

APPENDIX F

EXTRACTS FROM HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE GOVERNOR'S GUARD "B" COMPANY, FIRST INFANTRY, C. N. G. 1872-1893.¹

By CAPTAIN WILLIAM HEINIG

So far as the construction of a thrilling tale goes, the historian of the the modern military company is at a decided disadvantage with him of the ancient. He must, therefore, and can only mention the most important facts connected therewith. The Governor's Guard was reorganized² in the spring of 1872, with Ira C. Smith, Captain; A. S. Hughes, First Lieutenant; J. B. Thompson, Second Lieutenant; and A. H. Jones, First Sergeant. The company was composed of the best young men of the city at that time, both socially and financially. The company purchased ground and erected their own Armory at the corner of Fifteenth and Curtis street. The building, with several alterations, is still standing. Through some mismanagement the command became involved in debt and were compelled to sell the property to liquidate the same. Unfortunately, the original roster of the members cannot be found, and we can, therefore, not reproduce it here. The company flourished, and became one of the best drilled and popular in the West, which standard they are holding at the present day. Upon their organization, the company was presented with a magnificent silk flag, with the coat of arms of the State upon it, by Governor McCook. The flag is still in the possession of the company, and fairly well preserved. The records from 1872 until 1882 have been lost, and not much can be said of that time. In 1882 the company was challenged by the Mitchell Guards for a competitive drill for a handsome silk flag. The drill took place at the old fair grounds, at the terminus of Larimer street, and was witnessed by a large assembly. The Governor's Guards were victorious. This flag is also still in the possession of the command. Through some difficulty with the then commanding officer of the battalion in 1882, the company requested to be relieved from State duty and become an independent organization, but the request was not granted. The original uniform worn by the company was the gray, similar to that of the Seventh New York. This was laid aside in 1889 for the regulation now worn. In the fall of 1888 the company was invited by Major Brady, then commanding at Fort Logan, to a two days' encampment with the troops then stationed there—the Eighteenth Infantry. The invitation was accepted, and the company participated in the Guard mountings and dress parades with the troops stationed at that point. The principal event of the year 1889 was the State encampment near Fort Logan. During this encampment the command acquitted itself to the entire satisfaction of the commanding officer, General Reardon, and was meritoriously mentioned in orders. In March of 1889, the company was invited by Governor Cooper to a reception given in their honor, at the Governor's residence, on Grant avenue. At the Governor's residence the command was accorded a cordial and hearty welcome by both Governor Cooper and wife. All restraint was thrown aside, and the boys proceeded to enjoy them-

¹ Now Company "B", 157th Infantry, Colorado National Guard.

² The original Governor's Guard (See Appendix B) was mustered in to the 3rd Colorado Cavalry as Company A on August 20, 1864.

selves. Full privates talked of gunpowder and glory to the Governor, while some made themselves agreeable to the ladies. In the year of 1890, the ladies of Woman's Relief Corps, No. 14, offered a handsome banner for the best drilled Infantry Company stationed in the city. Companies B, E and K participated in the drill. After a very spirited contest, the banner was awarded to Company B. The year 1891 was principally noted for the interest the command took in target practice, and many good scores were made. Also the skirmish drill, with ammunition, with the Krieger Verein, of this city, in the woods near Sheridan Park, neither side knowing the exact whereabouts of the enemy. The contest was very interesting and instructive to both officers and men, as the enemy was developed. The Colorado Journal, of the date of July 6th, 1891, says: "Captain Heinig showed, through the dispositions he made, that he possessed a very good military talent. Had he controlled the same instructed men that were at the disposal of the Krieger Verein, he would undoubtedly have won the battle. The men of Company B relied on their officers too much, and did not take advantage the ground afforded". In the spring of 1892, the company concluded to attend the international competitive drill of the National Guard of the United States, to be held at Omaha from June thirteenth to June twentieth.

The company began sleeping at the armory on the first of May. Reveille was blown every morning at four o'clock, and the drill lasted about an hour. At night the command again reported for drill, and this was continued for six weeks. On the evening of June eleventh, through the kindness and assistance of our many friends (which we here again acknowledge), the command steamed for Omaha, arriving there on the afternoon of the twelfth. On Thursday, the sixteenth of June, the command drilled in the maiden class. Their movements were fair, but, through the carelessness of one of the men, a glaring mistake was made at the last movement to be executed. The Omaha Bee of the seventeenth mentioned the following about the drill: "The Governor's Guard of Denver marched on the field in excellent shape, Captain Heinig handling his men like a veteran. The company did fine work, their loadings and firings with ammunition being especially good. To the great regret of their many friends, they broke on the last platoon movement." On the day of the awarding of the prizes, the company received first prize for camp discipline, a handsome silk flag, and third prize in the maiden drill class, \$500. Had it not been for the mistake of one man, the company would surely have been awarded first prize, \$1,500. Even with this inexcusable mistake staring them in the face, the company had a percentage of only two less than the company obtaining first prize, sixty-nine being the percentage of the winner and sixty-seven that of the Governor's Guard. On the morning of the twenty-first the company took the train for home, arriving in the evening of the twenty-second. At the Union Depot we were cordially received by General Brooks and staff, Colonel Hogle and staff, the First Infantry Band and E Company, and given a hearty welcome by the citizens of Denver. The Republican of the following day said: "The officers and men of B Company deserve great credit for taking the third prize of \$500 in the maiden drill, and a flag worth \$200 for camp discipline. Company B is at present the crack company of the regiment." On June twenty-seventh the following order was issued from the Adjutant General's office:

General Orders, }
No. 32. }

The National encampment and competitive drill held at Omaha, Nebraska, June 13th to 20th, 1892, under the auspices of the United States, was participated in by military organizations from all parts of the Union.

Company B, First Battalion Infantry, represented the National Guard of this State. * * *

In the maiden drill, B Company won a prize of \$500, and for excellence of military discipline and "general soldierly bearing" was awarded over all competing companies the prize, a handsome and valuable silk flag.

It affords the Commander-in-Chief great pleasure to extend to Captain William Heinig, officers and men of B Company his congratulations.

Discipline and soldierly bearing are among the most important factors making up the efficiency and permanent strength of a military organization. It is therefore especially gratifying to the Commander-in-Chief that the representatives of the Colorado National Guard at Omaha have, in these important respects, made themselves meritoriously conspicuous among the very many military organizations which participated.

By authority of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

John C. Kennedy,
Adjutant General.

W. T. S. May,
Ass't Adjutant General.

From the headquarters of the First Infantry the following order was issued: Orders No. 51.

The Colonel commanding desires to express to the officers and members of B Company of this battalion his appreciation of their services at the Interstate drill lately held in Omaha.

Second—As evidence of the splendid discipline exercised by the company in camp in having bestowed upon them first prize—a handsome silk flag.

Third—Proof of the efficiency of your drill in the maiden class, competing as you did with the best drilled companies in the United States, and winning the \$500 money prize is certainly highly commendable, remembering that it is an almost unprecedented occurrence that one individual company wins the prize for being the best disciplined and also winning in the prize drill. Those of us in this battalion who have heretofore competed for prizes in discipline and all that goes to make a perfect soldier, know full well what untiring energy and zeal it takes, never relaxing duty for a moment.

I desire to especially commend Captain Heinig for his ability in so successfully taking his company through the drill, as the drill card, contrary to rules, was not handed to him before the moment of bringing his men on the drill ground, and after reporting to the judges.

By order of Lieutenant Colonel Hogle.

C. O. Zollars,
Adjutant.

From July 3rd to 5th, 1892, the company participated in the camp at Elitch's Garden. The Sun of July sixth says: "Captain Heinig with his team, Company 'B', that has won honors abroad, was the last officer of the day, and conducted himself most creditably. His kindly courtesy to his men, and strangers, too, made him a host of admirers, and his company maintained its credit for discipline and drill.

“The receptions of the company are always a success. The Governor’s Guard has always participated in all parades in the city of a public character. The late ones worthy of mention are the Presidents’ visit, Memorial Day, and the unveiling of the Krieger Verein Monument at Riverside Cemetery. For this last action of the company the officers were made honorary members of the Krieger Verein. The present officers have endeavored to place the company in the foremost ranks of the National Guard of Colorado; efficiency, not only in drill, but in all the branches appertaining to a well-disciplined and organized company. Guard duty, skirmish drills and the new battle tactics have frequently been practised. The company has been under arms on several occasions, the last being in 1891, during the riots of the Legislature. The company has always conducted itself to the entire satisfaction of its friends. The company medal worn by the best drilled man was presented to the company by the citizens of Denver in 1872. Should the occasion ever present itself, the citizens will find the Governor’s Guard doing their duty for the preservation of life and property.”