

CHAPTER VIII

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

OUTBREAK OF THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR—THE CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS—COLORADO'S QUOTA—MOBILIZATION OF THE COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD AT CAMP ADAMS—UNITS AND STATIONS OF THE 1ST AND 2ND REGIMENTS OF INFANTRY, COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD, ON APRIL 27TH, 1898—ORGANIZATION OF THE 1ST COLORADO INFANTRY, U. S. VOLUNTEERS—DEPARTURE FROM DENVER AND ARRIVAL IN SAN FRANCISCO—CAMP MERRITT—DEPARTURE FOR THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS—INCIDENTS OF THE VOYAGE—ARRIVAL AT MANILA.

The blowing up of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor on February 15, 1898, made war between the United States and Spain inevitable, and when on April 19, 1898, the Congress of the United States passed resolutions condemning the act and the intolerable conditions in Cuba, and directed the President to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States to compel the Spanish government to relinquish its authority over Cuba, Spain immediately severed diplomatic relations with the United States. On April 24th war was formally declared by Spain, and on April 25, 1898, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States passed an act declaring that war existed between the United States and the kingdom of Spain since April 21, 1898.

On April 22nd Congress authorized the President to increase temporarily the military establishment of the United States by a call for volunteers. Accordingly on April 23rd President McKinley issued a call for one hundred and twenty-five thousand volunteers to serve for a period of two years unless sooner discharged. Colorado's quota was first fixed at one regiment of infantry and one light battery of artillery. Later, two troops of cavalry were substituted for the battery of artillery.

The telegram from the Secretary of War to the Governor of Colorado, dated April 25, 1898, specifying the state's quota, contained the further provision that "It is the wish of the president that the regiment of the national guard and state militia shall be used as far as their number will permit for the reason that they are armed, equipped and drilled." In compliance with the wishes of the president, Governor Alva Adams on April 27, 1898, directed the mobilization of the National Guard of Colorado in the following orders:

State of Colorado
Adjutant General's Office,
Denver, April 27, 1898.

General Orders }
No. 66 }

I. In compliance with the order of the secretary of war, dated Washington D. C., April 25, 1898, based upon the proclamation of the president of the United States, under date of April 22, 1898, calling for one hundred and twenty-five thousand volunteers to serve for the period of two years, unless sooner discharged, for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of a resolution passed by the congress of the United States, calling upon the government of

Spain to evacuate Cuba, on account of the many outrages perpetrated on the inhabitants of that Island, and the destruction of the battleship Maine, said order specifying as the quota of the state of Colorado one regiment of infantry and two troops of cavalry, the National Guard of Colorado, excepting Chaffee Light Artillery, will be mobilized in the city of Denver on Friday, April 29, 1898, to enable the members to volunteer for muster into the service of the United States.

II. The encampment in Denver will be located northeast of City park, on the east side of Colorado boulevard, between Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth avenues.

III. Upon arrival at the camp above specified, commanding officers will report with their commands to Brigadier General Irving Hale, commanding First Brigade, National Guard of Colo.

IV. The Quartermaster's Department will furnish the necessary transportation.

V. The travel enjoined is necessary for the public service.

By command of Governor Adams,
Cassius M. Moses,
Adjutant General.

Official:

Wm. R. Grove,
Assistant Adjutant General.

At this time the infantry of the Colorado National Guard was organized and stationed as follows:

FIRST INFANTRY

Regimental Headquarters—Denver, Colo.
Band—Denver, Colo.
Company A—Denver, Colo.
Company B—Denver, Colo.
Company C—Longmont, Colo.
Company D—Greeley, Colo.
Company E—Denver, Colo.
Company F—Denver, Colo.
Company H—Boulder, Colo.
Company K—Denver, Colo.

SECOND INFANTRY

Regimental Headquarters—Pueblo, Colo.
Company A—Lake City, Colo.
Company B—Pueblo, Colo.
Company C—Pueblo, Colo.
Company E—Leadville, Colo.
Company F—Leadville, Colo.
Company G—Cripple Creek
Company H—Colorado Springs

Promptly upon receipt of the orders for mobilization all of the above companies were concentrated in Denver on April 29, 1898, at "Camp Alva Adams," and the work of organization and muster in to the Federal service was begun. Inasmuch as the call was for one regiment of infantry only, it became necessary to consolidate the First and Second Regiments of Infantry, Colorado National Guard, to form the First Colorado Infantry, United States Volunteers. This was effected as follows:

Companies of the 1st Colorado Volunteers		Old Organizations		
Company	Officers	Companies	Regiment	Home Station
Band	Chief Musician H. T. Irvine	Band	1st Infantry	Denver
Company A	Capt. John S. Stewart 1st Lt. W. F. Doertenbach 2nd Lt. S. E. Thomas	B	2nd Infantry	Pueblo
Company B	Capt. F. W. Carroll 1st Lt. C. B. Lewis 2nd Lt. Chas. Hooper	B	1st Infantry	Denver
Company C	Capt. E. E. Booth 1st Lt. W. H. Sweeney, Jr. 2nd Lt. W. P. Bidwell	C	2nd Infantry	Pueblo
Company D	Capt. J. A. Taylor 1st Lt. Geo. Borstadt 2nd Lt. A. J. Luther	D	1st Infantry	Greeley
Company E	Capt. Kyle Rucker 1st Lt. C. W. Lothrop 2nd Lt. Rice W. Means	E	1st Infantry	Denver
Company F	Capt. G. R. Comings 1st Lt. C. S. Houghwout 2nd Lt. Willard Riggs	F	2nd Infantry	Leadville
Company G	Capt. D. P. Howard 1st Lt. T. C. Brown 2nd Lt. W. P. Burke	G	2nd Infantry	Cripple Creek
Company H	Capt. Chas. D. Eastman 1st Lt. Chas. H. Wilcox 2nd Lt. F. L. Perry	H	1st Infantry	Boulder
Company I	Capt. Wm. R. Grove 1st Lt. Chas. H. Hilton 2nd Lt. Chas. O. Zollars	F	1st Infantry	Denver
Company K	Capt. W. A. Cornell 1st Lt. W. J. Vannice 2nd Lt. R. B. Lister	K	1st Infantry	Denver
Company L	Capt. D. LaSalle 1st Lt. C. F. O'Keefe 2nd Lt. F. Ballou	E	2nd Infantry	Leadville
Company M	Capt. C. C. Spicer 1st Lt. C. H. Sleeper 2nd Lt. J. H. Gowdy	H	2nd Infantry	Colorado Springs

The field and staff officers of the volunteer regiment were as follows:

Irving Hale, Colonel, commanding regiment.
 Henry B. McCoy, Lieutenant Colonel.
 Cassius M. Moses, Major.
 Charles H. Anderson, Major.
 Clayton Parkhill, Major, Surgeon.
 L. H. Kemble, Captain, Asst. Surgeon.
 Charles E. Locke, 1st Lt., Asst. Surgeon.
 A. Mc. D. Brooks, 1st Lt., Adjutant.
 Wm. B. Sawyer, 1st Lt., Quartermaster.
 David L. Fleming, Captain, Chaplain.

It was inevitable that in the consolidation of the two regiments of fifteen companies to form one of twelve companies many problems would arise with respect to the assignment of officers to the various staff positions and companies, and despite every effort on the part of Governor Adams and Adjutant General Moses to make an equitable adjustment of the officer personnel, some dissatisfaction was expressed. Company A 1st Infantry, of Denver, feeling that its officers had not been fairly dealt with, declined to be mustered in as a unit or a part of a unit. However, several individual members of the company volunteered for service, and were mustered in with other companies. Company C, 1st Infantry, of Longmont, which was slated to become Company I of the volunteer regiment, also expressed dissatisfaction at the assignment of its officer personnel and refused to be mustered in. As in the case of Company A, however, many of its individual members were mustered in with other companies.

The enlisted men of Company A, 2nd Infantry, Lake City, were transferred to Companies F and L of the new regiment. Active recruiting was instituted, and in a very short time all units of the regiment had reached the required strength for muster in to the federal service. Officers and men underwent a rigid physical examination, and those that finally passed the close scrutiny of the medical officers were as fit a body of men as had ever entered the service of the United States. To quote from a newspaper of the day, "Colorado sent out a regiment perhaps the healthiest in the field and whose losses by disease did not nearly equal those of other regiments in the same field of operation."

The actual muster in to the service of the United States was accomplished at Camp Alva Adams by May 8, 1898, Captain E. F. Willeox, 6th U. S. Cavalry being the mustering officer. The strength of the regiment at muster in was 46 officers and 970 enlisted men.

The training of the regiment had commenced as soon as the first companies had arrived at Camp Adams, and although somewhat interrupted by heavy rains, the preparation for muster in, and outfitting, Colonel Hale was insistent upon the thorough training of all individuals and units. The results of this policy were not long in manifesting themselves, and when on May 14th the regiment paraded in Denver to receive a silk national color from the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, many favorable comments were made on the training and discipline of the organization. Again quoting from a newspaper of the day, "It was a surprise to the people to see what a fine regiment Colonel Hale has made up from the National Guard and the new recruits."

Immediately after muster in the regiment was divided into three battalions of four companies each. The companies of the respective battalions were not arranged alphabetically, as is the case today, but



IRVING HALE

Colonel, 1st Colo. Inf., U. S. V.,
May 1, to Aug. 12, 1898, Brig. Gen.
U. S. V., Aug. 13, 1898, to Oct. 1,
1899.

were arranged in a more or less haphazard fashion, and the following doggerel was devised in order that officers and men could memorize the arrangement of the companies by battalion:

FIRST BATTALION: (I, K, C, D Companies)

Iberian
Kites
Come
Down

SECOND BATTALION: (A, G, E, and F Companies)

All
Greenies
Eat
Fast

THIRD BATTALION: (L, B, M, and H Companies)

Last
Battalion
Moves
Hastily

The Battalions were commanded respectively by Lieutenant Colonel H. B. McCoy, Major C. M. Moses, and Major Chas. Anderson.

The usual stock of "grapevine" rumors as to the ultimate destination of the regiment pervaded the camp at all times, and it was generally understood that Cuba was to furnish the future fields of glory for Colorado's sons. In fact the following telegram was received by the Governor on May 8th:

Washington, May 7, 1898.

Alva Adams, Governor of the State of Colorado:

It is the intention to order to Camp George H. Thomas, Chickamauga National Park, Georgia, the regiment of infantry called for from your state as soon as it shall be completely equipped. Report when regiment will be ready; also any subsequent change in date as to when it will be ready.

R. A. Alger, Secretary of War.

This order was subsequently changed, and on May 13th the Colorado regiment was ordered to proceed to San Francisco, California, en route to the Philippine Islands.

The departure of the regiment from Denver was a memorable occasion, and it would be well right here to let Arthur C. Johnson, a newspaper man and a member of Company E, tell the story of the departure and of the trip to San Francisco, and the subsequent voyage to the Philippine Islands:

"On the morning of the 17th of May, Camp Adams was razed and at precisely noon that newly born aggregation of fighters, headed by its regimental band and escorted by the cavalry troops, marched through the business streets of Denver to the Union Depot where four long trains waited to take the husky warriors of mountain and plain over the first stage of their lengthy journey to the field of battle. It was an auspicious day, perfect overhead and underfoot, and a vast throng of thousands sent up its huzzas, said its good-byes and wished God-speed to the men.



OFFICERS OF THE 1ST COLORADO INFANTRY, U. S. V.,
at Camp Merritt, San Francisco, Calif., June, 1898, prior to departure for the Philippine Islands.

"After a jolly trip through mountains and across desert, the four train sections bearing the 1040 enlisted men and 46 officers of the regiment swung into beautiful California and landed their passengers at Oakland on the foggy morning of May 21st. On that day Camp Hale, the Colorado part of the big military city Camp Merritt, was established.

"The hungry, travel-worn companies which marched off the Oakland ferry into San Francisco met a reception which they will never forget. The ladies of the Red Cross Society ushered them without delay to tables groaning with palatable sandwiches and delicious coffee. California flowers were showered on the surprised, but delighted men, and they were loaded down with California fruit. Far from home and among strangers, it was an ovation they were not looking for, but it was only the initial installment of the fine treatment dealt out by the big hearted Californians to the soldier boys. All along the line of march to Camp Merritt the men received cheers and compliments which fairly dazzled them.

"For nearly three weeks the Sibley tents of the Colorado men were one of the big features of Camp Merritt, and scarcely a visitor cared to leave without looking on the camp-stained canvas and the men who had seen more soldier service than any volunteer organization in the encampment, having served in two State campaigns, namely, against the striking miners of Cripple Creek and Leadville. The latter campaign had been carried on in the dead of winter and in bitter cold cloudland. Perhaps it was their record of experience which won for the Colorado men some of the best plaudits of the people of San Francisco, or perhaps it was their spectacular skirmish drill, which took place on Presidio hill every afternoon under the command of Col. Irving Hale. The Coloradans were the first to practice true war drilling for the benefit of themselves and, incidentally, for the edification of the admirers of perfect military tactics among the San Franciscans.

"The 1st Colorado Inf. had been among those chosen to leave for the Philippines on the first transport expedition, but a delay in railroad transportation lost them that place, and they were slated for the next expedition to leave after their arrival. The regiment possessed what very few of the other regiments camping in San Francisco possessed, namely, a complete campaign equipment. Every man in the command was fully and correctly uniformed, and every article required by regulations was on hand down to the smallest pill in the medical dispensary.

"During the stay in San Francisco, the first promotion was made. Maj. Clayton Parkhill of the medical department was relieved from duty with the regiment and placed in charge of duties in the Department of the Pacific and 8th Army Corps, which made him almost the highest ranking surgeon of volunteers in the department. He was afterwards transferred to Cuba. The position vacated by Maj. Parkhill was filled by the appointment of Capt. Louis H. Kemble. This advanced Lieut. C. E. Locke to a captaincy. After passing the required examination, Private David D. Thornton of the Hospital Corps was made Lieutenant-Surgeon.

"The regiment's stay in San Francisco was saddened by the death of Sergt. Neil Sullivan of Company H, who succumbed to spinal meningitis.

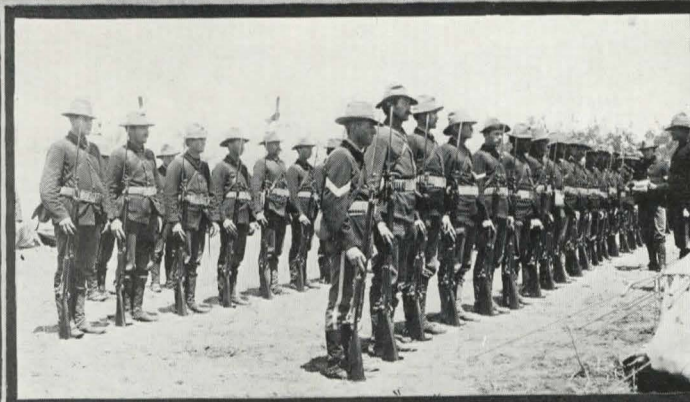
"The long-expected day of embarking for Manila turned out to be June 14th. Camp was struck at daybreak and the march to the wharves of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company commenced. The line of march was swarming with thousands of well-wishers. By 5 o'clock in the afternoon bag and baggage



Band, 1st Colorado Infantry, U.S.V..

At Camp Merritt, Presidio of San Francisco, June 1898

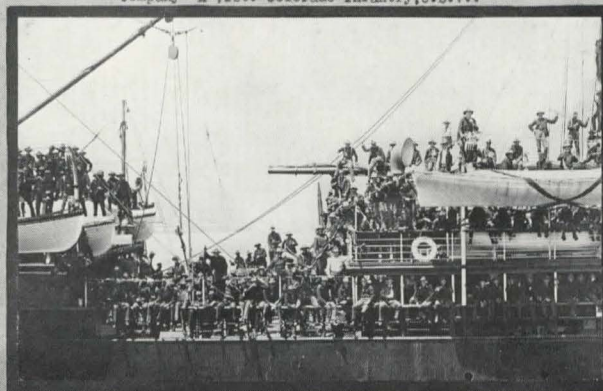
Inspection, Co. "D", 1st. Colo. Inf



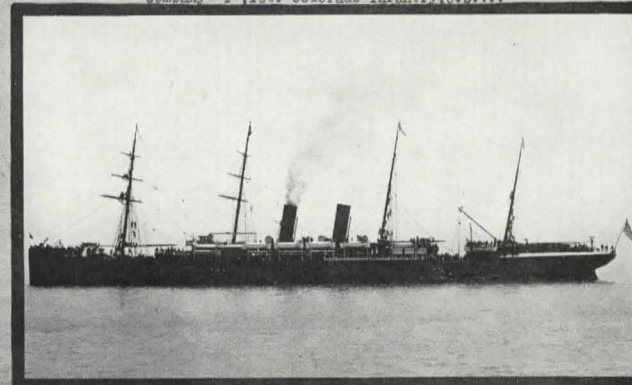
Company "A", 1st. Colorado Infantry, U.S.V..



Company "I", 1st. Colorado Infantry, U.S.V..



1st. Colorado Inf., U.S.V., aboard S.S. China.



The S.S. China - Transport that carried the 1st. Colo. to P.I..

SCENES AT CAMP MERRITT, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, AND OF THE S. S. CHINA,
Prior to Departure of the 1st Colorado Infantry Volunteers for the Philippine Islands, June, 1898.

had been loaded aboard the steamer *China*, the last case of hardtack of the six months' supply had been stowed in the hold and the last man had climbed aboard. Amid lusty cheering from a dockful of friends the big steamer dropped into the stream and anchored for the night, to wait for the *Senator*, *Colon* and *Zealandia*, which were to accompany the expedition. The next afternoon at ten minutes after one it seemed as if every steam whistle on shore and in the harbor would burst its valves as the fleet commenced to move, the *China*, designated as the flagship of the expedition, in the lead. On board her besides the full Colorado Regiment were detachments of the 18th U. S. Inf. and the Utah Light Artillery. Brigadier-General Francis V. Greene, who commanded the expedition, was quartered with his staff aboard the same vessel. On the *Senator*, *Colon* and *Zealandia* were the 1st Nebraska Vol. Inf., 10th Pennsylvania Vol. Inf., a portion of the 18th U. S. Inf. of Regulars, part of the 23d U. S. Inf. and the remainder of the Utah Art.

"Gen. Merritt, in Command of all the Philippine expedition, rode alongside the *China* on a tug to the Golden Gate, where he shouted good-bye amid the booming of the Presidio cannon salutes.

"The sea expedition, of which the 1st Col. Vol. Inf. was the leading organization, will be passed down in history records as a daring undertaking successfully carried out. The fleet had no convoy and passed fairly into the hostile territory of the Ladrone and Caroline Islands with all the boldness of armored battleships. It was believed among the leading officials on the transports as an absolute fact that several Spanish gunboats were scouring the Pacific in the neighborhood of these islands in the hope of intercepting soldier transports to the Philippines. After passing Honolulu, a conference was held and it was decided to give these gunboats a fight for their prey in case they showed up. The guns of the Utah Battery were mounted on the decks of the vessels and on the *China* an immense wooden target was constructed. On several successive days the fleet lay to, the target was set afloat and advantageous shelling practice was indulged in. The infantrymen were issued ammunition and also allowed to practice on imaginary gun boats. But the cruise was uneventful as far as hostile operations went. The troops were landed for a big free dinner and bath at Honolulu, on June 23d and 24th, while the big ships received coal. The journey was resumed on the 25th. On July 4th the *China* stopped at Wake Island and allowed Gen. Greene, Col. Hale and a party of the officers to go ashore and plant the United States flag.

"On July 5th, Walter W. Wise, drummer in the regimental band, died of spinal meningitis and was buried at sea.

"As the bright morning sun lit up the Pacific on the morning July 15th, the shores of Luzon, green and handsome, emerged from the haze. At noon on that day came the cry "vessel ahead". There was consternation at first at the thought that it might be a Spanish gunboat, but it turned to joy when the United States cruiser *Boston* swung alongside and brought word that all was well where Dewey was. As the *China* sped on, leaving the *Boston* to convey the other three vessels to Manila, the despatches were eagerly read. They told of how Cervera's fleet had been totally annihilated and other interesting bits of news. Plunk! went the *China's* anchor on the afternoon of July 16th and the expedition was safe in Manila Bay, and, among a whole fleet of United States war vessels and transports, and long journey was done. That night the shots of insurgent and Spanish battles could plainly be heard on shipboard.

"On July 18th the regiment set foot on the soil which it was to take so important a part in conquering. Two trains of huge cascoes, towed by captured

Spanish launches, carried the men, weighted down with blankets, canteens, ammunition and equipment for a full-fledged campaign, from the steamer across the bay to the shores of Camp Dewey. As night settled down the men waded waist deep up the long beach, stowed their accoutrements on the ground, and returned to wade in after supplies. Supper of hardtack and canned roast beef was served about 10 o'clock, and the regiment bunked for the night on shelter tents spread on the ground instead of being raised. A driving, soaking rain came on, and reveille aroused a field of thoroughly wetted and bedraggled men. They realized that soldiering in the Philippines had already begun for them. But the bright sun brought dryness''¹

¹ See page 461, Appendix G.