

CHAPTER IV
SECOND REGIMENT INFANTRY, C. N. G., ORGANIZED

CHANGES IN ORGANIZATIONS 1885-1887—THE ORGANIZATION OF
THE SECOND REGIMENT OF INFANTRY, C. N. G., MAY 27, 1887—
FURTHER CHANGES—SERVICE CONDITIONS AND ROUTINE MAT-
TERS IN THE COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD DURING THE
“EIGHTIES”—INITIAL ORGANIZATION OF THE COLORADO NA-
TIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION.

The years 1885-1886, insofar as the infantry units of the Colorado Na-
tional Guard were concerned, passed without any event of particular moment.
However, there were the inevitable changes in organizations, and the biennial
report of the Adjutant General for the same period contains the following
tabulation of losses and gains of infantry organizations:

ORGANIZATIONS DISBANDED

Company	Organization	Station	Date of Muster Out
E	Third Battalion Infantry	Leadville	Feb. 9, 1885
I	First Regiment Infantry	Denver	March 23, 1885
A	Third Battalion Infantry	Leadville	July 17, 1885
D	Second Battalion Infantry	Durango	Oct. 25, 1885
B	Fourth Battalion Infantry	Pueblo	Dec. 2, 1885
A	Fourth Battalion Infantry	Silver Cliff	March 23, 1886
I	First Regiment Infantry	Denver	June 7, 1886
F	Second Battalion Infantry	Grand Junction	June 24, 1886
H	Third Battalion Infantry	Leadville	Aug. 9, 1886

COMPANIES MUSTERED IN

Company	Original Officers	Organiza- tion	Station	Date of Muster in
A (Eaton Guards)	Capt. H. S. Van Gorder 1st Lt. Frank W. Clark 2nd Lt. Jas. W. Morris	First Regiment Infantry	Golden	Jan. 24, 1885
C (Idaho Springs Rifles)	Capt. Geo. W. Vivian 1st Lt. John J. Sherwin 2nd Lt. W. H. Waley	Fifth Battalion Infantry	Idaho Springs	May 28, 1885
D (Gilpin Guards)	Capt. Edwin W. Hurlburt 1st Lt. B. E. Seymour 2nd Lt. John W. Wagner	Fifth Battalion Infantry	Central City	June 5, 1885
B	Capt. Herbert I. Ross 1st Lt. Chas. H. Brichenstine 2nd Lt. W. E. Devine	Second Battalion Infantry	Alamosa	June 28, 1885
C (Greeley Guards)	Capt. B. D. Harper 1st Lt. D. D. Wilson 2nd Lt. E. N. Sturdevant	First Regiment Infantry	Greeley	July 27, 1885

COMPANIES MUSTERED IN—Continued

Company	Original Officers	Organization	Station	Date of Muster in
B	Capt. Isaac R. French 1st Lt. Parmenas Elmer 2nd Lt. Joseph Esser	Fourth Battalion Infantry	Canon City	Aug. 21, 1885
I (Fort Morgan Guards)	Capt. L. W. Kimball 1st Lt. W. B. Sinton 2nd Lt. G. W. Warner	First Regiment Infantry	Fort Morgan	March 20, 1886
F (San Miguel Guards)	Capt. Thos. W. Wagensler 1st Lt. O. O. Downtain	Second Battalion Infantry	Telluride	June 7, 1886

It will be noted in the table of organizations disbanded that the Third Battalion of Infantry was discontinued as an organization on August 9, 1886, and in the above table of organizations mustered in mention is made of the Fifth Battalion of Infantry. This latter battalion was organized on July 31, 1885, and its companies were stationed as follows:

Company A (Emmett Guards) — Central City (Transferred from 1st Regiment of Infantry, July 31, 1885).

Company B (Georgetown Light Infantry) — Georgetown. (Formerly Company C, 1st Regiment Infantry).

Company C (Idaho Springs Rifles) — Idaho Springs.

Company D (Gilpin Guards)—Central City.

The designation of "Fifth Battalion" did not endure for very long, and May 27, 1887, the battalion was redesignated the "Third Battalion of Infantry." On the same day, under the provisions of Special Orders No. 47, Office of the Adjutant General of Colorado, the Second and Fourth Battalions of Infantry were consolidated to form the Second Regiment of Infantry, Colorado National Guard. The regimental organization was soon completed and the biennial report of Adjutant General Geo. West for 1887-1888 shows the following:



COL. BENJ. F. KLEE
First colonel of 2nd Infantry, C. N. G., June 21, 1887,
to April 2, 1889.

SECOND REGIMENT OF INFANTRY, C. N. G., NOVEMBER 30, 1888

Field and Staff:

Benj. F. Klee, Colonel, Commanding—Pueblo.
 James C. McCoy, Lieutenant Colonel—Pueblo.
 John Ewing, Jr., Major—Del Norte.
 R. W. Corwin, Surgeon—Pueblo.
 H. C. Hall, 1st Asst. Surgeon—Montrose.
 W. W. Howan, 2nd Asst. Surgeon—Ouray.
 Henry McCoy, 1st Lieut. and Adjutant—Pueblo.

Companies:

Company A (Pitkin Guard)—Lake City—Capt. Geo. F. Gardner.
 Company B—Alamosa—Capt. M. D. Mix.
 Company C—Pueblo—Capt. O. J. Smith.
 Company D (Barela Guard)—Trinidad—Capt. S. V. B. Brown.
 Company E—Rico—Capt. J. T. Beale.
 Company F (San Miguel Guard)—Telluride—Capt. T. W. Wagensler.
 Company H—(Canon City)—Capt. Joseph Esser.
 Company I—Montrose—Capt. F. C. Goudy.
 (Mustered in April 30, 1887; Captain F. C. Goudy; 1st Lieut. Jno. J. Davis, and 2nd Lieut. Geo. H. Webber).
 Company K—Ouray—Capt. F. W. McIntyre.
 (Mustered in May 2, 1887; Capt. F. W. McIntyre, 1st Lieutenant A. S. Adams, and 2nd Lieut. O. E. Ostenson).

The Infantry of the Colorado National Guard was by this consolidation organized into two regiments, the First and Second; a separate battalion, the "Third Battalion"; and two unattached companies, the "Taylor Guards" of Denver and the "Rocky Mountain Rifles" of Leadville.¹ However, changes in organizations were constantly taking place, and it is rather bewildering to the historian to keep accurate check of the many musterings-in and musterings-out of this period. During the years 1887-1888 the following organizations were disbanded or mustered in:

Disbanded:

Co. F, 1st Infantry, Fort Collins, Feb. 14, 1887.
 Co. K, 1st Infantry, Denver, Aug. 1, 1887.²
 Co. B, 3rd Battalion Infantry, Georgetown, Nov. 12, 1887.
 Co. G, 1st Infantry, Breckenridge, Nov. 26, 1887.³
 Co. A, 1st Infantry, Golden, Feb. 24, 1888.
 Co. C, 3rd Battalion Infantry, Idaho Springs, June 23, 1888.
 Co. D, 3rd Battalion Infantry, Central City, July 26, 1888.
 Co. G, 2nd Infantry, Del Norte, May 21, 1888.
 Taylor Guard, Denver, August 18, 1888.
 Co. C, 1st Infantry, Greeley, Oct. 6, 1888.

¹The "Taylor Guards" were organized originally as the "Capitol Guards", a colored organization. See Chapter 3, preceding.

²During September 1887, a re-organized Company "K" First Infantry, was mustered into the service, and was made up from a group of military enthusiasts who had joined the organization for the sole purpose of qualifying themselves to compete in the inter-state drill held at Chicago that year. They were so far successful as to win the third prize and on their return to Denver they promptly disbanded, the official date of muster out being December 1, 1887.

³Company "G" was re-organized at Breckenridge on January 7, 1888, but the re-organization apparently failed to accomplish much good and the unit was again mustered out on August 18, 1888.

Note: The Third Battalion of Infantry was dissolved by Special Orders No. 104, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, Colorado, dated September 19, 1888, and its one remaining company, A (The Emmett Guards), placed on the unattached list the same day.

Mustered in:

Co. I, 2nd Infantry, Montrose, April 30, 1887.

Co. K, 2nd Infantry, Ouray, May 2nd, 1887.

Co. F, 1st Infantry, Aspen, June 28, 1887.

Rocky Mountain Rifles, Leadville, July 15, 1887.

Brigade Band, Greeley, July 29, 1887.

Co. K, 1st Infantry, Denver, Jan. 3, 1888.

(This company was the successor of the old Co. K, Mitchell Guards, and was formed from an unofficial organization known as the "Eaton Cadets". Capt. L. B. Reyer was the first company commander).

Co. A, 1st Infantry, Brighton, March 17, 1888.

First Infantry Band, Boulder, May 23, 1888.



COMPANY I, 2ND INFANTRY, C. N. G.

Montrose, Colo., February 22, 1888. Capt. F. C. Goudy, Commanding.

The Opera House, in front of which the company is standing, was the armory, and the same building, except for a new front, is now the armory of Co. D, 157th Infantry, Montrose.

These changes reduced the infantry to two regiments of eight (the 1st) and nine (the 2nd) companies each, respectively, and two unattached companies, the Rocky Mountain Rifles and the Emmett Guards. The aggregate strength of each regiment at this time (November 30, 1888) was 357 for the 1st Infantry, and 350 for the 2nd Infantry.

Service in the National Guard of Colorado during the "Eighties" had much in common with service in like organizations of today and before continuing with the story of the regiment let us pause to get a glimpse of service conditions of those days as told in official reports, newspapers, and other publications of the time.

It is rather revealing in these days of liberal federal appropriations for the support of the National Guard to hark back to that time when federal support was practically nil and to appreciate the difficulties confronting a company commander in keeping his company up to strength, uniformed, and efficient in matters of drill and discipline. The uniform question was particularly acute, and the following extract from an Adjutant General's report of 1888 gives us some idea of the difficulties to be overcome.

"Under the law of Congress increasing the appropriation for the support of militia of the several states from \$200,000 to \$400,000, the states are allowed to draw Quartermaster's property as well as ordnance stores. The apportionment of Colorado under the law is \$2,764.98 annually. As no ordnance stores are needed at present * * * it was deemed wise to commence supplying the most efficient companies with the United States Army dress uniforms from the proceeds of this fund, and as a reward for good service nine companies have been supplied. The system adopted for awarding these was to give them to the organizations showing the best percentage of attendance at drills for a term of three months, three awards being made at each contest. The system has proved an admirable one, the different companies entering into the contest with great earnestness, and it has added an efficiency and interest in the service that is highly commendable * * *."

There were, of course, no federal appropriations for pay as is the case now, and it comes as rather much of a shock to learn that in some organizations the men *had to pay dues* to belong to the unit, as the clipping below implies:

"The regular weekly drill and meeting of the Governor's Guard (Company "B", Denver) was held last evening, 55 members answering roll call. The company voted to raise the monthly dues to the amount necessary to defray the expense of renting rooms in premises adjoining the armory, in order to have a place in which to hold meetings and squad drills. Four new members were elected * * *."

Discipline in many of the organizations was not all that it should have been, even for National Guard troops, and we find constant allusion to this defect in the biennial reports of the various Inspectors General. A few of the companies were apparently run on the principle of a soviet or a political club, and it is rather refreshing to read how one captain took the bull by the horns and decided to run his company along more or less military lines:

"A business meeting of Company "I" (Denver) was held last Wednesday evening. The company has fired the majority of the old members and is filling up rapidly with new men of soldierly bearing. Captain Andrews says he will have a company of soldiers, not politicians."



COL. A. W. HOGLE

Commanding 1st Infantry, C. N. G., from August 12, 1886, to May 4, 1897.

Competitive drills between the various organizations were quite a feature of National Guard activities in the "Eighties," and excited much friendly rivalry and almost as much attention as a good local football game does today. The spirit with which an organization trained for the event may be gleaned from the following news item clipped from the Denver Tribune of February 10, 1884:

"Company "E", now holding the championship, is drilling with closed doors. Captain Moore says his reason for doing so is that while on his Eastern tour he picked up some fine points on drilling that he is not desirous of imparting to the other companies, and as he won the championship so easily he desires to retain it. It is said however, that Company "K" will come to the front and accept a challenge from the Routts ere long, as the members of the Mitchells

are anxious to try their skill, and now that the company is enrolled in the National Guard they think that they have a better show than as an independent company. The captains of both Company "E" and Company "K" are thorough military men, and a close contest is expected.

"Company "D" is also drilling with closed doors and is by no means at the tail end of the regiment * * * and is liable to do some fine drilling in the contest this summer, * * *."

Interest in competitive drills was not confined to local competitions alone, but quite frequently the Colorado organizations competed in sectional and National competitions, and mention of one such sectional competition is made in a history of the Mitchell Guards (Company "K", Denver) dated 1892. To quote:

"On the eleventh day of May, 1888, Company "K" found itself en route for the Lone Star State. * * *. Upon the arrival of the command in Austin * * * and when, after a week's hard work they were awarded a handsome silk flag as a prize for the best discipline and camp inspection, it seemed as though the whole city joined in the consequent celebration. * * *. In the report of the Adjutant General of Texas the matter is thus referred to: 'I beg to call your attention to Company "K" of First Regiment Colorado National Guards, which received the special prize of a fine flag, offered to the company having

best policed quarters, being most orderly in camp, promptness in obeying orders, taking best care of camp equipage, etc. These are a synopsis of a soldier's entire duties, and if I were a member of the company, I would feel much more pride in having secured the prize awarded to it than I would in the big money prize * * * for mere clock-work precision in drill. The Colorado company's officers and men had the most perfect knowledge of any organization in camp, of guard and every other military duty that can be exacted of a soldier'."

It must not be presumed from the above that the business of preparing companies to take part in competitions was the sum total of an officer's duties in those days, far from it, and we can form some estimate of their efficiency from a perusal of the following extract from the Inspector-General's report of 1886:

"The officers, as a rule, are close students of the tactics in all pertaining to the school of the soldier and the company, but owing to the scattered condition of the battalions (only two stations in the state having more than one infantry company) they lack the practical knowledge of battalion movements essential to a well informed officer. To remedy this defect annual encampments must be held * * *. The month of June, just before the miners and prospectors leave the towns for the mountains, I think, would be the most opportune time for assembling the respective battalions in camp for brigade, battalion, and skirmish drill, for training in guard duty and for target practice."

The necessity for a camp of instruction had long been insisted on by each succeeding Adjutant-General prior to 1888, and it was only the chronic condition of poverty of the military fund that prevented the holding of such a camp.

However, the money was at last forthcoming, and the year 1889 saw the first camp of instruction for the Colorado National Guard of which more will be said in a succeeding chapter.

Social affairs bulked largely in the business of running a company in those days, and it was no uncommon thing for the captain to entertain his entire company at his home as the following excerpt from the Denver Tribune of February 10, 1884, shows:

"About half-past eight o'clock last Wednesday night a large body of uniformed men were seen marching quietly and in good order through the streets. People who saw them on the way wondered what was up, and timid ones might have thought it a lynching party from Ouray, but it was only Company "D" repairing to the house of their Captain, A. H. Hogle, on Welton Street, where he had invited them to a reception in honor of his recent return to the city. On arriving at the house each one was greeted by Captain Hogle who was ably assisted by Mrs. Hogle and daughter, Miss Mary, in making all feel welcome, and at home. A large flag was draped over the folding doors and the house was neatly and tastefully arranged throughout. After being comfortably seated in the parlors music, singing and social chat was indulged in which made the time pass pleasantly and all too soon. * * * Elegant refreshments were served in abundance at 10 o'clock, after which the musical, singing, and versatile abilities of the boys were called forth much to the merriment of all. It was 12 o'clock before goodnights were said, and three hearty cheers for Captain Hogle and his amiable wife resounded from the street before the boys dispersed for their homes, feeling happy at having been so hospitably entertained."

The need for some association composed of the members of the Colorado National Guard where matters of professional advancement, organization, supply and legislation could be intelligently discussed, had long been keenly felt, and initiatory steps along this line were taken in the spring of 1884, as attested by the following clipping from the Denver Tribune of April 13, 1884:

“Initiatory steps have been taken to organize a Colorado National Guard Association that will embrace within its membership limits all members of the state militia, the object being to organize an association composed of the Colorado National Guard and to designate some place where they shall meet once every year to discuss matters with regard to organization, discipline, and equipment. Matters pertaining to state legislation can also be intelligently discussed, the interest and good of the service promoted, and a better acquaintance between officers and men established. The first convention will be called some time during the coming summer at which the committee on organization that has been appointed by Brigadier General Jones, commanding the First Brigade, will report. The committee is composed of the captains of each company in the state. There are at present 135 officers and twenty-six companies enrolled in the State Militia”.