

QUARTERING TROOPS.

A New Yorker Sees How Efficiently
It Is Done In Dresden.

New York University, May 4, 1916.

To the Editor of *The New York Times*:

Assuming that it was necessary to bring 50,000 soldiers suddenly to Manhattan to resist an invading army, or quell a riot, where would we quarter them? In the great hotels for which the metropolis is world famous, or on the grass in the various parks? I question very much if either our civil or our military authorities are at present in position to solve this problem "with neatness and dispatch." But I will tell you how it is done—has been done—in Germany.

During the first four months of this war I was living in Dresden. One night in August, during the mobilization of the reserves, I was awakened by a ring at the door, followed by vigorous pounding. When the door was opened it proved to be a husky Saxon soldier from near the Bohemian boundary, "come to stay with us." I stated that I had only one spare room, which was to be occupied by my daughter the next day. "She can go to a hotel, or sleep on the floor; I get the room and bed"—which was the law. In proof of the legitimacy of his demand, and the power back of it, he presented me a red paper entitling Max Dudek, of the 101st Grenadier Reserve Regiment, to lodging, so much meat or sausage, and so much bread and coffee, daily, at such times as he might require them; payment to be made by the city at a stated time after the soldier had left.

How did just Private Max Dudek happen to get just my house as his hotel?

The reserve regiment aforesaid was to replace the regular 101st Regiment as fast as the latter got decimated; and its headquarters were the same as that of the "main" or active regiment. The members coming from all quarters of Germany were to meet on the Fuerstenstrasse; the first company at one corner, the second at the next corner, and so on. The maximum number of soldiers which each dwelling must quarter was decided long ago. Each man, as he appeared, was told to go around the corner to dinner, or to bed, according to the time at which he appeared.

But the red tickets distributed in August, 1914, were printed in December, 1913. That was preparedness.

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