.	Sergeant-majors.	Quartermaster-sergeants.	Chief musicians.	Principal musicians.	Saddler sergeants.	Chief trumpeters.	Ordnance sergeants.	Counselary sergeants.	Post quartermaster-sergeants.	Hospital stewards.	Acting hospital stewards.	Battalion sergeant-major.	Battalion quartermaster-sergeant.	First sergeants.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Trumpeters.	Musicians.	Farriers and blacksmiths.	Artificers.	Saddlers.	Wagoners.	Privates, first class.	Privates, second class.	Privates, Hospital Corps.	Privates.	Total.	Professors.	Cadets.
1	3	0	0	103	33	31	282	54	10	10	10	54	443	67	31	2	1,113	33	40	33	59	10	10	103	30	50	50	1	1	363	1,729	1,518	138	542	106	68	238	41	1,107	254	1,281	1	1,884				
2	1	0	0	103	33	31	282	54	10	10	10	54	443	67	31	2	1,113	33	40	33	59	10	10	103	30	50	50	1	1	363	1,729	1,518	138	542	106	68	238	41	1,107	254	1,281	1	1,884				

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a This addition being included in the strength of their regiments, are excluded as staff officers from the "total commissioned" and "aggregate."
 b Also included in the total enlisted and aggregate, but are exclusive of the 25,000 enlisted of their corps, are excluded as staff officers from the "total commissioned" and "aggregate."
 c The adjutant and quartermaster of the Institute of Engineers being included in the strength of their corps, are excluded as staff officers from the "total commissioned" and "aggregate."

As previously mentioned, my inspection of posts has been confined, thus far, to Forts Douglas, Du Chesne, Grant, Hrachuca, the subpost of San Carlos, with visits to Fort Logan, where the inspection of troops has been deferred for the reason that some portion of the garrison has been absent engaged in target practice at Colorado Springs during almost the entire season. I am unable to make intelligent criticism on the posts of Forts Bayard, Wingate, Apache, and Whipple Barracks, but expect to make the prescribed annual journey to them within a short time.

At all the posts visited my inspections extended to troops, their instruction, discipline and efficiency, to particulars in methods of administration, to buildings, supplies, water advantages or privileges, and sanitary conditions. At all I found organizations well instructed and efficient, and observed in a number of instances marked proficiency in a knowledge of drill regulations, denoting careful teaching on the part of officers. Also expertness in athletic exercises.

The clothing furnished is serviceable and satisfactory, although in the matter of foot wear complaints are heard of the weight and stiffness of the shoe. The troops are very generously subsisted—the articles comprising the ration, which are of excellent quality, being supplemented by large subsistence purchases from exchange profits. Their health has been good. Deducting from the sick list all cases of accidental injury and those in which diseases were not contracted in line of duty, the sick rate continues light. The conduct of the troops (and here I refer to all the troops of the command), if judged by trials, punishments, and desertions, has been measurably satisfactory. An increase at some of the larger posts in summary court trials is observed, also a slight increase in cases brought before general courts. The percentage of desertions to men enlisted strong which for 1896 was 3.93 is for the year closing with June last 3.58. For more particular information on these subjects, I respectfully invite attention to the annexed reports of the chief surgeon and judge-advocate of the department, and especially to the recommendations therein contained in which I concur.

But again confining my remarks to the posts which I have inspected, I found the quarters of officers in fair condition generally, needing but small expenditures of money (the money has recently been furnished by the Quartermaster-General) to make them comfortable. The barracks at Forts Douglas and Grant are poorly constructed and inadequately built, and some of them are much out of repair. Sufficient funds have lately been given the post authorities to make them as suitable for the coming year as they have been at any time in the past; but if these posts are long continued as military stations, new barracks will become a necessity. Fort Du Chesne was constructed to accommodate six companies and has a garrison of two cavalry troops. Slight repairs are needed and the money to make them is available. The same remark as to repairs is applicable to Fort Hrachuca, though the buildings are of better construction. All of these posts, with the exception of Fort Du Chesne, have at time suffered on account of inadequate water supply. Improvement in this respect can be made at all. The commanding officer of Fort Douglas is now engaged in perfecting a system which promises improvement. Forts Grant and Hrachuca are experimenting and improving their systems and some money, not yet received, which to purchase material, will be needed to continue the work. Other matters connected with these posts, which might be deemed of

minor importance, and those affairs of posts not yet inspected which require attention, will be communicated at future periods.

The reports of officers having charge of the several staff departments at these headquarters for the fiscal year ending June 30 last are herewith submitted. They show the character and extent of business transacted in the separate divisions of administration and supply, together with all expenditures attending the same, and to them I would respectfully refer for much valuable information not found in this report. Certain subjects which they discuss or mention will probably be brought to the attention of superior authority when a more intimate knowledge of departmental affairs enables me to do so.

Very respectfully,

E. S. OTIS,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL UNITED STATES ARMY,
Washington, D. C.

REPORT OF BRIG. GEN. J. J. COPPINGER.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATE,

Omaha, Nebr., September 1, 1897.

SIR: The following report, submitted in accordance with your letter of August 14, contains a general account of the affairs of the department from the date of the rendition of my last annual report up to the present time, though covering, as regards the business of the staff departments at these headquarters, the year ended July 31. On May 4, 1897, Lieut. Col. James M. Marshall assumed the duties of chief quartermaster of the department, which had been relinquished by Maj. Daniel D. Wheeler on March 17, Capt. Samuel R. Jones acting as chief quartermaster during the interval.

The only change in the troops has been the accession to the garrison of Fort Robinson, Nebr., on August 18, 1897, of the two troops of the Sixth Cavalry, which, under Capt. George S. Anderson, Sixth Cavalry, had been on duty for about five years in the Yellowstone National Park. The march by which this change of station was effected led over a route 639 miles long, and was accomplished without noteworthy incident in thirty-six marching days, men and horses arriving in good condition.

The organizations now serving in the department comprise twenty-four companies of infantry and eighteen troops of cavalry, also the headquarters of three regiments of the former and two regiments of the latter arm. Their distribution among the several posts, as shown in the roster appended to the report of the adjutant-general of the department, I regard as judicious, both from the point of view of their availability for actual service and of their military instruction, the two objects of most importance.

The troops have not been engaged in active operations of any kind the past year. A squadron of the Ninth Cavalry at Fort Robinson, consisting of four troops filled to 60 mounted men each, was, however, actually placed on a train of cars on July 1, with orders to proceed to Hailey, Idaho, 992 miles distant, to protect life and property against Indians, reported as committing depredations in the region known as Camas Prairie, about 20 miles to the northwest. The report upon which, under instructions from the War Department, I directed this

Expenditures authorized for water supply, sewerage, plumbing, and drainage; also for roads, walks, grading, bridges, wharves, etc., chargeable to the appropriation for army transportation.

Post.	Water supply, sewerage, plumbing, and drainage.	Roads, walks, grading, bridges, etc.	Wharves.	Miscellaneous.
Fort Adams	\$2,879.37	\$110.95	\$25.00	\$64.00
Alcatraz Island	1,035.74	237.50	338.80	
Angel Island	1,020.03	550.00	5.28	2,380.00
Fort Apache	6,897.83			8.45
Arlington, Va.		10,203.22		
Fort Assiniboine	2,176.06			
Fort Barrancas	364.56	500.00		827.12
Fort Bayard	1,333.57			12.00
Bazile Crook, Nebr.		450.00		
Bonicia Barracks	804.88	35.00		
Bismarck, N. Dak.	1.05			
Fort Bliss	424.27	55.00		242.01
Boise Barracks	251.86	31.00		
Fort Brady	605.48	102.10		4.80
Fort Brown	624.70	352.75		2,994.12
Fort Canby	570.47			
Fort Clark	721.16			
Fort Clinch	110.00			125.00
Columbus Barracks	1,067.25	553.70		
Fort Columbus		3,071.73		
Fort Crook	182.45	904.50		64.65
Fort Custer	506.21	20.00		265.00
Fort D. A. Russell	8,175.69	500.00		436.00
Fort Delaware	2,325.00	1,045.00		
Denver, Colo.	15.75			
Fort Douglas	7,724.17			
Fort Duchesne	221.80			39.15
Camp Eagle Pass	515.49	60.00		16.50
Fort Ethan Allen	2,848.41	3,694.85		510.00
Piins Point, N. J.	199.83	31.00		
Governors Island	1,315.27	1,518.75		
Fort Grant	1,109.14			6.20
Fort Hamilton	2,214.43			243.70
Fort Hancock	49,841.23	19,950.06	1,389.00	8,187.00
Fort Harrison	4,837.83	178.00		
Hot Springs Army and Navy Hospital	13.60	174.65		
Fort Huachuca	563.18	300.41		
Jackson Barracks	1,395.26	730.60		
Jefferson Barracks	17,076.01	1,417.37		1,853.77
Jeffersonville Depot	170.00	1,162.00		
Fort Keogh	202.40			
Key West Barracks	1,902.41	49.00	222.21	173.50
Fort Leavenworth	1,721.00	288.80		313.69
Fort Logan H. Roots	864.65	2,621.12		498.04
Fort Logan	848.33	122.65		
Louisville, Ky.	54.75			
Madison Barracks	5,318.67	57.50		333.39
Fort Macon	74.50			
Fort Mason	651.62		593.65	
Fort McHenry	882.33	185.50		44.40
Fort McIntosh	366.21			
Fort McPherson	483.74	227.50		
Fort Meade	829.39	411.75		
Fort Missoula	155.55	4.55		7.20
Fort Monroe	870.06	1,403.15		250.00
Fort Myer	5,804.64	5,768.93		1,715.89
New York City, N. Y.	108.00			
Fort Niagara	8,055.08	738.00		9.85
Fort Niobrara	849.73	124.07		
Niobrara River, Nebr.		254.15		
Fort Omaha	210.00			
Fort Ontario	57.92			
Philadelphia Depot	630.25	7.00		441.65
Fort Pickens, Fla.	32.25			
Plattsburg Barracks	8,651.06	5,403.63		30.00
Fort Popham, Me.	25.00			
Fort Porter	792.58	219.40		
Fort Proble	150.48	115.50		1,051.04
Presidio of San Francisco	10,543.32	973.00		515.00
Fort Reno	559.43	316.00		3.25
Fort Riley	6,822.48	1,476.06		2.27
Fort Ringgold	2,627.67	35.00		210.00
Fort Robinson	2,572.37	108.50		
St. Francis Barracks	495.98	162.50		
St. Louis, Mo.	54.05	120.00		128.00
Fort Sam Houston	288.20	331.50		122.00
San Antonio	1,925.00	14.00		

both rates a little higher than the average. The high rate of admission at Fort Clark was occasioned by diarrhea, boils and abscesses, injuries and venereal diseases. Diarrheal cases equaled 301.89 per thousand of strength, as compared with the army rate of 80.02; boils and abscesses, 218.33, as compared with 42; injuries, 471.70, as compared with 279.75; and venereal cases, 121.30, as compared with 78.08. The nonefficiency at Camp Eagle Pass was caused by injuries, boils and abscesses, venereal disease, and particularly by venereal cases, which added 19.37 to the rate, instead of the army average of 5.26. At Fort McIntosh, also, the large nonefficiency was mainly the result of venereal infection, the rate for which alone amounted to 22.36, equivalent to more constant sickness than was occasioned at Fort Bliss by all diseases and injuries. At Fort Brown a marked increase in the rates for venereal diseases, alcoholism, neuralgia, rheumatism and myalgia, diarrhea, typhoid fever, and injuries made up the sum of the excess of the constant sickness over that of the Army as a whole.

But for the two posts, Fort Sam Houston and Fort Bliss, the rates of this department would have been much higher than they are. The excellent medical records of these posts offset the bad records of the others. The admission rate at Fort Sam Houston was 800.31, the constant sickness, 27.70, while the corresponding rates at Fort Bliss were 945 and 21.31.

DEPARTMENT OF THE COLORADO.

Reported strength, 3,072. Admission rate, 1,117.51; rate of nonefficiency, 32.11; discharge rate, 11.72; death rate, 6.18. These rates differ but little from the average of the Army. Fort Wingate, N. Mex., is the only post in this department with a decidedly bad medical record for the year, as compared with the general army record, its admission rate being 1,570.75 and its nonefficiency rate 46.44. The excess of admissions was due to an increased prevalence of tonsillitis, diarrhea, bronchitis, rheumatism and myalgia, and injuries, while the excess of nonefficiency was attributable to the same causes with, in addition, a high rate for typhoid fever and for heart disease, of which last there were four cases, with one discharge for disability and one death. Fort Logan, Colo., and Fort Huachuca, Ariz., had both rates higher than the standard of the Army for the year. There was an excess of diarrheal and venereal cases at both posts, with, in addition, at Fort Huachuca, an excess of injuries and rheumatism and myalgia. The frequency of injuries at Fort Grant raised the rates of this post somewhat above the average.

The other posts in this department had excellent rates, the best admission rate being that recorded at Fort Apache, Ariz., 734.62, nearly one-half of which was caused by injury, and the best rate of constant sickness, 21.25, at Fort Bayard, N. Mex.

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA.

Reported strength, 1,539. Admission rate, 762.18; rate of nonefficiency, 24.02; discharge rate, 7.15; death rate, 3.90; all of which are below the average of the Army for the year. These low rates result from a generally lessened prevalence of all diseases and injuries, except venereal diseases, for which the admission rate was 77.32, constantly nonefficiency, 5.25, as compared with the corresponding rates, 78.08 and 5.26. The small post, San Diego Barracks, the nonefficiency rate owing to the prevalence of venereal diseases

and rheumatism and the occurrence of a prolonged case of tuberculosis of the lung. The Presidio of San Francisco had an admission rate of 994.63 and a nonefficiency rate of 30.15. All the other posts had smaller rates, the lowest admission rate, 523.44, having been recorded by Angel Island, with a nonefficiency rate of 21.56, and the lowest nonefficiency rate, 13.96, by Benicia Barracks, with an admission rate of 540.67.

DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA.

Reported strength, 1,491. Admission rate, 880.62; nonefficiency rate, 28.78; discharge rate, 7.38; death rate, 2.01. Venereal diseases were less frequent in this department than in California, but a slight excess of injuries and such diseases as tonsillitis, alcoholism, colic and constipation, boils and abscesses, rheumatism and myalgia raised the admission and nonefficiency rates above those of the latter department. No post in the Department of the Columbia had an admission rate higher than that of the Army, and Fort Walla Walla was the only one which had a nonefficiency rate above the army average. The admission rates varied from a maximum of 1,039.37 at the post just mentioned to a minimum of 734.04 at Fort Canby, and the nonefficiency rates from 41.42 at Fort Walla Walla to 22.52 at Vancouver Barracks. Venereal affections and injuries occasioned the relatively high rates at Fort Walla Walla.

THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST RATES AT INDIVIDUAL POSTS.

The largest admission rates for the year were reported from Washington Barracks, D. C., and Fort Myer, Va., 2,250.71 and 2,250, respectively, per thousand of strength. These two posts have had high rates for a number of years; malarial infection was the principal cause of these high rates. An investigation was made during the past year by Surg. W. Reed, who concluded that the fevers at both posts were to be attributed to the marsh lands of the Potomac valley. His report was published in my last annual report, page 66. The malarial rate continued high at Washington Barracks during the past year, but the cases at Fort Myer were relatively not so numerous. These two posts, although heading the list of sickness as represented by frequency of admissions, take only the twelfth and the fifteenth place, respectively, when the posts are arranged in order of nonefficiency from sickness. Following Fort Myer in frequency of entries on the sick report are Fort Clark, and Camp Eagle Pass, Tex., each with over 1,900 entries per thousand of strength; Fort Slocum, N. Y., and Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo., with over 1,600, and Fort Riley, Kans., Fort Monroe, Va., Jefferson Barracks, Mo., Fort Wingate, N. Mex., and Fort Barrancas, Fla., with over 1,500. The causation of these rates has already been stated in discussing the health of the departments. Jefferson Barracks, Mo., had the highest rate, 67.23, of constant sickness, although only ninth in order of frequency of admissions. This was owing to the prolonged duration of its fever cases, malarial and typhoid. Two other posts, Camp Eagle Pass and Fort McIntosh, Tex., had a constant sickness of over 60 per thousand of strength. Three posts, Fort Barrancas, Fla., Fort Thomas, Ky., and San Diego Barracks, Cal., had each over 5 per cent of constant nonefficiency. Following these in the order of diminishing rates are Forts Clark and Brown, Tex., Fort Wingate, N. Mex., Fort Crook, Neb., Fort Monroe, Va., and Washington Barracks, D. C., the last with a rate of 44.51 for the year. Fort Yellowstone, Wyo., had the best medical record during the year, it having had the lowest admission and nonefficiency rates, with no death and no discharge. Its