

Officers of the Garrison and the liquor ration."

The troops of those days were frequently rough and rowdy characters, who were determinedly indifferent to the requirements of good soldiering when it pleased them to be otherwise, but the island's new commander knew how to handle them as his Garrison Order of Sept. 23, 1810, testifies:

"It is a subject of regret to the Commandant that he has already had an opportunity to witness that some soldiers of this Garrison should so far abandon the strict principles of military honor as to bear the stigma of a black eye or bruised face. These are disgraceful marks and no soldier, thus disqualified, will be permitted to appear on parade or mount his Guard but will, during its continuance, be put on daily fatigues, and all tours of Guard omitted in consequence of it will be punctually made up when such disqualification cease."

Although Colonel Burbeck's strict sense of the fitness of things does not seem to have been upset by the omnipresent stray dogs which since time immemorial have disturbed the equanimity of all post commanders, he had his troubles with other

four-footed visitors and early issued this order especially on their behalf:

"The Commandant, considering swine a nuisance to a Garrison and improper animals to range or be harbored on public ground, hereby directs, that after those which now belong here shall have been killed or otherwise disposed of, that none will be suffered to be carried or landed or kept upon the Island on any pretense whatever."

It seems safe to assume that there was a preponderance of bacon, ham, and other porcine products in the island's mess for some time after this.

It took a little while for the rugged individualists among the island's personnel to reconcile themselves to the fact that their commanding officer could be as tough as they were. At one point it was necessary to prohibit all boats from landing at or near Castle Williams because "it gives a facility for desertion," but in the end, the hard-boiled colonel had his command shaken down into an efficient organization. When continuous bickering and irresponsible actions between England and the United States brought the War of 1812 to our shores, Governors Island was ready for it.