

RETURN OF THE TENTH CAVALRY



NOT since the outbreak of the Spanish-American war, May, 1898, has the patriotism of the Afro-American population of New York been stirred to such tension as was manifested upon the return of the Tenth United States cavalry from the Philippine Islands. The army transport Kilpatrick, bearing the regiment, arrived at New York Sunday, July 25, after a successful voyage of seventy days. Through the good offices of General Leonard Wood, commander of the department of the army of the east on Governors Island, New York, the regiment was permitted to stop a day in New York to receive the welcome and hospitality of the Afro-American citizens.

Thousands visited the transport from the time it landed until just before the time set for the parade Monday morning. The citizens' committee having charge of the arrangements consisted of J. Frank Wheaton, the Rev. W. H. Brooks, F. Q. Morton, D. E. Tobias, Edward E. Lee, Captain Harvey A. Thompson, J. C. Thomas and Mrs. A. C. Cowan as officers. There were also on the committee representatives from Brooklyn, N. Y., and Jersey City, N. J. All along the line of march could be heard such expressions as: "Here they come!" "The fighting Tenth!" "They saved Roosevelt's life at San Juan Hill!"

At 10:45 o'clock the bugle call for the "assembly" was sounded by the bugler of the regiment aboard the transport. Immediately all was bustle. Enlisted men on the dock hurriedly bade their friends goodby and rushed aboard for their arms and accouterments. Such was the discipline of the regiment that at 10:55 o'clock the troops were assembled under their officers in marching order on the pier. The crowd that had gathered in South and lower Wall streets by this time had become enormous, and the services of fifty men under Inspector Beeler of the traffic squad were necessary to keep them from interfering with the line of march at the outset.

Promptly at 11 o'clock the bugle call for the start of the parade was sounded, and as the escort of five mounted traffic officers in charge of Sergeant Stokum headed the procession, of which the officer in command was General Leonard Wood, commanding the department of the east, the regiment marched out into the southern end of Wall street.

The police arrangements were admirable, and as the troopers marched up Wall street it was between a dense wall of people who filled every available space on the sidewalks and even encroached into the roadway. Cheer after cheer greeted the men as they swung from platoon into fours front where the crowd was too pressing and the marching space too narrow to avail of the larger formation. Again as they obeyed the command, "Left front into line; double time," the plaudits of the spectators well rewarded the marchers.

Up Wall street, past the subtreasury, with every inch of its stairway and portico covered with human beings, the "Fighting Tenth" marched to the music of their famous band. At the turn into Broadway the crowd was even more dense and the applause even louder, but with a look neither to the right nor to the left, only with the idea of keeping a perfect alignment, the 900 men back from service in the Philippines in platoon front swung to the right side of the thoroughfare and passed on their way to the city hall, where they were reviewed by Mayor George B. McClellan and President of the Board of Aldermen McGowan.

When the last troop of the regiment had passed before the reviewing officer the march to the Sixty-ninth regiment armory was in progress, where the members of the "Fighting Tenth" fraternized with the members of the fighting Sixty-ninth of civil war fame.

The regiment was in command of Lieutenant Colonel G. H. C. Gale, Colonel J. A. Augur having died just before the departure of the regiment from Manila.

Wall street was generally decorated, and the national colors floated from almost every building. At numerous points along the line of march through the financial center long strings of ticker tape were thrown out of the windows.

Seven of the troopers brought back with them Filipino wives, and one trooper was fortunate enough to bring back three children by the Filipino wife. Mrs. King, wife of Private King of Troop H, was the happy mother, and she had the honor of being the only wife of an enlisted man aboard who had a family.

The other happy wives were Mrs. Barr, whose husband is a saddler in Troop F; Mrs. May, wife of the trumpeter of Troop F; Mrs. Armstrong, wife of the trumpeter of Troop L; Mrs. Bettis, whose husband is sergeant in Troop C; Mrs. Green, whose husband is a first sergeant in Troop L, and Mrs. Bart, wife of a sergeant in the same troop.

Captain Harvey A. Thompson was marshal of the day.

Upon the arrival of the cavalrymen

at the Sixty-ninth regiment armory they stacked arms, rested, enjoyed the excellent music of the New Amsterdam band for awhile and then repaired to the dining room, where they enjoyed their well earned dinner and received the greetings of all who could get in hand shake of them.

The literary program began about 4:45. The address of welcome was delivered by Mr. J. Frank Wheaton. For patriotic expression, eloquence and logic it was a masterpiece. In his speech of welcome to the soldiers on behalf of the city, Acting Mayor McGowan said: "I consider this one of the proudest privileges of my life. Although I have welcomed thousands of organizations to the city of New York, I have never welcomed a body of men who have made such a splendid record as has the Tenth cavalry. In the countries of the old world a man may be esteemed for what he has done or only for what his ancestors have done. In our country, unfortunately, where so many races are thrown side by side, the bad actions of one or two men will throw discredit on a whole race.

"It's a bad rule that doesn't work both ways. I want to say to you that you men have raised your race higher in the esteem of the people of the United States than it ever was before. You have done more to kill the prejudice of some of our citizens than anything else ever could. We welcome you to New York with open arms.

"If the people of Vermont don't treat you as you ought to be treated," said the acting mayor, "you come right back here to New York. You will find us ready to receive you, and we will make your life one grand holiday. You have the respect of our people, not alone those of this city, but of all the country. Any man who wears the uniform of the United States army is entitled to that respect.

"You have performed valiant service to your country, and it can never be forgotten. God bless you all!"

Other speakers were the Rev. R. C. Ranson, Dr. W. L. Hunter, George E. Wibecan, J. D. Wetmore, A. B. Cosey, and C. W. Anderson. In the evening the soldiers were entertained at the Harlem River Casino.

EXTRACT FROM REGIMENTAL REMINISCENCES.

The Tenth United States cavalry was organized in the year 1866-7 with Brevet Major General B. H. Grierson as colonel. The rendezvous was established at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

General Grierson in taking leave of the regiment nearly twenty-two years afterward at Santa Fe, N. M., upon being assigned to command of the department of Arizona, Dec. 1, 1888, alludes in orders No. 51 to the services rendered by officers and men as follows:

"Always in the vanguard of civilization and in contact with the most warlike and savage Indians of the plains, the officers and men have cheerfully endured many hardships and privations and in the midst of great dangers steadfastly maintained a most gallant and zealous devotion to duty, and they may well be proud of the record made and rest assured that the hard work undergone in the accomplishment of such important and valuable service to their country is well understood and appreciated and that it cannot fail sooner or later to meet with due recognition and reward."

The theater of military operations embraced the vast territory of Kansas, Texas, Indian Territory, New Mexico and Arizona, and from the organization until coming to Montana in May, 1892, there was scarcely a month of idleness. General Grierson was promoted to the grade of brigadier general April 15, 1890, and was succeeded in command of the regiment by Brevet Brigadier General John Kemp Mizner, who still exercises his commission.