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Book .1

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE
ENLISTMENT & MUSTER



OF THE
Grand Army of the Republic.

1866.



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1873

SECTION FIRST.

P. C.—Officer of the Day, for what purpose have we assembled?

O. of D.—For the purpose of opening an encampment of the G. A. R., for transaction of business and enlistment of recruits,

P. C. to O. D.—Are you satisfied that all present are members of the Grand Army?

O. of D.—Sir, I will at once make the Grand Rounds and report. (At which the O. D. will proceed to take up the pass from all members present, and report to the P. C.) Sir, I am satisfied (or not satisfied) that all present are members of the Grand Army.

P. C.—Let the Assembly be sounded.

O. G. will command, **FALL IN GUARD**, and proceed at once to relieve the outposts. Arriving at the outpost, should he find any stranger there, he will at once take charge of him and learn, from the sentinel on duty, why he is retaining him at the outpost:

Sentinel—I found him (or them) wandering near our lines, desiring to enter the encampment.

O. of G. to Stranger—What was your object in wandering near our lines?

Stranger.—I desire to enlist in the Grand Army of the Republic.

The Officer of the Guard will address the recruit—

My Friend: If, after examination in accordance with the regulations for the government of this Encampment, you are found to be qualified, we will rejoice to receive you into our ranks. Is it of your own free will and accord that you make this request?

Recruit will reply:

It is.

Officer of the Guard—Do you understand the objects for which this great Army is being enlisted?

Recruit—I do.

Officer of the Guard—Are you fully determined to do your duty to your country and your comrades-in-arms in the future, as you have been faithful to them in the past?

Recruit—I am.

O. of G.—1. What is your name?

2. What is your age?

3. Where do you reside?

4. What is your occupation?

5. Where were you born?

6. Have you served your country in the field?

7. In what command?—state company and regiment.

8. How long were you in the service?

9. Were you honorably discharged from the service?

The Officer of the Guard will then in a tone of authority command:

Sentinel, you will take charge of our friend, and conduct him to the quarters of the Officer of the Day.

When arrived at the quarters of the O. D.

O. G. to O. D.—Sir, I bring you these men (or this man) whom the Sentinel found wandering near the outposts, and who have expressed a desire to enter our encampment. I have examined them (or him) and have the honor to report that they (or he) have answered all questions in a satisfactory manner, and in accordance with the regulations for the government of this army.

O. D. to Recruit—My friend, before going further you will be required to take upon yourself a solemn obligation. Are you willing to do so?

Recruit—I am.

The Officer of the Day will then instruct the recruit to hold up his right hand and will administer to him the following obligation:

You do solemnly swear, or affirm, by the ever living

God, and in the presence of these witnesses—your former comrades in arms—that you will not divulge to any living being any questions that have been or may be asked you whilst you are in this Camp; anything you may see or hear in this Camp, or anything you hear said by others; that you will not mention to any person or persons, not members of this Camp, the name of any one you may see here, either at this or any other time; that you will not mention to any one, should you become a member or not; and that you will true answers make to the best of your knowledge and belief—So help you God.

Officer of the Day—You will remain as you are and await orders from the commander of this Post.

The Officer of the Day then instructs the Orderly—

You will report to the Adjutant of the Post that I have in my charge a former soldier of the Republic—a brave defender of the American Union—who desires to enlist in the Grand Army of this glorious Republic.

Orderly will report to Post Adjutant—

Sir, the Officer of the Day desires to enter this Camp in charge of a former soldier of this Republic.

Post Adjutant will salute the Commander of the Post and report the same as Orderly.

The Commander of the Post will then direct the Post Adjutant to repair to the Camp entrance and see that the recruit is properly qualified for admission to the Camp.

Post Adjutant to the Officer of the Day :

Sir, I am directed by the Commander of this Post to inquire if you have examined your charge carefully ?

Officer of the Day to the Post Adjutant :

I have, sir.

Post Adjutant to the Officer of the Day :

Are you informed of his honorable discharge from service ?

Officer of the Day to the Post Adjutant :

I am, sir.

Post Adjutant to the Officer of the Day :

And above all, sir, do you know, beyond a doubt, that he has never deserted the service of his country in her hour of danger ?

Officer of the Day to the Post Adjutant :

I do, sir.

P. A. to O. D.—Sir, you will now prepare the recruit for the solemn scenes of enlistment.

The Officer of the Day will then give the proper salute and will instruct the Officer of the Guard to prepare the recruit for admission. The Officer of the Guard will prepare the recruit as directed.

[The recruit is prepared in the following manner:—Hoodwinked, or blindfolded, divested of his coat and hat, over his shoulders is thrown a torn and otherwise disfigured government blanket, to represent the condition of a prisoner of war.]

P. A. to P. C.—Sir, I have complied with your instructions. He awaits your orders.

P. C. (in a loud tone)—Let the call be sounded, and the Camp prepared for the solemn scenes of enlistment.

Post Adjutant will repair to his office, on the right of Post Commander.

[The Camp is prepared by placing a box six feet in length, three in width, and two in depth in the centre of the room, labelled upon the lid, in a conspicuous manner, with the name and regiment of some soldier who died in Andersonville Rebel Prison. On the centre of the box will be placed an open Bible and crossed swords, with the American flag draped in mourning. A guard is detailed, armed and equipped, and placed in front of the box. A small stool is placed opposite the guard and near the box, upon which the candidate will kneel. The members of the Post Battalion are drawn up in line (to represent two companies in line of battle) lengthwise with the room. The Post Adjutant will cause the guard to be detailed and placed in position, and then he will form the Battalion. He will then place one sentinel, armed and equipped, at the entrance.]

Everything being in readiness, of which the Post Adjutant must be satisfied, he will address the Post Commander—

P. A. to P. C.—Sir, the Camp is prepared.

P. C. to A.—Direct the Officer of the Day to enter with his charge.

The Adjutant of the Post will repair to the entrance (the door being opened by the Orderly) and command in a tone of authority

P. A. to O. D.—Sir, the Commander of this Post directs you to conduct the stranger hither.

The Officer of the Day, with such assistance as the ease may require, will pass with the recruits into the encampment, and will march them once around the room, when he shall be challenged by a sentinel on duty at the reserve post, as follows:

Sentinel—Who comes there?

The Officer of the Day will reply:

Friends, with the countersign.

The Sentinel will command:

Halt! friends; advance one, with the countersign.

The Officer of the Day will halt the recruit—advance—give the countersign (in a low tone or whisper) to the sentinel. The sentinel will command:

The countersign is correct. Advance, friends.

Having passed, the sentinel will immediately repair to the quarters of the Officer of the Day, and remain on duty at the second entrance, or reserve post. The sentinel on duty there will repair to the outpost. The Officer of the Guard will, when relieved, at once enter the Encampment and take post on the right of the guard detailed for muster.

The recruit is conducted by the Officer of the Day, to the sound of slow, solemn music, twice around the Encampment, halting at the stool, upon which the Officer of the Day will instruct the candidate to kneel, placing his left hand on the Bible and swords, and holding up his right hand, as if in the act of being mustered into the service.

Here the Post Adjutant administers obligation second, recruit repeating—

I do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God and these witnesses, my former comrades in arms—that I will never, under any pretense, nor for any purpose whatever, make known the secrets of this Encampment. That I will never make known, or cause to be made known, either directly or indirectly, any of the pass-words, grips, signs, or give any information whatsoever, by which any of the hidden mysteries, work or ritual of this band of comrades may be known to the uninitiated. I do further solemnly swear that I will never wrong a soldier nor his family, nor suffer others to wrong them, if I can help it; but that I will, on all

occasions, when not inconsistent with the duty I owe to my God, my country and myself, befriend him and his family. That I will, on all occasions, employ him or assist him to obtain employment; that, if need be, I will extend the hand of charity—first to him or those by whose side I have fought for my country; that I will sustain for offices of trust and profit—other things being equal—at all times the citizen Soldier of the Republic. I do further swear that I will be governed by the rules of the Encampment, and yield implicit obedience to the Encampment of which I may be a member, and to all the rules and orders of the Grand Encampment to which this Encampment is subordinate; and I further promise and declare that, should any books or papers belonging to this Encampment come or be placed in my hands, I will neither print nor copy, nor cause to be printed or copied, any part or portion thereof, except by special permission of the Grand Encampment. I do further swear that I take the obligation upon myself without any mental reservation whatever, under no less a penalty than that of being treated and punished as a Spy and a Traitor by this Order. *So help me God, and keep me steadfast.*

The officer of the Guard immediately after the obligation is administered will command:

Attention, Guard! Shoulder arms. Ready! aim!—

The Officer of the Day will now quickly command—

Hold! This is a soldier and a brother! (And will remove the covering from the head of the recruit.)

The Officer of the Guard then commands—

Recover arms! Shoulder, arms! Order, arms:

Here the Officer of the Day delivers the following address to the recruit, who is still kneeling:

You see, my brother and fellow-soldier, what might have been your fate but for my timely interference in your behalf. This is to impress firmly upon your mem-

ory the importance of the solemn obligation you have just taken and the danger that might come to you, should you treacherously betray the secrets of this Encampment entrusted to you. You behold a strange emblem of mortality! You no doubt have seen many like it. The remains of this comrade and brother patriot, who was starved in the demon den, Andersonville rebel prison, have been saved by kind friends from an unknown grave. But oh! many brave men, whose fearless hearts once beat like yours to-night, in holy unison with our glorious Union, are now lying, cold and motionless, beneath the clods of the valley, in a strange, unknown land. May it duly impress you with a sense of thankfulness to the Great Giver of all good, that you were saved from such a terrible fate. You were blindfolded for the purpose of calling up vividly to your recollection the dark, gloomy days, months and years of the rebellion—the better to enable you to thank God for his kindness to us as a people, in that, as it were, Egyptian midnight of national darkness. In being caused to march around this Encampment, blindfolded as you were, it will, no doubt, forcibly remind you of many a lonely midnight hour, in which you have groped your way toward the enemy's camp; or, perhaps, bring to your remembrance some horrid scene of some well-contested field after the battle, where you administered to the wants of your dying comrades, where the dark angel of death was hurriedly closing the last life scene of many a brave soldier, by whose side you fought that day. May God help us to profit by the solemn, heart-rending scenes of the past! But, my friend, let us turn from the gloomy past to the more hopeful and glorious future; and may the solemn scenes which you have just witnessed, teach you that great and important lesson of human life that nothing is left for us to do but our duty to the living. And while we cherish in fond remembrance the recollections of our martyred comrades, let us pledge ourselves anew to the glorious Union be-

queathed us by our Revolutionary fathers; to the wives and children of those who will return to them no more forever; and to the living representatives of the gallant volunteer army of the Union, the saviors of the country. I will now surrender you into the hands of the Post Commander, for further instructions.

At this juncture the Post Adjutant will command—

Parade is dismissed.

The Guard will then stack arms. The Battalion will, with the Guard, repair to their seats, and the Orderly at the entrance will cause the entrance to be closed. The officers, having resumed their stations, the Officer of the Day will address the Commander of the Post—

Sir, I have the honor to introduce (here give name), formerly of (here give regiment) Volunteers.

The Officer of the Day remains with the recruit until the charge of the Post Commander is delivered, which he will at once proceed to do.

The Post Commander will address the recruit in substance as follows:

My Friend: You have now, of your own free will and accord, taken upon yourself the most solemn and binding OATH that is possible for man to give or receive, and enrolled yourself in the most powerful Army ever enlisted since the foundation of the world; and it now becomes me, as the Commander of this Post, to explain to you the nature of this organization and the necessities for such an order.

You will recall to mind the fact that in 1861, soon after the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln, as the Chief Executive of this nation; the traitor's hand was put forth to loosen the fraternal ties of this glorious Union: to break the almost impregnable breastworks of its defenses, and to cause the dark waves of treason so to swell and surge against the bulwarks of our National Capital as to threaten the entombing of the Union beneath the stygian depths. Then all true men, regardless of party antecedents, were aroused and the Nation awoke from that "sweet dream of peace" and the fancied secu-

city it had enjoyed during nearly a century. Never did a nation more promptly vindicate the chivalry and prowess of her sons in arms. Never, in the annals of history, was any country so severely, so causelessly tested. Our fathers had demonstrated that man is capable of self government, and that, with a free people, the majority must rule. Our Constitution had secured to us every blessing the human heart has any right to desire in this world. Our Government had spread the broad ægis of its guardianship over every member of its family, and while it secured him from oppression at home, it threw the panoply of its same protection around him when abroad—alike in the courts of kings and the hamlets of their subjects.

Secret political organizations sprung up, having for their open and avowed object the destruction of this glorious and God-given Union. With such purpose, through the sinister operations of these organizations, nearly all the offices in our National Capital, and many in our State, were filled with men who labored to overthrow the Government. Before the Nation was aware of danger, every vessel of war was sent to foreign seas, far beyond the reach of recall. The few arms and munitions of war within the loyal North were transferred to the disloyal South. Our national treasury was depleted and our army scattered, and when this work of destruction was well-nigh completed, our mighty nation, like a camp surprised at midnight, suddenly awoke to a just sense of danger. The alarm was sounded—"Every man to his post by land, and all hands on deck at sea."

At dawn of day there stood a mighty rebel army; well equipped, well armed and well drilled; ready and waiting to blot from the pages of history the very remembrance of a self-governing people; an army like that assembled by Satan to destroy the heavenly hosts—an army determined to prove to the world that our government was a lie and republican institutions a failure, and that a government of the people cannot endure.

In that dark and terrible hour, when the sun hid his face in blushes, the moon looked down and wept on outraged humanity and the stars went out in sorrow for the ingratitude of a people who were rebellious while making and administering their own laws and dictating laws to the nation, that God who is the dispenser of all good, honoring and blessing the nobly inaugurated mission of our country, gave us the immortal Lincoln, as the incarnate and sanctified Servitor of Liberty. The voice of the mighty Douglas rang throughout the land, rallying his honored compeers "To arms! Beat back the traitorous foe!" and to that mighty tongue, whose eloquence had for years moved and thrilled the Senate, did the people respond.

The camp was thoroughly aroused to a sense of danger. The plow was left in the furrow; the mechanic left his work-shop; the merchant his store; the woodman dropped his axe; the doctor and lawyer closed their offices; the professor doffed his gown, and each shouldered his musket and unsheathed his sword to protect the flag; and as with steady tread each marched to the field, he took a solemn oath that by his own strong right arm, by the memory of the fathers, and by the blessing of God that flag should still float like a flame in the sky; and whenever on land or sea, the oppressed shall see it, he shall bless it; and alike whether it float aloft in holiday triumph on the summer breeze, or be dimly seen amid the clouds of war, it shall ever float the pride and joy of the American heart! Thus you went forward when your country was to be vindicated and glory to be achieved, and after many years of hard service, sleepless nights, cold and wet marches, and leaving half your numbers to fill bloody graves, or to walk the streets without an arm or leg, or otherwise maimed, to drag out a miserable existence, you returned with victory and peace.

This, my fellow-soldier, was in part the result of a neglected ballot box. Instead of choosing for our rulers honest, upright and capable men, whose actions were

guided by the welfare of their country, we have too frequently honored those who labored for *self interest*, and had no sympathy with the people. To prevent a recurrence in the future, this Army has been enlisted. The ground we stand upon towers transcendently above all party considerations. We think this government only safe in the hands of those who have bared their breasts against the storm and struggled for our national existence as our fathers did in 1776, when they proclaimed Liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof. Men neglected their business, gave their means, risked their lives, and what is infinitely above all else, left their families dependent. How many cases of this kind can you recall to mind? How often has the poor soldier toiled on day and night, to fight for our cause, thinking of the dear ones suffering at home? Divorced by military necessity from wife and family and espoused to country, he pressed on, saying, "Come what may, life or death, we will save the Union, and will never give ground till, victory complete, overwhelming and glorious, shall perch upon all our banners!" Well have our battles been fought, until this gigantic Treason has been crushed out, and the jubilant shout of Victory has gone up from all our charging columns, Think you, my friend, this government safe in the hands of such men? Most assuredly it is safe in the hands of none other. Place soldiers, and only soldiers in office, and treason will hide its repulsive head, no more to be seen and felt in this land.

How many poor maimed soldiers do you see without employment, trying to get a position where they may be able to earn their bread without being compelled to perform manual labor; whilst large, healthy and stout men, who never heard a gun fire, are usurping all the offices of profit, a soldier can scarcely get employment—there seems to be a conspiracy against him. To remedy this evil is a part of the business of this order, but not its entire mission.

I will now call your attention to the great and main object of th. s order: *The protection and education of the families of deceased soldiers.* Of the many hundreds of thousands who went to the field, thousands never returned, but belong to that mighty army of martyred patriots, who paid the forfeit of their heart's blood on the field of battle, or lie buried in the vicinity of some General Hospital. The majority of these departed patriots have families at home who depended entirely upon their earnings for support. It is the duty of the people to feed, clothe and educate them. The poor farmer, mechanic, or day laborer, as the case may be, is induced by the fair promises of his rich neighbor to leave his wife and children, assured by him that they shall want for nothing during his absence. Inspired with the love of patriotism, he trusts mother, wife, sister and children to the care of his rich friends, to meet the enemy on the open field. For a time his family are meagrely supplied. They read of the terrible slaughter and learn that he is among the peaceful DEAD! Their only prop taken from them! They appeal to the landlord for assistance, but it is stubbornly refused them; they are reduced to beggary, and the result is that perhaps the mother soon follows the husband to the unknown regions, and the children are made servants of those who treat them worse than the Southern traitor treats the slave. This is but a parallel case to those you can find in any city or village. Our organization takes the little ones and gives them a home alike comfortable and respectable, and compels society, not only to do them justice, but to honor and respect them, as children of departed patriots, who fell in defense of our free institutions.

This, my friend, is the principle of the organization to which you have attached yourself, and may God, the great Commander of all, guard and protect this Order and all its members, and aid us in His infinite wisdom; may he ever assist the Commander of this Post to so command as will be to the interests of this Nation, which

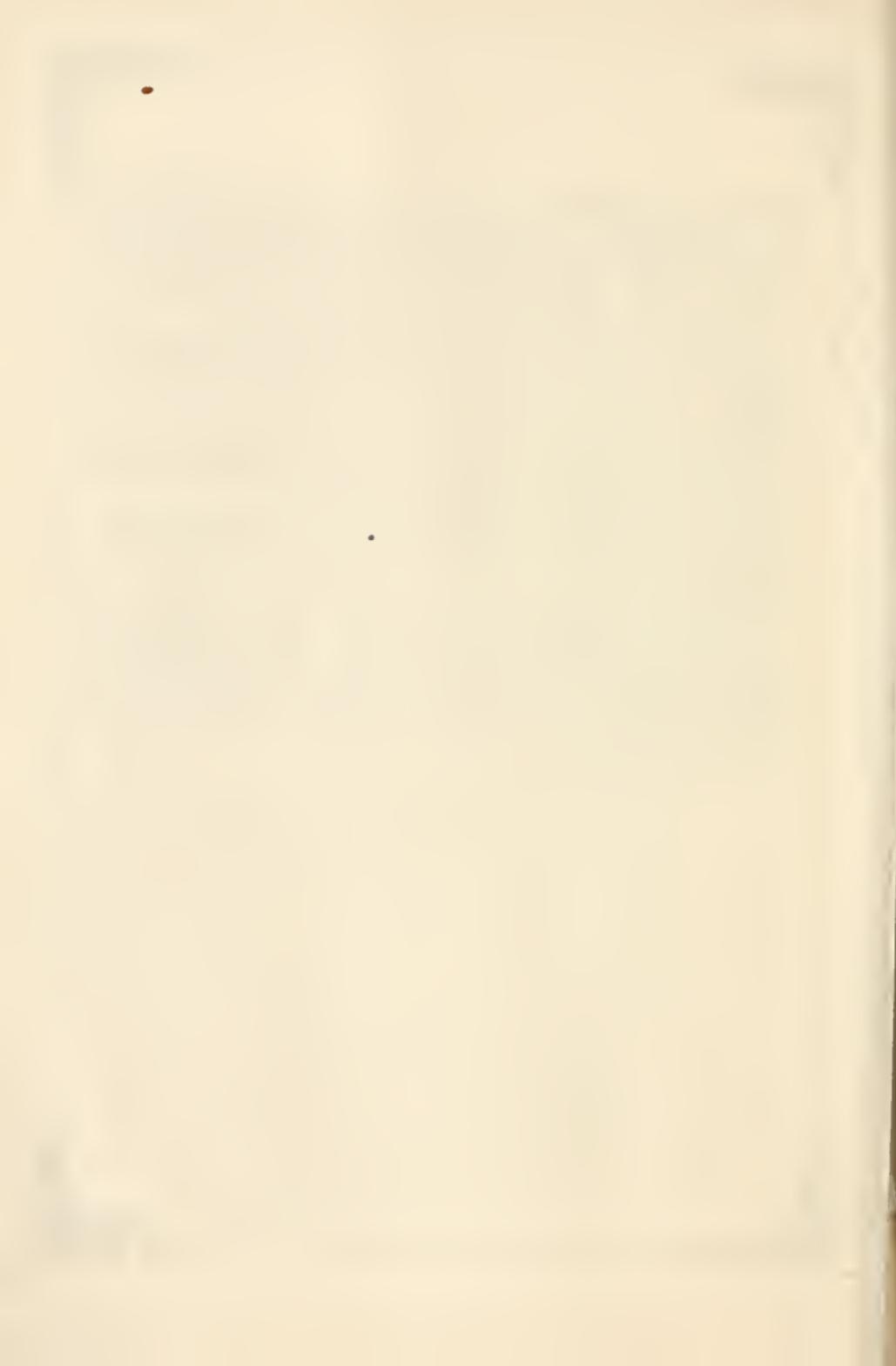
has nursed and protected us with the care and fondness of the mother for her child. May he guide and direct the Commanders of the different Districts and Departments of the United States, so that they will ever have an eye single to the good of mankind, and for the everlasting preservation of our noble institutions.

Having delivered his charge, the Commander of the Post will instruct the Officer of the Day to conduct the brother to the Post Adjutant. Arriving at the Adjutant's, the Post Commander will command—

Adjutant, you will instruct the brother in the signs and grips, and deliver to him the countersign of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The Adjutant will then proceed to instruct the brother carefully. After the Adjutant has carefully instructed the member, the Post Commander will say:

Comrades, you have passed through the ceremony of Enlistment and muster, and now, with pleasure, I greet you as members of the Grand Army of the Republic, and trust you will continue worthy and honored members. You will now take your seats as members of this Encampment.







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