

## CHAPTER XII

### THE "INSURRECTION" OF 1913-14

CHANGES 1905-1913—THE "DICK" BILL OF 1903—CAMPS OF INSTRUCTION—RIFLE MATCHES—COAL MINER'S STRIKE AND "INSURRECTION" OF 1913-14—CHANGES 1914-16—DISBANDMENT OF THE 2nd INFANTRY JUNE 1916, AND TRANSFER OF COMPANIES C, G, I, K, AND L TO 1st INFANTRY, C. N. G.

The period that intervened between the return in July 1904, of the Colorado National Guard from its strenuous tour of strike duty and the outbreak of the coal miners' strike and insurrection of 1913-14, was a comparatively uneventful one for the 1st and 2nd Regiments of Infantry. However, changes in units and organizations during the period were numerous and in order to present as clear a picture as possible of these changes I shall tabulate the musterings in and musterings-out as follows:

#### *Mustered in:*

Company	Regiment	Station	Date of muster-in	Commanding Officer
C	1st Infantry	Ault	April 24, 1906	Capt. Ray M. Gale
F	1st Infantry	Fort Collins	June 22, 1906	Capt. E. P. Riddell
E	1st Infantry	Montrose	June 29, 1906	Capt. J. B. Black
H	1st Infantry	Brush	Sept. 15, 1908	Capt. F. F. Reinert
G	1st Infantry	Denver	Feb. 10, 1909	Capt. C. F. Miller
M	1st Infantry	Golden	June 19, 1909	Capt. C. J. Bleil
H	2nd Infantry	La Junta	Sept. 8, 1909	Capt. E. G. Edwards
E	1st Infantry	Windsor	Oct. 26, 1909	Capt. J. H. Share
A	2nd Infantry	Colo. Springs	Feb. 10, 1910	Capt. P. M. Lennox
K	1st Infantry	Denver	March 17, 1910	Capt. R. W. Dorn
B	2nd Infantry	Trinidad	March 22, 1910	Capt. C. C. Bull
M	1st Infantry	Longmont	April 9, 1910	Capt. R. E. Morris
C	2nd Infantry	Lamar	Aug. 13, 1910	Capt. E. D. Householder
F	2nd Infantry	Grand Junction	March 2, 1911	Capt. E. A. Sherman
G	2nd Infantry	Delta	March 4, 1911	Capt. L. Conklin
I	2nd Infantry	Fort Lupton	May 20, 1911	Capt. R. W. Haynes
Band	2nd Infantry	Victor	July 27, 1911	.....
L	2nd Infantry	Fowler	Dec. 26, 1911	Capt. P. P. Newlon
Band	1st Infantry	Denver	Dec. 26, 1911	.....
<sup>1</sup> 2d Pl. C	2nd Infantry	Holly	Dec. 19, 1911	.....
<sup>1</sup> F	2nd Infantry	Holly	Jan. 14, 1913	Capt. G. L. Walter
I	2nd Infantry	Ordway	May 6, 1913	Capt. E. W. Downey
D	2nd Infantry	Durango	Aug. 8, 1913	Capt. E. F. Carson

#### *Mustered out:*

Company	Regiment	Station	Date of muster out
E	1st Infantry	Longmont	April 29, 1905
L	2nd Infantry	Victor	May 12, 1905
C	1st Infantry	Brighton	May 22, 1905
E	2nd Infantry	Rocky Ford	May 26, 1905

<sup>1</sup> This platoon was recruited on Dec. 19, 1911, and attached to Co. C, 2nd Infantry at Lamar. Its members were discharged on January 13, 1913, and were mustered in the following day as Co. F, 2nd Infantry.

practically impossible to maintain a military organization without having proper quarters for them. I am very desirous of having an armory building at Denver, and the present location changed to a more central one.

"The returns for the inspection are as follows:

## FIRST REGIMENT INFANTRY

Organization	Offrs.	PRESENT		Offrs.	ABSENT		Aggregate	
		Enltd.	Tot.		Enltd.	Tot.		
Hdqrs. ....	3	1	4	—	1	1	5	Denver
Band .....	—	24	24	—	4	4	28	Denver
Company A .....	2	12	14	1	43	44	58	Denver
Company B .....	2	14	16	—	22	22	38	Denver
Company C .....	2	12	14	—	41	41	55	Brighton
Company D .....	3	32	35	—	15	15	50	Greeley
Company E .....	2	12	14	—	33	33	47	Longmont
Company G .....	0	0	0	2	58	60	60	Loveland
Company H .....	1	25	26	—	45	45	71	Boulder
Company I .....	1	28	29	—	20	20	49	Ft. Morgan
Company L .....	3	18	21	—	27	27	48	Denver
Company M .....	3	37	40	—	10	10	50	Wray
Total .....	22	215	237	3	319	322	559	

Note: Co. "F2", Denver, was mustered out December 21, 1904.

## SECOND REGIMENT INFANTRY

Organization	Offrs.	PRESENT		Offrs.	ABSENT		Aggregate	
		Enltd.	Tot.		Enltd.	Tot.		
Hdqrs. ....	1	1	2	2	1	2	5	Pueblo
Band .....	—	16	16	—	22	22	38	Florence
Company A .....	1	15	16	—	53	53	69	Florence
Company B .....	2	6	8	—	48	48	56	Pueblo
Company D .....	2	29	31	—	35	35	66	Colo. Springs
Company E .....	1	27	28	2	31	33	61	Rocky Ford
Company H .....	2	16	18	—	43	43	61	Cripple Creek
Company I .....	1	16	17	1	32	33	50	Colo. Springs
Company L .....	3	21	24	—	40	40	64	Victor
Total .....	13	147	160	5	305	310	470	

Note: The following companies of the 2nd Infantry were mustered out on the dates stated:

Company C, Lamar, November 26, 1904

Company F, Canon City, March 29, 1904

Company G, Pueblo, November 12, 1904

Company K, Victor, (Prior to November 15, 1904, this organization was designated as Company K, 1st Infantry, and was transferred to the 2nd Infantry on the above mentioned date. Not inspected).



*Mustered out—Continued.*

Company	Regiment	Station	Date of muster out
G	1st Infantry	Loveland	July 17, 1905
B	2nd Infantry	Pueblo	July 20, 1905
<sup>2</sup> H	1st Infantry	Boulder	Jan. 23, 1906
H	2nd Infantry	Cripple Creek	March 26, 1906
A	2nd Infantry	Florence	March 27, 1906
D	2nd Infantry	Colorado Springs	Dec. 29, 1906
I	2nd Infantry	Colorado Springs	Dec. 29, 1906
M	1st Infantry	Wray	March 15, 1907
<sup>3</sup> G	1st Infantry	Denver	July 17, 1911
Band	2nd Infantry	Victor	March 25, 1912
F	2nd Infantry	Grand Junction	Oct. 29, 1912
I	2nd Infantry	Fort Lupton	March 19, 1913

In compliance with the provisions of Special Order No. 28, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, dated November 19, 1909, Companies E (Montrose), K (Victor),<sup>4</sup> and M (Golden) First Infantry, were transferred to the Second Infantry, each company retaining its old letter designation in the latter regiment. During June, 1910, Company M, 2nd Infantry, was reorganized with station in Denver, and the officers and enlisted men of the organization residing in Golden

<sup>2</sup> This company was, on the date of muster out as an infantry company, again mustered in as Troop D, 1st Squadron of Cavalry, C. N. G.

<sup>3</sup> The members of this company had requested to be mustered out in order to transfer to the artillery arm. They were later mustered in as Light Battery B, Colorado National Guard.

<sup>4</sup> The report of Adjutant General Sherman Bell for the biennial period ending Dec. 31, 1904, (page 55) states that Company K, 1st Infantry, was transferred to the 2nd Infantry on November 15, 1904. However, later rosters and orders from the Adjutant General's Office indicate clearly that this unit was in the 1st Infantry, C. N. G., until ordered transferred by the special order quoted above—i. e., S. O. No. 28, A. G. O., dated Nov. 19, 1909.



COMPANY E, 1ST INFANTRY, COLO. N. G., MONTROSE, COLO., 1908.  
Capt. A. F. Reeves, Commanding.



were transferred to a newly organized company of engineers.<sup>5</sup> On August 15, 1913, in compliance with General Orders No. 19, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, Company M was transferred back to the First Infantry, C. N. G., and re-designated Company G.

Changes in the commissioned ranks of both infantry regiments were many and frequent during this period and the baneful effects of petty politics threatened, at times, to seriously affect the morale of the entire Colorado National Guard. Colonel Edward Verdeckberg and Lieutenant Colonel Leo W. Kennedy, First Infantry, were honorably discharged on April 23, 1908, in compliance with Governor Buchtel's order, and Major Zeph T. Hill of the 1st Squadron of Cavalry, C. N. G., was appointed Colonel the same date of the First Infantry, vice Verdeckberg, discharged. Colonel Lewis Barnum, Second Infantry, C. N. G., resigned on June 10, 1908, and Lieutenant Colonel W. A. Davis took command of the regiment. Shortly after assuming office, Governor Shafroth on May 18, 1909, appointed Edward Verdeckberg as Lieutenant Colonel and Leo W. Kennedy as Major, First Infantry. Colonel Zeph T. Hill resigned his commission on December 12, 1910, and on October 3, 1911, Lieutenant Colonels Edward Verdeckberg and W. A. Davis were appointed Colonels of the First and Second Infantry Regiments, C. N. G., respectively.

On January 21, 1903, Congress passed an act (the so-called "Dick" Bill) providing for closer co-operation between the states and the federal government when it became necessary in a national emergency to call out the organized militia. Under the constitutional provision of "providing for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia" the act was designed to promote the efficiency of the National Guard by more liberal provisions for arming, equipping, and training the state forces. Conversely greater efficiency was demanded of the National Guard, and in order to comply in some measure with the requirements of the federal law, the General Assembly of Colorado, on April 14, 1903, passed an act bringing the law of Colorado into harmony with that of the National government. The new federal law provided for joint camps of instruction, regulars and national guardsmen training together to accomplish their ultimate mission, the defense of the nation. It was during this period (1905-1913) that the Colorado National Guard was privileged to attend two such camps with regular troops.

The first of these joint camps was held at Camp Emmet Crawford, Dale Creek (Pole Mountain), Wyoming, from August 1st to 10th, 1908, and the Colorado National Guard was represented by the First Infantry and detachments of the Signal and Medical Corps. The conduct of the Colorado troops during the camp elicited much favorable comment from the regulars, and the following complimentary letter was received by the Adjutant General at the conclusion of camp:

Headquarters Provisional Division,  
Camp Emmet Crawford,  
Near Dale Creek, Wyoming,  
August 10, 1908.

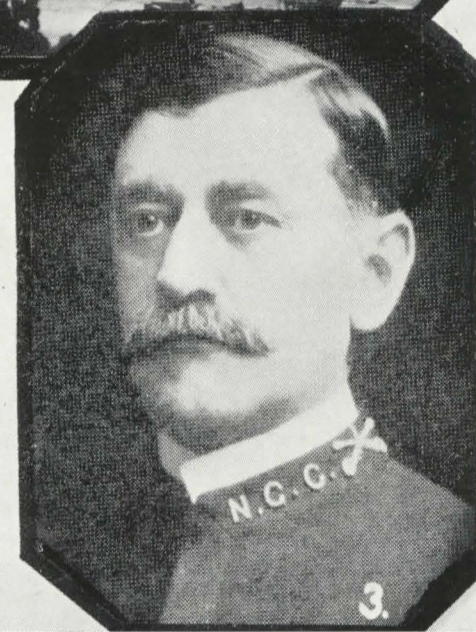
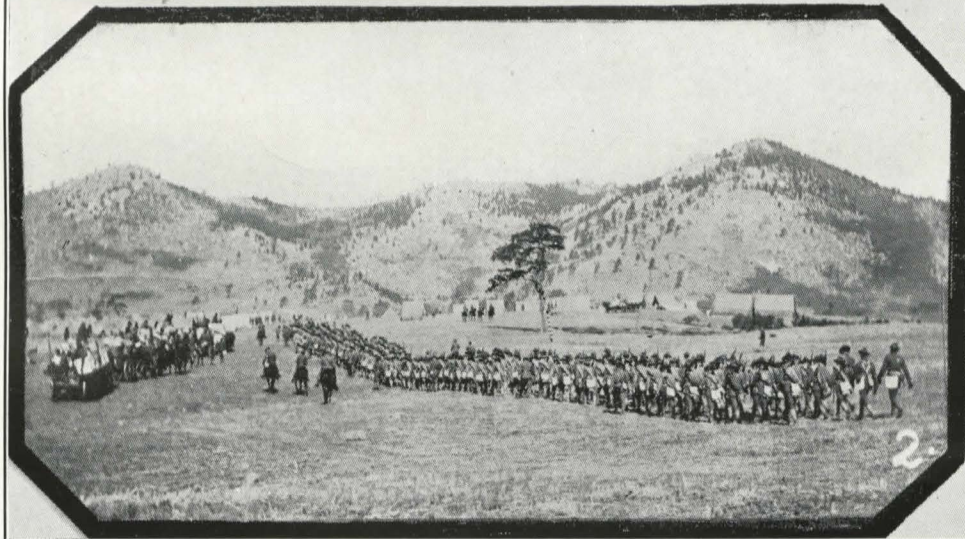
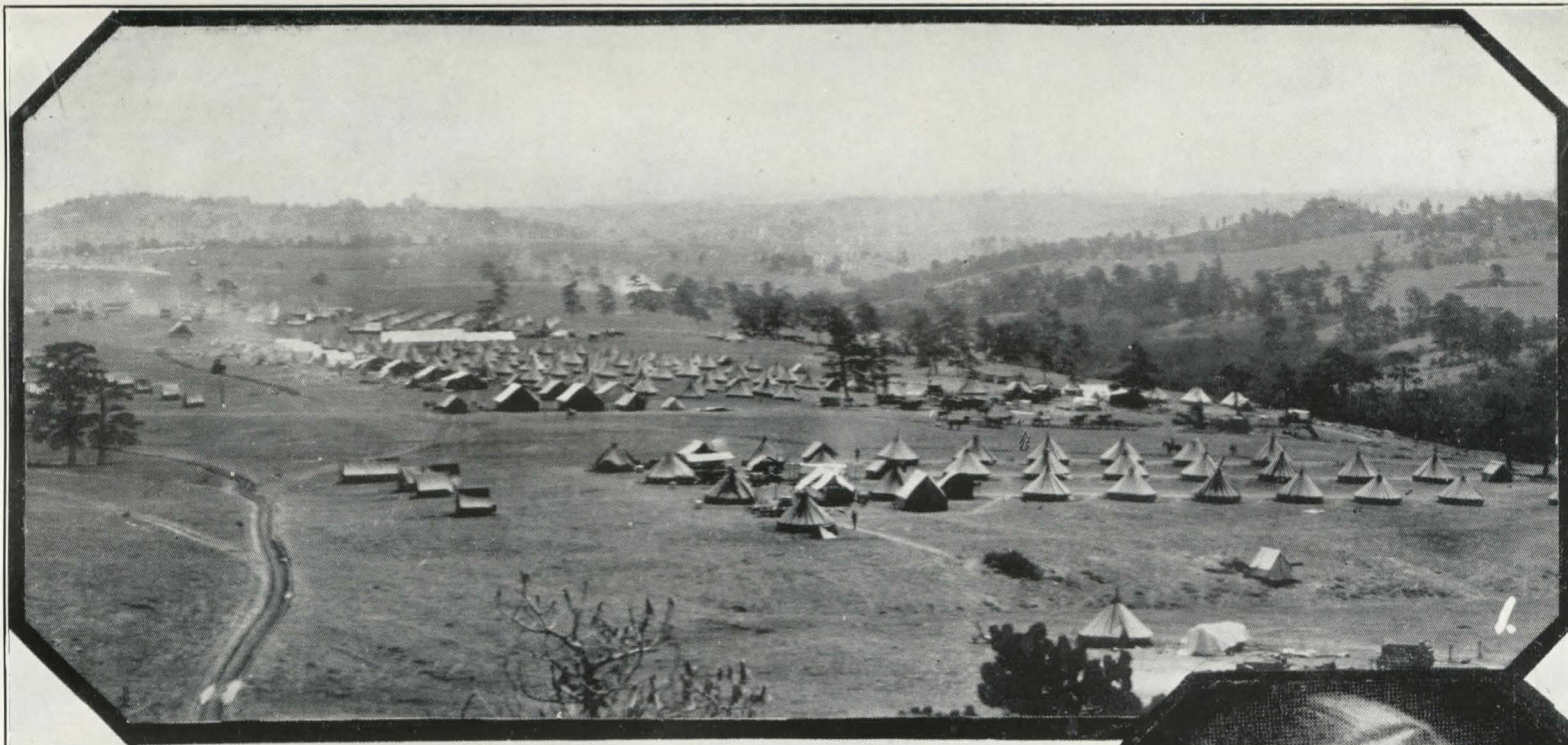
To the

Adjutant General  
State of Colorado  
Denver, Colorado.

Sir:—On the departure of the troops of your State from this Camp, it gives me pleasure to express to you my sincere appreciation of their good conduct and soldierly bearing. Their deportment while here was a credit to the State and to the organizations to which they belong.

<sup>5</sup> See Part Four, History of the 115th Engineers.





1.—Camp Emmet Crawford, Dale Creek (Pole Mountain), Wyo., August, 1908. Maneuver Camp of the 11th, 15th and 21st Regiments U. S. Infantry, and the 1st Infantry, C. N. G. 2.—“Homeward Bound”; the 1st Inf. C. N. G. Leaving Camp Emmet Crawford.  
3.—Col. Zeph T. Hill, Commanding 1st Inf., C. N. G., April 24, 1908, to December 12, 1910.



I trust that their stay here, brief though it was, has proved a benefit to them and tended to strengthen the bonds of sympathy and good-fellowship which should always exist between the troops of the National Guard and those of the Regular Service.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Chas. Morton,  
Brigadier General, Commanding.

The second joint camp was also held at Camp Emmet Crawford, Wyoming, July 19-27, 1912, a provisional regiment of infantry organized from the 1st and 2nd Regiments representing the Colorado National Guard.

In addition to these joint camps, the following camps of instruction, under supervision of regular army instructors, for the two infantry regiments, were also held:

First and Second Infantry Regt's.—Camp McDonald, Rifle Range, Golden, Colo., July 7-Aug. 31, 1906. Each unit of the respective regiments was required to serve for a period of not less than seven days, nor more than ten days, but was permitted to choose the dates of service.

First Infantry—Camp Buchtel, Rifle Range, near Golden, Colo., July 17-21, 1910.

Second Infantry—Palmer Lake, Colo., July 16-20, 1910.

Officers and Non-commissioned Officers of Infantry—Rifle Range near Golden, Colo., September 19-23, 1913.

The camps did much to increase the efficiency of both regiments, and the training received by all ranks was to stand them in good stead in the hectic days ahead.

Rifle and pistol marksmanship training was becoming increasingly important during this period, and the participation of teams representing the Colorado National Guard in the National Matches gave quite an impetus to this phase of training. State rifle and pistol matches were held at the Rifle Range near Golden two days in each year, and evoked keen interest and competition among all organizations armed with the rifle and pistol. The first team to represent the Colorado National Guard in the National Matches was sent to Sea Girt, New Jersey, during September, 1906, and teams were sent regularly thereafter to the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, and other places.

On September 21, 1909, President Taft visited Denver on his way to open the Gunnison Tunnel near Montrose, Colo. The First Infantry, together with other units of the Colorado National Guard, had the honor of forming the escort for the President during his stay in Denver, and on his arrival at the Gunnison Tunnel he was escorted by Company E, First Infantry, C. N. G., from Montrose.

As stated at the beginning of this chapter, the period that intervened between the closing of the strike of the metalliferous miners of the Cripple Creek and Telluride districts in 1904, and the outbreak of the coal miner's strike of 1913, was a comparatively uneventful one for the Colorado National Guard. The freedom from strike duty permitted the troops to turn their attention to training and the up-building of the National Guard generally. The camps of instruction, the closer association and co-operation with the regular service, and the participation in the National Rifle Matches all had a wonderfully beneficial effect. Colorado guardsmen were beginning to dream of that happy future when strike duty would be no more and they could apply themselves without stint to the business of preparing themselves for use as a *National* force: it was an ideal picture for the military enthusiast—and then the storm broke!



In 1910 a strike of coal miners was declared in Boulder County. This continued through 1911 and 1912. On the 12th of September, 1913, a strike was called in the southern coal fields of the state largely as a sympathetic measure, and to enforce recognition of the miners' union. This was followed by destruction of property, murder and lawless acts, with which the legally appointed peace officials were unable to cope. Ludlow and Forbes, mining towns in the southern district, were the scenes of actual pitched battles lasting for days, and in which several people, mine guards and strikers, were killed and seriously wounded. The reign of terror continued until the 26th of October, when, to quote Governor Ammons: "The time came when, despite all other consideration, the State had to assert its authority through its military arm. In the southern field a reign of terror prevailed. The good citizens of the State, in no wise concerned with the strike itself, were in real danger of their lives. Between the two contending factions no respect whatever was paid to the constituted civil officers of the peace. Because of the almost frantic appeal of the sheriffs of both southern counties, of the boards of county commissioners, mayors, judges, and other civil authorities, as well as from hundreds of the citizens, I felt constrained to call out the National Guard. These soldiers of the State went into this seething cauldron of blood and battle in the last days of October. They found these two armed bodies of men in large numbers thirsting for each other's blood and ready to spring at each other's throats. \* \* \*".

Complying promptly with the Governor's proclamation, Adjutant General John Chase in General Orders No. 24 of October 26, 1913, directed that all field and staff officers and the following companies of the Second Infantry be assembled in their respective armories and held ready for field service: Companies A, B, C, F, H, I, and L. This order was followed on the 28th of October by General Orders No. 26, Office of the Adjutant General, Denver, Colorado, in which "the Commanding Officers of First Infantry, Second Infantry, Medical Department, First Squadron Cavalry, and Company A, Signal Corps, will assemble their commands, fully equipped for field service. The Commanding Officer, First Battalion Field Artillery, will organize from his command one provisional battery, fully equipped for field service." Adjutant General John Chase was directed to take command of all troops of the Colorado National Guard in the field.

To appreciate the difficult task that confronted the Colorado National Guard let us consider, first, the territory to be covered in Southern Colorado alone—an uninviting country larger than the state of Rhode Island, or the state of Delaware, and nearly as large as the state of Connecticut. This was traversed from north to south by a line of communications consisting of two parallel railroads and a chain of (then) mediocre highways. To the south was Trinidad—the distributing point; to the north Walsenburg—a small city; and in the center was Ludlow—a hotbed of anarchy and lawlessness. From this main trunk ramify numberless canyons in which were situated the mines. All this vast territory had to be occupied by the military forces, a meager 1,600 officers and men, to protect the numerous small mining properties and their inhabitants, to maintain the lines of communication, and to checkmate the movements of the roving bands of belligerent strikers. Besides this southern coal field, the troops were later called to occupy Fremont county, 162 miles distant; Boulder county 232 miles distant; and Routt county, 430 miles distant.

Next consider the character of the strikers: These mercenaries of the mine unions were not the street-parading, brick-throwing, jeering crowds of the larger cities. They were an organized force of armed and paid men; the agitators and their satellites, well paid and experienced in planning campaigns and in



inciting the ignorant to follow them; imported Greeks and other foreigners of military experience in the Balkan, Mexican, and other wars; and the main body of ignorant foreigners to be found around all the mining camps of those days.

The troops of the Colorado National Guard arrived in the southern coal fields on the 29th of October, 1913, and established two main camps, one at Trinidad, Colonel W. A. Davis, 2nd Infantry commanding, and the other at Walsenburg, Colonel E. Verdeckberg, 1st Infantry, commanding, with subsidiary camps throughout the district, twelve in all. This number was soon increased to thirty-four, exclusive of detached posts. The troops were divided without regard to regimental organization, their disposition being governed by the expediency of the moment. For example the initial garrison of the camp at Walsenburg consisted of the following:

*1st Infantry:*

Headquarters and Companies C, D, F, H, and I.

*2nd Infantry:*

Companies D, E, G, and K.

*1st Squadron Cavalry:*

Troop D.

That of the camp at Trinidad as follows:

*1st Infantry:*

Companies A, G, and M.

*2nd Infantry:*

Headquarters and Companies A, C, F, H, and I.

*1st Squadron Cavalry:*

Troop C.

*Provisional Battery, Colorado Field Artillery.*

The remaining companies and troops of both regiments and the cavalry squadron were on detached duty throughout the district.

To get a first-hand and intimate story of subsequent events I shall now quote from the report of Captain Nickerson, 2nd Infantry, C. N. G., who was adjutant of the Trinidad camp:

"The troops were received with apparent welcome. First the guards of the mines and the deputies turned in their arms and ammunition. The strikers professed willingness to surrender their arms, but when the time arrived they assumed a 'come-and-get-it' attitude, and persistent searches resulted in the recovery of only a part of their arms, with abundant proof that large quantities were concealed in arroyos, woods, buildings, or were shipped to other points. About 1900 guns of all kinds were taken up during the tour of service and several hundred others in the hands of law-abiding citizens were registered. The Ludlow Tent Colony was searched but evidently the arms and ammunition had been taken elsewhere prior to the search. The arrival of the troops at Ludlow was greeted with 200 strikers carrying the American flag, a brass band was playing patriotic airs, and every diplomatic profession of good faith.

"The tour of duty was marked by the occasional firing on the smaller camps, the murder of private detectives, guards of the mines and workmen. Several street riots were nipped in the bud and many plans for concerted action in force were anticipated and prevented. The chief duty consisted in foreseeing the plans of the strikers and immediately massing troops at those points where outbreaks might be expected. This resulted in the continual shifting of organizations from station to station. The main camps were constantly sending out detachments for temporary or permanent duty and withdrawing others.



"Little by little the forces were decreased until, on the 16th of April, when the troops were ordered to their home stations, there was about one-fourth of the original force in the field. This withdrawal was made necessary by the lack of funds in the State, the men not having been paid for the last three months' service and no prospects of remuneration in sight.

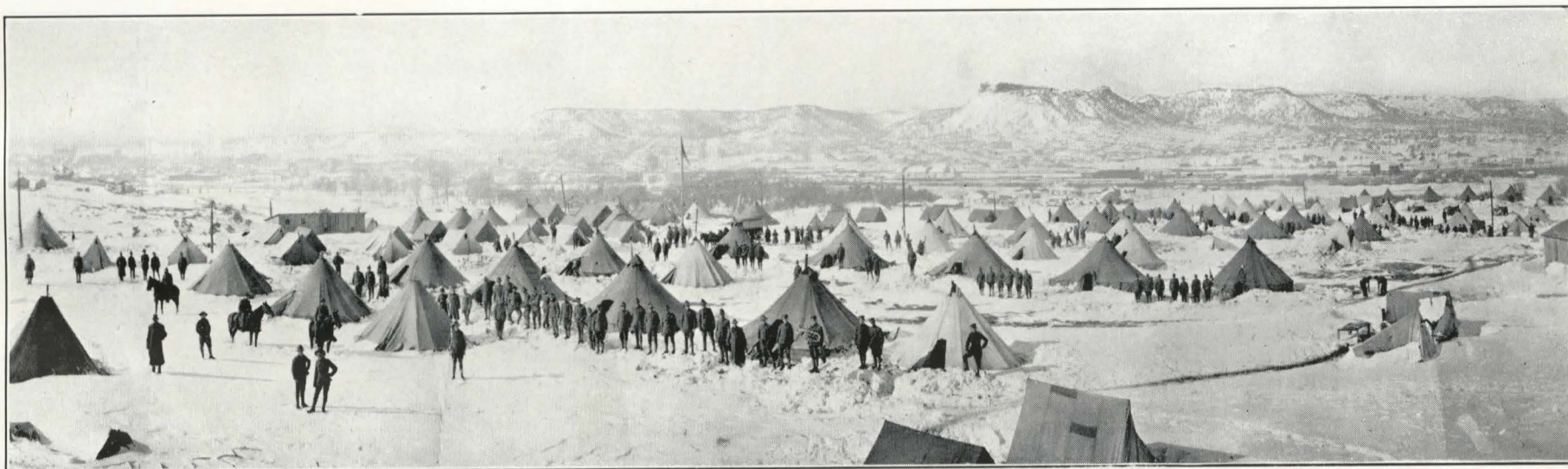
"At Ludlow, a small force of six officers and men were left as military headquarters for that part of the district, supported by a company of mounted infantry numbering two officers and 34 men, stationed in the Berwind canyon one mile distant.

"After the troops returned home the strikers began their preparation for control of the district. Arms and ammunition were shipped in. Automobiles were kept busy carrying the agitators from point to point. Depleted forces were recruited. On Monday morning, the 20th of April, the bubble broke. The Commanding Officer, Major P. J. Hamrock, 1st Infantry, C. N. G., of the Ludlow military camp, protested to Louis Tikas, the Greek leader of the Ludlow Tent Colony, because he had been holding there against his will a man who wanted to go back to work at the mines. The Commanding Officer, unable to obtain any satisfaction, telephoned to the mounted infantry at the Berwind Canyon to come down to Ludlow with the machine gun and drill in the vicinity. He felt that he must insist on some explanation from the Greek leader and might be forced to search the colony for the prisoner. While the company was en route to Ludlow, Louis Tikas changed his mind and telephoned that he would meet the Commanding Officer at a conference at the railway station, a point midway between the military camp and the tent colony. During this conference it was observed that the women and children of the colony were leaving the tents and disappearing into an arroyo to the rear. Also men could be seen in small, excited groups carrying rifles, some bound for the arroyo and others going parallel to the railroad track to a sand cut directly behind the station and opposite the military camp. Major Hamrock protested to the Greek leader against this unusual disturbance. Both left the station, the Greek promising to restore order, the officer bound for camp to telephone to General Chase.

"To form an idea of the terrain, imagine the Ludlow railway station as the center of the field. The railroad runs north and south. Four hundred yards north and on the east of the track is the tent colony of the strikers; 200 yards further north is an iron bridge spanning the arroyo in which the women and children and about 100 armed men of the colony were hiding. Six hundred yards east is the sand cut formed by an old railroad spur. Three hundred yards west is the military camp, controlling the entrance to the Berwind Canyon and the Delague-Hastings Canyon. Four hundred yards south is an overhead railroad bridge and 100 yards southeast of the bridge is the Water Tower Hill, on which the mounted infantry later took up their position.

"At the military camp the company officer of the mounted infantry reported to the Commanding Officer, his command about half a mile behind. The Commanding Officer having received orders from General Chase to take position and clear the hills if necessary, ordered the mounted infantry to take position with the machine gun on the Water Tower Hill. The company commander left to join his command and execute the orders; the Commanding Officer started from headquarters toward the station. Suddenly and without provocation the strikers opened fire, some shots falling about the mounted infantry taking up position on the hill, other bullets dusting about camp, about 150 shots being fired in the first onslaught. The Commanding Officer with the three men in camp took cover in some steel freight cars on a switch just behind camp. The camp





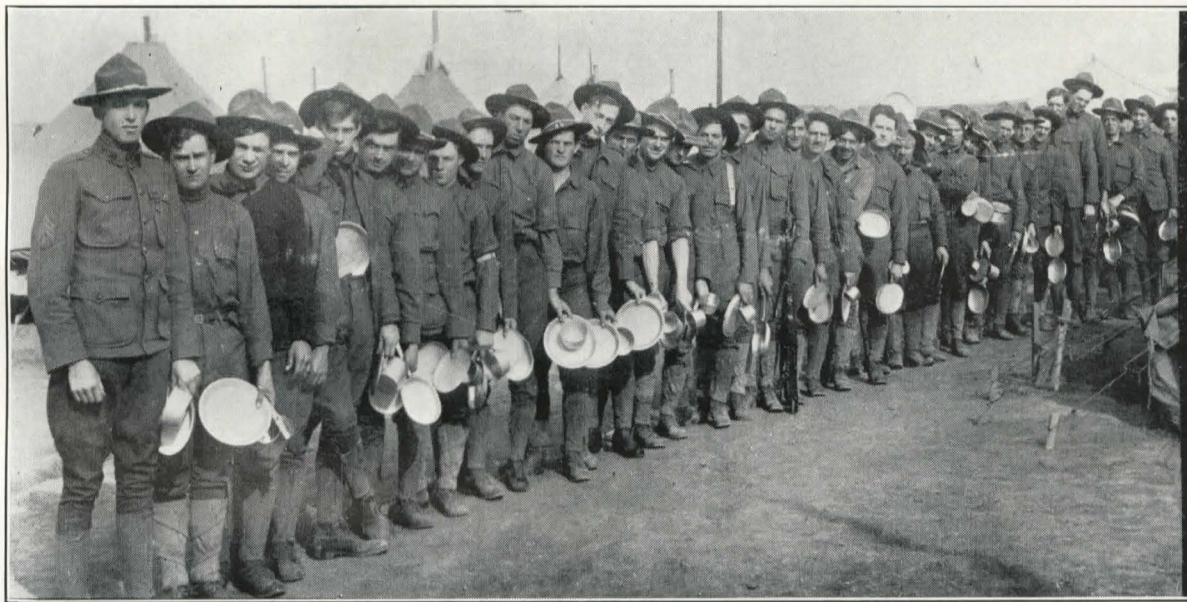
CAMP OF THE COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD AT TRINIDAD, COLO., DECEMBER 7, 1913; (THE MORNING FOLLOWING THE BIG SNOW).



adjutant collected two men watering horses north of camp and opposite the Tent Colony and took cover near there. Then for the first time our forces opened fire. The advance of the strikers was checked. As quickly as the fire from the opposing force would allow our firing line was formed. There were five officers present, and each took command of a half dozen men who followed them into any sort of danger. Leaving about twelve men with the machine gun on the hill, the line was extended from that point toward the camp and beyond. One detail took post between the hill and the station. Another after repeated efforts gained a position near the station. A third detail relieved the precarious situation of the camp adjutant on the left. Almost all the fighting was on the flanks. Freight cars in front of the station protected our center and the camp. The reluctance of our men to fire on the Tent Colony saved the center of the opposing force. As a matter of fact, after investigation revealed almost no bullet holes in the woodwork in and about the colony.

"All morning long the handful of men on the left, working back and forward and under what cover could be found, kept the strikers entrenched near the Tent Colony and in the arroyo from advancing in force. On the right the mounted Infantry on the hill kept a steady enfilade which held the strikers in the sand cut. Occasionally parties from the sand cut took advantage of the folds in the ground to extend their lines and outflank us. Invariably a detail from our little force would advance and engage them, driving them back to cover. It was in one of these advances on the right flank that Private Martin was killed. The fire was too heavy to allow his four comrades to carry back his body. It was afterwards recovered, terribly mutilated. Shortly after Martin was killed, Private Percell was shot in the shoulder in an advance to prevent the strikers from rushing Water Tower Hill. At noon a small detachment from Troop A at Hastings, which had been ordered to duty, reinforced the right-center. During the afternoon the strikers slowly retreated from the sand cut, giving an opportunity to shift to the left of our line. The strikers rallied in the trenches and rifle pits about the tent colony and in the arroyo, but as the afternoon wore on they were pushed back by advance rushes of our men and slowly retreated to long range along the arroyo. About thirty men of the troop arriving from Trinidad at 5 p. m. finished the routing of the forces about the colony. It was while our forces were advancing on the colony and about 200 yards distant that a stray bullet struck some combustible substance in a tent in the colony and fire started which slowly spread through the colony. This occurred about 6:30 p. m., after eight hours of fighting. As our men closed on the colony a woman in the colony was heard to scream. A search was instituted for a person who might have been left behind, the word being sent down the line to stop firing in that direction. This search was led by Captain Carson, Captain Linderfelt and Lieutenant Linderfelt, and was made under fire of the strikers, who, taking advantage of the light afforded by the burning tents, used as targets the soldiers engaged in the merciful task of rescuing the women and children of the strikers. Between 25 and 30 were so rescued. The refugees were fed, taken to the train and sent to Trinidad. A collection of \$18 was taken up by the soldiers and given to the refugees. It was only by heroic work and under heavy fire of the strikers that these people were saved. No loss of life occurred in the colony except one boy who was shot early in the afternoon while he was standing among a group of strikers. Also a group of unfortunate women and children died by suffocation, all in a cave so cunningly concealed under the floor of a large tent that it was impossible for our rescue party to find them. There was no knowledge of this until the bodies were found in a systematic search the next morning. None of these bodies showed any bullet marks.





"MESS LINE", CO. G, 1ST INF., COLO. N. G. (DENVER),  
at the Trinidad Camp, November, 1913.



A WINTER PATROL  
Detachment from Co. G, 1st Inf., C. N. G., Patrolling  
the Foothills at Oak Creek, Colo., January, 1914.



"Night closed with our forces in control of the railroad line and the strikers gathering their scattered forces in the hills 2,000 yards distant.

"Again the National Guard was ordered into the field, and the several commands reported at Ludlow from the different parts of the State during the next three days. As the troop train approached the strike zone, the rioters occupied several positions for the purpose of attacking the train. A skirmish line in each cut scattered their forces and no stand was made against the troops. The troop train was held at Lynn pending a side trip made by our forces to the canyon above Aguilar, where about 300 refugees were taken out of the mines. These people had retired into the coal mines when the buildings on the property were destroyed, and had successfully defended themselves against the rage of the rioters. Nearly all of them had been without food of any kind for two days. There were several casualties on each side at the time the properties were destroyed. The body of one of the mine guards in the vicinity of Aguilar was found horribly mutilated. The strikers of Aguilar and Lynn fled to the hills upon the approach of the troops, most of the fighting men joining their comrades in the camps of the strikers near Ludlow, about eight miles distant.

"For twenty years the soldiers of Colorado have hoped that the time might come when anarchists and murderers, grown bold by toleration, would gather en mass as foes to the sovereignty of the State. This condition existed in the hills east of Ludlow on the morning of April 24th. At Lynn, only eight miles distant from this band of outlaws, the Commanding General, with ample forces at his disposal, including one platoon of artillery, was met by a peremptory order to go into camp. Vigorous protests secured a modification of this order permitting him to proceed to Ludlow to join the force which, for three days, had been gallantly battling against ten times their number of armed forces. The order, however, prohibited any aggressive act and forbade going south of Ludlow towards Trinidad.

"Prior to the arrival of reinforcements at Ludlow, the firing of the strikers from long ranges was gradually silenced. About a dozen sharpshooters armed with Express No. 1 and other high-power rifles kept a steady fire on our outposts at 1500, 1700 and 2000 yard ranges. Their marksmanship was unquestionably that of experienced marksmen and our men were obliged to keep under cover.

"Investigation immediately after the battle of the 20th proved conclusively the preparedness of the strikers for their attack. Empty shipping cases for rifles were found about the colony. Boxes partly filled with ammunition were taken out of the tents, many which were consigned 'Hdqrs. John Lawson, Ludlow, Colo.' Entrenchments and earthworks, some freshly dug and others so situated as to avoid suspicion before the outbreak, gave glaring evidence of the warlike intentions of the colony. The armed forces went to their shelter in the arroyo, in the rifle pits near the colony, and behind the sand piles on the railroad grade. Some of the rifle pits were the battle-shaped, Boer variety. The retirement of women and children to the arroyo, which was an impregnable means of escape to the hills, occurring as it did before any evidence of trouble, showed their preconceived plan of action.

"During the week trouble broke out throughout the district. At first the small force at Ludlow could not garrison all these points. At a sacrifice small parties were posted at points where trouble was anticipated, but strikers posing as non-combatants reported every movement and points covered by our forces were avoided in the path of destruction. Upon the concentration of the troops a disposition through the troubled district was again effected. Sights of terrible destruction met our troops everywhere. Buildings burned or riddled with bul-



lets and defenseless people as well as those attempting to guard their property were killed and wounded by the strikers' rifles. Comparative peace met our arrival, except at Walsenburg. \* \* \*''.

Here 300 strikers had entrenched themselves on the crest of a high ridge overlooking the military camp, from which they opened fire upon a force of fifty men of the National Guard under Col. Edward Verdeckberg. Here a gallant fight ensued. The National Guardsmen advanced by squad rushes first, then by infiltration over 1,000 yards under a galling fire. During this encounter three men, including Lieutenant Scott, were wounded. It was in this battle that Major P. P. Lester, of the Medical Corps, who had gone with the men on the firing line, was shot and killed by one of the strikers. His Red Cross badge was in plain view all the time. The troops had advanced to a position within fifty yards of the trench, and were fixing bayonets preparatory to a final charge when a courier crept up to the line with an order to cease firing as a truce had been agreed on. It was impossible to make the men in the trenches understand. They had shown no respect for either the Red Cross or flag of truce. Colonel Verdeckberg could not, with safety, withdraw his men, so he held them under cover until darkness fell, when he retired to the camp. Later it was found that two bullets had been fired into the body of Major Lester after he was dead, his puttees and blouse, together with his insignia, money, wrist-watch, and equipment, stolen.<sup>6</sup> At Hecla more than 100 miles north, the strikers, under a flag of truce, advanced to a position within fifty yards of the mine, when they suddenly opened fire upon the surprised defenders, captured the mine, drove the women and children into the mine and destroyed the opening and other property with dynamite. In Fremont County, at a point where no troops had been stationed, further disorders occurred, and Louisville, Crested Butte, Oak Creek and other points widely separated, followed suit. It was the evident purpose of the strikers to cause a division of the National Guard into small and ineffective groups, separated by wide distance affording no opportunity of concentration. That all this had been well planned in advance leaves no room for doubt. This division had to be made, however, for troops were hastily dispatched to each new scene of conflict.

Anarchy and insurrection were rife all throughout the state and, to quote Governor Ammons once again, "Truce after truce was arranged between the soldiers of the State and their armed adversaries. These truces were scrupulously kept by the National Guard, but the labor leaders who agreed to them either could not or did not control their own people. The time came when the rebellion assumed such proportions that it could not be met with the greatly reduced forces at my disposal, a force unpaid for four months, and to pay whom for any further service there was no visible means or prospect of means. I called the Legislature of the State together in extra session to provide for this expense. At the same time I requested the President of the United States to take charge of the situation with Federal troops. That request was honored. Upon the coming of the Federal troops, the National Guard was withdrawn from county after county. The name and power of the United States was freely invoked; the strikers and their sympathisers subsided, and peace and order were restored.

"I feel that I should add here a word for the Colorado National Guard. These men have been made the object of very bitter public attack. Opprobrium, undeserved, has been publicly heaped upon them. The charge that they were recruited from the purlieus of the great cities and were not representative of the average population of the State is an absurdity. Any charge that they were hirelings of either side to the industrial dispute is ridiculous. The truth is that

<sup>6</sup> See Appendix J.



the Colorado National Guard is composed, as in other states, of farmers, tradesmen, mechanics, and artisans, with an unusually large proportion of professional men. It is a volunteer force. These men have served their State with truly commendable devotion, to sacrifice of their own personal interests, risking their lives in a quarrel not their making, and in which they had no interest. They have not been paid this year even the pittance that is allowed by law. If ever patriotism found expression, it is in the unrecompensed and unselfish service of these soldiers of the State who have only the consciousness of a duty performed to reward them, and upon whom has been heaped the opprobrium and abuse that private interest has dictated."<sup>7</sup>

With the arrival of the Federal troops the insurrection was at an end, and although isolated attacks were made on small detachments of the regulars, no concerted move was made to renew the terror and disorder of the preceding months. The strike officially ended on December 8, 1914, by declaration of the miners convention held in Denver in conjunction with the Industrial Relations committee appointed by President Wilson.

The strike and subsequent insurrection were the most violent and bloody that had ever stained the pages of Colorado's eventful history, and through it all the Colorado National Guardsmen fully lived up to that splendid motto of the West Point Military Academy—"Duty, Honor, Country." As a fitting end to the story of the insurrection let us read what the Rev. A. A. Berle, D. D., of Cambridge, Mass., had to say of the Colorado Guardsman: "But this much is certain, that the militia of Colorado are the most cruelly libeled body of men, and their officers slandered beyond all bounds of reason and justice. When the young soldier of Colorado seeks to save life under murderous fire, and then is pilloried the country over as being engaged in 'Massacres' great wrong has been done, which should shame into everlasting damnation the foul hands that penned the lies."

As was inevitable, the severe service during the insurrection had the usual effect, and under the reaction of a return from military to civil life many of the organizations of the Colorado National Guard became ineffective through losses by discharge and the inability to secure desirable recruits. Changes in organizations during the period January 1, 1914, to June 14, 1916, were as follows:

*Mustered in:*

Company	Regiment	Station	Date of muster-in	Commanding Officer
1 M	2nd Infantry	Steamboat Sprgs.	Jan. 16, 1914	Capt. G. H. Cruikshank
K	2nd Infantry	Berwind	Oct. 13, 1914	Capt. W. A. Chase
2 M	2nd Infantry	Sopris	Oct. 31, 1914	Capt. J. A. Chase
D	2nd Infantry	Rouse	Nov. 18, 1914	Capt. T. C. Linderfelt
3 H	2nd Infantry	Farr	Dec. 3, 1914	Capt. C. E. Hill
4 Band	2nd Infantry	Cheraw	April 7, 1915	.....
H	1st Infantry	Selbert	April 13, 1915	Capt. C. D. Hutchens
K	2nd Infantry	Canon City	Aug. 24, 1915	Capt. A. Livingstone
I	2nd Infantry	Rocky Ford	Sept. 14, 1915	Capt. J. G. Lill

NOTE: (1) This company was transferred to the 1st Infantry on November 23, 1914, and designated Company "E". (2) This company was mustered in on date given without letter designation; on transfer of Company "M" at Steamboat Springs to the 1st Infantry, this company was designated Company "M", 2nd Infantry. (3) This company was mustered in as the "1st Separate Company of Infantry"; designation changed later to Company H, 2nd Infantry (4) Later designated as "Cheraw Platoon, Company "I", 2nd Infantry"; designation again changed on April 5, 1916, to "Band, 2nd Infantry."

<sup>7</sup> See Appendix I.



On March 14, 1916, in accordance with instructions contained paragraph 1, of Special Orders No. 6, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, the members of Company F, 2nd Infantry, Holly, Colorado, were transferred to Company C, 2nd Infantry, and designated as the "Holly Platoon, Company C, 2nd Infantry."

*Mustered out:*

Company	Regiment	Station	Date
E	1st Infantry	Windsor	May 11, 1914
D	2nd Infantry	Durango	Oct. 22, 1914
K	2nd Infantry	Victor	Oct. 20, 1914
H	1st Infantry	Brush	Dec. 14, 1914
H	2nd Infantry	La Junta	Feb. 13, 1915
D	1st Infantry	Greeley	May 27, 1915
K	2nd Infantry	Berwind	Aug. 12, 1915
M	2nd Infantry	Sopris	Aug. 10, 1915
I	2nd Infantry	Ordway	Sept. 13, 1915
D	2nd Infantry	Rouse	Sept. 16, 1915
F	1st Infantry	Fort Collins	Nov. 3, 1915
A	2nd Infantry	Colo. Springs	Nov. 5, 1915
E	2nd Infantry	Montrose	Nov. 13, 1915
E	1st Infantry	Steamboat Sprgs.	Dec. 30, 1915
H	2nd Infantry	Farr	March 16, 1916
M	1st Infantry	Longmont	March 24, 1916
C	1st Infantry	Ault	May 31, 1916

It will be noted from the above tables that the number of units mustered out was considerably greater than those mustered in and the condition of the two regiments of this period was far from satisfactory. However, to hasten a return to normal conditions throughout the entire guard, camps of instruction were ordered to be conducted, and the annual state rifle and pistol matches were re-instituted during the fall of 1914. A camp of instruction for officers of infantry was held at the Rifle Range, Golden, from June 22nd to 26th, 1914, and the following organizations of the 2nd Infantry under Major E. D. Householder were in camp at Fowler, Colorado, from September 18th to 22nd, 1915; Band, and Companies C, F, I, and L. A team representing the Colorado National Guard participated in the National Rifle and Pistol Matches at the State Camp Grounds, Florida, from October 15th to 22nd, 1915.

On April 12, 1915, the State Legislature passed an Act reorganizing the Colorado National Guard in Conformity with the requirements of the War Department as to staff departments and tables of organization for line troops. The Act directed that the National Guard of Colorado was to consist of the following:

The Adjutant General's Department,  
 The Inspector General's Department,  
 The Judge Advocate General's Department,  
 The Quartermaster Corps,  
 The Medical Department,  
 The Ordnance Department  
 Two regiments of infantry,  
 One separate squadron of cavalry,  
 Two batteries of field artillery



One company of engineers (later amended to two companies).

One field company of signal troops, and a Retired List.

Reorganization under the new act was to become effective on July 12, 1915, and strenuous efforts were made to effect a complete re-organization in full compliance with the law. However, the component units of the two infantry regiments had become so few in number that despite every effort to organize new units it was ultimately realized that further re-organization was necessary. Accordingly on June 15, 1916, in compliance with General Orders No. 23, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, Colorado, same date, the Second Infantry, C. N. G., was disbanded and Headquarters, Field, Staff and Band of the regiment were mustered out of the service of the state. Companies C, G, I, K, and L of the same regiment were transferred to the First Infantry, C. N. G., and assigned to duty therein under the following designations:

Company C as Company C 1st Infantry.

Company G as Company D 1st Infantry.

Company I as Company E 1st Infantry.

Company K as Company F 1st Infantry.

Company L as Company K 1st Infantry.

At the completion of the re-organization the status of the First Infantry was as follows:

Unit	Station	STRENGTH		Commanding Officers
		Officers	E. M.	
Field, Staff and N. C. Staff Band	Denver	11	8	Colonel E. Verdeckberg
	Denver	-----	28	Capt. R. B. Long, (Adjutant)
Company A	Denver	2	17	Capt. A. L. Williams
Company B	Denver	3	35	Capt. H. E. Insley
Company C	Lamar	2	54	Capt. H. C. Byrnes
Company D	Delta	2	46	Capt. J. Charlesworth
Company E	Rocky Ford	1	45	Capt. J. G. Lill
Company F	Canon City	3	49	Capt. A. Livingstone
Company G	Denver	3	52	Capt. J. H. Nankivell
Company H	Seibert	3	49	Capt. C. D. Hutchens
Company I	Fort Morgan	2	24	Capt. I. H. Dailey
Company K	Fowler	3	49	Capt. P. P. Newlon
Company L	Denver	1	51	Capt. C. H. Doke
Totals .....		36	507	

Colonel Edward Verdeckberg resigned his commission on June 30, 1916, and was succeeded as regimental commander by Captain Walter T. Bates, Infantry, regular army, inspector-instructor with the Colorado National Guard, who was appointed Colonel, First Infantry C. N. G., on August 1, 1916.