

CHAPTER II
THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865 (CONTINUED)

DODD'S AND FORD'S INDEPENDENT COMPANIES—DODD'S COMPANY AT VALVERDE—FORD'S MARCH TO FORT UNION—COMPANIES ORDERED TO FORT LYON—ORGANIZATION OF SECOND COLORADO INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS—REGIMENT ASSEMBLES AT FORT LYON—DEPARTURE OF DODD'S DETACHMENT—BATTLES OF CABIN CREEK AND HONEY SPRINGS—RETURN TO FORT GIBSON—REGIMENT ORDERED TO BENTON BARRACKS—OPERATIONS OF COMPANY F—ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRD COLORADO INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS—DIFFICULTIES OF RECRUITING—MARCH OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL CURTIS' DETACHMENT TO FORT LEAVENWORTH—OPERATIONS OF THE THIRD COLORADO INFANTRY IN MISSOURI—CONSOLIDATION OF THE SECOND AND THIRD REGIMENTS—ORGANIZATION OF THE SECOND COLORADO CAVALRY VOLUNTEERS—OPERATIONS AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS—PRICE'S INVASION OF MISSOURI—CAMPAIGN OF THE ARMY OF THE BORDER—McLAIN'S BATTERY.

Coincident with the organization and mustering in of the First Colorado Infantry Volunteers, two additional companies were raised in and around Canon City; these companies were designated respectively as "Captain Theodore H. Dodd's Independent Company, Colorado Volunteers" and "Captain James H. Ford's Independent Company, Colorado Volunteers", and were the first Colorado troops to leave the territory for service in the war for the Union. They were mustered in to the Federal service at Fort Garland, Colorado Territory, on December 14th and 21st, 1861, respectively, and were the nucleus of the Second Colorado Infantry Volunteers, the balance of which was to be organized later.

Shortly after muster in Dodd's Company was ordered to proceed from Fort Garland to Santa Fé, N. M., and on arrival at the latter place further orders were received for the company to continue its march down the Rio Grande valley to Fort Craig. The Company, 2 officers and 82 enlisted men reached its destination in time to take part in the hard-fought battle of Valverde near Fort Craig on February 21, 1862, where it acquitted itself most gallantly and suffered a loss of two killed and twenty-eight wounded. Twice during the battle the Colorado company was used to reinforce threatened portions of the union line; once with Selden's battalion of regulars to reinforce Colonel Roberts who was holding the Confederate force north of Fort Craig on the east bank of the Rio Grande, and again to support McRae's battery in its movement to the east bank. On the first occasion the Texans mistaking the Colorado volunteers for the New Mexican militia charged recklessly, only to be met by a withering volley from the frontiersmen who held their fire until at close range. The charge was checked abruptly and the Confederates retired in confusion. The Colorado Volunteers under fire for the first time fought like seasoned veterans. For some unknown reason Canby ordered McRae's guns forward and withdrew Selden's support; the Confederates then assaulted the battery furiously, and after a terrific struggle captured all of the Federal guns. The Union force retired to Fort Craig, and the next day Colonel Scurry and Major Ochiltree, C. S. A., rode to the fort under flag of truce to demand its surrender. Canby refused, and Sibley then continued his march to the north to finally meet defeat at La Glorieta as detailed in the preceding chapter.

In the meantime Ford's company left Fort Garland on February 4, 1862, and, being compelled to cut a roadway through deep snow practically the entire way, did not reach Santa Fé until March 4th. Leaving there the following day the company reached Fort Union on the 11th and as a part of Colonel Slough's command participated in the battles in the La Glorieta pass. The company subsequently served with the First Colorado Infantry Volunteers during the pursuit of Sibley's force down the Rio Grande valley.

Following the campaign in New Mexico, Dodd's and Ford's Independent Companies were ordered first to Santa Fé, N. M., and later to Fort Garland and Fort Union respectively. Leaving the latter posts in April, 1863, both companies marched to Fort Lyon, Colo. Terr., where the new Second Colorado Infantry Volunteers were now assembling for the first time as an organization. Under the provisions of Special Orders No. 32, Headquarters Department of New Mexico, Fort Craig, N. M., dated May 12, 1862, the companies had received the letter designations of Company A (Dodd's) and Company B (Ford's), Second Colorado Infantry Volunteers.

On February 17, 1862, Jesse H. Leavenworth, son of Colonel Henry Leavenworth for whom Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, was named, was authorized by letter from the Secretary of War to raise in Colorado Territory six additional companies of volunteer infantry. These companies together with the independent companies of Dodd and Ford and the two companies of independent "dismounted" cavalry of Captains Backus and Sexton, were to form the Second Colorado Infantry Volunteers of which Leavenworth was to be colonel when the regiment was



COL. J. H. FORD, 2nd Colo. Cavalry, 1863-65

LIEUT. COL. T. H. DODD, 2nd Colo. Cavalry, 1863-65

mustered in. The companies of Backus and Sexton were lettered C and D, respectively, but, as noted Chapter One, were later transferred to the First Colorado Cavalry Volunteers, and did not become a part of Second Infantry as finally organized.

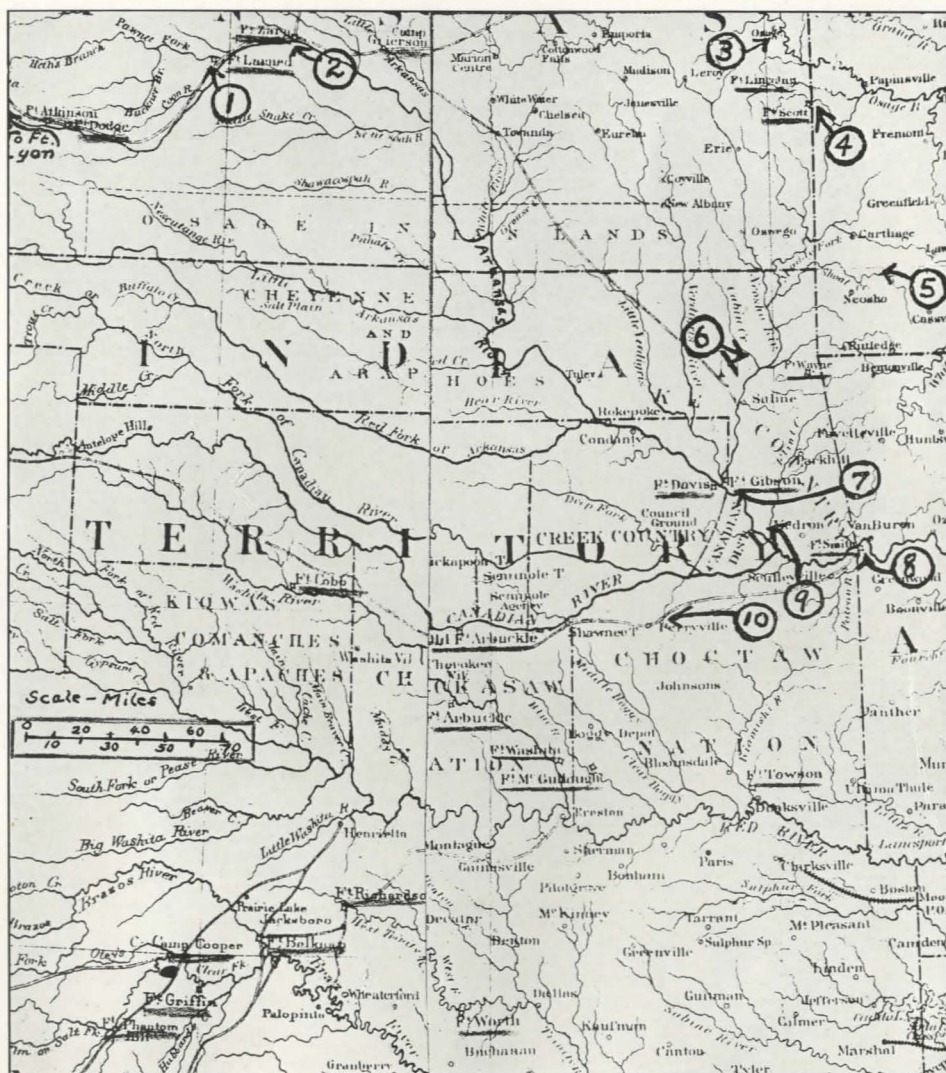
Colonel Leavenworth did not reach Denver to begin the work of organizing the regiment until May 12, 1862. Early in June the following designations of company commanders and recruiting rendezvous were made: Company E, Denver, Captain J. Nelson Smith; Company F, Empire City, Captain Lyman D. Rouell; Company G, Canon City, Captain William H. Green; Company H, Golden, Captain George West; Company I, Denver, Captain E. D. Boyd; Company K, Denver, Captain S. W. Wagoner. Lieutenants C. W. Hall and Alexander W. Robb were promoted Captains of Companies A and B, respectively, vice T. H. Dodd appointed Lieutenant Colonel, and James H. Ford, Major, of the new regiment. Regimental headquarters were established at Camp Weld, Denver, and recruiting offices opened at the designated rendezvous. Recruiting progressed very slowly. Men with jobs were drawing good pay and did not care to enlist; in addition large numbers of miners and other idle men left Colorado that summer for the new gold-fields in Montana and Idaho and many others had returned to the "States". However, muster in of the newly raised companies (E to K, inclusive) was finally accomplished between June 5, 1862, and January 13, 1863, at Camp Weld, Fort Union, and Fort Lyon. During this period detachments from the partly organized companies were called into the field on several occasions to guard the outlying settlements against the operation of bands of predatory Indians who were roaming the plains of eastern Colorado and western Kansas.

In the late summer of 1862 Colonel Leavenworth was ordered to concentrate his regiment at Fort Lyon, and in accordance with these instructions the regiment (less Companies A, B, C, and D) left Camp Weld on November 25, 1862, and arrived at Fort Lyon on December 10, 1862—a march of about 240 miles. Here late in April, 1863, Companies A and B joined the regiment (Companies C and D had, in the meantime, been transferred to the First Cavalry as related above), and several recruits that had been enlisted in southern Colorado for the 4th New Mexico Volunteers were now transferred to the 2nd Colorado Infantry to bring certain of the companies up to strength—generally averaging 3 officers and 70 enlisted men.

Early in May, 1863, Lieutenant Colonel Dodd with a detachment of the regiment composed of Companies A, B, E, G, H, and I was ordered to march to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas for station. However, on reaching Fort Riley, Kansas, the order was amended, and the detachment directed to march to Fort Scott, Kansas. Here they were assigned the duty, together with detachments from other regiments, of escorting a large government train, of 400 wagons to Fort Gibson in the northeastern part of the Choctaw Nation (now in Muskogee County, Oklahoma). On the way to Fort Gibson the train encountered much difficulty in the way of swollen streams and on July 1, 1863, a Confederate force was encountered commanding the ford over Cabin Creek. The following day the enemy was attacked by the Union force, and driven from the ford with considerable loss to the Confederates in killed, wounded, and prisoners. Fort Gibson was reached on July 5th without further incident.

Upon arrival at Fort Gibson Dodd's detachment of the 2nd Colorado Volunteers was attached to the command of Major General James G. Blunt, who was preparing to meet an invading force of Confederates under General Douglass H. Cooper. Cooper was marching up the Arkansas river on the north side and his force was estimated at 6,000, while Blunt had only 2,500. On July 17, 1863, the two forces met at Honey Springs on Elk Creek, a small tributary of the Arkansas,

and in the ensuing engagement the Confederates were decisively defeated with a loss of 150 killed, 400 wounded and about 100 prisoners. The Union loss was surprisingly small, 17 killed and 60 wounded. During the battle Captain Green's company of the Second Colorado captured the colors of the 29th Texas Volunteers, C. S. Army. Returning to Fort Gibson on July 19th, Blunt's force remained inactive until August 20th when they started south to give battle to the Confederate general Steele, who had assembled the forces of Cabell, Cooper, and Stand Waitie, under his command south of the Canadian river about sixty miles from Fort Gibson. On the approach of Blunt's force, Steele's command retired in several columns to Perryville, Choctaw Nation, and further south to the Red



War Department map of parts of Kansas, Missouri, Indian Territory (Oklahoma), and Arkansas, 1865-1870. 1. Fort Larned. 2. Fort Zarah. 3. Little Osage. 4. Fort Scott. 5. Newtonia Battlefield. 6. Cabin Creek Battlefield. 7. Fort Gibson. 8. Fort Smith. 9. Honey Springs Battlefield. 10. Perryville.

river; the Federal force pursued, captured Perryville on August 25th, and continued the pursuit to within thirty miles of the Red River. In September Blunt re-occupied Fort Smith, Arkansas, and in November the Colorado detachment under his command was ordered to Benton Barracks, Missouri.

In May, 1863, soon after Lieutenant Colonel Dodd and his detachment had marched from Fort Lyon, Colonel Leavenworth and the regimental staff were ordered to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; later, in July they were ordered to Fort Larned, Kansas, where Colonel Leavenworth was placed in command of the district of the Santa Fé trail and Arkansas river route. Company F, Second Colorado, had, in the meantime, marched from Fort Lyon to Fort Larned. On September 26, 1863, Colonel Leavenworth was dismissed for alleged misconduct in organizing his regiment, and of which more will be said later in this chapter. The Colonel was eventually re-instated, and then promptly resigned.

On May 14th Company F was ordered to Council Grove, and in August was sent to Kansas City upon receiving news of the burning of Lawrence, Kansas. At this time two very notorious guerrilla leaders, Quantrell and Shelby, were causing much trouble in Kansas and Missouri, having burned the city of Lawrence after one of their raids. Company F, Second Colorado Volunteers, participated in the pursuit of these bands. Of its services, Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Hayes, commanding the station at Hickman's Mills, Missouri, reported: "Captain Rouell's men are constantly in the saddle, and with another such squadron of cavalry I believe that I can keep this section clear of guerillas".¹ Company K, Second Colorado Infantry Volunteers, was retained on duty at Fort Lyon until November, 1863, when it, too, was ordered to Benton Barracks, Mo.

Despite the fact that the Second Regiment Colorado Infantry Volunteers was not completely organized, in the latter part of 1862 Governor Evans was authorized to recruit a third regiment of infantry in Colorado Territory. "General" William Larimer of Denver was to be colonel, and the regiment was to be designated the Third Colorado Infantry Volunteers. Recruiting was very slow, for labor was scarce and wages were high, and Colorado had already furnished a great number of men to the Union army. But the effort to complete the Third Infantry was undertaken in earnest, and recruiting offices were opened in Denver and elsewhere in the territory. By December enough men had been enlisted to establish a camp at old Camp Weld, now re-named Camp Elbert in honor of S. H. Elbert, the Territorial Secretary. Larimer, disheartened with the progress of recruitment, resigned, and Lieutenant Colonel S. S. Curtis took command at the camp. Early in February, 1863, five companies had been recruited and were commanded as follows: Company A (Summit County), Captain R. R. Harbour; Company B (Arapahoe and Boulder Counties), Captain E. W. Kingsbury; Company C (Park and Lake Counties), Captain E. P. Elmer; Company D (Gilpin County), Captain G. W. Morton; Company E (Clear Creek County), Captain Thomas Moses, Jr. These companies were assembled at Camp Elbert and mustered in to the service of the United States between January 14 and March 3, 1863.

Orders were received in January, 1863, for the regiment, or such companies of it as were mustered in, to proceed to Fort Leavenworth without delay; however, inability to obtain transportation for the regiment's supplies and equipage made delay necessary, and the five companies did not start their march until March 5, 1863. On April 23rd, following, the detachment, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Curtis, reached Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, after a march of about 700 miles. Leaving Fort Leavenworth on April 28th by steamboat, the command reached St. Louis, Missouri, on May 2nd, and proceeded thence by rail to Sulphur

¹ This company, in compliance with Governor Evan's request to the Secretary of War, had been furnished mounts in September, 1862.

Springs, Mo., arriving the same day. On May 22nd the companies made a day's march to Pilot Knob, Mo., where during the summer months of 1863 they were occupied in building Fort Davidson. From Pilot Knob the detachment marched to Rolla, Mo., arriving on October 28th.² Here they were employed in ordinary post duties and as provost guard until early in December when orders were received for the detachment Third Colorado Infantry Volunteers to proceed to Benton Barracks, St. Louis, Mo., for consolidation with the Second Colorado Infantry Volunteers to form a regiment of cavalry. The command reached Benton Barracks on December 10, 1863.

Under the provisions of Special Orders Nos. 278 and 323 Department of the Missouri, dated October 11 and November 26, 1863, respectively, the Second and Third Regiments of Colorado Infantry Volunteers were to be consolidated into one regiment, and designated the Second Regiment of Colorado Cavalry Volunteers. Accordingly, soon after the arrival of the detachments from the two regiments at Benton Barracks, consolidation was accomplished, and the new regiment was equipped and armed as cavalry. The designation of the companies of the new regiment were as follows:

New designation	Former designation	Commanding
Co. A, 2d Colo. Cav. Vol's	Co. B, 2d Colo. Inf. Vol's	Capt. A. W. Robb
Co. B, 2d Colo. Cav. Vol's	Co. A, 2d Colo. Inf. Vol's	Capt. J. C. W. Hall
Co. C, 2d Colo. Cav. Vol's	Co. E, 2d Colo. Inf. Vol's	Capt. S. W. Wagoner
Co. D, 2d Colo. Cav. Vol's	Co. F, 2d Colo. Inf. Vol's	Capt. L. D. Rouell
Co. E, 2d Colo. Cav. Vol's	Co. G, 2d Colo. Inf. Vol's	Capt. W. H. Green
Co. F, 2d Colo. Cav. Vol's	Co. H, 2d Colo. Inf. Vol's	Capt. Geo. West
Co. G, 2d Colo. Cav. Vol's	Co. I, 2d Colo. Inf. Vol's	Capt. E. D. Boyd
Co. H, 2d Colo. Cav. Vol's	Co. A, 3d Colo. Inf. Vol's	Capt. C. F. Holley
Co. I, 2d Colo. Cav. Vol's	Co. B, 3d Colo. Inf. Vol's	Capt. E. W. Kingsbury
Co. K, 2d Colo. Cav. Vol's	Co. C, 3d Colo. Inf. Vol's	Capt. E. P. Elmer
Co. L, 2d Colo. Cav. Vol's	Co. D, 3d Colo. Inf. Vol's	Capt. V. B. Holloway
Co. M, 2d Colo. Cav. Vol's	Co. E, 3d Colo. Inf. Vol's	Capt. T. Moses, Jr.

Company K, Second Colorado Infantry Volunteers on arrival from Fort Lyon, and Companies F, G, and H, Third Colorado Infantry Volunteers which had been organized at Camp Elbert after the departure of the five original companies of the regiment and which arrived in Kansas City, Mo., early in January, 1864, were split up and the officers and enlisted men assigned to the various companies of the new regiment.³

The field and staff officers of the regiment on organization were as follows: Colonel James H. Ford, commanding; Lieutenant Colonel Theodore H. Dodd; Majors Samuel S. Curtis, Jesse L. Pritchard and J. Nelson Smith; 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant, George Baldy; 1st Lieutenant and Regimental Quartermaster Jehiel S. Cook; 1st Lieutenant and Regimental Commissary James Barrell; Major and Surgeon Irving J. Pollock; Captain and Assistant Surgeon George S. Akin; Captain and Assistant Surgeon Duncan M. Vance; and Chaplain Lewis Hamilton. The regiment numbered over 1,100 officers and men, and was composed of the same magnificent material as the First Colorado Cavalry Volunteers.

² Company D, 3d. Colorado Infantry Volunteers, was, on June 27, 1863, temporarily attached to the "Pontoon Battalion" of Major General Davidson's Division, and accompanied his expedition during July and August, 1863, to Helena, Ark. The company returned to Pilot Knob, Mo., on August 7th.

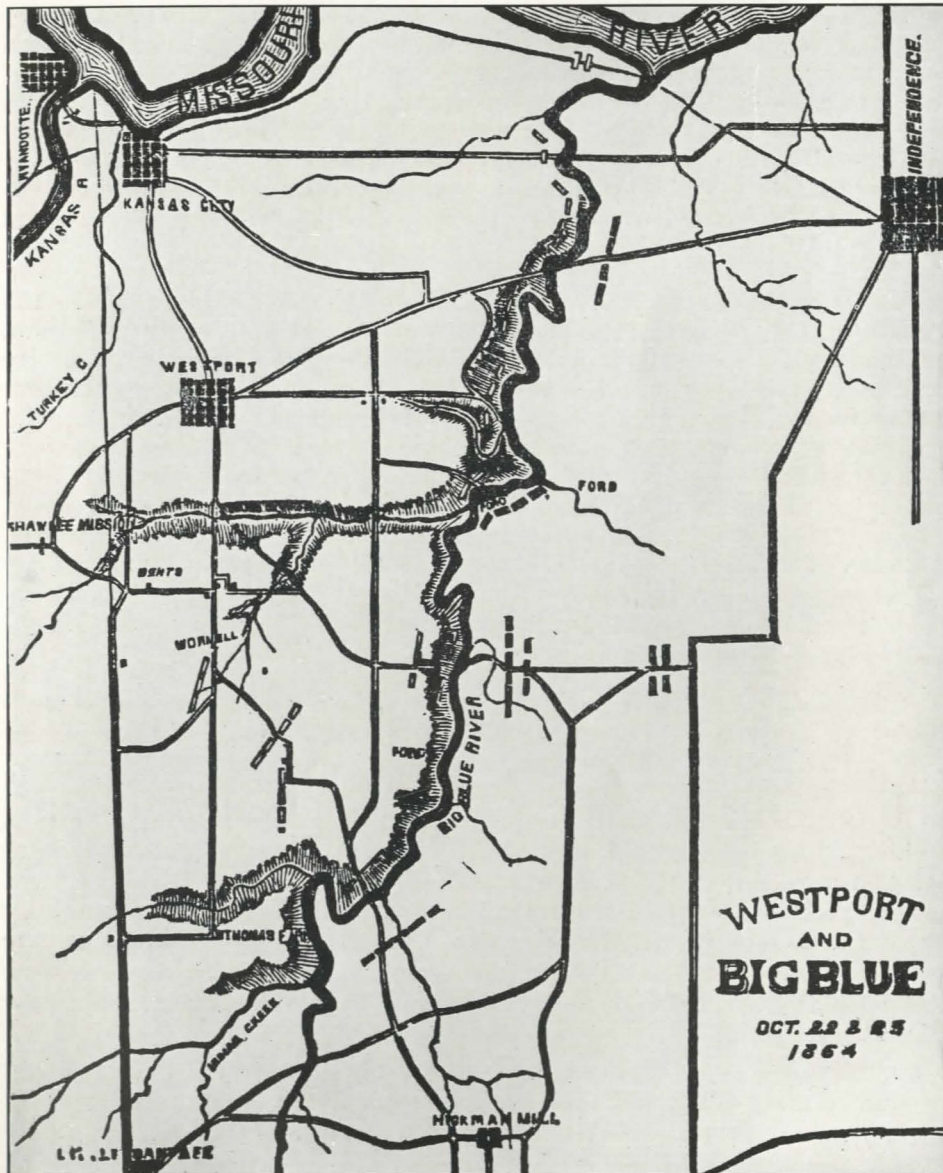
³ Major Pritchard with the nucleus of these companies had remained at Camp Elbert to obtain more recruits. In the spring of 1863 an active campaign to encourage recruiting was carried on in Denver. Public spirited men and business firms contributed sums of money to a bounty for recruits. Some of the contributions were as follows: "Officers of the Third Regiment, five hundred dollars; J. S. Filmore three hundred dollars; and Governor Evans, Warren Hussey, and Kiskadden and Company, each two hundred dollars."

Soon after the reorganization the regiment was assigned to duty in the 4th sub-district of Central Missouri which comprised Jackson, Cass and Bates counties. Here the regiment was constantly engaged in fighting guerillas, and maintaining peace among the civil inhabitants. The duty was arduous and extremely dangerous inasmuch as the troops were constantly liable to assassination by unseen foes who wore no uniform, and who mingled with the civil population after the perpetration of their dastardly deeds, thus making it extremely difficult to bring them to justice. Captain Berthoud says in his history of the campaign in Missouri, "Words cannot do justice to the horrors of such warfare; nor can the tragedies which cruelty, violence, rapine and the worst passions of civil war evoked in partisan warfare ever be fully known. The worst passions had their full unlicensed range, and in the lawless career of the leaders of guerilla bands such as Todd, Quantrell, Anderson, and Vaughan, pity and humanity were unknown".

On July 6, 1864, Captain Wagoner with a small detachment of Company C, were attacked by Todd's band of guerillas numbering about one hundred men, on the Independence-Pleasant Hill road about two miles south of the Little Blue. Captain Wagoner and seven of his men were killed. Later during July a detachment of the regiment with other troops under Colonel Ford's command made an expedition into Platte, Ray, and Clay counties, Missouri, and fought and dispersed the rebel force under Colonel Thornton at Camden Point on July 13, 1864. Four days later Captain Moses with his company, M, while on a reconnaissance encountered a rebel force of three hundred men under Thornton near Fredericksburg, Ray County. Moses was forced to retire with a loss of six killed, four wounded and two missing. The rebel loss was estimated at sixteen killed and twenty-one wounded. During the following month rebel activity subsided, but the regiment was kept constantly on the alert and prepared for emergencies. At this time Indian affairs in Colorado were in a critical condition and due to the lack of troops in the territory Governor Evans made repeated requests on the War Department for the return of the Second Colorado Cavalry. However, the situation in Missouri, Arkansas, and Kansas was also becoming critical and it was deemed advisable to retain the regiment in the east.

About the middle of September 1864, Lieutenant General Sterling Price with a Confederate force of about eighteen thousand veteran troops began an invasion of Missouri with the ultimate objective of defeating the Union forces in the state and occupying the principal cities. Price moved first on St. Louis, but was checked by the Union forces under Brigadier General Thomas Ewing at Pilot Knob; he then attacked Jefferson City, and again suffered reverse. Moving west towards the river counties he captured Booneville, Glasgow and Sedalia, and on October 17, 1864, his main body was only thirty-two miles east of Lexington. At this time the Second Colorado Cavalry had been ordered to report to the Department of Kansas for active service against the Indians, which orders were, on receipt of the news of Price's invasion, promptly revoked. Detachments of the regiment were at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas City and Independence, with the bulk of the command at Pleasant Hill, Mo. Later the regiment was assigned to the Fourth (Ford's) Brigade, Blunt's (First) Division, Army of the Border, Major General S. R. Curtis commanding.

Prompt information of the Confederate advance was of vital importance to General Curtis, and Colonel Ford on October 11, 1864, concentrated the Second Colorado Cavalry, less detachments, at Hickman's Mills, Mo. Detachments were left at Pleasant Hill and Independence, and active reconnaissance was continued to the east. On the 16th Blunt's Division (less Ford's Brigade) commenced the march on Lexington. On the 20th Price attacked Blunt at Lexington, forcing the latter to withdraw to Independence; Colonel Thomas Moonlight, with the 11th Kansas



Map of the battle-fields of Westport and the Big Blue, October 22 and 23, 1864.
 (Map from "The Army of the Border" published in 1865).

Cavalry Volunteers was left at the crossing of the Little Blue to cover the retirement. The Confederate advance was continued on the 21st, and at 7:00 a. m. Moonlight was heavily engaged. Ford's brigade, consisting of the Second Colorado Cavalry (less detachments), Sixteenth Kansas Cavalry and McLain's Colorado Battery, a total of about 900 men and six guns, was at once sent to reinforce the Union force on the Little Blue. The battle was bitterly contested, and the Federal force, greatly outnumbered, was finally forced to withdraw to Independence. The death of Major J. Nelson Smith during the engagement was a severe blow to the Second Colorado Cavalry. Blunt now withdrew his entire force behind the line of the Big Blue from its confluence with the Missouri on the north to the vicinity of Hickman's Mill on the south. The Second Colorado Cavalry was left on the east bank of the river and on the roads leading to Independence as an outpost force.

The Confederates entered Independence on October 21st, and on the 22d attacked the Federal force at the Big Blue. Forcing a crossing at Byrom's Ford, Price's command eventually compelled the Union force to retire to a line on the north bank of Brush Creek just south of Westport. During the engagement Captain Green's famous gray-horse company of the Second Colorado did splendid service against a rebel force that was endeavoring to force the Federal north flank along the main Kansas City road. On October 23, 1864, the Confederate force again attacked the Union command; both sides fought desperately and bravely, and finally the Union force succeeded in driving the Confederates from the field. The battle of Westport was the decisive engagement of the campaign, and Price was compelled to retire southward along the Missouri-Kansas state line with the Union force in close pursuit. Quoting now from the "Record of Events" in the muster-out roll of the regiment:

"The same command (Green's squadron) opened the engagement at Westport where it performed its full share in the glorious results of the day. At Trading Post, Green's and Kingsbury's squadrons opened the fight by driving in the enemy's pickets at 4:00 A. M., and this early movement of the advance of the 1st Division precipitated the engagement which prevented the enemy from reaching Fort Scott, their objective point. Beyond Trading Post, in the second fight that marked that day on the Marias des Cynges and Little Osage, the same gallant squadrons were foremost in the charge upon the enemy's guns, and they were in the brilliant cavalry charge at Mine Creek which resulted in the capture of Generals Marmaduke and Cabell, seven guns, and a large body of prisoners. At Newtonia (Oct. 28, 1864), under Major Pritchard, the regiment was in the thick of the fight and materially contributed by its audacious bravery to the splendid victory. * * * The regiment joined in the pursuit of the defeated and demoralized army of General Price until it retreated across the Arkansas River into Texas, and then returned to headquarters at Fort Leavenworth. In his official report of the thirty-eight days' campaign, Major General Curtis presents the roll of honor of those who especially distinguished themselves in the campaign. In the list are the following members of the gallant 2d Colorado: Colonel James H. Ford; Majors J. Nelson Smith, J. L. Pritchard, and S. S. Curtis; Captains Green, Kingsbury, Elmer, Boyd, and Moses; Lieutenants W. H. Pierce, R. S. Roe, W. Wise, and J. Fenton Seymour; Surgeon T. J. Pollock, and Assistant Surgeons Vance and Akin."

Governor Evans of Colorado Territory thanked the Colorado troops in the following words: "I thank you in behalf of our common country, and especially of your fellow citizens of Colorado Territory, who have heard with pride and pleasure, the report of your gallant and heroic conduct in the late and bloody battles with the rebel hosts under Price. * * *"

Soon after the return to Fort Leavenworth the three-year terms of Companies A and B expired and they were mustered out on December 19, 1864, and January 2, 1865, respectively. The balance of the regiment was ordered to Fort Riley, Kansas, during January, 1865, for service against the Indians in the District of the Upper Arkansas. Colonel Ford, now Brevet Brigadier General, was assigned to command of the district, and in compliance with his orders the regiment was distributed to posts in the district as follows: Field and Staff and Company D, Fort Riley; Companies C, E, G, and K, Fort Zarah; Companies F, I, L, M, Fort Larned; Company H, Fort Ellsworth, all in Kansas. Later, regimental headquarters was moved to Fort Zarah. The duties of the regiment during this period of service were the inevitable escort duty to trains, scouting for hostile Indians, and an occasional punitive expedition that generally failed to punish because of the elusiveness of the wily Indian. However, the troops had the pleasure of a brush now and then and the "Record of Events" in the regimental muster rolls mentions fights at Point of Rocks, near Fort Larned, and at Cow Creek.

On September 8th the units of the regiment commenced the march to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where, on September 23, 1865, they were finally mustered out of the service. The record of the regiment was an enviable one, and to make a final quotation from the "Record of Events" of the muster rolls: "The Second Colorado established for itself a record of which it may well be proud. It was renowned for its bravery and dash, in which respects it was excelled by few, if any regiments in the service."

Throughout the campaign in Missouri the Second Colorado Cavalry Volunteers were frequently supported by another Colorado unit that also achieved for itself a most enviable reputation; this was the Independent Battery Colorado Artillery Volunteers, popularly known as "McLain's Battery". The battery was originally organized under peculiar circumstances, and the reader's attention is again invited to the letter granting authority to Colonel Leavenworth to raise the Second Regiment of Colorado Infantry Volunteers, reference to which was made earlier in this chapter.

Evidently Colonel Leavenworth misconstrued the extent of the authority granted him by the above mentioned letter, and in addition to raising a regiment of Infantry he proceeded to organize a battery of artillery. This at once got him into difficulties with the authorities at Washington, and the following extracts from Special Orders No. 431, Adjutant General's Office, War Department, Washington, D. C., dated September 26th, 1863, gives us some idea of subsequent events:

"4. The authority granted February 17th, 1862, from the War Department, to Jesse H. Leavenworth, to raise or organize a regiment of Volunteer Infantry, in the Territory of Colorado, is hereby revoked, and for irregular and deceptive conduct in organizing his regiment, by giving or countenancing the raising an artillery company, without the authority of the War Department, he is

hereby discharged from all connection with the military service of the United States. If mustered into the service of the United States in any grade, he is hereby dishonorably mustered out, from date of muster in, with loss of all pay and allowances. The Major-General commanding the Department of the Missouri, is charged with the prompt execution and promulgation of this order, to all parties concerned."

Quite evidently the "powers that be" were in a wrathful mood, but the battery was actually in existence, and had been mustered in to the United States service at Denver, C. T., on December 15, 1862, with the following officers: Captain W. D. McLain, 1st Lieutenant George S. Eayre, and 2nd Lieutenant H. Baldwin. Something had to be done about it, and we again quote from Special Orders No. 431 in order to show what action was taken officially:

"27. The following officers of the 2d Colorado Volunteer Infantry are hereby mustered out, and dishonorably discharged the service of the United States, with loss of all pay and allowances, for making false promises to enlisted men of their Company in reference to the arm of the service in which the said men were induced to enlist, and for violation of the 18th Article of War:

"Captain W. D. McLain

"1st Lieutenant George S. Eayre

"2nd Lieutenant H. Baldwin.

* * * * *

"29. Captain McLain's Company, 2nd Colorado Volunteer Infantry, is, under the special circumstances of the case, hereby recognized as an Independent Battery of Colorado Volunteer Artillery, and is hereby permanently detached from the Infantry organization.

"The officers of the company having been dishonorably in the service of the United States, the Governor of the Territory is hereby authorized to make new appointments for the battery."

The new appointments were never made, and on December 16th, 1863, the provisions of Special Orders No. 431 were set aside. Captain McLain and Lieutenants Eayre and Baldwin were re-commissioned in their original grades and assignments on January 12, 1864. Colonel Leavenworth as before stated was later also reinstated, but did not again join his regiment.

The battery performed garrison duty in Colorado until the spring of 1864, when it was ordered to Fort Larned, Kansas. On May 16, 1864, at a point on the Smoky Hill Fork known as Big Bushes, the battery and its escort were attacked by a force of Cheyenne Indians numbering between four and five hundred warriors, and after a fight lasting over seven hours drove them from the field with a loss of three chiefs and twenty-five warriors. The loss of the battery was four killed and three wounded.

During General Price's invasion of Missouri the battery rendered brilliant service. It was attached to the 4th (Ford's) Brigade of Blunt's Division, and took an important part in all the important engagements from Lexington, Mo., to the operations about Fayetteville, Ark., where, as previously noted, Price retired across the Arkansas. Frequent references to the services of the battery

appear in Hinton's "Army of the Border", and from which I quote the following extracts: (Battle of the Little Blue)—"placing McLain's battery in position to check the rebel advance across a deep ravine, seven hundred yards to our front. The place thus designated was in immediate range of a four-gun battery. The Colorado boys unlimbered with great rapidity, and getting in battery, commenced showing the quality of their metal. Their firing was quick and accurate, and in a very few minutes, 'Johnny Rebs' were glad to get out of that; three guns being withdrawn and one abandoned, though afterwards recovered by the enemy. Prisoners declared that the fire of our guns was so destructive as to wound nearly every horse, and compel the men to run the guns off by hand, with a considerable loss in killed and wounded. The firing against the rebel guns was directed by 1st Lieutenant G. S. Eayre, commanding right section. The left and centre were directed against a heavy dismounted force, which was advancing upon our left. After ten minutes rapid firing, by direction of General Curtis, the battery fell back, their position being too exposed."

(Battle of Westport)—"A general charge was now ordered. * * * The 4th Brigade, under Colonel Ford, also formed, and charged simultaneously, the guns dashing well up to the front (McLain with two sections, finding himself with canister only, had advanced at the top of his horse's speed and took position in front); Dodge and McLain pouring in heavy charges, which told upon the now wavering rebel lines; the little howitzers charging and firing at the front of our skirmishing lines."

The battery was armed with five 3 inch rifled guns and one mountain howitzer, and despite the fact that it was in the thick of every battle participated in by the Army of the Border its casualty list was small, amounting to only five killed and wounded out of 116 men with which it entered on the campaign. Captain McLain and Lieutenants Eayre and Beach were specially commended in orders by Major General Curtis. The service of the battery subsequent to the campaign in Missouri was uneventful and it was finally mustered out at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on August 31, 1865.