

CHAPTER III

BATTALION AND REGIMENTAL ORGANIZATION

THE LEADVILLE STRIKE OF 1880—ORGANIZATION OF BATTALIONS
—“EVENTS” DURING 1881-1882—ORGANIZATION OF THE “FIRST
REGIMENT OF INFANTRY” MARCH 22, 1883—REORGANIZATION
OF THE REGIMENT, APRIL 10, 1884—BANDS.

During the year 1880 the troops of the Colorado National Guard received their first experience of strike duty, a duty with which they were to become only too familiar in ensuing years, and one which was arduous and exacting, having little of military glory attached to it, and oftentimes performed in the face of bitter prejudice and hostility engendered by selfish interests. It is to the everlasting credit of the Colorado Guardsman that he stuck to his job and did it well on all occasions when called out to quell civil disturbances, despite the hostility of those elements of the community that were, and always have been, adverse to the enforcement of law and order.

Late in May 1880, the miners of the Leadville district united in a strike for increased wages and an eight hour shift. To quote from Hall's History of Colorado: "Negotiations between the malcontents and managers followed, but both being obstinate, nothing good came out of them. As a consequence the strike spread to all the principal mines, the workmen walked out and crowded into the town; organized a procession with a brass band at the head and marched to the various shafts where such as were at work were called out and joined them. * * * Great excitement ensued. The marching miners, the stoppage of the mines, the indiscreet brawlers in the ranks, all conspired to produce a sense of coming danger. No man could foretell what the results would be, but everything indicated serious disorder and bloodshed." After much parading came threats of violence, and certain demonstrations exciting the belief that bloodshed and burning must ensue, the military power was called into requisition. Major General Wilson, commanding the southern division, being absent from the State, Major General D. J. Cook was ordered to proceed to Leadville and put into operation the armed machinery of martial law. Wm. H. James, ex-Mayor of the City, was appointed Brigadier-General and placed in immediate command of the Post. Under orders received, two regiments of seven companies each, were organized and mustered into the service during the emergency. Seven days later, order having been restored, these troops were mustered out and disbanded. The strike ended on the 18th of June, 1880, and on the 26th of the same month the Governor revoked his proclamation of martial law.

Immediately after the muster out of the regiments raised in Leadville for the period of the strike, five new companies of infantry were organized in that city and mustered into the state service for a period of three years. These companies, together with the old Leadville companies, the "Tabor Highland Guard" and the "Wolf Tone Guard", (the "Leadville Guard" had been mustered out with the emergency regiments), formed what was known as the "Leadville Battalion," and was the first battalion organization in the Colorado National Guard, its date of organization being given as July 7, 1880.

The time had now arrived for the organization of the remaining infantry companies into larger commands, and since it was deemed impracticable to adopt a regimental formation, contiguous companies were arranged by battalions under the provisions of General Orders No. 7, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, Colorado, November 8, 1880. The subsequent mustering-in of additional companies somewhat modified the organization prescribed by the above order, and on December 30, 1880, we find that Adjutant General Frank Hall in his biennial report to the Governor states that the organization of the infantry was as follows:

FIRST INFANTRY BATTALION

Company A—"Emmett Guard"—Central City—Capt. John S. Dormer.
Company B—"Governor's Guard"—Denver—Capt. M. L. Paddock.
Company C—"Georgetown Light Infantry"—Georgetown—Capt. Robert S. Morrison.
Company D—"Denver Zouaves"—Denver—Capt. Chas. A. Hawley.
(Mustered in December 15, 1880; Captain Chas. A. Hawley; 1st Lieut. Wm. E. Edom; 2nd Lieut. H. C. Ensminger).

SECOND INFANTRY BATTALION

Company A (Formerly Co. C)—"Pitkin Guard"—Lake City—Captain George J. Richards.
Company B (Formerly Co. F)—"Downer Guard"—Saguache—Captain Luther L. Thomas.
Company D—"Parrott City Guard"—Parrott City—Capt. C. B. Jackson.
(Mustered in June 5, 1880; Captain C. B. Jackson; 1st Lieut. W. P. Dyer; 2nd Lieut. J. E. Moffet).

THIRD INFANTRY BATTALION

Company A—"Wolf Tone Guard"—Leadville—Capt. Christopher Caffrey.
Company B—"Tabor Highland Guard"—Leadville—Capt. D. J. K. McDonald.
Company C—Leadville—Capt. Miles S. Gillidet.
(Mustered in June 22, 1880; Captain Miles S. Gillidet; 1st Lieut. Fred M. Gilbough; 2nd Lieut. Oliver D. Hutchinson).
Company D—Leadville—Capt. Wm. R. Bair.
(Mustered in June 23, 1880; Capt. Wm. R. Bair; 1st Lieut. Cassius M. Jones; 2nd Lieut. Wm. Clark).
Company E—Leadville—Capt. Geo. S. Lacey.
(Mustered in June 23, 1880; Capt. Geo. S. Lacey; 1st Lieut. John T. Sherfey; 2nd Lieut. Alfred S. Bates).
Company F—"Carbonate Rifles"—Leadville—Capt. Wm. P. Minor.
(Mustered in June 23, 1880; Capt. Wm. P. Minor; 1st Lieut. J. T. Thorn; 2nd Lieut. Ben F. Gardner).
Company G—Leadville—Capt. Francis Rose.
(Mustered in July 5, 1880; Capt. Francis Rose; 1st Lieut. Jasper M. Ward; 2nd Lieut. James D. Bustol).
Company H—"Buena Vista Guard"—Buena Vista—Capt. Chas. R. Berry.
(Mustered in December 11, 1880; Capt. Chas. R. Berry; 1st Lieut. John C. Johnson; 2nd Lieut. Isaac N. Barrett).

FOURTH INFANTRY BATTALION

Company A—"Gunnison Guard"—Gunnison—Capt. S. H. Baker.
(Mustered in October 17, 1880; Capt. S. H. Baker; 1st Lieut. Wm. B. Harlan; 2nd Lieut. James Riley).

Company B—"Rocky Mountain Guard"—Gunnison—Capt. A. J. Bean.
(Mustered in October 18, 1880; Capt. A. J. Bean; 1st Lieut. E. V. Chester; 2nd Lieut. Jos. Brannen).

Company C—"Rough and Ready Guard"—Gunnison—Capt. E. W. Burton.

(Mustered in October 17, 1880; Capt. E. W. Burton; 1st Lieut. George Yule; 2nd Lieut. Thos. C. Russell).

These "battalions", it will be noted, were merely a grouping together of contiguous companies for convenience of administration, no commanders nor staffs having as yet been provided, and it was not until a year or so later that the organization was completed by the assignment of the appropriate field and staff officers. On December 30, 1882, the battalions were organized as follows:¹

FIRST BATTALION OF INFANTRY
(Organized December 29, 1881)

Field and Staff:

Lieut. Col. S. A. Shepperd, Commanding—Denver.

Major John S. Dormer—Denver.

1st Lieut. Lincoln Waldo, Adjutant—Denver.

1st Lieut. Geo. H. Graham, Quartermaster—Denver.

Capt. J. H. Kimball, 1st Asst. Surgeon—Denver.

Charles H. Marshall, Chaplain—Denver.

Companies:

A—"Emmett Guards"—Central City—Capt. J. O'D. Keleher.

B—"Governor's Guards"—Denver—Capt. M. B. Carpenter.

C—"Georgetown Light Infantry"—Georgetown—Capt. O. P. Fluke.

D—"Denver Zouaves"—Denver—Capt. Chas. A. Hawley.

SECOND BATTALION OF INFANTRY
(Organized November 12, 1881)

Field and Staff:

Major George J. Richards, Commanding—Lake City.

1st Lieut. H. J. Alexander, Adjutant—Lake City.

1st Lieut. D. S. Hoffman, Quartermaster—Lake City.

Capt. Samuel Rapp, 1st Asst. Surgeon—Lake City.

C. M. Hoge, Chaplain—Durango.

Companies:

A—"Pitkin Guard"—Lake City—Capt. F. A. Taylor.

C—"Parrott City Guard"—Parrott City—Capt. J. Y. Carpenter.

D—Durango—Capt. C. C. Gaines.

E—Rico—Capt. B. F. Klee.

(Note: Company B, the "Downer Guard", Saguache, was mustered out on December 12, 1882, and Companies D and E were mustered in on May 29, 1881 and March 29, 1881, respectively.

¹ Biennial Report of Adjutant General R. M. Stevenson, dated at Denver, Colorado, December 30, 1882.

“With the exception of a dash made after a band of hostile Utes by Captain Klee’s company, “E” of the Second Infantry, and a few hour’s service by Captain Johnson’s company, “H” of the Third Infantry called out by the sheriff of Chaffee county, no troops have been ordered out for active duty during the past two years. Owing to the fact of there not being sufficient funds on hand for the purpose, no general encampments have been held as required by law. The estimated expense of such encampments for the year 1882 was \$30,000, more than double the entire income of the military fund for the year. In the absence of encampments, I have encouraged, as far as lay in my power, parades at Denver and other points, where the military from various sections of the State were brought together, thus causing a healthy rivalry in matters of

drill and discipline. The first of these parades was held in Denver, July 4th 1881, and was participated in by the staff of the commander-in-chief, the major general of the Second Division and staff, the brigadier general of the First Brigade, Second Division, and staff, Companies "B" and "D" of the First Cavalry, the Chaffee Light Artillery, the First Battalion of Infantry, and the Third Battalion of Infantry. A parade also took place on the occasion of the opening of the National Mining and Industrial Exhibition, August 1st, 1882, which was participated in by nearly all of the uniformed military organizations of the State. This was conceded by competent military authorities to be the finest display of the kind ever made west of the Missouri river. In no instance has one dollar of the expense of these parades been paid out of the military fund of the State."

The time and conditions were now propitious for some definite regimental organization, and on February 11 and 27, 1883, the Legislature abolished all Major Generals and all but one Brigadier General, and provided that in time of peace the Colorado National Guard "shall consist of not more than three regiments of infantry, one regiment of cavalry, and three batteries of artillery, with a total membership of not over five thousand (5,000) persons." To carry out the provisions of the law the Colorado National Guard was organized as one brigade, and Colonel A. H. Jones, former Inspector General, was appointed Brigadier General commanding. The infantry was reorganized, and pursuant to Special Orders No. 6, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, Colorado. February 20, 1883, the First Regiment of Infantry was directed to be organized from the existing 1st Battalion of Infantry and other companies. Organization was completed on March 22, 1883, and a roster of the regiment published on January 18, 1884, shows the following:

FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY, COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD

Field and Staff:

Chas. A. Hawley, Colonel, Commanding—Denver.
 J. S. Dormer, Lieutenant Colonel—Denver.
 E. J. Burke, Major—Denver.
 James B. Thompson, 1st Lieut., Adjutant—Denver.
 Geo. H. Graham, 1st Lieut., Quartermaster—Denver.
 J. H. Kimball, Major, Surgeon—Denver.
 P. V. Carlin, Captain, 1st Asst. Surgeon—Denver.
 J. P. Kelly, 1st Lieut., 2nd Asst. Surgeon—Denver.
 Charles H. Marshall, Captain, Chaplain—Denver.

Companies:

Company A—"Emmett Guard"—Central City—Capt. J. O'D. Keleher.
 Company B—"Governor's Guard"—Denver—Capt. M. B. Carpenter.
 Company C—"Georgetown Light Infantry"—Georgetown—Capt. W. E. Holbrook.
 Company D—"Denver Zouaves"—Denver. (Name changed on March 16, 1884, to "Tabor Nationals")—Capt. Austin W. Hogle.
 Company E—"Routt Rifles"—Denver.
 (Organized April 27, 1882, Capt. E. A. More, Jr., Commanding).
 Company F—"Capitol Guards"—Denver.²

² The commissioned and enlisted personnel of the "Capitol Guards" was composed entirely of colored men.

(Organized April 28, 1882, Capt. Wm. Laws, Commanding).

Company G—"Breckenridge Rifles"—Breckenridge—Capt. O. E. Weirs.

(Note: This company was originally mustered in as Company "I", Third Battalion of Infantry; it was transferred to the First Battalion of Infantry by G. O. No. 1, A. G., Colorado, dated January 24, 1883).

Company H— —Boulder.

(Mustered in February 1, 1883, Capt. John H. Nicholson, Commanding.)

Company I—"Grant Guards"—Denver.

(Mustered in February 22, 1883, Capt. Wm. H. Andrews, Commanding).

Company K—"Mitchell Guards"—Denver.

(Mustered in December 22, 1883, Capt. Robt. Morris, Commanding).

The newly created regiment started its career under fairly auspicious conditions, but it was not long before dissension and dissatisfaction were manifested at the alleged indifference of the field officers towards the various companies and their problems of recruitment, maintenance, and lack of uniforms and equipment. Colonel Hawley, the regimental commander, was absent from the state over an extended period, and in his absence the Lieutenant Colonel did practically nothing to better conditions in the regiment. Several companies made application to the Governor to be permitted to withdraw from assignment to the regiment, but their request was refused. However, as a consequence of the recommendation of the Assistant Inspector-General, who had condemned the regimental staff as being inattentive to duty and inefficient, the regimental organization was discontinued as of March 3, 1884, and the companies became independent units subject only to the control of the brigade commander. The inefficient regimental staff having been disposed of, plans were immediately formulated for the reorganization of the regiment as a unit, and on April 10, 1883, the regiment was reorganized with the following staff:

E. A. More, Jr., Colonel, Commanding—Denver.

E. J. Burke, Lieutenant Colonel—Denver.

R. L. Hornbrook, Major—Denver.

J. B. Thompson, 1st Lieut.,—Adjutant—Denver.

G. H. Graham, 1st Lieut., Quartermaster—Denver.

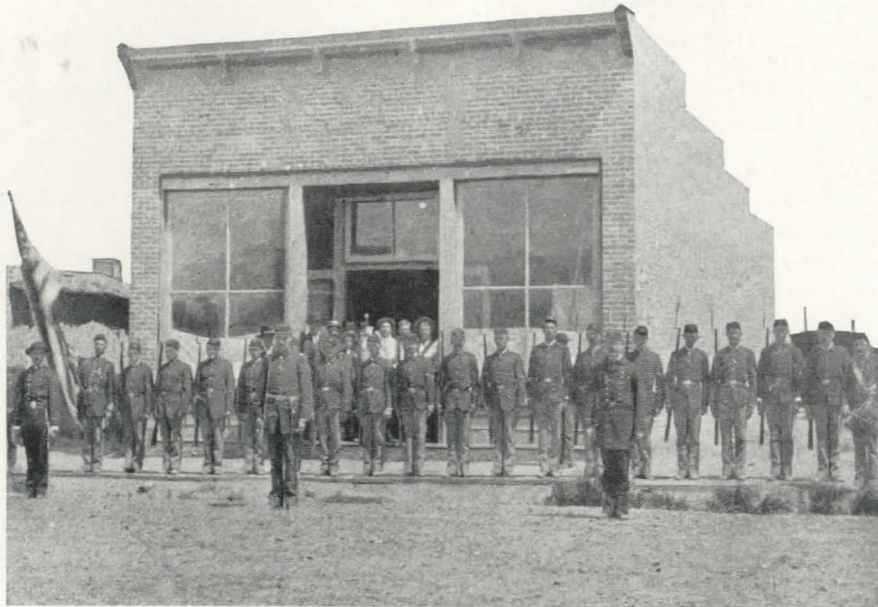
J. H. Kimball, Major, Surgeon—Denver.

J. P. Kelly, 1st Lieut., 2nd Asst. Surgeon—Denver.

M. W. Reed, Captain, Chaplain—Denver.

The companies of the regiment were the same as on its first organization except that the original Company F, had been transferred from assignment to the regiment and was now attached under the name of the "Capitol Guards". Another attached company was the "Continental", mustered in at Denver, Colorado, on September 24, 1884, with E. P. Pitkin as Captain, and a new Company F had been mustered in at Fort Collins on May 19, 1884, with Geo. F. Wilkins as Captain. The strength of the regiment on its reorganization (including the two attached companies) was 40 officers and 487 enlisted men, the average strength of the companies being 3 officers and 40 enlisted men.

The Second, Third, and Fourth Infantry Battalions were in a very flourishing condition at this time, and the biennial report of Adjutant General S. A. Shepperd for 1884, show the following changes to have been made in these battalions during his term of office:



COMPANY F, 2ND BN. INFANTRY, C. N. G.
Grand Junction, Colo., 1883. Capt. Thos. B. Crawford, Commanding.

Company F, 2nd Infantry Battalion mustered in at Grand Junction, Colorado, on March 13, 1883, Captain T. B. Crawford, Commanding.

Company G, 2nd Infantry Battalion mustered in at Del Norte, Colorado, on March 17, 1883, Captain John Ewing, Jr., Commanding.

Company C, 4th Infantry Battalion mustered in at Pueblo, Colorado, on May 9, 1883, Capt. J. Newton Isgrig, commanding.

Company D, 4th Infantry Battalion, ("Barela Guards") mustered in at Trinidad, Colorado, June 28, 1884, Capt. Henry Sturgis, commanding.

Company F, 3rd Infantry Battalion, mustered out at Leadville, Colorado, on December 1, 1884.

The Act of 1879 authorized the formation of bands for each battalion or regimental organization, and in compliance with the law a band had been enlisted at Denver for the First Infantry Battalion on December 29, 1881. This band existed for a period of about three years and in the biennial report of the Adjutant General for 1884 we find the following:

"The band of the First Regiment, which was once the pride of Denver, has vanished as clouds before the morning sun. Experienced officers assert that it requires more effort and time to hold a band together in good shape than it does to govern and maintain a regiment. The band of the First Battalion of Cavalry has also ceased to be ornamental or useful. Company C, First Infantry, Georgetown and Company F, Second Infantry, Grand Junction, have each a good band, which are used as regimental bands on occasions when the battalions are assembled. The Third and Fourth Infantry are also well supplied each with bands, maintained and controlled by the Adjutants of the battalion, under the direction of their commander."