

# Encampment of Fifty-First Iowa Regiment at Red Oak



FIRST LIEUTENANT DON MACRAE, COUNCIL BLUFFS—FIRST ASSISTANT SURGEON OF FIFTY-FIRST IOWA REGIMENT—Photo by Louis R. Bostwick.



ENCAMPMENT AT RED OAK, Ia.—REVIEW OF THE VETERAN FIFTY-FIRST REGIMENT—Photo by Louis R. Bostwick.



GENERAL JAMES RUSH LINCOLN—NEW COLONEL OF FIFTY-FIRST IOWA REGIMENT, NATIONAL GUARD—Photo by Louis R. Bostwick.



ENCAMPMENT AT RED OAK, Ia.—REVIEW OF THE NEW FIFTY-FIRST REGIMENT—Photo by Louis R. Bostwick.

THE recent encampment of the Fifty-first regiment, Iowa National Guard, at Red Oak, was a memorable event in the history of that organization. Not only was the encampment a great success, but it brought together for the first time since they were mustered out of Uncle Sam's service in San Francisco the veterans who served in the Fifty-first Iowa volunteers throughout the Philippine campaign. It was the first time the twelve companies had been in camp since the day they separated in Council Bluffs for their respective home towns after receiving a royal welcome to their native state. Men who had fought side by side in the far-off islands of the Philippines met again, shook hands and talked over the old days when the regiment lay in camp in San Francisco or was realizing the stern necessities of war out on the firing line in the Philippines.

The camp, beautifully situated, was named after Walter Wagner of Company A, the first Iowa man killed in action in the Philippines. Wagner was on detached service with Hawthorne's battery and was killed in a skirmish at Zapote bridge on June 13, 1899. His home was in Des Moines.

The citizens of Red Oak did all in their power to make the week's encampment pleasant for the soldier boys and numerous social functions were held in their honor, the week's gaieties being brought to a close with a public reception and ball.

The feature of the encampment, especially to the "veterans," was the reunion of the members of the old Fifty-first Iowa volunteers. About 300 were in attendance and took part in the review of the regiment. Colonel Loper was unable to be present and the command fell on Major Moore of Villisca, the ranking officer. The veterans formed into their former respective companies, the battalions being commanded as follows: First battalion, Captain Worthington of Des Moines; Second battalion, Major Hume of Des Moines; Third battalion, Captain Mount of Shenandoah.

On the evening of the day of the re-

union the Iowa Society of the Army of the Philippines was organized with First Lieutenant Don Macrae, jr., of Council Bluffs as president. This honor was tendered to Lieutenant Macrae in recognition of his services through the campaign as assistant surgeon of the Fifty-first regiment, during which he endeared himself to

every member of the regiment by his untiring zeal and attention to their care.

**History of the Fifty-First Regiment.** The Fifty-first regiment of Iowa volunteers was the result of the reorganization of the Third regiment, Iowa National Guard, but its identity was preserved almost intact. After being disbanded on re-

being understood that it would be sent to the Philippine islands.

It spent two months in Camp Merritt in San Francisco and on July 29 was removed to the Presidio with ninety-two men on the sick list owing to the unhealthy location and condition of Camp Merritt. August was spent at Camp Merritt and the sick list increased to 157 men in hospital. The month of September was also spent in Camp Merritt with 225 men sick. In July five died, in August six, in September ten. By this time the regiment had almost despaired of seeing active service and the month of October was passed with it still in camp, when, on the first day of November came the glad tidings to prepare to leave San Francisco for the far-off Philippine islands. At 11 o'clock on the morning of November

3, 1898, the Fifty-first Iowa volunteers, 1,089 strong, left Camp Merritt for the San Francisco docks. That afternoon it sailed on the transport Pennsylvania for Manila by way of Honolulu.

### On Board Transport Four Months.

From that time the history of the regiment was the most unique of any which entered the service. More than one-third of the whole time the regiment was away from the United States was spent on board of a transport—ninety-three days going out on the Pennsylvania and thirty on the Senator returning. The regiment arrived at Honolulu November 12 and left on November 16, thirty-three men remaining there in the hospital. It arrived at Manila on December 7, but it was not permitted to leave the transport until February 3, 1899, remaining on the ship for two months after reaching the Philippines, awaiting orders. During this time the transport, with the regiment on board, was ordered to Hilo, anchoring within six miles of the town on December 30. The transport lay in the harbor of Hilo until January 29, arriving off Cavite January 31. On February 3 the regiment disembarked from the transport, having been continuously afloat for three months and three days, during all of which time there was not a single death.

At Cavite the regiment went into camp and Colonel Loper was placed in command of the district. Here the battalion formations of the regiment began to come into play, the battalions being composed and commanded as follows: First, commanded

(Continued on Fifth Page.)



CAMP OF THE FIFTY-FIRST REGIMENT AT RED OAK, Ia.—Photo by Louis R. Bostwick.

turning from the Philippines it was a few months later reorganized as a regiment of the Iowa National Guard, retaining the number it had been known by while serving Uncle Sam. The twelve companies were mustered in from the same towns as had been represented in the old regiment and a large per cent of the men who served through the Philippine campaign re-enlisted.

As a regiment of the national guard, previous to its service in the Philippines, the Fifty-first, then known as the Third regiment, saw considerable service. In 1884 Companies A and H of Des Moines were called out to quell miners' riots at Angus; in 1886 these two companies guarded prisoners in the Polk county jail for three weeks; in 1894 Companies B, C, E, G, I, K, L and M met Kelley's army at the Missouri river and the same summer Major Loper, with the Des Moines companies, spent three weeks in the Evans mining district.

The regiment was mustered into Uncle Sam's service in April, 1898, in Des Moines, where it remained in camp until June 5, when it started for Des Moines, it then



ENCAMPMENT AT RED OAK, Ia.—THE KITCHEN—Photo by Louis R. Bostwick.



ENCAMPMENT AT RED OAK, Ia.—WASHING UP—Photo by Louis R. Bostwick.