

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Pamphlet Accompanying
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INSPECTION REPORTS
OF THE
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
1814-1842



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INSPECTION REPORTS OF THE
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
1814-1842

On the 3 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced 3 bound volumes of reports relating to Army posts, geographical commands, and military organizations, 1814, 1817-36, and 1842, and an unbound report relating to Sackets Harbor, N.Y., of 1814. They are a part of Record Group 159, Records of the Office of the Inspector General.

The Inspector General's Department was established by an act of March 3, 1813. During the Revolutionary War an inspector general was authorized, and after that time an inspector, inspector general, or adjutant and inspector general carried out the duties of inspection. As a department, however, the creation dates from the 1813 act. The act provided for an Adjutant and Inspector General to head both the Adjutant General's and the Inspector General's Departments. Separate heads were not provided for until an act of March 2, 1821.

In 1814 the Inspector General's Department consisted of an Adjutant and Inspector General, 8 inspectors general, and 16 assistant inspectors general. The following year, under provisions of an act of March 3, 1815, the Army was reduced and four brigade inspectors were authorized to replace the existing inspectors. At the discretion of the President, as granted by the act, the Adjutant and Inspector General was provisionally retained. At about the same time nine military departments were formed within a Northern and a Southern Division, with an inspector for each division and department selected by its commander. By an act of April 24, 1816, one Adjutant and Inspector General of the Army, one inspector general for each division, and an assistant inspector general for each brigade were provided for. In October 1820 all assistant inspectors general were ordered to be placed under the division commanders acting through the division inspectors. The Army was reduced and reorganized by an act of March 2, 1821. By that act the office of the Adjutant and Inspector General was abolished, and two Inspectors General were authorized. They were assigned to make a complete annual inspection of the Army under orders of the Commanding General. In December 1821 that inspection was ordered to be divided between the two. One was charged with inspection of infantry organizations and the other with artillery organizations, arsenals, foundries, and ordnance installations. This arrangement was changed in March 1823, and the two Inspectors General were directed to alternate annual inspections. In May 1837 the Eastern and Western Departments, which had been organized in 1821, were changed into divisions, and an Inspector General was assigned to each division. The two Inspectors General were reassigned in 1838 to Headquarters of the Army. One Inspector General was abolished by an act of Congress of August 23, 1842, but the act was repealed January 12, 1846, and the number of Inspectors General remained at two until 1861.

The duties of the inspectors general during the period covered by the records here reproduced were to inspect, investigate, and report upon all matters affecting the efficiency, discipline, and welfare of the Army. In their reports they covered inspection of troops, arms, quarters, officers, and general administration of units and posts. Until the Army Regulations of 1835 little standardization was provided for reporting, but from the earliest years the reports were detailed and the subjects covered were extensive. The reports were submitted, with rare exception, to the Commanding General of the Army or the Adjutant General's Office.

The pages of many of the individual reports reproduced in this microfilm publication were numbered, but pages were renumbered when the reports were bound into volumes. Each volume contains two separate sets of numbered pages, with an index to each set. In volumes 1 and 2 the indexes appear at the beginning of each series of page numbers. In volume 3 both indexes are at the beginning of the volume. Within some of the reports an index is included for the posts examined in the particular report. Page numbers given in these indexes are to the original page numbers of specific reports. Blank pages have not been filmed.

In 1894 the Adjutant General's Office transferred to the Office of the Inspector General five volumes of reports dated 1814-23, 1823-24, 1825-28, 1829, and 1830-36. Along with some other reports for 1831, 1833, and 1842, the volumes were rebound into three volumes. The original volumes are distinguished by cover sheets bearing the document file reference 112-IG0-1894. In the document file of the Inspector General's Office this number is applied to the letter of transmittal.

The single unbound inspection report reproduced in this microfilm publication consists of a four-page report on Sackets Harbor, N.Y., by Maj. Nathaniel Hall in 1814. It has been filmed at the beginning of Roll 1.

In addition to the inspection reports filmed in this microcopy, the National Archives has other series of similar reports. In the same record group are series of inspection reports for later periods of time, and in Record Group 94, Records of The Adjutant General's Office, Record Group 108, Records of the Headquarters of the Army, and Record Group 156, Records of the Office of the Chief of Ordnance, there are inspection reports for this early period.

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