



THE STATE OF COLORADO

Executive Chamber

Denver

May 19, 1934.

It is with pleasure that I commend the efforts of Major Nankivell in providing an authentic and comprehensive history of the service of the military organizations of Colorado from the days of the "Territory of Jefferson" to the present time. Every organization and unit that has been a part of Colorado's military establishment, militia, volunteers and National Guard, has here its story told concisely and authoritatively from official records in the office of the Adjutant General of Colorado, the War Department in Washington, the State Historical Society of Colorado, and the State Library in the State Capitol, Denver, and from diaries and personal recollections of those who have served in the state's military forces during the past seventy years.

The historical data available in this volume and the manner in which it is presented gives it a unique character of special value as a work of reference and of tremendous value as a reliable contribution to a special phase of Colorado's eventful history. No words that I am capable of writing can add to the splendid reputation of Colorado's soldiers, and the story of their heroic deeds at Apache, Canyon, Westport, Fremont's Orchard, Manila, and on the battlefields of France is graphically depicted in the work of Major Nankivell. This volume deserves a place in every public library and every school and college in the State of Colorado, and is worthy of preservation by all those who have at any time served the territory and State of Colorado in a military capacity or who are interested in military history.

ED C. JOHNSON,
The Governor.

INTRODUCTION

To quote from Ganoe's "Foreword" to the "History of the United States Army": "What follows is meant to be neither a study of campaigns and battles nor a treatment of military policy. Those subjects have been covered thoroughly under their own titles. The coming chapters strive to tell a plain, straightforward story of those of our people who have answered our country's voice in its many cries for help and protection. The tale records the homely and the heroic service of the soldier in the sweat of peace as well as in the ruck of war. And there results a life history of that institution which has been the greatest single factor in the building of our nation—the United States Army." And in a like manner the "History of the Military Organizations of the State of Colorado" that follows is "neither a study of campaigns and battles nor a treatment of military policy," but is a "straightforward story" of the soldiers of Colorado—militiamen, volunteers and National Guardsmen—who have faithfully and heroically served their state and nation "in the sweat of peace as well as in the ruck of war." To them, likewise, much is due in the building of our beloved state of mountain and plain—Colorado.

In compiling the records in this volume liberal use has been made of official reports and contemporary publications. This has been done deliberately because such reports and publications, having been written immediately following the events described, are more apt to adhere to the requirements of strict reliability than accounts published at a later date which, for the most part, are not entirely clear of the suspicion of having been written to justify certain individuals and events. This is exemplified in the reports of Colonel Chivington and his subordinate commanders which were written immediately following the battle of Sand Creek, Colorado Territory, November 29, 1864. At the time of writing their reports these officers had, of course, no knowledge of the bitter controversy concerning Chivington's and the Colorado troops' actions during the battle that was to develop later. On leaving Denver for the expedition that was to culminate at Sand Creek the troops carried with them the sincere wishes and ardent hopes of the people of the city for a speedy and victorious issue to the campaign against the hostile Indians that had long terrorized and menaced the struggling settlements of the infant territory. With these facts in mind Chivington and his officers wrote their reports, and subsequent research reveals that these reports came very closely to being an accurate record of the events of that day at Sand Creek. Subsequently, when the controversy was at its height, a few of the subordinate officers made statements and wrote supplementary reports that were at variance with their original reports and were manifestly attempts to justify *their* particular actions on the day of the battle.

In addition to the use of official records I have gleaned much in the way of important facts from private diaries, letters, and statements from officers and men who have served in the various campaigns mentioned in the history. In this connection the files of the Rocky Mountain News for the period of the Civil and Indian Wars; the files of the same newspaper and of the former Denver Tribune, the Denver Republican, and of the Denver Post, all of a later period, were a fruitful source of data concerning many events and historical happenings, accounts of which are incorporated in this history.

The title of this book—"The History of the Military Organizations of the State of Colorado, 1860-1934"—indicates its scope, and the record is confined to those units and organizations, militia, volunteers and National Guard, that were organized *within*, and are officially accredited to the State of Colorado. Doubtless Colorado men have served in every regiment of the regular army at various times during the past seventy years, and many thousands of Coloradoans were in the units of the National Army during the World War, but these were not distinctively Colorado organizations and their record has no place in this history. Apropos of the units of the National Army, the 341st Field Artillery of the 89th Division, was organized at Camp Funston, Kansas, in September, 1917, and was composed almost entirely of Colorado men. This regiment accompanied its division to France, and later served throughout the battle of the Meuse-Argonne in support of the 37th and 28th divisions, in turn. Rejoining its division in Germany after the Armistice, the regiment eventually returned to the United States and was mustered out at Camp Funston, Kansas, in June, 1919. Colorado men also served in other regiments of the 89th division and among these special mention must be made of Captain Marcellus H. Chiles, 356th Infantry, Second Lieutenant J. Hunter Wickersham, 353rd Infantry, Sergeant Harold I. Johnston, 356th Infantry and Corporal Jesse N. Funk, 353rd Infantry, all of whom were awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, above and beyond the call of duty, in action with the enemy; the first two were so badly wounded in the performance of their heroic deeds that they died soon afterwards. Sergeant Johnston is now living in Denver, Colorado, and is an honored citizen of the state; Corporal Funk died at Bethel Hospital, Colorado Springs, Colorado, on March 31, 1933.

It will be noted that the greater part of this volume is given over to this history of the 157th Infantry; this has been done for the purpose of avoiding needless repetition. The history of the 157th Infantry—the old First Regiment of Colorado—is, in a great measure, the military history of Colorado since the inception of state government in 1876, and because of this, events that are common to the history of the 157th Infantry and other Colorado organizations are treated at length in Part Two of this book and brief reference only made to them under the histories of the other organizations. This, as stated above, is for the sake of elimination of repetition, and does not imply that organizations other than the 157th Infantry were not participants in these events. Where the histories diverge, the story of events relating to a particular organization is given in full in the history of that organization.

Every care has been taken in the compilation of this history, to ensure accuracy, but I cannot hope to have avoided altogether errors of detail. I trust, however, that substantial accuracy will be found to have been attained. Space limits have prevented the inclusion of much that is of interest; however, it is hoped that no facts of historical importance have been omitted and that the story of Colorado's military organizations is as complete as a volume of this nature warrants.

The author has received help from many sources but he is specially indebted to the following gentlemen for their advice, suggestions, assistance, and cooperation in the furnishing of source material and necessary photographs:

Colonel Edward Verdeckberg, formerly of the First Infantry, Colo. N. G.; Colonel Charles H. Hilton, C. A. C., U. S. Army; Colonel P. P. Newlon and W. C. Danks, formerly Adjutants-General of Colorado; Brigadier General Neil W. Kimball, Adjutant General of Colorado; Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Taylor and Mr. Felix Pogliano, formerly of the 115th Engineers; Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Scammel, National Guard Bureau; Major Aylmer F. Reeves, formerly 2nd Infan-

try, Colo. N. G.; Major Charles Townsend, formerly 1st Infantry, Colo. N. G.; Captains Otto Liese and Edward Smith, and Lieutenant Henry D. Gregory of the former Signal Corps, Colo. N. G.; Captain R. C. Cook and Dr. Chas. G. Grover, 168th Field Hospital; Captain E. F. Hart, F. A., U. S. Army, formerly of the 148th Field Artillery, A. E. F.; Lieutenant James R. McClelland, 115th Supply Train, and Mr. Leroy R. Hafen and Mr. Albert B. Sanford of the State Historical Society of Colorado.

To the late Mrs. Evelyn Lloyd and to Miss Mildred Vincent Tapp, former and present librarians respectively of the State Historical Society, I am also indebted for valuable assistance in the location of source material and pertinent references. To all others who have assisted me in the transcribing of notes and preparation of the manuscript copies my thanks are hereby expressed. Finally, I desire to thank Mr. Erle O. Kistler and Mr. Edward W. Milligan of the house of Kistler for their unfailing courtesy and consideration.

J. H. N.

Denver, Colo.

May 11, 1934.