

Military

Company M on the Border

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MAJOR-GEN'L FREDERICK FUNSTON

Our most illustrious Kansan, a former student, and Commander of the forces on the Border.

Company M was composed almost exclusively of college students. There were only eight in the company who had not been associated with the University as a student or a graduate. These were recruited after the first call or transferred from other units. The physical chart of the students shows that the highest measurement was above the 100 per cent, the minimum measurement never went under the 10 per cent, the average was about a 60 per cent. The average of the company was above the average of the entering class in the University. There were twelve men disqualified at Riley—most of them for being under weight, some on account of eyes, and others on account of temporary conditions that could be easily removed.

From the standpoint of physical skill, the record of the company in comparison with others is shown by the number of prizes won at the inter-company contests at Fort Leavenworth, where four out of the six events were carried off by Company M men, some of these including such events as tent pitching which required eight men, shelter tent pitching requiring two men, etc. As to their ability to endure hardships on the hike from San Antonio to Austin, only about two men failed to go the entire distance on foot.

None were incapacitated for more than a short time. On the return march, the greatest difficulty was to restrain the speed of Company M so as to accommodate the rest of the organizations. During the entire time at Eagle Pass only one hike was missed by Company M, and that was on account of ptomaine poisoning by which quite a number were made ill. In marksmanship the state was above the average.

No member of Company M was sent to the guard house. No member of Company M was acted upon by the summary court. There were only two breaches of discipline. These were for being late in returning to quarters, one of them being three minutes behind the specified time.

There was very little grumbling on being appointed to do fatigue duty around the camp and whenever a squad was detailed for a certain purpose, there was less tendency to slight the work than was noticeable in any other organization, but a desire to do the duty appointed and to get back to their quarters. Where growling and profanity is an expression of the dominant feeling, whistling was the characteristic of Company M, and the morale of the whole company was excellent. One noticeable feature of the discipline was the readiness with which they obeyed, not only the officers, but the non-commissioned officers. A strict realization and observance of their duty was noticed in the exactness with which search duty was carried on, and the search conducted with the cheerfulness and consideration that took away a great part of the animosity incidental to search on the international bridge.

The manner in which a company spends its spare time is one of the best in-

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