

practically certain that his arrow or bullet hit the objective. His ability in trailing and in scouting and in seeing without being seen was little short of marvelous.

Now, let us take a look at the other side of the shield.

Our cavalry officers of the time considered in this story were intelligent and usually well educated, but due to the constant changes resulting from army routine were too frequently unfamiliar with the country, and, with some notable exceptions, often unfamiliar with the habits and characteristics of the Indian. The Grattan Massacre of 1854 is a case in point.

The enlisted men were largely from cities, usually unfamiliar with either their weapons or the horses assigned them as mounts, and had to be trained to successfully combat the Red Foe which we have just described. However, *in the field they learned rapidly*, and in the making of a field soldier a month in campaign was worth a year of garrison drill.

The maximum strength of the troop was 65 men and horses, and for reasons which space will not admit of explanation here, a troop in the field seldom exceeded 50 or 55 fighting men.

Civilians in contemplating the work of our Regular Cavalry in policing the West oftentimes seem to have been imbued with the idea that the combination of an able-bodied man, a uniform, weapons, horse and horse equipment, properly assembled, make "right off the bat" a *Cavalryman*, to be admired by friend, and feared by foe.

Unfortunately, this is untrue. It is likewise unfortunately true that officers were frequently compelled to take into the field men whose training was far from complete. We know that this was true even so late as the World War.

Under conditions prevailing in the years of which we write, a West Point diploma or a College degree, while highly desirable, were not absolutely essential to the making of a successful cavalry officer.

On the other hand, if this biography illustrates anything, it shows conclusively that a certain natural aptitude for this business of field soldiering, combined with a good physique and powers of endurance were absolutely essential to success.

Few Troop commanders under whom the writer served during the days of Indian Warfare combined these qualities to the extent possessed in the person of Reuben F. Bernard.

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