



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Our Sweat Heart Social which was held in February was a great time. Once again, Friendship, good food, great music what else can you ask for. Those of you who did not attend Oh well!

On March 17th. nine of us attended The St. Patricks Day Parade in N.Y.C., Bob Angelo, Tom and Ryan Creamer, Bob Backman, Charley Mamarella, Denis Phelps, John Ernest, Kevin O'Malley and yours truly. Although the weather reports were not favorable, it turned out to be a fine day. No rain and spots of sunshine plotted our parade route. We had the pleasure of marching with the 61st and 125th New York. Yes, they kept the Mifflin Guard Boys together. We had a Company of approx. 40 men, and what a fine Company we were. Each of the three Company's brought their Captain and 1st. Sgt. so we all took a turn leading the Company. This worked out real well due to the length of the parade. This allowed us to take a break with the file closers and enjoy the sights and sounds of the parade. In total there were approx 300+ of us who represented the 69th New York. I was good see some ole friends, who we haven't seen since last season, and share some stories.

We started our journey from Babylon train station via Long Island Rail Rail into Penn. Station. When we arrived we all decided to walk cross town to w26th. street. Along route there was an antique flee market in an open lot. John Ernest and a the Boys made a bee line right for the market. The problem was how to carry the objects you might want to purchase. Unless it could fit in your haversnack. Snackman found an old cast iron popcorn popper with a long wooden handle. I am sure he wished he had a LARGER HAVERSNACK!!!!

The Brigade was formed in the 69th. New York National Guard Armory and after a short formation headed uptown to our starting point which was w46th. street. While there the Boys were entertained by some of the parade goers or should I say "Establishment" goers. This lead to cheers after cheers from the Brigade. The 1st. Long Island stood around "passing" the time and generally enjoying each others company. We started out to 5th ave. at approx 3:00pm. No matter how many times you have marched on St. Patricks Day it's always like the first time. We stopped at the steps of St Patrick's Cathederal where the Cardinal blessed the Colors of the 69th. The entire route was lined with thousands of cheering parade goers. What a GREAT Day!!! We finished the route at 4:30pm and headed right for the trains home. Thanks to Mr. O'Malley and Chchcharley Mamamamarella, who fairly new their way around the city and got us back to Penn Station. While there we where standing with our backs to the TV screnes, and the hundreds of commuters, who were watching the screnes for departing trains, we heard the train to Babylon announced. We turned around and saw those hundreds of commuters running towards us. Now I know what a western stampede must have been like!!!!!! . All I heard was 1st. Sgt. Bob Angelo yell holy SHiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiT!!!!!! . It did not take much thought of the impending doom that was coming our way, as we ran down the stairs and onto the platform avoiding being trampled. Our journey ended arriving at 7:00pm at Babylon. IT TWAS A FINE DAY, and one I was gald to be part of.

Respectfully submitted,

*Capt. Joe Bilardello,
(Aka Peter Moriarty)*