



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

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MARCH 1973

Vol. 16 No. 7

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134th Meeting

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DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1973

SPEAKER: GUY DI CARLO JR.

SUBJECT: LUFTWAFFE ACES OF WWII

PLACE: ROMAN GARDENS, 12207 MAYFIELD RD.

RESERVATIONS: CALL 696-6300 x211 (Marcy)

DINNER: 6-6:30 cocktails 7 PM Buffet

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GUY DI CARLO JR.

Our speaker has an unusual subject for a Civil War group...LUFTWAFFE ACES OF WWII. However, he comes by his interest honestly. Guy served in the United States Air Force during the Korean Conflict.

Born in Morgantown, W.Va. on March 1, 1933 he just recently slipped to the other side of the hill a few days ago. In 1948 the family moved to Ohio and Guy graduated the following year from Harvey High School in Painesville, Ohio. From there he then proceeded to attend five major universities in search of knowledge and degrees. He earned his BBA in 1958 and MBA in economics in 1963. Most of the "extra" universities attended were during his "hitch" in the Air Force. While in the Air Force he was a Radar Observer and was selected as an instructor at Keesler AFB, Mississippi. He later taught at the instructor's instructor school until his discharge in 1957. While at Keesler he was married and lived but a mile and half from Jefferson Davis' last home. It was here he pursued his childhood ambition of traveling throughout the Confederacy seeing all the places he had only read about in books.

Guy has given other talks to our group on THE LAST HOME OF JEFFERSON DAVIS and LAFAYETTE C. BAKER, CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL DETECTIVE POLICE. His Civil War library is quite impressive in its broadness, and is always open to any member or buff. He also has an extensive collection of slides of Civil War battlefields as those who go on the fieldtrips regularly will attest.

In keeping with our policy of having talks on subjects other than Civil War topics Guy has agreed to talk on a second love of his...aircraft and air forces of WWII. Along with his Civil War activities Guy also finds time to do scale aircraft modeling and has quite a collection started. He does the plastic scale modeling and is a member of the International Plastic Modelers Society. He will bring a few examples of the type of aircraft the Luftwaffe used during WWII. The stories of the men who flew and fought for the Third Reich is a fascinating one when viewed both collectively and on an individual basis. See you there.

CLEVELAND CWRT BULLETIN BOARD

'DAMN THE TORPEDOES' COST: \$212,305

Washington--(AP)-- The Smithsonian Institution has lost \$212,305 in illegal dispute stemming from plans to salvage the Civil War battleship which inspired the cry, 'Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!'

The ship is the USS Tecumseh, sunk more than 100 years ago in the bottom of Mobile Bay in Alabama.

The Smithsonian was ordered by a U.S. District Court here to pay the sum to Expeditions Unlimited Inc. of Pompano Beach, Florida for breach of contract. John J. Pyne, attorney for the firm, said that Smithsonian secretary S. Dillon Ripley signed a letter authorizing the company to raise private funds for salvaging the Tecumseh.

The agreement, Pyne said, was for Expeditions Unlimited to own exclusive media rights to the story of the recovery. But, he said, it was then learned that the Smithsonian had granted first magazine rights and the film contract to others after assuring Expeditions Unlimited that it had exclusive media privileges.

The Tecumseh, once part of the Union fleet commanded by David Glasgow Farragut, is now the property of the Smithsonian. A casualty of the Battle of Mobile Bay, the ironclad warship was located in 1967 after more than a century at the bottom of the bay. The Smithsonian hopes to recover and refurbish the warship as part of a plan to establish an armed forces museum. A part of it would be on the Potomac River near the nation's capital.

Pyne said Expeditions Unlimited had raised \$750,000 in private funds for the recovery operations and had spent \$126,000 of its own money before it learned that it did not have exclusive media rights.

After the firm had been awarded "the prime contract to recover the vessel," said Pyne, the Smithsonian began changing budget requirements and stopped the firm from continuing the project.

The 225-foot Tecumseh, almost overturned, is buried in deep mud in about 30 feet of water at the mouth of Mobile Bay, a few hundred yards offshore from Fort Morgan. In the summer of 1864, Rear Admiral Farragut entered Mobile Bay to close one of the South's last remaining ports.

Loaded with Civil War battle stores, the ship struck a mine and went to the bottom with 93 of her 114-man crew. The sinking of the Tecumseh inspired Farragut to shout: "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" He then ordered his flagship to take the lead in the attack and won the battle. (From the MIAMI HERALD, Sunday, December 31, 1972).

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DUES

Sorry to say this but there are still quite a few of the "hard core" that have not gotten their \$15 dues into Dr. Thomas Gretter, 3005 Lander Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44124. Add an additional \$6.50 if you wish to receive the CIVIL WAR HISTORY QUARTERLY Please do it now.

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HERE WE GO AGAIN!

Lee Flor, WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS staff writer reports as follows: "Whether Prince County will have enough sewage capacity for the Marriott Corporation's proposed \$35 million amusement park appears to be a key issue in the battle shaping up over the project.

. . . The Proposed "Great America" park site is about two miles south of the Manassas National Battlefield Park along Interstate Route 66.

A number of county citizens have complained that the supervisors have not given them enough information about the proposed park so they can comment intelligently at a public hearing March 16 at Manassas."

EDITOR'S NOTE: There is obviously more in the article but I have edited it for the parts of interest to Civil War Buffs. Look for the park by 1975.

THE COURIER  
of  
THE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE OF CLEVELAND, OHIO  
FOUNDED FEBRUARY 19, 1957

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GUY DI CARLO JR., EDITOR, P.O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

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### CIVIL WAR REGIMENTS

During the Civil War the regiment, of any branch of the service, was the highest permanent command. For purposes of organization in the field, regiments were combined into brigades, divisions and corps, but these were frequently changed, while the regiment was given a relatively permanent symbol and this was its colors. In the minds of the men, the colors were the regiment itself, and many a soldier lost his life in defending the colors of his regiment.

Even more important than this, the regiment was the soldier's home during his life in the army. He might come to know the men of his mess or of his company more intimately, but it was his regiment that claimed his primary loyalty both during and after the war. For every single history of a company, or of a higher unit like a division or an army, you will find many hundreds of regimental histories on the shelves of libraries.

In Civil War days a regiment comprised about a thousand men and officers, consisted of ten companies and was commanded by a colonel. He had a lieutenant colonel and a major to assist him in command and administration, together with a number of staff officers and staff sergeants. Companies were just beginning to be designated by letter and one of these companies was called the color company---it had the right and honor of carrying the regimental colors.

In practice, the volunteer regiments of the Civil War attempted to keep their ranks filled by periodic recruiting at home. This differed widely among the states and even among the regiments of one state, but try as they did, they rarely succeeded in going into battle with half of their authorized strength, and usually with far less. The other men were sick in hospital or camp, home on furlough, on special detail, or off recruiting. The "effective" as opposed to "authorized" strength was always a problem for commanders.

There were regiments of infantry, of cavalry, of light and heavy artillery, and a few of engineers. Divided another way, on the Northern side there were regiments of Regulars, of State Militia, of State Volunteers, or Veterans Reserve Corps, of the U. S. Colored Troops, of Indian Volunteers, etc. In the South there was almost as wide a variety of types.

In the article that follows on New York Regiments in the Civil War, I do not discuss the grand strategy or the minor tactics of that war. I do not divulge biographical information or human interest stories about any of the great commanders or much about the little men who fought through the war in its ranks. There will be next to nothing on politics, or economics, or military science. Yet the subject --the regiment -- was in those days, a hundred plus years ago, every bit as important to soldiers and to commanders as these other facts.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above article and subsequent article were written by Col. Frederick P. Todd, Director of Museum, U.S. Military Academy, and appeared in the March, 1963 edition of NEW YORK AND THE CIVIL WAR, a publication put out by the New York Civil War Centennial Commission.

NEW YORK REGIMENTAL ROOTS  
By Col. Frederick P. Todd

New York, ranging first in population and wealth among the States of the Union at the outbreak of the Civil War, maintained the country's largest and most carefully organized State army. In 1850 the New York State Militia -- as it was called until 1862 when it was redesignated the National Guard of New York -- contained some 51 active, uniformed regiments and a number of independent companies, all of which were grouped into brigades and divisions. During the wide reorganizations of 1846 to 1848 the State had completely eliminated its old-fashioned, enrolled militia and had forced hundreds of hitherto independent uniformed companies into regimental groupings. By 1860 the number of active regiments in this State had grown to 62, a fact little realized today.

The administration of this sizable force of nearly 19,000 rank and file required a command and staff of 532 officers including, for example, an inspector general and 32 division and brigade inspectors. The State published a large-sized book of general regulations which provided for the government of its military forces. This was revised in 1858, 1863 and again in 1870, and was distributed to all commands. In addition, the State regularly issued sets of Scott's, Hardee's and other military manuals.

The Adjutant General of New York reported in 1860 that the Militia system of his State was functioning within what he called "the impracticable and absurd law of Congress" but was "untrammelled by its antique features." The ten years prior to the Civil War is remarkable for the effort made to force the old-fashioned separate companies to accept regimental discipline and loyalty, to demand an improvement in drill and attendance, and to increase the general efficiency of the organization. The relative strength of her system permitted New York to respond rapidly to the call of President Lincoln in 1861 and to maintain her State militia virtually intact throughout the Civil War.

The regiments of New York State were numbered until 1865 in a single series that included all branches. They varied considerably in strength and effectiveness; those in the First Division, which embraced the metropolitan areas of New York City, had as a rule from six to ten active companies, while regiments located in predominantly rural areas might have only two companies that were really active. A New York militia regiment of the 1850's consisted on paper of eight battalion companies, lettered A through H after 1857, and two flank companies --- lettered R and L, for right and left. By 1860 some regiments had begun to letter their companies A through K, omitting J. Except for four of the regiments (the First, Third, Fourth and 70th), all served as infantry of some sort, although tradition, armament, and the kind of drill manual being employed lent seeming variation. Thus one finds regiments described in the roster of 1860 as "rifles doing duty as light infantry" or "artillery doing duty as infantry" or merely "artillery", only to discover that they were all essentially in the same branch of the service.

Further to complicate matters, these infantry regiments often contained one or two companies of a different branch than the others. Thus the Eighth Regiment (which is now the 258th Artillery in the Bronx) had eight infantry companies and one of cavalry. This cavalry company was converted to artillery and had the dubious distinction of turning over its guns to other men on the even of First Bull Run. The 19th Regiment in Newburgh had seven companies of infantry, one of cavalry, one of rifles and a section of light artillery. Such variations were, of course, holdovers from the days of independent companies, and they tended to multiply the kind of uniforms worn in a single regiment.

New York regiments also deviated widely in such characteristics as wealth, traditions and national origins. The older corps tended to be "native American" in composition and took their membership from the wealthier classes of society. Probably the Seventh Regiment (now the 107th Infantry), and Brooklyn regiments like the 14th and 23rd, or Albany organizations like the 10th, illustrate this class. Regiments had been formed more recently, especially in New York City, were often completely foreign in personnel, language and institutions. Such fraternalism is understandable among immigrant groups but in one instance a deeper purpose was involved. During the 1850's three New York regiments were raised for no other reason than to train Irishmen as soldiers so that they could return to Ireland and fight for Irish freedom;

one of these was the 69th -- now the 165th Infantry. Cases of direct alignment of regiments with political parties was not unknown, although it was less common than is generally believed.

All of these variations were reflected in the uniforms the regiments wore. Some of the older ones, like the Seventh and Eighth wore gray which had become a sort of traditional militia uniform in the country. A few wore distinctively national costumes, and the outstanding unit in this category was the 79th Regiment, the Cameron Highlanders, which wore complete Scottish dress, including kilts. But the vast bulk of the New York organized militia wore blue uniforms very similar to those of the Regular Army. Their weapons, which had been supplied in the main by the Federal Government, were also similar if more old-fashioned.

This was the force that New York had available to meet the call of President Lincoln. In answer to that call the State sent 11 regiments (8,450 men) to Washington, in all but one case for the three months' service. Nine of these came from New York City, one (the famous 20th) from Kingston and one from Albany.

Under the laws of a century ago, a militia regiment as such could only be ordered outside the State for three months at a time. Even before President Lincoln's first call of April 15th, 1861, it was obvious to New York's legislators, that a military force would be required in the field for a longer time than that. On the 16th, therefore, the Legislature authorized the enrollment of 30,000 "volunteer militia" to serve for two years. On this authority the Governor established 38 new infantry regiments, numbered in a separate series commencing with "1st", and soon after recruiting for them began throughout the State. At length these two-year regiments were accepted by the General Government, at which time their status changed from Militia to Volunteers.

So began the series of volunteer infantry regiments that ultimately totalled 194. The resultant duplication of numbers caused some confusion and much vexation, especially in those old militia outfits that volunteered for three years and then had to give up their traditional numbers.

The first 38 volunteer regiments left New York for either Washington or the Virginia Peninsula between late April and July, 1861. In July also went the four volunteer regiments organized by the Union Defense Committee of New York (39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd), all of whom were specially uniformed and outfitted by the committee, and four militia regiments that had volunteered for the war (the Second, Ninth, 14th and 79th the first three being redesignated, much against their will, 82nd, 83rd and 84th). About the same time came a request from Washington for mounted troops. A Cavalry company from the First and another from the Third Militia Regiments were sent for three months' service. This was the status of the active forces of New York on the even of First Bull Run.

In mid-July, 1861, recruiting was suspended despite the fact that new companies were being formed all over the State. Then came the reverses at Bull Run with which a new period of the War began. There followed for the next four years a series of calls on New York for volunteers and militia which ended in this State furnishing a total of over a half million men to the Union Army. Most were volunteers, of course, and this force comprised 27 regiments and eight companies of cavalry 15 regiments and 34 companies of artillery, 182 regiments and eight companies of infantry, and three regiments of engineers.

After its call in 1861 the New York National Guard saw Federal service in some force on three more occasions, beside furnishing many units for special duty at home. The opening of the Antietam Campaign led to 12 regiments being called out for three months' service. In 1863 a force of nearly 14,000 men, all from the militia, and embracing 26 regiments, was mustered into Federal service at the commencement of the Gettysburg Campaign, while others were mobilized into State service to quell the draft riots that broke out in July in New York City. Finally the year 1864 saw 13 regiments and eight companies in Federal service for 100 days, watching the Canadian border, guarding prisoners at Elmira and garrisoning the defenses of New York Harbor.

How were these volunteer regiments raised? In general, and especially in the first year of the war, it was pretty close to what had been called the "proprietary system," used in England to raise new regiments for her 18th century wars in America and, later, for the wars against Napoleon.

When the King needed an additional regiment he went to a nobleman he knew and offered him a commission and a set sum of money to raise one. This man then went to

friends in his community and offered a part of the money, plus the promise to secure commissions from the King, if each would raise a company. In time, the successful recruiters were rewarded with ranks from lieutenant colonel to captain, and they in turn made the same bargains with their lieutenants. Dipping again into his funds, the colonel bought uniforms, food, tents and all the other supplies the newly-raised regiment might need, so that it would be in shape to be mustered into the King's service. When this was done, the men's pay began and the colonel and the other officers settled back to count what money -- called the "net off reckonings" -- they had left. This was, in effect, their profit on the transaction.

The Governor of New York had to do much the same thing, although by the 1860's a lot of the chance for profit had been removed. Indeed, the men raising volunteer regiments and companies in this country usually found themselves considerably out of pocket before it was over. Then, too, there was an old militia tradition that companies so organized could elect their officers, and not always did they select the fellow who had borne the cost of recruiting as their captain. In all it was a confusing business and some regiments got off to a bad start because of politics and bickering during the organizational stage. One added point: the men were quick to appreciate the necessity of trained leadership, and whenever they could, they secured the services of a professional soldier, preferably a West Pointer, as their colonel.

Each of New York's regiments, like each of the soldiers in them, was a distinctive personality. There were gallant regiments and cowardly ones, disciplined and undisciplined ones -- large and small, well dressed and sloppy, recruit and veteran. There were even mutinous outfits. But by and large, like the men, the regiments tended to be faithful and long-suffering and, in the end, good soldiers.

Consider a few of these outfits and a few of the men in them, picking the regiments almost at random:

We can start with one of the great regiments of all time, the Fifth Volunteers, or "Duryee's Zouaves." This was a two-year regiment, raised in New York City, that stayed in the service until the close of the war. Altogether 2,164 men were recruited for it, and when the last 700 or so returned to New York in 1865 to be mustered out, there were still 100 in the ranks who had joined the outfit in 1861. William Fox's *REGIMENTAL LOSSES IN THE CIVIL WAR* contains a list of what he called the "300 Fighting Regiments"; the Fifth is there.

During its service this Zouave outfit was part of a division of Regulars and fully maintained its right to be there. General Sykes called it the best volunteer organization he had ever seen. It distinguished itself repeatedly but is probably best remembered for its coolness and gallantry at Gaine's Mill where it faced a hail of Confederate musketry that cut down a third of its men. After an especially deadly volley it halted in line to count off so that its movements would not be deranged by the gaps in its ranks.

The regiment wore a Zouave uniform throughout the war, very similar to that worn by the French Zouaves: blue jacket and vest trimmed with red, very full red pants, a red fez and yellow greaves. For parade the men added a white turban and white gaiters.

Among its commanding officers, the first was Abram Duryee, wealthy merchant and a former colonel of the Seventh Regiment Militia. When Duryee got promoted, Gouverneur K. Warren, U.S.M.A. Class of 1850, took his place. Warren had been an engineer taught mathematics at West Point, and fought Indians; he too was promoted and went on to the Round Top episode at Gettysburg and later to command the Fifth Army Corps. The third colonel was Hiram Duryea, no relation to the first colonel, who also became a brigadier general. Still another Duryea from the regiment rose to general's rank. Its fourth colonel was killed in action at Cold Harbor in 1864, its fifth at Five Forks in 1865, and its sixth and last was wounded in action at Appomattox on almost the last day of the war. A fighting regiment from the top down.

To show that all the smart and gallant regiments did not necessarily have a low number, there was the 140th Volunteers, the "Rochester Racehorses," which was mustered in during September, 1862. This crack outfit was first commanded by Colonel Patrick H. O'Rourke, who had graduated at the head of his class at West Point in 1861. It fought in nearly all the battles of the Army of the Potomac, from Fredericksburg to Appomattox, beginning in the Third Brigade of Sykes' Division, Fifth Corps. It is usually thought of, however, in connection with its spirited seizure and defense of Little Round Top, where O'Rourke was killed, cheering on his men. The entire Third Brigade was issued Zouave uniforms in 1863, partially in honor of this action.



The Second Cavalry Regiment, known as the Harris Light Cavalry, was formed by Judge Henry E. Davies of Fishkill Landing, and named after Senator Ira Harris of Albany. Davies wanted to raise a regiment for the war and in July, 1861, seeking out the center of such matters, went to Washington where he managed to see General Scott. By then Scott had come to appreciate that cavalry would be needed and the general urged him to organize a regiment of that arm and to recommend its top officers. This Judge Davies did, selecting among others H. Judson Kilpatrick (they later called him "Kill Cavalry") who had graduated from West Point that year, and Davies' nephew Henry E. Davies, a Harvard man with a degree in law from Columbia. Both later became notable leaders of cavalry. The "Harris Light" made a gallant record in the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac, suffering casualties in more than 40 battles and engagements. A total of 2,528 men and officers joined its ranks during the four years of its life.

Few regiments started with so much promise or ended with so little accomplished as the 11th Regiment Volunteers, the First Fire Zouaves. Composed of New York City volunteer firemen, it was commanded initially by that amazing character, Elmer E. Ellsworth. Much money was put into its initial outfit; it received for example, an expensive regimental color from Mrs. John Jacob Astor. Ellsworth himself designed its first grey Zouave uniforms, in which it went to war amid vast publicity and the thundering cheers of New Yorkers and -- alas -- the strong smell of Irish whiskey. As everyone knows, Ellsworth was killed at Alexandria, thus providing New York with its first martyr. Thereafter no one could handle the regiment. Its action at the First Bull Run was fairly creditable. It supported the batteries of Griffin and Ricketts, but broke like the rest and was reformed later with difficulty. Eventually it had to be returned to New York City, where many of its men had already travelled on their own. There followed duty at Newport News which was equally unsatisfactory and, after little more than a year of service, it was disbanded in June, 1862.

The 12th Regiment, State Militia, was formed in the 1840's. Still in existence, the old 12th New York (Independence Guard) is one of New York City's celebrated regiments. Its most famous colonel was Daniel Butterfield, whose invention of "Taps" is well known but whose devising of a gorgeous blue and white chasseur uniform for the 12th is less so. Had Butterfield had his way, this would have been the dress of the entire U. S. Army and it would have been better known. When the regiment returned from its first three months' service it was reorganized for three years. Not having the full number of companies in this war, the 12th (there was another 12th Militia staying at home) consolidated with the 12th New York Volunteers which had been raised in Onondaga County and was also low in strength. The present regiment (212th Artillery) bears battle honors of all three 12th Regiments of the Civil War, the only case of an amalgamation of militia and volunteers with the same number that the author knows of.

Other New York Militia regiments that still serve in New York City include the 11th Brooklyn and the 69th (or "Fighting Irish"). Both are included among Fox's "300 Fighting Regiments," a rare honor. The 11th fought splendidly -- and in their distinctive scarlet pants and caps -- from First Bull Run through Spotsylvania. It established its place in history, however, on the first day of Gettysburg.

The 11th enjoyed another distinction in the Army of the Potomac, that of minstrels. No Broadway show ever commanded the attention of the available public to the extent that the Brooklyn minstrels did in the winter camp at Culpeper.

The 69th Regiment, on returning to New York City after its first service of three months, organized in its armory a volunteer regiment called by the same number, which became the first unit of the Irish Brigade. Still keeping up its militia status and going into the field on short calls in 1862, 1863 and 1864, the old 69th cadred a second volunteer regiment, the 182nd New York, which became part of the Corcoran Legion, another celebrated Irish Brigade. Thus the 69th of the Civil War was actually three regiments, all with striking records. The 69th volunteers, for example, lost more men in action, killed and wounded, than any other infantry organization from New York State, a total of 998 men and officers.

Another militia corps, equally celebrated for its active campaigning, was the 20th Regiment of Kingston, in Ulster County, now the 156th Artillery. A century ago its insignia was the bloody hand of Ulster. This outfit was commanded by Colonel George W. Pratt -- country squire, state senator and a doctor of philosophy, plus being an excellent officer. It went out on the first call for three months, returned

and organized as a volunteer regiment for the rest of the war. Pratt was mortally wounded at Manassas and died in Albany. Two of the regiments battle-torn colors were presented to his young son in 1864, the Governor responding for Master Pratt, and these ultimately came to rest in a chateau in France. In 1961 the two flags were returned to New York by Count Henri de Libran to rejoin the other colors of this famous organization, now in Albany.

This celebrated New York corps was raised in the Dutch service in 1660, which makes it older than any British regiment save the Royal Scots; it entered the English service as a trainband in 1665, and the American service as the Regiment of Ulster County in 1775. It left Kingston for the Civil War in April, 1861, and was finally mustered out in January, 1866 -- a longer war period than any other New York regiment. It is still in service, 303 years later.

The 39th Regiment Volunteers (the Garibaldi Guard) was a really bizarre outfit. It was one of the regiments raised by the Union Defense Committee of New York, acting as a representative of the General Government. Its ranks contained three companies of Germans, three of Hungarians, and one each of Swiss, Italians, Frenchmen and Spaniards. It wore an all-Italian Bersaglieri uniform, complete with green cock's-feather plume, probably in memory of Garibaldi. And it went to war with six vivandieres, ladies carrying canteens of spirits and probably confused ideas of their future duties.

The first colonel of the 39th was Frederick George D'Utassy, an adventurer and reputedly a dancing master and circus rider. He ended by being cashiered and sent to Sing Sing. Some of the other officers were equally questionable, and early in its career the regiment marched on Washington in open mutiny. Fortunately it was on the south side of the Potomac and the authorities were able to close the Long Bridge in time. In September, 1862, the entire regiment was captured at Harper's Ferry. Despite this sorry beginning, the 39th pulled itself together and became a reliable, hard-fighting outfit, rated among the best in the Army of the Potomac. Its men re-enlisted in 1864 and served all the way through the war.

The First Dragoons, or 19th Cavalry, was first organized as infantry at Portage, New York converted to cavalry in 1863, and was rated among the highest for discipline and efficiency. Its first commander was Alfred Gibbs, a West Pointer who had served in the U.S. Mounted Rifles in the Mexican War and later Indian Campaigns. During all its mounted service it was in the First Cavalry Division, Army of the Potomac. Over 1400 men entered its ranks during the war, of whom 261 died in the field. At Todd's Tavern, in the Wilderness, it made a desperate dismounted fight and sustained the heaviest loss of any cavalry regiment in a single action in the war. The regiment made a point of being dragoons and of fighting on foot. At Cold Harbor it defended a position with its band playing gaily throughout the entire fight.

In the first burst of enthusiasm of volunteering, every element in New York City felt it had to be represented, and the Bowery Boys were no exception. William Wilson was a political boss of considerable power among the roughest class of Irish immigrants and from among these he raised the Sixth Regiment of Volunteers, named for him "Billy Wilson's Zouaves." They were too poor to afford Zouave uniforms, but the Zouave name worked magic in recruiting and they clung to it. Their first clothing consisted of ready-made suits of rough gray cloth, the sort sold for slave field-hands in the South, with broad-brimmed hats. This soon wore out and the State provided a second of blue trimmed with red. Then the regiment was sent to Florida where Billy's boys from the Bowery found themselves with a body of U.S. Infantry, hard drilled and stiff-spined. There they received full U.S. Regulars, even down to wearing white gloves and brass scales. In their earlier, rougher days each of the Wilson Zouaves carried a bowie knife and most added a revolver or a pistol. One battle ended that nonsense, but they managed to hang on to their regimental mascot, a goat named "Billy," throughout their entire active service.

The celebrated Seventh Regiment of Militia was already 55 years old when the Civil War broke out -- and one of the best known regiments in the country at the time. The biographers of Abraham Lincoln called it "the corps d'elite of the whole Union." It still is in flourishing condition, in its armory at 66th street and Park Avenue in New York City. There is a good reason to believe that the Seventh was responsible -- or in part responsible, at least -- for the adoption of gray by the Confederacy. It had worn gray since 1824, wore it all through the Civil War, and until very recent years.



The Seventh was the first regiment to leave the State in the Civil War -- on April 19, 1861, anniversary of the Battle of Lexington. Two more calls came after that. The regiment never served in battle but it did furnish over 500 officers to the Union Army.

The power, political and social, wielded by a regiment of this type in Civil War days is illustrated by an account of its struggle to procure suitable firearms in the years before the war. It had carried flintlocks until 1854 when it received very inferior conversions. Dissatisfied with these muskets it repeatedly requested more modern minie rifles. Finally, in 1858, it sent a regimental committee to Washington, armed with letters from prominent New Yorkers and accompanied by Senator William H. Seward. It waited upon Secretary of War Floyd and demanded the rifles in, as a contemporary wrote, "a most earnest and peremptory manner." In the end, since the committee refused to leave the War Department without the order, Secretary Floyd issued it and the regiment received its muskets.

The 44th Volunteers was an extraordinary command, called "Ellsworth's Avengers," specially recruited from unmarried, able-bodied men under 30 years of age, standing at least 5' 8", and of "good moral character." The original plan had been to enlist one man from every ward and town in the State. While this did not work out, the men did come from every county, and they averaged 22 years of age and 5' 10" in height. They were promised a Zouave uniform which they got and wore throughout the war. The 44th made a fine record, and Fox lists them among his "300 Fighting Regiments." At Malvern Hill, after a bayonet charge, it brought back more prisoners than its own strength.

The 55th Regiment, NYSM and later Volunteers, was the Garde Lafayette, formed in 1857 and made up principally of Frenchmen from New York City. Its colonel while on active service was Baron Philip Regis de Trobriand, a French nobleman who had come to this country, dabbled a little in poetry and prose, married an heiress, and become an American citizen. As a militia regiment the 55th was small in size and never able to recruit to full strength, perhaps because there may not have been many Frenchmen in New York at the time. It lost heavily at Fair Oaks, on the Peninsula, and had to be reduced to a battalion shortly afterward. In December, 1862, long before its time was up, unable to recruit more men, the remains of the 55th were transferred to another regiment. The Garde Lafayette was never a great outfit in any sense, but at least for a year it had brightened the rather grim ranks of the Army of the Potomac with its French uniforms. Several of its flags are in Albany.

Most of the New York regiments had names as well as numbers. Many were geographic tags like the Albany, the Oneida, or the Sullivan County Regiments. Others honored prominent persons like the Harris Light Cavalry or the Astor Rifles. And still others adopted or were given flamboyant titles like the Orange Blossoms, the Iron Hoisted Regiment, and the Enfants Perdue.

And so forth for hundreds more! The over-all record of New York regiments was excellent. Fox lists 59 of them among his "300 Fighting Regiments" of the war. A New York regiment lost more men killed in a single battle (Fifth New York at Manassas 117 killed out of 490) than any other infantry outfit in the Union Army. The Irish Brigade, with three New York regiments, was probably the best known of any brigade organization in the war, with an unusual reputation for dash and gallantry. Its losses in killed and wounded were over 4,000 men, more than ever belonged to the brigade at any one time.

New York can well be proud of the regiments that bore its name. Their colors, for the most part, rest today in the State Capitol in Albany. These flags are being restored and preserved in honor of the men who fought under them, and as symbols of our great heritage of freedom. The West Point Museum is proud of the part it has been playing in administering this important project.

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PARROTT'S FAMED CANNON  
PERFECTED AND PRODUCED  
AT COLD SPRING FOUNDRY

by William G. Tyrrell  
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CAVE EDGE TO UNION ARTILLERY

Of the many confusing patterns of the Civil War, one of the most unusual paradoxes existed in New York State. For there in a highly unlikely, picturesque spot of the Hudson Valley was located the West Point Foundry, producer of the famous Parrott rifled cannon.

The village of Cold Spring, in Putnam County, grew and developed with the foundry. Its setting at the foot of Bull Hill -- also called with the greater elegance Mount Taurus -- was filled with appeal for artists, poets and other romantically-inclined observers of the period. The grandeur and sublimity of the Hudson River vista were rarely exceeded in this region where low-hanging clouds often darkened the towering shoreline and where mists rising from the river's surface added enchantment to the panorama.

The beauties of the natural setting, however, were not involved in selecting the location for the ordnance plant. The War of 1812 had stimulated an interest in improving the production of armaments in the young nation. Nearby to the future site of the foundry, in the interior of Putnam County, were ore beds that had been mined since colonial days, and across the river, in Orange County, were additional sources of ore. A site above the defenses afforded by West Point was another factor in selecting for the foundry the romantic river setting.

Land for the foundry was acquired from the Philipse family of Putnam County, and ground was broken in June, 1817. At the head of the foundry was Gouverneur Kemble, a descendant of an old New Jersey landowning family, one of whose ancestors had married a relative of Peter Stuyvesant. Kemble was born in New York City in 1786, graduated from Columbia College in 1803, took part in the family's mercantile affairs, and became associated with a group of literati described in Washington Irving's SALMAGUNDI. He also acquired some experience in ordnance work while on a trip to Spain, but of somewhat greater importance was the fact that Kemble's oldest sister was married to James K. Paulding. Paulding, the Hudson Valley author and collaborator with Irving, served as secretary of the Board of Naval Commissioners from 1818 to 1823 and later as Secretary of the Navy. Paulding, undoubtedly, was instrumental in selecting the Cold Spring foundry to produce cannon for the United States.

In order to increase its financial resources, the foundry was incorporated by the State Legislature in an act passed on April 15, 1818. This law established the West Point Foundry (as spelled in the statute books) Association for the purpose of "making and manufacturing of iron and brass." Capitalized at \$100,000, the new association had Kemble as president and James Kenwick, Henry Brevoort, Jr., William Kemble, and Charles G. Smedburg as the other directors.

The actual site of the foundry was south of Cold Spring along a marshy cove that separated the shoreline from Constitution Island, the historic spot from which stretched the chain to West Point designed to prevent further British advances up the Hudson during the American Revolution. Margaret's Brook, named after a Philipse and later called Foundry Brook, was dammed to supply water power for the infant industry. The foundry's other original facilities included a molding house, boring mill and pattern shop. Charcoal made from stands of timber in the area was used for smelting the ore.

The foundry received its first contract from the federal government in July, 1820. The work consisted of 32 42-pound cannon to be delivered to New York City in ten months at a price of \$125 a ton. From that time on, the foundry regularly supplied the federal forces. Nevertheless, it also took on many private contracts. At its finishing shop, at the foot of Beach Street in New York City, were made the first two railroad locomotives produced in the United States. In 1831, it fashioned there the DEWITT CLINTON, first locomotive to operate in New York State. Many steam-

boat engines also came from that shop until 1838 when it closed and was consolidated with the Cold Spring works about 54 miles up river from the city.

Three years after its first contract, the West Point Foundry was manufacturing iron and brass of all kinds. Its products included stoves, boilers, cranks, scales, sugar and cotton mills, water presses and a variety of shafts, along with "winged gudgeons, coupling boxes and Plummer blocks." Still in existence are sleighs, bells, and trivets from the Cold Spring plant.

Capital requirements seem not to have presented a problem after the original corporation was established, and, in 1843, Gouverneur Kemble acquired sole control of the foundry. The labor supply, however, was not so certain during the years of the emerging industrial economy. William Young, plant foreman, succeeded in enticing, and even smuggling, experienced foundry workers and machinists away from the British Isles. In 1855, 945 of the 4,800 inhabitants of the neighborhood around the foundry were British-born; of these 761 came from Ireland. Ten years later, following the expansion demanded by the Civil War, the total population had increased to 5,436, and the Irish-born to 848; 206 residents came from England, Scotland, or Wales.

Another source of the foundry's labor was the apprentice system. Sixteen-year-old boys apprenticed themselves to work in the foundry for five years to learn one of the essential skills. The terms of agreement strictly regulated their private lives. They were prohibited from frequenting taverns, alehouses, dance halls and playhouses and were not allowed to marry. They had to attend high school for three months each year. They were paid at the rate of \$9 a month. After their five years of apprenticeship, they could look forward to working in the foundry for \$45 a month.

The six-day week was well-regulated for all foundry employees. A blowing horn signaled the start and stop of the daily routine. The first horn sounded at 6 a.m., followed by a second an hour later to announce the start of the day's work. The dinner hour from noon to 1 p.m. was the only interruption in the ten-hour working day that concluded with the final horn at 6 p.m.

The foundry continued to expand until, at the eve of the Civil War, it operated a molding house, gun foundry, three cupolas, three air furnaces, two boring mills, three blacksmith shops, a turning shop, a boiler shop, and a trip hammer weighing eight tons that was used for heavy wrought iron work. Products were often shipped on the foundry's own vessels which docked at a pier reaching 600 feet into the river channel. When the Hudson River Railroad supplied service to the river communities after 1849, it built branch tracks into the foundry.

In 1855, the foundry business in the State totaled \$10 million, and the West Point Foundry reported an annual income of \$500,000. It had an inventory consisting of \$460,000 in real estate, \$60,000 in tools and machinery, and \$250,000 in raw materials. Like the rest of the country, however, it suffered setbacks in the Panic of 1857.

March, 1860, was a significant landmark in the history of the foundry as well as in the history of ordnance in the United States. In that month, the foundry succeeded in producing its first rifled cannon. This achievement was the result of years of experimentation and effort by Robert Parker Parrott. Born in New Hampshire in 1804, Parrott graduated from the United States Military Academy in the Class of 1824. Following graduation, Parrott taught there and later became a captain in the Ordnance branch. He was assigned as an inspector at the West Point Foundry, and within a year Kemble had induced him to resign and become the foundry's superintendent. In 1840, Parrott married Gouverneur Kemble's sister, Mary, to make even closer their connections. Parrott became active in community affairs, serving as judge in the Court of Common Pleas for three years and later as the town's superintendent of schools.

Parrott's main interest, however, was in perfecting a rifled cannon. Krupp engineers had produced such a weapon in 1849 but kept their methods a carefully guarded secret. For at least ten years, Parrott followed a trial and error system of devising a method to produce cheaply and efficiently a cannon that would do for the artillery what rifling had done for small-bore firing a century earlier. Parrott's success came in time to give the federal artillery superiority in accuracy and fire power. Following the first Battle of Bull Run, Parrott cannons were present in every major engagement.

Parrott's contribution consisted of more than just rifling the bore. It was

also necessary to strengthen the bore over the seat of the charge where the strain was greatest. The foundry cast the guns in the ordinary form and bored them around the breach. Parrott's innovation was then applied to the barrel. This consisted of a square bar of cold wrought iron welded into a spiral coil. The coil, smaller than the cannon bore, was heated until it could be slipped over the breach. After being cooled by a stream of water forced into the bore, the spiral cylinder was firmly affixed to the gun. In the remaining steps of production, the cannons were reamed vents pierced, and finally finished.

Parrott also devised a specially designed projectile for the rifled cannon. The new projectile was a cylinder with a conical end and was three calibers long from the base to apex. At the base, brass rings were cast into the shell. At the time of firing, exploding gases forced the rings into the rifling of the bore, thus rotating the projectile and giving it greater accuracy. Parrott projectiles were made as solid shot, case shot, cannister shot and shrapnel shells.

With the experience of successfully producing smooth bore cannon for many years, the foundry became the recognized source for the new rifled design. Their first model was in a ten-pound size, which fired a ten-pound projectile at a muzzle velocity of 1230 feet per second and had a range of 1850 yards. A 20-pound model had a bore of 3.67 inches in diameter, fired its projectile at a muzzle velocity of 1250 feet per second and had a range of 1900 yards. The 20-pound cannon was the largest size used in the field, as it had a length of seven feet, nine inches and weighed 1750 pounds. It was claimed that this size lacked mobility and short range punch. The size of the Parrott cannon was regularly increased so that by the end of the war the foundry was producing 30-pound, 100-pound, 200-pound, and 300-pound guns. The 30-pound size was turned out in greater number than the 20-pound model. The large sizes, however, were produced in diminishing quantities. They were used for siege purposes, while some heavier models were adapted for use on naval vessels.

Parrott supplied explicit directions to insure the greatest effectiveness of his invention. His instructions called for using Du Pont Number 7 powder in exact weights depending on the size of the gun. As drift was always to the right of the mark, it was necessary to point to the left. Rifled cannon required more careful servicing than did smooth bore guns. Sponging with oil was recommended. When properly used and cared for, Parrott cannon established notable records. Firing at a distance of two miles, Parrott siege guns reduced Fort Sumter to a smoldering ruins. A 300-pounder fired 600 rounds for a distance of five miles while some 100-pound models successfully fired between 1000 and 1400 rounds. So significant were the products from Cold Spring that a facetious individual during the war suggested that the national emblem of the eagle be replaced by a parrot!

Smoldering furnaces and monotonously pulsating trip hammers worked steadily to meet the demands for armament. Men strained to keep machines operating, and the work force expanded to about 1000. The village population grew to its largest number, a total of 2770 inhabitants. Yet 127 men from the neighborhood served in the armed forces; of these, the largest number, 34, fought with the Sixth New York Heavy Artillery. Kemble and Parrott both had the reputation locally of contributing to the support of families of men in the service.

The foundry and community enjoyed an historic day on June 24, 1862, when President Lincoln took time out from a two-day visit to West Point and conversations with General Winfield Scott. He ferried across to Cold Spring where he inspected the foundry and observed test-firing of the 100 and 200-pound guns. The following day he journeyed to examine the gun's targets -- the cliffs of Storm King Mountain -- and then began his return to the capital.

By the end of five years of war, the United States had purchased a total of 925 Parrott field guns and 759 siege and seacoast guns at a cost of \$1,180,841. The most numerous item, 587, was the 10-pound field gun for which the government paid an average price of about \$204. The average price for each 300-pound model was just under \$5000. In addition, the Army bought 368 gun carriages for the three heaviest Parrott cannon at an expenditure of \$289,105. From the foundry came nearly 1,300,000 projectiles for which Ordnance spent in excess of \$3,200,000.

The return of peace greatly changed the fortunes of the foundry. Contracts for future production that had been signed with the government were cancelled by Kemble. Some ordnance products were sold in South America, and the foundry resumed making

machinery for sugar factories. Its reputation for armament manufacture had become so wide-spread that when Jules Verne wrote his imaginative VOYAGE AROUND THE MOON, he placed the casting of the cannon, to be used as a propelling force for his fictional space travelers, under the supervision of "Murphy, the chief engineer of the Cold Spring Iron Works."

Parrott withdrew from the foundry in 1865 and devoted his attention until his death in 1877 to the Greenwood furnaces in Orange County, with which he had earlier been associated. He survived Kemble by two years. The foundry continued in operation under the administration of nephews of Gouverneur Kemble. Its operations were gradually curtailed. It failed in 1884 and finally closed completely in 1911.

Today little remains of the historic enterprise. The shells of a few of the foundry's structures still stand near the marshes south of Cold Spring, and the few light industries of the community hardly disturb the quiet residential atmosphere. Stately houses that date from the mid-19th century serve as reminders of a time when Cold Spring attracted many famous writers and artists to its scenic setting. But gone is "Marshmoor", the plain, oblong frame dwelling in which Gouverneur Kemble resided and kept his art collection and where he supplied generations of visiting West Point officers and other guests with his bountiful hospitality. Parrott's residence, "The Dormers", stood on the hill above "Marshmoor", but little evidence of it remains. Only the brick school house built for the foundry's apprentices still stands intact. Now it is being developed as a museum by the Putnam County Historical Society. When completed, it will help to remind people of the quiet Hudson Valley village of their local heritage, the many thriving years of the West Point Foundry and the significant contributions that Cold Spring made to the Union cause.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was taken from NEW YORK STATE AND THE CIVIL WAR, May, 1962. This magazine was published monthly by the New York Civil War Centennial Commission.

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AT YONKERS. . .

BOOM, THEN BUST, FOR STARR ARMS

by Donald B. Webster, Jr.

Ebenezer Townsend Starr, who became one of New York State's most important Civil War arms makers, was almost predestined to enter the gun business. The Starr family had manufactured swords and pikes, and later rifles and pistols, for the government since 1798, and was one of the foremost names in American arms making.

Born in Middletown, Connecticut, in 1816, Ebenezer Starr, instead of entering the family business, moved to New York City sometime in early life. It wasn't until 1856 that his talents emerged, for in that year he received a patent for a very excellent and quite unique percussion revolver. Up to that time Samuel Colt had almost dictatorily dominated the revolver field, so that competition was slow getting started. While Colt's revolvers were rather weak in basic design, and slow to disassemble, Starr's revolver had a solid but hinged frame. He revolver was strong, and by removing a screw it could be broken open and an empty cylinder replaced with a loaded one.

All organizational records, unfortunately, have long been lost, but Starr probably formed his Starr Arms Company about 1857 or 1858, with offices and a store at 267 Broadway in New York City, and a small factory up the Hudson at Yonkers. In November, 1858, a government contract came through for 5,000 of his revolvers, and with this order, augmented by the production of small multi-barreled pocket pistols for commercial sale, the company prospered.

With an established armory, Starr enjoyed a distinct advantage when war came in 1861 and the War Department began its desperate search for small arms. Revolver manufacture was shifted to a new plant at Binghamton, N.Y., and the Yonkers plant was re-equipped to produce a .54 caliber breechloading carbine that Starr had patented in 1858. An improved revolver appeared in 1861, one that could be fired double-action without the need for cocking the hammer before each of six shots. Orders, federal, state, and private, flowed into the Broadway offices.

By late 1861 Starr, like most other booming manufacturers, had grown overconfident. Feeling that his plants were ready to take on musket manufacturing, in November he asked Secretary of War Simon Cameron for an order for 50,000 rifled muskets at the prevailing price of \$20. Cameron granted the contract almost immediately, with first delivery specified for the following June.

Like Hoard of Watertown, Starr bit off more than he could chew. Carbine and revolver production was rolling along well, but musket-manufacturing machinery was hard to come by and fantastically expensive. As the crowning blow, incoming Secretary of War Stanton's investigating commission in 1862 reduced the price from \$20 to \$16 per musket on all existing contracts. Frozen out by rocketing equipment and labor costs, almost insignificant profit margins under the government contracts, and very possibly lack of capital, the Starr Arms Company never even got into musket production. Of the contract for 50,000 rifled-muskets, not a one was ever produced.

Simply because he made, in effect a better mousetrap, the Starr company shot up from a small and insignificant arms factory to the Civil War's third-place producer of both revolvers and carbines. Starr's revolvers, from a design standpoint, were probably the best of the big three, and the federal government bought 47,952 of them, both the 1858 and 1861 models, during the war. Uncounted thousands of others, as well as the smaller pocket pistols, were sold to individual soldiers. Remington's excellent but slow-loading revolvers had second place in production quantity, and Colt, with a monstrous plant but hardly best designed revolver, occupied the spotlight.

Starr's M1858 cavalry carbine was single shot, using a percussion cap with a linen cartridge. It was simple, rugged, reliable and accurate, at least as good a weapon as the more famous Sharps. The Yonkers plant delivered 20,601 to the government during the war, plus the usual private sales. Wartime production of the Connecticut-made Sharps was a good deal greater, but the Spencer repeater, with its seven rimfire cartridges, starting late (1863), was still the winner in both quantity made and battlefield effectiveness.

Both of Starr's percussion weapons were outmoded by the end of the war--the Spencer, Henry and imminent Winchester repeaters saw to that--and the company had made the mistake of concentrating on production at the expense of research and development. The year 1865 came, and with it Army trials for a new breechloader to replace the hundreds of thousands of muzzle-loading muskets in government arsenals. The Starr company submitted a carbine, essentially the old 1858 percussion model hastily converted to take a metallic cartridge. The Army bought 5,000 for field trials, but that was as far as it went.

Ebenezer Starr seems to have left the company during the war, and his subsequent life is a complete mystery, although a record of his death undoubtedly exists. By 1865, however, the presidency of the Starr Arms Company had passed to H.H. Wolcott the inventor of another carbine that was submitted to the Army but never even considered for adoption.

The rapidly opening West was ready market for firearms after the Civil War, but the country was flooded with war surplus weapons at rock-bottom prices. Competition among hundreds of manufacturers was absolutely bloodthirsty. The only firms with any real chance of prospering under post-war conditions were those that could put absolutely new and advanced designs on the market, or cut prices to the very bone. The Starr Arms Company could do neither, quickly succumbed to competitive pressure, and finally closed in 1868. All of the machinery and eventually the two plants were sold off, and the state's second largest Civil War arms manufacturer ceased to exist.

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#### NEW YORK STATE AND THE CIVIL WAR

An open message to any one who can supply me with information as to where I can find more of these fascinating magazines. They are out of print and difficult to come by. This is why I am sharing some of their contents with other buffs who may not have heard of nor seen this valuable little magazine.