

*The Origin and Development
of the United States Army.*

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"In every heart are sown the sparks
that kindle fiery war;
Occasion needs but fan them
and they blaze."

The United States Army was not born, in a time of peace, for conquest. It was born, during the birth throes of our nation, for defence.

A willful, patriotic, and vigorous race of democrats had taken possession of the New World. Their ancestors had been driven into exile by the exactions of European governments, and the bigotry of ecclesiastical power. They had become the rightful owners of the New World. They owned it by all the Claims of actual possession; by toil and trial; by the ordeal of suffering, peril, privation, and manifold

hardships. Of such travail and discipline was the child of American patriotism born.

These men from the memories of the past, and hopes of the future, had drank in the spirit of Liberty, until their souls were ready, when the iron heel of oppression set upon their cherished rights, to organize the American Army, and draw the vindictive sword.

The obnoxious Stamp act, passed in 1765, by the British Parliament caused such an uproar, the patriotic society known as the Sons of Liberty was organized. The members were pledged to oppose British tyranny to the utmost, and to defend with their lives the freedom of the colonies.

Some ten years later, during the meeting of the Second Colonial Congress Massachusetts became involved in a quarrel with England over the Boston Port Bill. Congress unanimously agreed

to sustain Massachusetts. When Parliament heard of this action a fleet and an army of 10,000 men were sent to exact forcible obedience.

The Colonial Congress disbanded and immediately organized a Provincial Congress which voted to equip an army of 12,000 men for the defence of the Colonies. This organization was known as the "Minute Men", and corresponded to the National Guard of today.

The first time this little army of militia was called into action was at the battle of Lexington. Among them were John Stark, Nathaniel Green, Isaac Putnam, and Benedict Arnold. Couriers scoured the country apprising the people of the battle and, ordering the men to assemble at Boston.

Congress now saw a national organization was a necessity and organized this body of 20,000 men into one organization, and called it the Continental Army, with

George Washington as Commander in Chief. Four Major Generals, Ward, ~~Lee~~ Schuyler, and Putnam, were appointed, ranking in the order named. There were also eight Brigadier Generals, among them being Green and Pomeroy.

General Washington received his Commission on the 20th of June, 1775, and on July 2nd took Command. There were 15,000 men in the motley crowd. The men of the different Colonies acknowledged no commander but the one from their own Colony. To add to the discouragement the troops were almost destitute of ammunition and shelter. The Rhode Island men had brought tents, and some of the others showed their frontier training by making log huts, and dugouts. These told where the material for a noble army slept.

No money had to be appropriated to ~~buy~~ weapons. Each one procured his rifle by taking it from the pegs over the fire place. He slung

his powder horn over his shoulder, strapped on his bullet pouch, and the soldier was ready for the field.

As for uniform, it consisted of a round hat, and a shirt belted around his waist and hanging down over the hips, instead of being tucked in the trousers. He wore the same clothes that the farm laborer of those days were used to wearing. It may be said that our pictures of handsome Revolutionary uniforms are very misleading. The actual conditions were very different from what most of us have been led to believe. Some companies and regiments tried at the start to have uniforms. We find uniforms mentioned here and there, and boards of officers adopted fashion plates of beautiful garments for all ranks. The question was, where is the money to buy the cloth for these uniforms? Those who actually saw the patriot troops in the field describe them as

without uniform, very ragged, and at best, clothed with home-made hunting shirts. At first the officers could not be distinguished from the men. In 1776 they were ordered to wear colored cockades of ribbon; a Maj. Gen., a blue or purple ribbon, a Brig. Gen. a pink, and the staff and Adjutant, green ribbons.

During the Revolutionary War there were 288,504 men employed by the Colonies; of this 56,163 were Militia. As to pay for these soldiers there is very little mentioned in the records. During the war bounties, varying from \$22. to \$66, was paid; with a monthly wage of three to seven dollars while in the service.

In October, 1783, all officers and men absent on furlough were discharged, and on November 3rd all others who had engaged to serve, "during the war". A small force composed of those who had

enlisted for a definite length of time were to be retained for duty until the peace establishment could be organized.

After the close of the Revolutionary War the Army was a very small establishment. According to returns by General Knox on January 31, 1784 the entire military force consisted of:-

1 regiment of Infantry numbering	527
1 battalion " Artillery	138.

The War Department was organized on August 7, 1789, and on the 29th day of September the above force was made the United States Regular Army, with no changes. In 1791 a regiment of infantry was added, and in 1792 the number of troops was raised to 5000 men, with Anthony Wayne as Major General. From now on the strength of the army continued to increase, until in 1799 it numbered over 51000. The following year Congress reduced it to a little over 4000 men, on account of the expense.

About this time the question of a school for educating men for officers in the army, was being agitated. The government saw that we must have educated officers in the army as well as in everything else. West Point, called during the war, "The Gibraltar of the Hudson", was indicated by Washington as early as 1793, as an eligible place for a military academy, and in his message to Congress in 1793 he recommended the establishment of an institution of the kind. Very little progress was made however until the passage of an act by Congress founding the Academy, approved March 6 1802 when with five officers and ten Cadets it was formally opened on July 4 of the same year.

From 1802-1810 Cadets entered without mental or physical examination, at all ages from 12-34, and at any time of the year. The term of school began in

April and terminated in November, the Cadets going home for the winter.

In 1810 the Academy was deprived of nearly all means of instruction and the officers and Cadets had difficulty in securing their pay. Although war was imminent the academy was without officers or Cadets during 1811 and a part of 1812. Up to this date but 71 Cadets had been graduated. In 1812 Congress reorganized the institution and in 1817 its condition began to improve under the able supervision of General Sylvanus Thayer, who administered its affairs for 16 years with such signal success that he has ever since been called the "Father of the United States Military Academy."

By act of Congress, approved March 3, 1783 the Corps of Cadets as now constituted, consists of one Cadet from each Congressional district, one from each territory, one from the District of Columbia, one from Porto Rico, Two from each state at large, and forty from the United States at large.

Under this act, and under the apportionment of members of Congress, according to the 12th Census, the maximum number of Cadets is 522. Candidates must be between 17 and 22 years of age, unmarried, and in perfect health. Each Cadet receives his tuition, board, and 500. dollars per year.

The immediate government of the Academy and command of the post (2336 acres in the reservation) is vested in the superintendant who has local rank of Colonel.

Habits of open dealing, of absolute truthfulness, of strict adherence to the Code of military honor are fixed in the Character of each Cadet, partly by the administration, and partly by the Cadets themselves. The Code of honor of the Cadet becomes a Code of honesty in the graduated officer. Statistics show that there is no body of men who have handled public money with the scrupulous honesty of officers of the Regular Army.

Including the Class of '08 there have been 4,749 Cadets graduated.

In the Spring of 1812 the authorized strength of the Regular Army was about 10,000 officers and men. This little army was scattered over a large area of territory. A detachment of 120 at Detroit, 85 at Ft. Wayne, 50 at Ft. Harrison, 53 men beyond all possible rescue at Ft. Dearborn (Chicago), and so on. The same conditions existed in the south and southwest. This army was commanded by such men as Dearborn, Pinckney, Wilkinson, Hampton and Hull. These men were all well up in years, and some of them had very poor records in the Army in the past. General Winfield Scott, a young Artillery Captain then, speaking of the army conditions at this time says: "The Army presented no pleasing effect. The old officers were ignorant, and had fallen into habits of intemperance. Many of the new appointments were bad, and a

majority of the rest indifferent."

On December 9, 1811 William B. Giles reported a bill for raising 10 regiments of infantry, 2 of artillery, and 1 of Cavalry, in all 25,000 men to serve five years. Each regiment was to number 2000 men, and whether it was full or not, must have a full complement of officers. This bill was passed and signed by the President Jan. 11, 1812.

One week after declaring war Congress authorized the President to call out 100,000 Militia and fix the war establishment at:-

25	regiments of Infantry.
4	" " " Artillery.
2	" " " Dragoons.
1	" " " Riflemen.

making with engineers and artificers an authorized army of 36,700 men; yet we only had an enlisted strength of 10,000, of whom 4000 were raw recruits.

At this time the recruit in the Regular service enlisted for five

dollars per month for the period of five years. Upon discharge he received sixteen dollars bounty, three months pay, and a title to 160 acres of land. The recruit in the volunteers was in the service of the state, served one year, with same pay as the Regular, minus the bounty. In December 1812, a bill was passed raising the pay of the Regulars to eight dollars per month. At the same time a bill was passed raising the bounty and organizing the Recruiting Service.

On January 1813 Congress authorized the President to raise 20 new regiments of infantry for one years service.

By March 1813 the outgoing President had an army, by law, of 58000 men or :-

44	regiments of Infantry.
1	" " Riflemen.
4	" " Artillery
2	" " Dragoons
1	Company " Engineers.

but the actual strength was only 18945 officers and men. To relieve this lack of enlistments, a bill was passed in 1814 offering \$24. bounty, 320 acres of land, and raised the pay of privates to ten dollars per month. Also raising the authorized strength of the army to 62000 men. By the following July the army only numbered 31503, with only 27010 fit to be in the field. This was the largest force that was ever in the army any one time during the war.

After peace had been declared on March 3, 1815 the peace strength was again fixed at 10000 men.

8 regiments of Infantry.

1 " " " Riflemen.

1 " " " Artillery

Corps of Engineers.

From the end of the War of 1812, to the Mexican War, the Regular Army was employed against the Indians. During these years the government had to keep a volunteer army in the field to

assist the Regulars. There were at least three short wars lasting from 1817 to 1842. The Seminole war in Florida, 1817-1818, employed 1100 Regulars and 7000 volunteers and Militia. The Black Hawk war, 1831-1832 employed 1341 Regulars and 5368 volunteers. The Second Seminole War, ¹⁸³⁵⁻¹⁸⁴² employed 11169 Regulars and 29953 volunteers.

The annexation of Texas occurring in the summer of 1845 transferred to the United States a dispute between Texas and Mexico, in reference to their common frontiers; and to the ownership of a strip of land between the Nueces and Rio Grande rivers.

At the breaking out of hostilities the President called for 50000 volunteers, who were immediately sent to the scene of action. These recruits were promptly taken in hand by the Regular Army officers. In the War of 1812 the military operations had failed principally because of the officers. The Mexican War showed few

mistakes, because the officers were well trained; consequently the new recruits were well trained in a very short time.

The strength of the Regular Army at the commencement of hostilities (May '46) was 6,562 officers and men. There were added, during the war 36,025 officers and men, an aggregate of 42,587. The number of volunteers mustered into service during the war was 31,311 officers and 70,129 men.

At the end of the war in 1848 Congress passed a bill, reducing the army to 8,820 officers and 94,350 men. From 1848 to 1861 the Regular Army was the only force we had in the field. Its principle duty was to protect the settlers from the Indians on the frontier, and to act as guards to the parties building the railroads across the western plains.

At the outbreak of the Civil War the United States Army consisted of :-

2 regiments of cavalry
 2 " " " Dragoons
 1 " " " Mounted Riflemen.
 4 " " " Artillery.
 10 " " " Infantry.

aggregating, present and absent,
 16,482 officers and men.

On April 15, 1861, three days after the firing on of Fort Sumter, President Lincoln called for 75,000 militia to serve three months. To this call there answered almost 92,000 men who were mustered in for three months at \$1. per month.

During May 1861 the President authorized an addition of one regiment of Artillery, one of Cavalry, and nine of infantry, to the Regular establishment. In the same month the demands of the people grew so strong for more men, the President called for 500,000 volunteers, and as a result enlisted 700,680 men for three years at \$3. per month. In the following July occurred the disastrous battle of

Bull Run. This battle proved to the government the need of more competent officers, and more and better drilled men. The militia regiments were thrown together the last minute, as a rule, each regiment being untrained in whatever took their fancy, and the officers, not knowing their duties when in the field, were almost worthless when called on to make any movement in the presence of the enemy.

During the war there were fourteen calls made on the people of the north. From the following table the number of organizations, volunteers and militia, organized and mustered into the service of the United States during the civil war, by calls, can be ascertained.

Call under which furnished.	Reg. of Inf.	Reg of Cav.	Reg of Art.	
			Light	Heavy
April 15 1861	104			
May 3 and acts of July 22, 25 1861.	560	82	6	9
July 2 1862	346	44		12
August 4 1862	72	1		
June 15 1863	8	4		
October 17 1863	18	20	1	1
Feb. 1 & Mch 14 1864	12	11		3
1864 for 100 day troops.	95			
July 18 1864	66	3		7
December 19, 1864	54	2		
Special Calls.	333	65	1	12
Totals.	1668	232	8	44

In addition to the above there were
 21 battalions of infantry
 9 " " " " cavalry
 6 " " " " Artillery
 504 independent companies of infantry
 122 " " " " Cavalry
 274 " " " " Artillery
 furnished at the various calls
 during the rebellion.

More than 2,600,000 men were

furnished on the Union side and about 1,000,000 on the Confederate, an aggregate of 3,600,000. Or, from April 15, 1861 to April 28, 1865, a period of 48 consecutive months, the country supplied monthly, on average 75000 men for military service.

The Union Army was divided into, Army of the Cumberland, and the Army of the Potomac. The former served in the western and southern portion of the seceded states, and the latter Army in the eastern and northern portion along the Potomac river. The Army of the Cumberland was made up mostly of western men, and commanded by Generals Sherman, Buell, Stanley, Thomas and Rosecrans. The Army of the Potomac, consisted principally of eastern troops, and commanded by Generals McClellan, Burnside, Grant, Halleck and Hooker. A majority of the commanders on the Northern side were graduates of the Military Academy

and many of the Confederate Commanders were their Classmates.

In the Civil War the colored soldiers first played an important part. There were colored soldiers in the Continental Army, but they served in the capacity of pioneers and laborers. At the beginning of the Revolution no slaves were permitted to enlist, but after Monmouth they were encouraged to come into the army. In 1812 New York authorized the raising of two regiments composed of "free men of color," to receive the same pay and allowances as white soldiers. The slaves received their freedom and their masters the pay. In the Civil War the first colored regiments were raised by General Butler in New Orleans, where three regiments of infantry, and two battalions of artillery, officered by colored men, to the field officers, were enlisted into the United States service. During

the war there were between 175-
and 180 thousand colored troops
enlisted. Of this a little less
than half was furnished by
the states themselves. At first
the colored troops were to receive
\$10. per month, but when they said
"\$3. or nothing" the government
quickly paid them the same as the
whites. In the Spanish American
War the Regular Army contained,
and does yet, four regiments
of colored soldiers officered by
white men. Besides these regiments
there were several colored regiments
of volunteers; our own state furnish-
ing the 23rd Regiment of Kansas volunteers.

One year after the end of the Civil
War the authorized strength of the
Regular Army was 54,641 Officers
and men. From this date until 1874
the strength of the standing army
was gradually reduced until in
the above year its authorized strength
was only 27,151 officers
and men. This remained
the same until 1898, the outbreak

of the Spanish American War. During the above years the army was called upon to protect the settlers, and do escort duty, on the western plains. By 1890 the troops were mostly stationed at the various military posts doing garrison duty, with rarely anything to disturb them.

The Regular Army on January 1, 1898 consisted of 27,507 officers and men. War being imminent Congress during March and April passed laws for the better organization of the line of the army, and increased the authorized enlisted strength to 65,000 men; increased ~~ed~~ the Artillery Corps by two regiments, added a third battalion of four companies each to each regiment of infantry, and the enlisted strength of each unit considerably increased.

By an act of Congress, April 22 1898, a bill, providing for accepting into the service of the U.S. the organized Militia, and volunteer

from the various states, was passed. This law authorized enlistments to be made for the term of two years unless sooner discharged by reason of cessation of hostilities. Of this Army of Volunteers and National Guards, three regiments of Engineers, three of Cavalry, and ten of infantry were United States volunteers, recruited from the country at large, all of the officers being Commissioned by the President. As fast as the state troops were presented, they were mustered into the service of the government. The total number furnished was 223,235 officers and men.

At the close of the war with Spain the Army was again reduced to a peace basis; thus making necessary the discharging of 35,000 Regular troops and 110,000 volunteers.

On March 2, 1899, in view of the Philippine Insurrection, a bill was passed giving author-

ity to raise the strength of the Regular Army to the maximum (65000) strength, and to raise a force of not exceeding 35000 volunteers; all of them to be recruited from the country at large, the field officers being appointed from the officers of the Regular Army. During the insurrection there were 42000 men of the Regular Army, and 31000 volunteers served in the islands. The act of March 2, 1899 stated that the volunteers should be discharged, and the Regular Army reduced to a peace basis by July 1901. Congress recognizing that it would need more men after that date proceeded to pass a bill increasing the strength and organization of the army. This bill provided for an increase from:-

25 reg. of infantry to 30 reg.

10 " " Cavalry " 15 "

7 " " Artillery " 13 " organized into 30 batteries of field

Artillery and 130 companies of Coast Artillery, and from 5 companies of engineers to 12 companies. The minimum strength to be 59,131 and the maximum strength 100,000 officers and men, (including a Corps of Philippine Scouts limited to 1200), the Commissioned personnel to remain the same. if ever ^{raised} to 100000.

From May 1900 to May 1901 the Regular Army, and volunteers, served for the first in the field by the side of the soldiers of Europe. This was in the Boxer uprising in China. The total number of United States troops that served in China during the uprising was 5000 officers and men.

On June 1, 1908 the Regular Army consisted of:-

- 3 Battalions of Engineers
- 3 Regiments " Light Field Artillery
- 2 " " Mountain " "
- 1 " " Horse " "
- 169 Companies of Coast Artillery.

15 Regiments of Cavalry.

30 " " Infantry.

1 Porto Rico Provisional Regiment.

50 Companies of Philippine Scouts.

The authorized enlisted strength being 4,143 officers, and 75,653 men, an aggregate of 79,776. The enlisted men of the Hospital Corps are not counted as part of the strength of the Regular Army. The authorized strength of the Hospital Corps is 3,500 enlisted men; this and the above aggregate makes an aggregate of 83,276 officers and men.

From the following data, can be obtained the authorized strength of the Regular Army, as fixed by acts of Congress.

Act of Congress.	Officers	Men.
April 30, 1790	57	1,216
March 3, 1791	104	2,128
March 5, 1792	258	5,156
May 30, 1796	233	3,126
April 27, 1798	289	3,870
May 27, 1798	303	10,000

July 16, 1798	783	13,638
March 3, 1799	2,447	49,244
May 14, 1800	318	4,118
March 16, 1802	241	3,046
April 12, 1808	774	9,147
June 26, 1812	1,657	34,095
March 3, 1813	3,260	54,091
March 30, 1814	3,495	59,170
March 3, 1815	674	11,709
March 2, 1821	589	55,586
April 5, 1832	540	6,540
March 2, 1833	599	6,595
May & July 1836	647	7,310
July 5-7, 1838	735	11,804
May-June 1846	775	17,020
Feb. March, 1847	1,353	29,512
August 14, 1848	882	9,435
June 17, 1850	889	11,000
March 3, 1855	1,040	16,882
July-Aug. 1861	2,009	37,264
July 28, 1866	3,036	51,605
March 3, 1869	2,277	35,036
July 15, 1870	2,264	30,000
June 16, 1874	2,151	25,000
March 8, 1898	2,137	26,610
April-July 1898	2,432	63,106
March 2, 1899	2,585	65,000

February 2, 1901

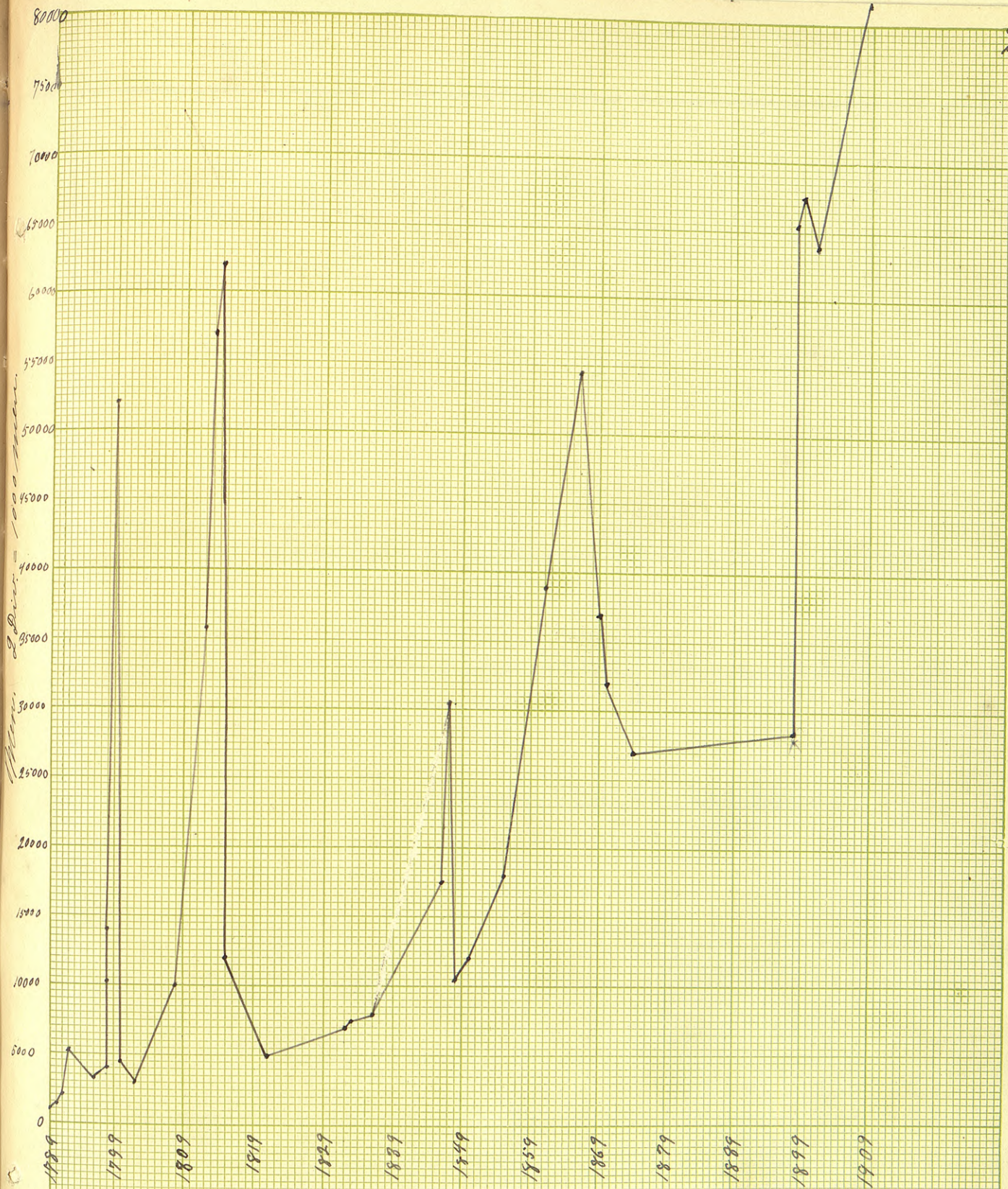
3,860

6,450

4,143

7,565-3.

The present minimum strength is 5-9/31 enlisted men, and maximum strength 100,000 men, the number of officers to remain the same.



Years. 1 Div. = 1 year.

Curve illustrating the varying strength of the regular army, as authorized by the different acts of Congress.