

beyond repair and requested permission from the War Department to replace it with a modern structure. This generous offer was gratefully accepted and erection of the present chapel was started in 1905 on a site near the South Battery, formerly occupied by the house that had been first used for band quarters and later as a library. Plans for the edifice, built of granite in the English Gothic style of the fourteenth century, were prepared by the eminent architect Charles C. Haight, himself a Union veteran and father of the celebrated cavalryman, Colonel Sydney Haight. This new Chapel of St. Cornelius was consecrated with imposing ecclesiastical and military ceremonies by Bishop Greer of the Episcopal diocese of New York on Oct. 16, 1906, and has ever since enjoyed a well-merited reputation as one of the most beautiful and influential of military chapels. The chapel,

which is open to the public, contains many memorials, battle flags, and other military relics of great historic interest and value. These include the stained glass window above the High Altar in memory of General and Mrs. Hancock; General Pershing's flag from World War I; and the First Army Headquarters flag from World War II. In 1949 a set of electronic chimes was installed in the belfry of the chapel, made possible by voluntary contributions from the entire garrison to a fund collected through the indefatigable efforts of Mrs. Willard G. Wyman, wife of the First Army's then chief of staff, Major General Wyman.

Coincident with the completion of the new Protestant chapel, arrangements were made to hold weekly Catholic services in a special hall in the South Battery. Such services had formerly been held in an old building near the hospital and later in the barracks. The present Catholic chapel of the post, The Star of the Sea, was provided through the energetic efforts of Lieutenant General Hugh A. Drum, while he was commanding at the island headquarters just before World War II.

In connection with the religious welfare of Governors Island it is interesting to note that in 1868 the post was dropped by the War Department from the list of stations to which chaplains of the regular Army could be assigned, it being felt that

the proximity of the island to New York made its devotional activities a logical responsibility of the city's churches. As Trinity Church was already closely associated with the garrison through the work of Dr. McVickar, the vestry of that parish immediately proposed to support a minister as post chaplain at their own expense. A similar arrangement was made by St. Peter's Church and the State

Street Mission in behalf of the Catholic communicants on the island. This system continued through World War I.

As the peaceful years went their quiet way the Army cycle of succeeding commanders and troops on the island turned through its accustomed course. In mid-February of 1906 the Headquarters, band, and one battalion of the 12th Infantry relieved the 8th regiment, to be relieved in turn three years later by similar details of the 29th Infantry. They stayed until April 1,

1917, when the entire 22d Infantry moved in under the shadow of impending war.

General Grant, succeeded in 1904 by Major General James F. Wade, came back to the post in 1907 for a year, and returned again in 1910 as a major general to head the Eastern Division, which supplanted the Department of the East on July 1 of that year. He lived only a scant nine months and, following his sudden death in April 1912, his duties were taken over by a series of general officers who served for periods varying from five to 12 months, until Leonard Wood arrived on the scene on July 1, 1914. Wood had served previously as commander of the Department of the East just before its discontinuance, but it was this second tour of duty on the island that would make him in the words of a contemporary historian, "the best-known soldier in the Army."

An alumnus of Harvard's Medical School, a contract surgeon with the Army in the Indian Wars, holder of the Medal of Honor, White House physician to President McKinley, organizer and first colonel of the famous 1st Volunteer Cavalry (alias "Rough Riders") in the Spanish-American War, fortuitously heir to the stars of a brigade commander, military governor of our occupation of Cuba, protégé of Theodore Roosevelt, governor general of the

The present Chapel of St. Cornelius the Centurion with its English Gothic style was dedicated on Oct. 16, 1906.
