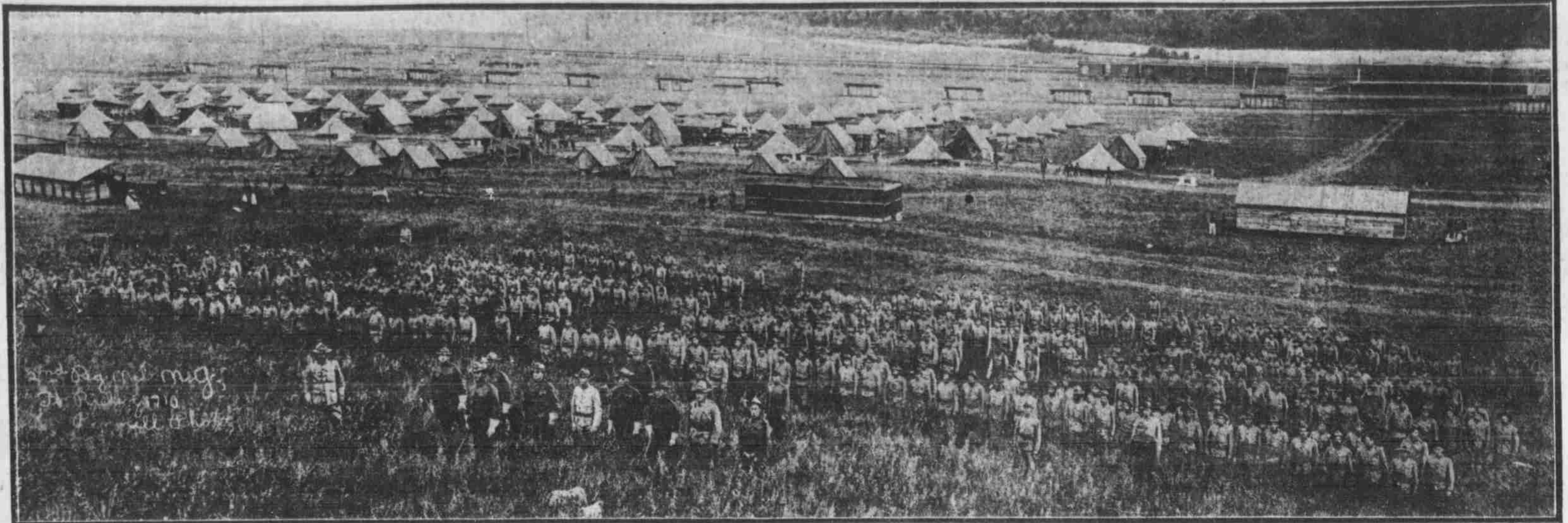


# Where the Nebraska Soldiers Studied the Gentle Art of Modern War



SECOND NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD AT FORT RILEY.

You can't get 'em up.  
You can't get 'em up in the morning.  
You can't get 'em up.  
You can't get 'em up.  
You can't get 'em up at all.  
You can't get 'em up at all.  
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Company I of Omaha, sixty-one men, Captain J. A. White; Company K of Schuyler, fifty-five men, Captain C. H. Johnson; Company L of Alma, forty-three men, Captain Arthur Kimbrell; Company M of Albion, forty-five men, Captain L. H. Davis.

There were three separate or detached companies, the signal corps of Fremont, which consisted of thirty-six men, the hospital corps of Lincoln, thirty-eight men, and the machine gun company of Beatrice, thirty-four men. This constituted the Nebraska's entire strength and included a grand total of 1,265 men. The state force was, with the exception of the last day, under the command of Major E. H. Phelps of Lincoln, who was acting adjutant general of the guard in the absence of Brigadier General J. C. Liarigan.

To one not familiar with military life it would be difficult to describe the many advantages of the Fort Riley reservation as a typical war training ground. Nearly every kind of country is included in this immense reservation, six miles wide and nine miles long, and its ravines, gullies, hills and plains, its canyons, creeks and rivers make it particularly fitted for the purpose for which it is used.

The Nebraska men were camped about two miles west of Fort Riley proper. To the north of their camp rose Sherman Heights, some 200 feet above the company streets. A gently sloping decline of perhaps 600 yards in width, led to the Kaw river on the south. East lay the smooth river bottom land where regimental and battalion drills were held. West of the camp lay Fort Riley with its scores of huge stone quarries and beautiful parade grounds. Within less than half a mile from the Nebraska tents the first state capitol building of Kansas could be seen, a stately structure which on July 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, 1866, was used to house the documents and officials of the embryo Sunflower state.

These afternoon marches were the hardest duties that the Nebraska men were compelled to perform at the maneuvers, largely on account of the excessive heat and the Cornhuskers' inexperience in climbing up and down rocky hills. The officers of both regiments, as well as those of the various battalions and companies, were easy on the men, so that none of them suffered more than stiff joints and sore feet. The men were marched back to camp about 5 o'clock, just in time for guard-mount at 5:30.

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**ONTARIO** to the spirit of the soldier's adaptation of the strains of revelry, nearly 1,500 Nebraska guardsmen arose at 1:35 every morning during their ten days' stay at the Fort Riley (Kan.) army maneuvers.

For during those ten days every man was to do as much as he could for a real soldier engaged in real warfare. And, although it was considerably different from the vacations followed by most of the men the other 365 days of the year, it was nevertheless thoroughly enjoyed by practically all of the Nebraska men. Especially to those who had never before participated in large maneuvers it will remain in memory for many years to come. Approximately 16,000 soldiers were encamped on the Fort Riley military reservation during the Nebraska's stay at the maneuvers. Of this number about a third were national guardsmen, two regiments of infantry each from Kansas and Nebraska. In addition there were signal corps, hospital corps and machine gun companies from each of the two states. The Kansas state troops also had a battery of field artillery in their strength. The total strength of the Nebraska men was as follows:

The first regiment of infantry, under command of Colonel George A. Eberly of Stanton and composed of three battalions:

**FIRST BATTALION.**  
Major George Holderman, Commanding—Company A of York, forty-nine men, Captain R. E. Omstead; Company B of Stanton, forty-nine men, Captain G. S. Johnson; Company C of Beatrice, sixty-five men, Captain C. L. Brewster.

**SECOND BATTALION.**  
Major C. E. Fraser, Commanding—Company D of Norfolk, fifty-three men, Captain Chris Anderson; Company E of Blair, forty-four men, Captain C. E. Gaydon; Company H of Crete, forty-two men, Captain R. K. Johnson.

**THIRD BATTALION.**  
Major A. H. Hollingworth, Commanding—Company K of Wymore, forty-eight men, Captain J. V. Craig; Company L of Omaha, seventy-two men, Captain H. F. Elsass; Company M of McCook, forty-seven men, Captain J. H. Waldenhamer.

With the first regiment band of Bloomfield, consisting of twenty-seven men, a regimental officers' roster of twenty-two men, the total strength of the first regiment was 515 men.

The second regiment, under Colonel F. J. Mack of Albion, consisted of twelve companies and was divided as the first into three battalions:

**FIRST BATTALION.**  
Major H. J. Paul, Commanding—Company A of Kearney, fifty-two men, Captain H. N. Jones; Company B of Beaver City, forty-nine men, Captain J. B. Cameron; Company C of Nebraska City, fifty-three men, Captain C. E. McCormick; Company D of Hastings, forty-four men, Captain J. H. Riffe.

**SECOND BATTALION.**  
Major Johnson Acting Commander—Company E of Holdrege, forty-three men, Captain F. A. Anderson; Company F of Lincoln, forty-nine men, Captain J. J. Bolshaw; Company G of Omaha, fifty-two men, Captain Earl Strickler; Company H of Aurora, forty-eight men, Captain U. G. Johnson.

**THIRD BATTALION.**  
Major O. M. Newman, Commanding—

Company I of Omaha, sixty-one men, Captain J. A. White; Company K of Schuyler, fifty-five men, Captain C. H. Johnson; Company L of Alma, forty-three men, Captain Arthur Kimbrell; Company M of Albion, forty-five men, Captain L. H. Davis.

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The regular army force at the maneuvers consisted of the Thirteenth infantry, Fourth infantry, Seventh cavalry, Sixth Field Artillery, several detached companies of engineers, hospital corps and signal corps, in all close to 6,000 men. The spirit manifested by the "regs" toward the "doughboys" from Kansas and Nebraska was the subject of much favorable comment, the former exhibiting before the national guardsmen only the best of feeling. During the stay of the Nebraska men there was not a single misunderstanding between Uncle Sam's "professional" and "amateur" soldiers.

Camp life and the routine duties of the soldier were exemplified every minute of the time the Nebraska militiamen were at the encampment.

Following the 5:35 awakening and answer to roll call a ten minutes "poling" was conducted. This meant a thorough cleaning up of each company street. "Morning mess" came next and was followed by "tick call." Then all those in each regiment who felt more or less indisposed and needed the services of doctors reported at the hospital headquarters, from which, if their condition demanded, they were conveyed to the "base" hospital in ambulances.

Assembly for morning drill sounded at 6:30. The men were "hiked" to the drill grounds, only a short distance from camp,

and there until "recall" at 9:30 were given good, stiff drills either in company, battalion or regimental formations.

After the men had returned to camp, until the midday mess, they had the time to themselves. Some indulged in base ball, some cleaned their equipment while others rested in their tents or wrote letters to sweethearts up in "good old Nebraska." Afternoon assembly usually sounded shortly after dinner. That meant a "hike to the hills" to aid the officers in working out various war problems assigned them for solution. The officers do, with their men, much the same as a master chess player does with his chessmen—they anticipate moves by the enemy, they cover retreats and advances, and protect themselves as advantageously as possible, whether on the aggressive or defensive.

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This consisted in establishing a new set of guards around the camp, the change being made every twenty-four hours. Sufficient men are provided so that each gets

a four hour rest out of every six-hour period of duty. Captains are detailed as officers of the day, first lieutenants as officers of the guard, and second lieutenants as supernumeraries. The guard house, or "regiment jail," is presided over by a sergeant, while a corporal attends to whatever comes up at each post, while he is on duty.

Retreat, or the sounding of the colors for the night, sounded at about 8:45. Every man in camp, no matter where he stood, nor what he was doing, stood at attention, while the flags went down, and while the regimental band played "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Evening mess was next on the routine list and was over by 9:45. The evenings the men had for their own use. Many stayed in camp, many went to the fort to view its places of interest, while still others took the street car to Junction City, about seven miles from the Nebraska camp. All were usually back in camp by 9:45, at which time the call to quarters was sounded. Taps, with "lights out," sounded at 10 and the Cornhuskers were generally glad when that time of day came.

The sanitary conditions of the camp were as nearly perfect as could be imagined. The gradual decline of the ground on which the camp was located, made it possible to trench the camp, so that no water could stand in one place any length of time. Hydrants in every company street provided water for the men and for each company's cooking establishment. Regimental bath

houses offered shower baths to the men any time during the day or evening. All garbage and slaps were promptly and thoroughly disposed of and washed over a mile away to the dumps and burning pits on the bank of the Kaw river. Equally as attentive to the health of the men was the hospital corps. No matter how slight the ailment, the men were given the most careful attention by the competent "soldier doctors" than he would have been given at his own home. Ample illustration is furnished in the case of a Hastings boy—a private in Company D of the second regiment.

The young man soon after his arrival at the camp of instruction was taken severely ill. He was conveyed to the field hospital at once, where his case was diagnosed as appendicitis. An operation was deemed necessary by the physicians of the field hospital and he was in turn taken to the post hospital. There the Red commander learns of some of the most skilled surgeons in Uncle Sam's army and there in a ward fully as up-to-date in equipment and comfort as in any in the land he successfully withstood the one thing that meant life or death to him. The entire operation, with all the care and nursing following, did not cost the company D man a single cent—Uncle Sam paid that bill, for when one of his boys suffers there's nothing too good for him until he's well and strong again.

The Nebraska's health as a whole was unusually good. Other than for a few hours

at a time there were very few men confined to the hospital.

The day of the big sham battle will long live in the minds of those who participated in it. It was held the Wednesday following the Nebraska troops arrival at the camp. The situation can best be appreciated by the orders to the Nebraska men, which read as follows:

**HEADQUARTERS CAMP OF INSTRUCTION.**  
FORT RILEY, Kan., Aug. 23, 1919.  
Combined Maneuver, No. 1, for August 21, 1919.

**GENERAL SITUATION.**  
A "Blue" field army operating from Marion, Kan., as a base, has reached Marysville, Kan. The Rock Island and Union Pacific railroads have been destroyed by the "Red" forces and the "Blues" are supplied by wagons from their base.

A train conveying supplies and ammunition and conveyed by a force of all arms has crossed the Republican river at the Washington street bridge and is proceeding toward the Stockade.

A "Red" force is opposing the advance of the "Blue" field army and is attempting to cut the line of communications. The "Red" detachment has passed around the left flank of the Blue force and has reached Milford. There the Red commander learns of the approach of the Blue convoy and decides to intercept it and capture or destroy the train.

The "Blue" column consists of Third Squadron, Seventh regular cavalry; First Battalion, Sixth regular field artillery; First battery, Kansas guards; First and Second infantry, Nebraska National guards; detachments of signal and hospital corps (U. S. A.); Signal and hospital corps of the Nebraska and Kansas National guards; supply train of seventy-six wagons; ammunition column consisting of caissons from the Sixth field artillery.

The force is assembled on the Republican flats at 9 a. m.

At this point the commander learns of the "Red" forces at Milford and that the post of Fort Riley and the Pawnee flats are impassable. He decides to push on at once for Stockade, which is held by a "Blue" force. He selects his route of march, makes appropriate disposition and moves out at 9 a. m. by column of

**BRIGADIER GENERAL WARD.**  
IRA A. HAYNES.

**Adjutant General.**  
Opposed to this "Blue" force and constituting the "Red" force were parts of the Seventh cavalry and Sixth field artillery, two companies of engineers, the entire Fourth and Thirteenth regiments of infantry and detachments of hospital and signal corps. This force was composed entirely of regulars and were the attacking army in this battle.

The defense was composed of an advance guard, the main body, the convoy escort and the rear-guard. All of the Nebraska men, with the exception of the first battalion of the First regiment, were in the main body. That battalion was in the convoy escort proper.

The march to the life of battle was over six miles and was reached well before 9 o'clock. The advance began promptly and in a battle that lasted but a few minutes less than an hour the Blue army succeeded in getting the supply train through with safety.

The wheeling of the big artillery sections into battle array, the charging of the cavalrymen as they swung down a long hill to prevent a flank movement by the attacking army, and the unusual sight of wireless signal corps in action, were but a few of the many things which were decidedly impressive to most of the Nebraska men that day.

Each company of guardsmen assembled at the maneuvers was given the services

of a non-commissioned regular army officer. These men acted in the capacity of drill masters for the companies during their entire stay. So well were the "regs" liked by the different companies to which they were assigned that most of them were presented with substantial remembrances by the Nebraska men, before they broke camp.

The cost of sending the Nebraska National Guard to the Fort Riley maneuvers was approximately \$2,000. The pay of the men was fully three-fifths of this amount or \$1,200. The transportation was \$10,000, and the subsistence of the men while in camp amounted to \$4,000 in round numbers. The men were on duty twelve days, one day each way in traveling, and ten days actual stay at the camp.

Since 1902 the state militia has been more properly called the National Guard, because of the act which, that year, made it more under the supervision of the War department at Washington. Thus, in the event of war being declared, the National Guard of all the states must be called out for service before volunteers can be called for. The War department, also under the 1902 act, now makes disposition annually of about \$5,000,000, which it distributes to the various states for the use of their National Guard organizations. Nebraska's share of this is \$40,000 per annum, an amount twice as large as the state legislature appropriates for its soldiers.

Uncle Sam's paymasters distributed among the Nebraska men the last day they were at the maneuvers \$17,000, or all but \$4,000 required to pay the men for their services while at Fort Riley. This remaining amount is all that the state is required to pay toward the earnings of the Nebraska men.

One of the most pleasant remembrances of the Fort Riley camp, and one strongly felt by all of the Nebraska men, was the conduct of all officers toward the men under them. From the acting adjutant of the cornhusker troops down to the second lieutenant of each company, there was not a single officer but had the welfare of his men constantly on his mind. This was forcibly shown when, following a day of extreme heat, when scores of men were prostrated during a hard "hike," Colonel Mack of the Second Nebraska and Colonel Eberly of the First both insisted that their regiments should be allowed a full day's rest. Their wishes were complied with, and every Nebraska man that day, silently or otherwise, swore allegiance to the colonels who had thoughtfully considered their condition before taking orders for a day's maneuvering.

The Nebraska men, most of them unused to the strenuous life of army maneuvers, were upon their return home almost unanimous in expressing themselves as well pleased with their stay at the large national military reservation. Every one of the companies went away better drilled and better prepared for war than they possibly could have been with simply experiences of a state maneuver camp behind them. Were the benefits to be measured by but the lessons learned the day of the big sham-battle the stay would have been worth while, but when those of nine days are added no one has yet been heard to say that it was not worth a great deal more than any instruction camp in which Nebraska troops ever participated.

**EARL B. GADDIS.**  
Holdrege, Neb.

Curious and Romantic Courtships



CAMP OF THE NEBRASKA AND KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD AT FORT RILEY.

Camp of Instruction  
St. Louis, Mo. by  
J. Riley  
Pennell Photo