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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1895. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

THE SOLDIER IN SERVICE.

Essay Read Before the National Guard of Utah, at the Executive Offices, Salt Lake City, March 15th, 1895.

GENTLEMEN—At the request of my friend and comrade who under the orders of his government is engaged in giving the benefit of his experience, study and talent to the organization and equipment of the National Guard of Utah, I have consented to read to you a compilation of my own thoughts and experience in the military profession for the purpose, first, of instruction, second, of diversity, third, and chiefly, to increase your interest in the character you assume as national guardsmen, in contradistinction to your duties as citizens. I imagine how hard it is for you who have your daily duties in civil life to give the time and attention necessary for the proper study of a profession, the employment of which involves the most serious and momentous results, not the care as well as the duties of human life. But you must remember that the days of the militia (the soldier) are over, and the national guardsman is but little removed from the regular component; that the duties you assume when mustered in, are not, as in former times, solely for parade or show, but for the stern and often perilous duty which your name implies, upon the minute. Fine appearance of military precision were the sole ambition of the militiaman; you must be manned by your love of country as well as a technical knowledge of your profession. Noble indeed is the character of the true guardsman, combining skill as he does to lay aside, when called, his private interests for the public weal. For his reward he may be respected and supported by his fellow citizens. He can bide idle when. Your love of country should come to you unsolicited; the technical knowledge of your profession must be obtained from those who have made it their sole occupation.

Thus it is, that I cheerfully come to the assistance of my brother officer in giving you the benefit of my experience, gained after a lifetime of study and practice. What I shall have to say to you will be of a more general character than I could wish. Were I able to deliver a course of lectures, I would particularize on taking up each of the many subjects involved, and try to digest each jungly before laying it aside. All that I can hope to do under present circumstances is to awaken in your minds topics that may lead to research before the territorial act creating you, or its drill regulations.

In technical knowledge, I mean the words and terms adopted in actual military service, i. e., against an enemy. These word's technical, to make sure your showing on parade or drill, to compliment you as a marksman, to train at venture so as to perfect to the equal degree the physical man, to enthrone the mind to absolute obedience to superiors, regardless of personal estimate of them, go to make up a true soldier. It is the inspiration of each of the movement by which an operation is to be performed. It is technical any. How to use the weapon, at parade, the operation, so to be assumed as to be desired. While all should see the means and methods of drill or operations, it is essentially necessary the officers and non-commissioned officers should be familiar with them; for if not, or if only superficiality, the time of venture knowledge can be put into actual exercise of the teachings of drill and school, are too little thought to will venture to say that the average guardsman will go to a regular subject, or even drill, which are the most in office is the one who has studied it to have drill; whose command exercise for the greatest proficiency and best operations, whose familiarity with all he pertains to camp administration is somewhat above his fellows. He may be right, but on the other hand, the person in may have selected the very man who should be trusted with actual military operations.

You are the means and methods! I may not tell you in the short time allotted me to a lecture, but I intend to give a summary of the different heads as far as possible. Each of them is subject for one or more lectures to fully elaborate it. I shall use them only as indication, and leave it for you to develop, or not meaning and to ignore study.

First, let me ask how and when the National Guard is likely to be employed. The use of militia belong to assist the government, or enforce the mandates of its judiciary, and only be received from where its civil authority is unequal to the task.

Order in our country each occurrence has been rare, but as our foreign and domestic native population increases, they will become more frequent. In the time the mere existence or presence of military force has been efficient, because to the enemies of law and order, to prevent any combination, or, at most, action of sufficient magnitude to meet opposition, the presence of a force, as at times we find agitation of disturbing energy and extraordinary opinion, who endeavor their followers, opposing their reason, enthrone them as guardians and metallic ideas to such a degree that law, order, property, and government exists to protect, is disregarded. As I said, the existence or presence of military force has been sufficient to hold these in check. The occasions have been able to stir the multitude to the verge of action, but the mere always lacked the due season organization to wield them when illegal impulse. Not organization to wield them, but organization to restrain them.

This marks this deficiency as well as we and we may expect in the future. We will endeavor to overcome it. Briefly, it is a greater task than they imagine, but hardly they could accomplish, we would be wanted to do, as in our capacity as trained heavy men could disperse them.

It is with occasions of this kind that we can expect chiefly to be occupied, and it is the manner in which we meet the occasion that will bring to us the commendation or condemnation of the public; that will secure to us the sympathy and co-operation of our fellow citizens who may see no use in hook flightingly and derisively upon us.

But the misconception of the true mission of the military art is not confined to the civilian. We ourselves are apt to misconceive, though in a different way, its objects, its methods, its accomplishments. Not infrequently we hear the young graduate from West Point complain that at the Academy he was never taught the practical elements of his profession. Those will knowledge is at his fingers' end. On arriving at his post of duty he has an idea that his collegiate training should at hand for the immediate application of it. At times he feels humiliated in seeing an old sergeant better qualified than he in the details of practical work. He is apt then to criticise the course at the Academy. I do not agree with such. True military education cannot be completed in a collegiate course; any more than can perfection in any of the arts or sciences. It is a foundation, if well laid, permitting the theoretical at the Academy; the details of administration at the garrison, the application of both in the field or active service. It is this latter period that is so often neglected. Many there are who go through the routine of organization and drill successfully, who perform all the duties incident to their position in garrison with skill and intelligence, who challenge comparison in everything, that think they have achieved all that is required. It is only the primer in what is to come. We will admit as a premise that all these qualifications exist, then let us formulate what will be required in the third period of our military education.

For this purpose let us assume that any one of us is called out with our command, a company, a battalion, a regiment or a brigade, to quell an insurrection, to oppose an organized opposition, or to protect threatened property. What would we do? We will be informed that disturbance exists; that the lives are being defied; that property is being destroyed or held by a lawless organization, and we are to proceed to the locality and overcome it. That is all the information we get. How many of us will assume the responsibility, or are equipped to take the initiative? Not one in ten, I imagine. I would particularize on each of the many subjects involved, and try to digest each jungly before laying it aside. All that I can hope to do under present circumstances is to awaken in your minds topics that may lead to research before the territorial act creating you, or its drill regulations.

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position that they have been attended to, and should have all the details of departments and subordinate commanders report to him what they have in the way of supplies, that he may have personal knowledge that nothing is wanting in the mechanism of his undertaking.

He can then dismiss these important elements from his mind, and be unencumbered in the serious work before him. He can leave the care and distribution of his supplies more generally to the chiefs of the departments to which they belong.

The commander knowing that he is thoroughly equipped, what is his next care? At the very outset he should make all his dispositions for self-defense, and no every means to obtain information. I do not mean by this, that he should start out on the defensive, but that he should so dispose his command that there will be the minimum chance of surprise or taking at a disadvantage. When he needs to be aggressive he should assume the offensive at once. It is a military axiom, "in the offensive is strength." He will lose no opportunity to gain information of his objective, he by it he must be at all times guided.

There are two ways to operations that will probably demand our attention. One when the objective is on the great lines of travel, railroads, steamboats, etc. The second where it is inland from these and must be reached by marches. The first is the most likely to engage us. Let us consider the methods of getting on the field of operations, and those to be adopted when we get there.

In operations against mob it is not well to determine beforehand that violence must be resorted to in meeting it, but it is absolutely essential the timely preparation be made to meet violence with violence. In civil disturbances, unless actual violence is in evidence, violence should be initiated to overcome by the mob, but a quick and not uncertain response should be made. After the first blow is struck, there should be no parley, no compromise in military operations, until you have asserted yourself to such an extent that you can treat with the conqueror who has something to give—nothing to ask.

The self-defense I referred to is attained by several methods known to the military art, each a subject, as I have said, more than sufficient for one lecture. Advance guards, outposts, pickets, patrols, reconnaissance, scouts, reargoards, flankers, spies, intelligence, scouting, all these enter into security and information. The proper use of these would take months to demonstrate, yet a knowledge of each is essential.

For our purpose tonight I will only allude to the best and most necessary methods for the small operations we are liable to encounter.

In all operations the careful commander will make his dispositions for offense at a sufficient distance from his opponent to allow him to form for action without molestation, develop without confusion, assault without uncertainty.

On railroad or steamboat, order and promptness are most essential. Compartments should be assigned to each organization or unit, and they should proceed to occupy them independently of each other. Regular details by roster should then be quickly made to load and unload baggage. All should be done with system and celerity, but without confusion—perfectly under the supervision of an officer but always under either an officer or non-commissioned officer. A guard should immediately be on duty with a command. Its size and composition will depend on the existing conditions, and be regulated by the commanding officer. If the travel is to rail and danger is imminent, pilot engines well guarded should go in advance. The guard for the main body should be quartered near the rear of the troops, and should not be allowed to take off accoutrements, so that in case of attack it will be ready at once, and can get out of the train as far away from the attacking force as possible and thus go into action without confusion. In lieu if an accident happens to the train by derailment or otherwise, it will be less liable to be involved in the disaster, and will be in condition to prepare the way for the main body, which should always be disembarked in the rear of the guard, the train or boat, and after making clear the line of fire, the guard advancing so as to clear them. The main body having formed, flankers will be thrown out on each flank for observation and protection, and a small rear guard will be thrown back of the column for the same purpose. All these movements will be made as near as possible with the precision used in drill, without noise. The commander's voice alone is heard, i. e., the commanders of the different movements.

These dispositions made, an advance will be next in order. This also should be made as if in drill. The systematic and precise advance will give morale to your men, and demoralization to the enemy, coming as they are determined to go to the last extremity, to expose their methods and locality of resistance—and will draw their fire at a time and distance when there will be least exposure.

It will be remembered that in operations of this kind our opponents are wanting in what we should to proficiency, in, drill, order, rules of attack and defense; that when once drawn into action, the tendency of a mob is to mobile together because disorganized, and after the first target has dropped they become incoherent. By a well directed fire this force may be dispersed. Volleys are always preferable to desultory or other kind of fire, and here is where troops other than regulars usually make a mistake—they are too anxious to see the heads or a mob for the purpose of intimidation. As a rule it does not have that effect. When the smoke clears away and it seems that no damage is done, the mob becomes encouraged and is every excited to more vigorous action. It is well known that the time to a fight when fear has the greatest effect on troops is just before firing commences. After one gets accustomed ever so little to it, excitement takes the place of fear, bravado or laudity. Struggling, that is, means of successful action, is greatest when going on to the mob. Once under fire it diminishes. Then fire it is more merciful to fire right into a mob, because a mob of it will ordinarily be sufficient to accomplish your ends and the loss of life will be less. Besides, high fire is apt to inflict injury on innocent people, women and children. The effect of this, independent of its moralizing, will be to enrage your opponents and take from them reason as well as fear. Thus I say, when you have to fire, let it be a fire of