



DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA, 168TH FIELD ARTILLERY

## CHAPTER II

### HISTORY OF THE 168th FIELD ARTILLERY (TRUCK DRAWN)

Colorado's first artillery unit was the famous "McLain's Battery" of Civil War days. This organization, officially known as "The Independent Battery of Colorado Volunteer Artillery," was mustered in at Denver, Colorado, on December 15, 1862, and served against hostile Indians in Colorado and Kansas until the fall of 1864 when it was moved to Missouri to take part in the campaign against the Confederates under General Price. The battery was mustered out at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on August 31, 1865.<sup>1</sup> McLain's Battery was a purely volunteer organization raised for service during the Civil War, and on muster out ceased to exist as military unit of the territory of Colorado. It was not reconstituted in any subsequent unit, and, unfortunately, its glorious history cannot be connected up with that of the present artillery units of Colorado.

The history of the field artillery arm of the Colorado National Guard, actually begins with the muster in to the state service of the "Chaffee Light Artillery" at Denver, Colorado, on March 7, 1878. This organization, named for Senator Jerome B. Chaffee of Colorado because of his efforts in securing the necessary equipment from the federal government, was at first armed with two brass Napoleon twelve-pounder guns with caissons, and was quartered with the "Governor's Guard" at the Guard's Hall at the corner of Fifteenth and Curtis streets. The officers of the battery on muster in were Albert H. Jones, Captain; Samuel C. Chapin, First Lieutenant; and Ralph C. Webster, Second Lieutenant.

The new battery rapidly attained a splendid state of efficiency, and its armament was later augmented by the addition of two Gatling guns with the necessary limbers and other equipment. Those were the days of "play day" encampments and elaborate social functions, and the following excerpts from the "Historical Sketch, Chaffee Light Artillery" published in 1892, will give us some idea of the pleasures of service in a National Guard battery during the period 1878-1891.—

"A notable event in the Company's history occurred in August, 1878, at which time the Battery visited Pueblo on the occasion of the Annual Fireman's Tournament, and the following day were received at Colorado Springs. The guns, caissons and harnesses were taken on a special train supplied by the Denver and Rio Grande Railway Company.

<sup>1</sup> For further details of the history of McLain's Battery see Chapter 2, Part One, of this volume.

"At Colorado Springs and Manitou, the reception which was accorded the Chaffee Battery was a spontaneous outburst of the highest courtesy, coupled with warmth of comradeship and a genuine feeling of regard.

"B Company of Cavalry, commanded by Captain T. H. Burnham of Colorado Springs, took the management of the affair. How it was conducted is set forth in the account given by the Colorado Springs Gazette, which is here reproduced:

" 'COMPANY B AND ITS VISITORS—A GALA DAY FOR THE MILITARY.

" 'At nine o'clock the members of Company B commenced to gather at their Armory, and at half-past ten, at command of Captain Burnham, the company, forty strong, mounted and equipped, fell into line ready for parade. The company's band occupied a large bandwagon, and was placed at the head of the column, which immediately marched to the camp of the visitors who were in readiness to receive them, and without delay fell into line, which was as follows: Band; Company B, mounted; Chaffee Light Artillery.

" 'After marching through great clouds of dust, they reached Colorado City about noon, where, upon invitation, they entered the large bottling establishment of the El Paso County Brewing Company and partook of very welcome refreshments. The line was again formed and the companies proceeded direct to the Manitou House, where they were accorded a handsome reception.

" 'The order to 'break ranks' was the signal for dinner, and the large dining-room of the Manitou House was soon filled by as hungry a set of men as 'Host' Barker ever fed. After dinner the military proceeded to the plateau immediately opposite the hotel, where they fired the salute. They then formed again into line and paraded through Manitou, stopping to quench their thirst at the Navajo Spring, at which point the order 'About Face' was given and the line of march for Colorado Springs was taken up.

" 'Upon reaching the city, a little before seven o'clock in the evening, Company B escorted their guests to their camp, where the guns were unlimbered and placed in position for the firing of a salute of thirty-nine guns. The manner in which this was done and the rapidity with which the guns were loaded and fired was such as to call forth the approval of the large number of citizens who had gathered in the vicinity.'

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"On July 3, 1879, the Artillery went into military encampment in the suburbs of Denver. The location of this famous camp, named Pitkin in honor of Colorado's most popular Governor, was in Hallett's Grove, on the bank of Cherry Creek. This was the most noted encampment ever known to the Colorado National Guard. The entrance was through an arch festooned with flags. The inscription upon this arch was the word 'Welcome,' wrought in evergreens, surmounting the name of the camp. There were thirty-eight flags on the arch, each one representing a State. Over all was an emblem composed of a pair of crossed cannon. \* \* \*

"The company of cavalry at Colorado Springs, commanded by Captain T. H. Burnham, occupied this camp conjointly with the artillery upon invitation.

"At the night a grand ball was given in camp. Large platforms were arranged and the illuminations were from colored lanterns. Denver's best society was present to make the affair successful. On Sunday, the 5th, the last day of the encampment, the Governor's Guard, and the Mitchell Guard were



extended an invitation to pass the day in camp, which was accepted. The dress parade held that evening was a notable display which ended with a most gratifying exhibition of cordial feeling set forth in the presentation of a fine silk guidon to the Colorado Springs Cavalry by the Chaffee Artillery.

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"The purely social features of the Chaffee Artillery will long be remembered. Many years will elapse before these events shall fade from the evening sky of memory. There was, during Captain Jones's administration, an annual reception to the Battery given at his residence. These affairs were presided over by Mrs. Jones, whose gracious qualities of superior womanhood made a chivalric knight of every artilleryman, ready to draw sword in her defense, or do her command in whatever her cause might be. No one who has attended these annual events can recall one that did not round out the complete measure of social success.

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"Captain A. H. Jones was elected Brigadier-General of the Colorado National Guard on the 2nd day of April, 1883, having served continuously five years and three months as Captain of the Chaffee Artillery. His resignation was tendered the Battery at the regular meeting on April 2nd, 1883. Upon the same night an election for Captain was held and the unanimous choice fell upon First Lieutenant John A. McBeth. First Sergeant John B. Goodman was at the same time elected First Lieutenant.

"There was never a meeting night in the latter days of McBeth's command, when, after a thorough drill lasting two hours, that there was the absence of some social entertainment which was participated in by citizen friends and members of other military companies, who would regularly drop in at the proper time. It was here in the Company's private rooms that the famous 'Hog Suppers' were inaugurated, which are yet annual festivals of the Battery. This supper consisted of one and sometimes two, tender shoats of just the right age, roasted whole by competent cooks, who took pride in having them done exactly to a turn. These, with the regulation trimmings of a red apple and a pickle, would be placed on an improvised table, and eaten from tin plates. Keg beer was also supplied and drank from tin cups. The feast was primitive and soldier-like, yet at some of these entertainments there have been afforded exhibitions of after-dinner oratory equal to anything ever heard at a banquet where the tinted light has flooded silver and Sevres china service, and the yellow wine has bubbled its effervescence in glasses which, when touched together, reproduced the tone of a cathedral bell. As was stated heretofore, this supper is an annual occurrence, being held on the night of the competitive drill for the Jochmus Medal."

We must not assume from the above that service in the National Guard during this period was all "beer and skittles;" far from it, and as a matter of fact the battery was called upon for active duty on several occasions. The first of these was the City Hall riot in Denver on March 14, 1894, when Companies B, E, and K of the 1st Infantry and the Chaffee Light Artillery were ordered out by Governor Waite to enforce the removal of certain city officials who had chosen to defy the Governor's orders. These officials were backed up by the police, and matters took a serious turn when a large number of men were armed by the Fire and Police Board and much dangerous explosive material stored in the City Hall. The troops moved to the scene of the disturbance, and a bloody clash seemed imminent. However, the National Government was



CHAFFEE LIGHT ARTILLERY, C. N. G., DENVER, COLO., 1883.  
Capt. J. A. McBeth, Commanding.



called upon for aid, and troops were sent from Fort Logan. When but a spark was needed to fire the train, the Governor, at the suggestion and importunity of the Chamber of Commerce, appealed to the Supreme Court to pass upon the matters involved, and the troops returned to their Armory.

The relief from active duty was brief, very brief in fact, and thirty-six hours after the City Hall affair was over the members of the Chaffee Light Artillery found themselves on the way to Cripple Creek where conditions in the mining district had become serious enough to require the presence of troops. Fortunately the difficulty was soon settled, and on March 20, 1894, the troops returned to Denver. For two years the Battery enjoyed a respite from field duty, then a strike at Leadville resulted in calling out the First and Second Regiments of Infantry, the Denver City Troop and the Chaffee Light Artillery on September 21, 1896, and these were kept in the field until March 10, 1897, when they were relieved from duty.

On April 25, 1898, war was formally declared against Spain by the United States, and in the President's call for volunteers Colorado's quota was at first fixed at one regiment of infantry and one battery of light artillery. This was changed a few days later so as to substitute two troops of cavalry for the battery of artillery, and for a time it appeared that the Chaffee Light Artillery would not enter the federal service. However, on the President's second call of May 25, 1898, for 75,000 volunteers, Colorado's additional quota was fixed at one light battery of artillery and 330 recruits for the First Infantry already in federal service.

The Chaffee Light Artillery, was mustered into federal service at Denver, Colorado on July 1, 1898, as Battery A, Colorado Volunteer Artillery, and on July 2nd was moved to Fort Logan, Colorado, to be recruited, trained and equipped for active service. The officers of the battery on muster in were Captain Harry J. Parks, First Lieutenant John G. Locke, and Second Lieutenant James C. Exline. The battery, three officers and one hundred and five enlisted men, left Fort Logan, Colorado, on August 12, and arrived at Fort Hancock, N. J., August 15. Here it remained doing garrison duty and participating in intensive training until mustered out of federal service November 7, 1898.

On the muster in of the Chaffee Light Artillery to the federal service several of the original members, for various reasons, were not included in the muster, and continued in state service when the battery left for Fort Logan. These men, under the charge of 1st Sergeant George L. Greer, continued the weekly assemblages for drill, and conducted an intensive campaign for recruits. Sergeant Greer was appointed 2nd Lieutenant on August 15, 1898 and eventually Captain on March 13, 1899. On the muster out of the original battery from federal service, several of the old members rejoined the battery in state service, and thus served to preserve the historical continuity and to perpetuate the traditions of the old Chaffee Light Artillery. Among those rejoining was former 2nd Lieutenant James C. Exline, who became captain of the battery on April 18, 1899.

Strike duty, the bugbear of all National Guardsmen, was to claim much of the battery's time during the years immediately following the Spanish-American War, and its initiation into this period was the riot at Lake City, March 16, 1899, when Companies A and B of the 1st Infantry, Companies A and B of the 2nd Infantry, Troops B and C of the Cavalry Squadron, and the Chaffee Light Artillery were called into service for a period of twelve days. A year or so of industrial peace followed, and then the strikes and riots of 1903 and 1904



kept the National Guard of the state constantly in the field. The first call for duty was the Colorado City strike, March 3 to March 19, 1903. The sheriff of El Paso County and his deputies being unable to cope with the situation, petitioned the Governor for aid, and Companies A, B, K, of the First Regiment; Companies D and I of the Second Regiment; Troop C of the First Squadron Cavalry; Battery A, Chaffee Light Artillery, and the Signal Corps, were ordered into the field March 3, 1903, and remained there until the 19th of March when they were ordered to their home stations. The settlement at Colorado City did not allay the unrest, and trouble broke out in Cripple Creek which resulted in an order dated September 3, 1903, calling out the First Regiment, with Company H of the Second Regiment; Troops B, C, D, of the First Squadron of Cavalry; also Battery A, the Signal Corps, and the Medical Corps. The situation was a very difficult one; shootings, fires, and riots being the order of the day, so that the troops remained on active duty until April 12, 1904. While this trouble was in progress, the sheriff of San Miguel County and other civil officials at Telluride, made a demand for State troops to suppress a threatened tumult and acts of violence to persons and property within the county; accordingly on November 20, 1903, the following were ordered to the scene of the disturbances: Companies A, B, G, H and L, First Infantry, I, Second Infantry, and Troops B and D, First Squadron Cavalry. By February 22 all officers and men were relieved from duty and sent home, except Troop A, First Squadron Cavalry, which was ordered into active duty on February 18, and was relieved from duty, March 9, 1904. Just thirteen days after this, owing to the fact that the sheriff of Las Animas County at Trinidad informed the Governor he was unable to preserve order and protect life and property against a body of about 1,500 lawless men, an order was issued calling into service: Troops B and C, First Squadron Cavalry, Companies C, H, L, First Regiment; Companies E and I, Second Infantry, part of the Signal Corps, and part of the Medical Corps, with a Section of Battery A. The troops arrived in Trinidad on March 23, 1904. The campaign lasted until June 12, 1904. Just six days before this date, the Independence Depot in the Cripple Creek District was blown up and a number of men were killed. On June 7, 1904, Companies L and H of the Second Infantry were called into service. Many violent agitators and undesirables were arrested and deported. Conditions improved, and on July 26 the troops still on duty were relieved.

Strike duty is at best a thankless task, and that the troops performed loyally and uncomplainingly the duties allotted them let the following excerpt from Adjutant General Sherman Bell's report to the Governor tell: "I want to thank every officer and enlisted man of the National Guard of Colorado for the sacrifices, financially, and so many other ways; for their loyalty and their soldierly American citizenship in the performance of duties, which no Guard ever before endured or experienced."

As a consequence of the reorganization of the Colorado National Guard following the Spanish-American War the designation of the Chaffee Light Artillery was changed to "Battery A, 1st Brigade." This designation was again changed late in 1906 to that of "The First Field Battery," and finally in 1908 to "Battery A, Field Artillery, C. N. G." In 1907 the battery was rearmed with the 3.2 inch field piece, the old Napoleon guns eventually finding a resting place in front of the main entrance of the State Capitol in Denver and in front of the caretaker's residence at the Rifle Range near Golden. Later the 3.2 inch guns were replaced by the 3 inch field piece, the armament of American light field artillery units until the advent of the French 75 mm. gun of the World War.



On March 1, 1908, a second platoon of Battery A was mustered in at Walsenburg under direct command of Captain J. C. Exline, the first platoon still being maintained in Denver under command of 1st Lieutenant J. W. LeFever. However, the existence of the second platoon as an artillery unit was brief, and on March 19, 1909, the platoon was transferred to the cavalry arm and redesignated Troop A, 1st Squadron Cavalry, C. N. G.

The officers and enlisted men of Company G, 1st Infantry, a Denver unit, having made application to be transferred to the artillery branch, this unit was mustered out on July 17, 1911, and under the provisions of G. O. No. 24, A. G., Colo., July 17, 1911, mustered in again on July 28, 1911, as Light Battery B, Field Artillery, C. N. G. The officers of the battery on muster in were: Bert M. Lake, Captain; H. R. K. Tomkins and G. S. Pearson, First lieutenants; and Robt. C. Grout and H. C. Ingersoll, Second lieutenants.

Under authority of a resolution passed by the State Military Board on June 16, 1911, and published in General Orders No. 32, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, Colorado, September 30, 1911, the first Battalion, Field Artillery, C. N. G., was organized and comprised Batteries A and B, with Major John B. Goodman, Jr., commanding.

From June 25 to July 4, 1912, a provisional battery of 3 officers and 86 enlisted men made up from Batteries A and B attended a camp of instruction with regular army troops at Fort Riley, Kansas. This was the first camp of its kind attended by Colorado artillerymen, and was of immense professional value to all the personnel of the battery.

On October 28, 1913, the entire National Guard of Colorado was mobilized for active service, and a provisional battery made up from Batteries A and B served throughout the entire period of the ensuing strike and insurrection.<sup>2</sup> The duties of the provisional battery during this period were confined principally to those of the routine of camp life and readiness for instant service in an emergency. Fortunately, during the entire period of the strike, it was not found necessary to invoke the extreme measure of the use of artillery (although it must be admitted that there were times during the various conflicts when its use would have had a most salutary effect), and the battery returned to its home stations without having fired a shot. However, there is no doubt that its presence was known to the lawless elements, and it was a potent, although silent, factor in curbing greater excesses on the part of the more radical elements among the strikers.

Following the strike there came a period of unrest and lack of interest in military matters, and great difficulty was experienced by all organizations of the Colorado National Guard in maintaining the prescribed strength. Battery A was particularly hard hit, and it was found necessary to transfer Troop E, 1st Squadron of Cavalry, of Walsenburg, to the artillery branch as the second platoon of Battery A. (G. O. No. 15, A. G., Colo., May 23, 1914). Later in the same year the battalion organization of the artillery was abolished, and under the provisions of General Orders No. 24, Adjutant General's Office, October 20, 1914, the designations of the two batteries were changed to Separate Batteries A and B, Field Artillery, C. N. G.

On January 26, 1916, under the provisions of S. O. No. 1, A. G., Colo., dated January 7, 1916, Battery A was transferred to Fort Collins, Colo., the personnel at the new station being recruited almost entirely from the student

<sup>2</sup>For a full narration of the events of the Colorado Mine War and Insurrection of 1913-1914 see chapter 12 of the History of the 157th Infantry, (Part two of this volume), and Appendices.

body of the Colorado Agricultural College. First Lieutenant Joseph A. Rogers, Battalion Adjutant, First Infantry, C. N. G., assumed command of the new battery on February 19, 1916, in compliance with Special Orders No. 4, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, Colo., of the same date. On May 26, 1916, he was commissioned captain, Battery A, Field Artillery, C. N. G. The junior officers of the battery, commissioned on April 22, 1916, were as follows: Roy G. Coffin and Arthur W. Whitehouse, First Lieutenants, and Floyd Cross and Paul G. Putty, Second Lieutenants. The personnel of the two platoons of the old battery at Denver and Walsenburg were discharged on January 26 and May 15, 1916, respectively, in compliance with Special Orders No's. 1 and 12, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, dated January 7 and May 15, 1916. The material and equipment of the former Denver and Walsenburg platoons was shipped to Fort Collins on the transfer of the battery to that station.

The war in Europe and the threatening situation in Mexico had given quite an impetus to affairs military throughout the country, and on May 31, 1916, a new battery was mustered in at Colorado Springs and designated Battery C, Field Artillery, C. N. G. The officers on muster in were Victor W. Hungerford, Captain, and Daniel W. Knowlton and Andrew J. Lawton, First Lieutenants. William H. Schade was commissioned Second Lieutenant of the battery on June 28, 1916. The addition of the new battery to the state's military forces made the reinstitution of the battalion organization necessary, and under the provisions of General Orders No. 29, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, July 5, 1916, the reorganization of the First Separate Battalion Field Artillery, C. N. G., was announced as follows:

Major William F. Sharp, Commanding.  
Captain H. C. Nickerson, Adjutant.  
1st Lieut. L. G. Carpenter, Quartermaster.  
Capt. H. S. Finney, Surgeon.  
2nd Lieut. T. N. Slayton, Veterinarian.

Batteries:

A, Fort Collins—Capt. Roy G. Coffin.  
B, Denver—Capt. G. A. Blanchard.  
C, Colorado Springs—Capt. Victor W. Hungerford.

As a result of the threatening situation on the Mexican Border the President, on June 18, 1916, called the entire National Guard of the United States into the Federal service, and included in the quota assigned the state of Colorado were two batteries of field artillery. Mobilization of all Colorado units took place at the Rifle Range, near Golden, Colorado, during the latter part of June and early in July. Batteries A, B, and C and battalion headquarters responded promptly to the call, and were assembled at the Rifle Range late in June. Here they were mustered into the federal service in the following order: Battery B, July 4, 1916; Battery A, July 20, 1916; Battery C, August 14, 1916; and Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment on August 14, 1916. However, Battery A, being composed of more than 75% college students from the State Agricultural College at Fort Collins, Colo., was, under War Department orders, mustered out of the Federal service on September 16, 1916, and returned to its home station.

The First Separate Battalion Colorado Field Artillery (less Battery A) left the Rifle Range on September 30th and arrived at Deming, New Mexico at 4:00 A. M., October 3, 1916. Troops in camp at Deming on the arrival of the



Colorado artillery included two regiments of infantry from Arkansas, two battalions each of infantry from Delaware and Wyoming, and regular army troops constituting the camp administrative force, truck companies, Quartermaster Corps detachments and a field hospital. The Colorado camp was located west of Deming, and farther from town than the camps of the other troops. It was a sandy site, roughly cleared of the larger desert growths such as yucca and greasewood, but still having very much the appearance of virgin New Mexico desert.

A few days were allowed the battalion to get settled in camp and then training was resumed in earnest. On October 26th the battalion left camp for a three days' practice march and firing test under the direction of Major Conrad H. Lanza, Field Artillery, U. S. Army, who had been sent from Fort Bliss to inspect the Colorado artillery. The first day's march was for about twenty-eight miles across desert roads and trails and a low mountain range to the site of old Fort Cummings, which was reached at 8:00 P. M. The following day the battalion participated in service firing, returning to camp at Fort Cummings after dark. On October 28th the battalion returned to camp at Deming. Late that night orders were received to move the battalion to El Paso by marching, and practically all day the 29th was occupied in breaking camp and preparing impedimenta for the move. Due to delay in obtaining railway cars for the supplies to be shipped the battalion was somewhat delayed and did not march until late in the afternoon of the 29th. Lack of water en-route retarded the march to some extent, but the battalion reached camp on Dyer St., near Fort Bliss, Texas, at 2:00 P. M., November 3, 1916. There the 1st Separate Battalion Colorado Field Artillery was attached to the 5th U. S. Field Artillery for administration and training (the 5th and 8th U. S. Field Artillery were at that time in the same brigade under command of Brig. General E. St. John Greble), and after a few days rest the Colorado artillerymen started out on an intensive training program that lasted for the remaining period of their stay in El Paso.

As a part of this training during the month of December, 1916, the battalion, together with the regular army organization to which it was attached, was required to move under cover of darkness to positions along the edge of the mesa north and north-west of El Paso, place the batteries in firing positions and establish complete signal communications to include regiment and brigade. Firing data were prepared for each battery with the view of using any one of several different aiming points and for some twenty-five prominent and important targets in Juarez and environs on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande. Upon the establishment of communication with the brigade C. P. atop the Hotel Paso Del Norte, organizations were dismissed and returned to camp.

Frequent field inspections were held by the brigade commander, and the Colorado battalion was on many occasions highly complimented by General Greble for its efficiency during these inspections. The training, as a whole, was intensive and thorough, and was to stand the battalion in good stead in the grim work that was to come in the not distant future.

Late in February, 1917, the battalion was ordered to turn in certain equipment, including most of its animals, and to proceed by train to Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming, (now Fort Francis E. Warren), there to be mustered out of the Federal service. The 1st Separate Battalion Colorado Field Artillery left El Paso, Texas, on February 28, 1917, and arrived at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming, on March 2, 1917. On March 6th muster out from the Federal service was completed, and the various units of the battalion returned to their respective home stations in Colorado.



On April 6, 1917, war was declared against Germany by the United States. Anticipating the call for troops from Colorado, Governor Gunter by proclamation on July 7, 1917, mobilized all organizations of the Colorado National Guard not in Federal Service in camps at Fort Logan, Pueblo, Denver, and Golden. The 1st Cavalry, 1st Battalion Field Artillery, Signal Company, and 1st Field Hospital Company were directed to assemble at Camp Baldwin, Overland Park, Denver, and by July 13th all units of the artillery battalion had arrived at Camp Baldwin.

From this date until August 5, 1917, when all of the units were drafted into the Federal service, strenuous work was carried on in the way of instruction and equipping the command. So that, as General Baldwin, Adjutant General, in his report says: "When the State troops were transferred to the Federal Government, the men of all branches of the service, not included in the First and Second Battalions of the First Infantry already in the Federal service, were completely uniformed and equipped with every article of the uniform of standard quality necessary for their immediate requirements and comfort, at the expense of the State."

The strength of the First Battalion Field Artillery, C. N. G., on the date of draft into Federal service was 17 officers and 473 enlisted men. Major Sharp and Captain Blanchard had resigned on March 1st and 26th, respectively, and the officers of the organization at this time (August 5, 1917) were as follows:

Major H. C. Nickerson, Commanding Battalion.

Captain Canton O'Donnell, Adjutant.

1st Lieut. Harold O. Nichols, Supply Officer.

1st Lieut. Philip Chase, M. C., Surgeon.

2nd Lieut. Floyd Cross, Acting Veterinarian.

*Battery A*—Capt. Roy G. Coffin;

1st Lieutenant C. M. Weller;

2nd Lieutenants Floyd Cross and Paul G. Putty.

*Battery B*—Capt. Wm. H. H. Cranmer;

1st Lieutenants E. F. Hart and C. A. Hackstaff;

2nd Lieutenants W. R. Wright and W. D. Conover.

*Battery C*—Capt. Victor W. Hungerford;

1st Lieutenants D. W. Knowlton and Wm. H. Schade;

2nd Lieutenant James H. Gowdy.

The battalion left Camp Baldwin, Denver, September 29th, 1917, and arrived at Camp Greene, Charlotte, N. C., on October 2, 1917. Here it was assigned to the 148th Field Artillery, and for the time being became a unit of the 41st (Sunset) Division which was composed for the most part of National Guard troops from the Pacific northwest.

The 148th Field Artillery was organized at Camp Greene, N. C., pursuant to General Orders No. 2, Headquarters 41st Division, dated September 19, 1917, and originally comprised Companies A, B, C, and D, the Headquarters Company and the Supply Company of the Third Wyoming Infantry, under command of Colonel Joseph W. Cavender. The organization of the regiment was completed by the assignment of the 1st Separate Battalion Colorado Field Artillery and the 1st Separate Squadron Oregon Cavalry. The final disposition of these organizations was as follows:



## 148th FIELD ARTILLERY:

## ORGANIZED FROM:

*Headquarters Company*—Headquarters Company 3rd Wyoming Infantry and Troop A Oregon Cavalry (less detachment).

*Supply Company*—Supply Company 3rd Wyoming Infantry and Detachment Troop A Oregon Cavalry.

*Battery A*—Battery A 1st Separate Battalion Colorado Field Artillery.

*Battery B*—Battery B, 1st Separate Battalion Colorado Field Artillery.

*Battery C*—Battery C, 1st Separate Battalion Colorado Field Artillery and Troop C Oregon Cavalry.

*Battery D*—Company A 3rd Wyoming Infantry and Troop D Oregon Cavalry.

*Battery E*—Company D 3rd Wyoming Infantry.

*Battery F*—Company C 3rd Wyoming Infantry.

(Company B 3rd Wyoming Infantry and Troop B 1st Separate Squadron Oregon Cavalry were assigned to Batteries D, E, and F).

The 146th, 147th, and 148th Field Artillery Regiments comprised the 66th Field Artillery Brigade of the 41st Division, and despite the fact that the policy of the War Department regarding the composition of the divisional artillery had not yet been announced to the brigade, nevertheless it was assumed that there would be one regiment of 75 millimeter guns, one of 4.7 howitzers, and one six-inch howitzer regiment. It was announced that the 148th Field Artillery would be equipped with one or the other of the heavier guns, and accordingly the regiment was reorganized with three two-battery battalions.

The work of arranging camp was completed as soon as possible, and during the remainder of the regiment's stay at Camp Greene intensive basic training was the order of the day. The weather for the most part was delightful, the surroundings pleasant, the interest keen, and the regiment made commendable progress. On October 24th the 148th Field Artillery left Camp Greene by rail arriving at Camp Mills, L. I., N. Y., on the 26th. The new camp site was a decided change from that at Camp Greene, and the regiment had to endure several disagreeable weeks of rain, sleet, and snow in a hastily prepared camp that lacked many of the comforts and conveniences that the men had become accustomed to in North Carolina. However, the best was made of an unpleasant situation, and training, which included infantry and standing gun drill and some firing with the three inch field piece, was resumed. About the first of November, replacements sufficient to bring all units of the regiment to war strength were received from Camp Lewis, Washington. These men were all westerners, and readily adapted themselves to their new organizations.

Orders had been received to move the regiment to Camp Merritt, N. J., and in accordance therewith preparations were made for the move; however, at noon on December 13, 1917, a blizzard struck Camp Mills and continued with unabated fury throughout the night of the 13-14 December. The weight of the wet snow and the force of a very high wind tore down practically every tent in camp, and at reveille on the morning of December 14th, it was necessary to dig a number of men from under their tents. Nevertheless the regiment was assembled, eventually, and the move to the comfortable barracks at Camp Merritt, N. J., completed by 4:30 P. M. on December 14, 1917.



A few days after the regiment's arrival at Camp Merritt an epidemic of measles, scarlet fever, and mumps broke out, and the entire command was quarantined until the middle of January. This delayed somewhat the departure for overseas, but on January 21, 1918, came the order to embark, and on the following day the 148th Field Artillery boarded the *H. M. T. Baltic*, which after an uneventful trip, arrived at Halifax, N. S., on January 25th. Here it joined a convoy, and at 1:30 P. M., January 27, 1918, under escort of a British cruiser, the convoy of eleven ships weighed anchor and put to sea. On February 3rd the so-called submarine danger zone was entered, and the escort to the convoy was augmented by the addition of eight British destroyers. About 5:30 P. M. on February 5th the transport *Tuscania*, one of the convoy and following immediately in rear of the *Baltic*, was torpedoed, and went down with a loss of over two-hundred American soldiers. Liverpool, England was reached without further incident at 11:00 A. M., February 6, 1918. The regiment disembarked, and at once entrained for Winchester arriving there at 11:00 P. M. the same day. A few days at the rest camp at Camp Winnal Down, three miles from Winchester, and on the 9th the regiment moved by rail to Southampton. Leaving here at 5:00 P. M. on board the *S. S. Prince George*, the trip across the Channel was a rough one, and it was a sick looking regiment that arrived at Le Havre early in the morning of February 10th. Disembarking at 8:00 A. M., a march of about five miles placed the regiment in Rest Camp No. 1 on the outskirts of Le Havre. The stay here was brief, and on February 12th the regiment entrained for Camp de Souge, near Bordeaux, in the south of France. The journey south was made in a typical French troop train, and the men of the regiment soon learned the significance of the legend "Hommes 40, Chevaux 8" painted on each box-car. Arriving at Bordeaux at 5:30 A. M., and Camp de Souge at 11:00 A. M., February 14, 1918, the 148th Field Artillery detrained, moved into camp, and settled down for several weeks of training and camp duties.

Camp de Souge was located on a sandy plain, about ten miles south-west of Bordeaux. It had been used as a concentration point by the French, and was provided with long, shed-like barracks and open kitchens. The barracks were concrete floored and well lighted, and the men of the regiment really enjoyed their stay at the camp. The 146th Field Artillery had preceded the 148th to Camp de Souge, having arrived there January 16th, and the brigade (less the 147th Field Artillery) was united once again and ready for the training which was to eventually lead it to the Rhine. The separation of the 147th Field Artillery from the brigade was in accordance with General Orders No. 9, Headquarters A. E. F., dated January 15, 1918, which provided for the organization of the 1st Army Corps, A. E. F., and the designation of the 66th Field Artillery Brigade (less 147th Field Artillery) as Corps Artillery.

The tables of organization under which the brigade was reorganized provided for a total strength of 150 officers and 3429 enlisted men. Each regiment consisted of a Headquarters Company, Supply Company, an Ordnance Detachment, Medical Detachment and three battalions of two batteries each. Four guns constituted one battery making eight to the battalion and twenty-four to the regiment. The authorized strength of a battery was 5 officers and 222 enlisted men, and for a regiment 71 officers and 1689 enlisted men, which included the Ordnance and Medical Detachments carried as attached. The brigade was below its authorized strength, and never during its entire period of service did it function with a complete personnel.

Soon after arrival at Camp de Souge both regiments of the brigade received their new guns, the French 155 mm. G. P. F. (Grande Puissance Filloux)





(Photo—U. S. Army Signal Corps)

**BATTERY B, 148TH FIELD ARTILLERY**

(Formerly Battery B, Colorado Field Artillery) at drill with 155 mm. G. P. F. guns, Camp de Souge, near Bordeaux, France, Spring 1918.

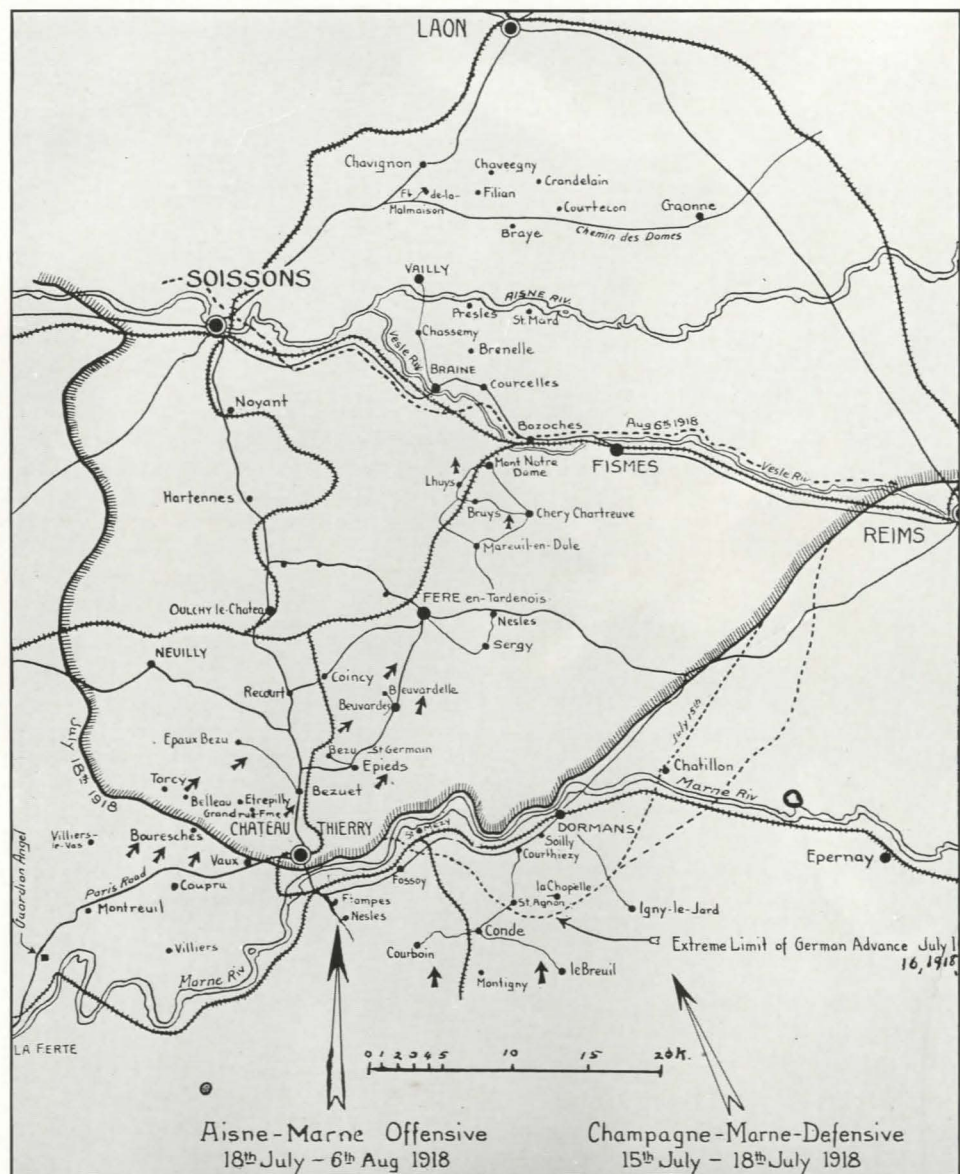
rifle. This weapon, weighing in traveling position 14 tons, mounted on rubber tired wheels, drawn by tractors along the roads at 12 kilometers an hour, and firing a 98 pound projectile, six inches in diameter, accurately at a range of 16 kilometers (about ten miles), was indeed an instrument of "Great Power" and wonderful accuracy. Personnel, ammunition and supplies were carried in 3-ton White trucks. Training started in earnest and details from the regiments that had attended the various schools in other sections of France were now returning to their respective regiments to assist in the training.

About the first of April a series of road marches and simple maneuvers was started, which was followed by target practice on the long Camp de Souge range. The course at Camp de Souge was completed toward the end of April and as other organizations were coming in for their training, it was necessary to find other camps for the 66th Brigade until the call should come for service at the front. A center of instruction for heavy artillery had been established at Libourne and during the latter part of April and the first part of May the 148th Field Artillery was moved by battalions to this area for field maneuvers and final instruction. This movement involved a convoy of about 50 kilometers and as it was the first movement of any length undertaken by the battalions as units its successful completion was viewed as a mark of progress. The First Battalion occupied billets at St. Sulpice, and Regimental Headquarters, Second and Third Battalions at Castillon. The regiment was later concentrated at Castillon.

Brigadier General Ernest Hinds, who was later promoted to the rank of Major General, and to command of the artillery of the army, was in command of the brigade at the time of the arrival of the 148th F. A. at Camp de Souge, but was shortly afterwards relieved by Brigadier General E. J. McGlachlin, Jr., who was also made a major general and succeeded in command of the 66th F. A. Brigade by Brigadier General William Lassiter. However, after a few weeks, General Lassiter was promoted Major General also, and the command of the brigade devolved upon Colonel Edwin F. Scott, 146th Field Artillery, who remained in command until November 3, 1918.

The German drive towards Paris had been checked at the Marne and American forces had played an important part in the action, but the salient gained by the enemy at Chateau Thierry put them dangerously close to Paris.





Map of the Champagne-Marne Defensive, 15-18 July, 1918, and the Aisne-Marne Offensive, 18th July to 6th August, 1918. Small arrows indicate direction of advance of 66th Field Artillery Brigade. Map prepared by the Operations Office, 66th F. A. Brigade.



and the air was tense with suspense awaiting a further effort on the part of the Germans to exploit their recent successes. Every American organization which had finished its training period knew that the call to the front was at hand. The 148th Field Artillery was ready and eager for the summons, and when orders were received on July 2, 1918, to prepare for movement to the front there was not much question in any one's mind as to the regiment's destination. Final preparations were completed with alacrity, and on July 4th the First Battalion entrained at Libourne and started for the front; the other units of the regiment followed at intervals in the order, Second Battalion, Third Battalion, Headquarters and Supply Companies.

Detraining at La Ferte Gaucher early in the morning of July 6th the regiment, together with the 2nd Battalion 146th Field Artillery was hurried into positions three to five kilometers south of Chateau Thierry, between Dormans and Vaux in support of the 38th French Corps. The groupment was under the direct command of Colonel J. W. Cavender, 148th Field Artillery, and was attached to the French Sixth Army for the pending operations. At the time the regiment entered the line the battalions and batteries were commanded as follows:

*1st Battalion*—Major H. C. Nickerson.

*Battery A*—Capt. Roy G. Coffin.

*Battery B*—Capt. W. H. H. Cranmer.

*2nd Battalion*—Capt. Victor W. Hungerford.

*Battery C*—1st Lieut. Daniel W. Knowlton.

*Battery D*—Capt. Canton O'Donnell.

*3rd Battalion*—Capt. W. A. Sawtelle.

*Battery E*—Capt. Frank B. Nelson.

*Battery F*—1st Lieut. G. H. Huff.

The regiment fired its first shot of the war on July 8th when the 1st Battalion went into action. The other units followed in quick succession, and night by night until July 13, 1918, the regiment carried out a schedule of harrassing and interdiction fires on the roads leading north and east from Chateau Thierry and on important objectives along the north bank of the Marne. On the night of July 13th a premature alarm to the effect that the German attack had started was given, and all guns of the regiment were laid to fire their battle missions. The error was soon discovered, and the program of interdiction and harrassing fires resumed.

Quoting now from the History of the 66th Field Artillery Brigade:

"The attack broke forth on the night of July 14th-15th, when at 11:45 P. M., in one blinding flash the enemy artillery opened up on the entire Chateau-Thierry front and extending east as far as Rheims. The extent of the proposed attack could not be determined and our guns from one end of the line to the other quickly took up the challenge and the night blazoned forth into a seething furnace. The skies reflected back the intermittent, lurid flashes as the guns belched forth their destruction. Counter preparation offensives were laid down along the entire line. Toward morning the enemy fire increased in intensity between Chateau Thierry and Dormans and it was evident that the attack would center in that region. Heavy calibre guns were used and the back areas as well as the front lines were bathed in shell fire. The guns of the Brigade under command of Colonel Cavender kept a constant fire on points along the North bank of the Marne. Likewise all the guns of the 1st Corps artillery which could reach Chateau-Thierry and points east began to sweep the river



bank. At 6:00 o'clock on the morning of the 15th the Germans laid down a heavy smoke barrage under cover of which they crossed the Marne at a number of points, by boats and on hastily-constructed pontoon bridges. The barrage lifted and a heavy infantry action followed. During the day the enemy forced the French back six kilometers capturing the towns of St. Aignan and La Chapelle. A vigorous counter attack executed by the 3rd Division, U. S., ejected the enemy from Mezy and Fossoy, and the further crossing of the river at these points was checked. During the day's fighting the 66th Brigade guns to the south of Chateau-Thierry maintained a withering fire against the advancing enemy. The guns had to be cooled and re-cooled with buckets of water. All through the night our guns swept back and forth through the German forces with murderous effect. During the first stages of the German advance which was very rapid, Colonel Cavender received word from the French command to fire until the last minute and then blow up the guns and retreat. One battalion lay in the path of the advancing enemy and the Germans were dangerously near. Petards were issued by the French for the blowing up of the guns in case the advance was not checked. But the training of the 66th Brigade had not included retreat in its course. This message brought to the surface all the fighting blood of our men and they vowed to keep the big guns in action to the finish. The Petards were never used.

"During the night of the 15th, the 2nd Battalion 148th F. A. moved to positions near Bochage to obtain a more effective range on the advancing enemy. The fighting continued on the 16th, the Germans succeeding in getting additional troops across the river at Dormans where five bridges still remained intact. At noon the allies launched a counter attack and sharp fighting followed in which the enemy was driven back toward the river, considerably diminishing the pocket south of the Marne. Violently counter attacking in turn, our troops followed up their advance making an average gain of two kilometers. Our guns working in close support of the attacking infantry materially assisted in this advance.

"The enemy did not renew his efforts on the 17th and the day passed quietly, the Allies resting in preparation for the big counter attack which was to take place the following morning over the entire Chateau-Thierry front from Soissons south. During the night the 2nd Battalion of the 148th again moved to more forward positions in the vicinity of Fransauges directly in front of the point of the German advance south of the river."

The casualties of the regiment during this, its first battle, were two killed and eight gassed in Battery E. All other batteries had been subjected to more or less intense artillery and aerial bombardment, but fortunately escaped without any losses. The regiment had acquitted itself with honor, and in appreciation thereof the Commanding General of the 38th Corps, Sixth French Army, issued the following commendatory order on the actions of all artillery groupments supporting his corps during the Champagne-Marne Defensive:

(Translation)

VI ARMY

Q. G.

17th July, 1918.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 343

The General commanding the 38th Army Corps congratulates all groupments of American Artillery, and French A. D. and A. L. Groupments of the Army, for their co-operation in the defense of the Marne.



Altho fatigued under an intense bombardment, causing sensible losses, upsetting the liaisons, they have *accomplished with energy*<sup>3</sup> all their missions from the beginning to the end of the action, with a constant care to coordinate their efforts and support at all costs the troops engaged, and this not only on our front, but supporting also the units in the vicinity.

Troops and staff may take their share of the success obtained over the enemy, which has been entirely thrown back beyond the river, on the front of our army corps.

The present order will be read as soon as possible in all the batteries.

General commanding the 38th Army Corps.

(Signed) DE MONDESIR.

The Aisne-Marne Offensive commenced at 4:30 A. M., July 18, 1918, and the 66th Field Artillery Brigade, functioning as Corps Artillery of the First American Army Corps was assigned the mission of counter battery work during the attack. Later, by firing at extreme ranges the 148th Field Artillery was able to support the attack being pushed against the Germans right flank near Soissons and all guns were used for this purpose until July 20th, when regimental headquarters and the First and Second Battalions received orders to move to the west, across the Marne and join the advance. The Third Battalion was ordered to occupy advanced positions in the same area, but before fire could be opened from the new positions orders were received to follow the First and Second Battalions, which was done on the night of July 21st.

After crossing the Marne at Mery-sur-Marne (a detour of fifty kilometers necessitated by the fact that the bridges at Chateau Thierry would not support the G. P. F.'s.) the regiment rested for one day near Bezule-Guery, and on the following day the First and Second Battalions went into position to support the advance. The Third Battalion was held in reserve. As the advance proceeded the Third Battalion was advanced beyond the others, and when it commenced firing the others moved forward. This system of "leap-frogging" was kept up until all units were approximately on line when the advance halted at the Vesle. Quoting again from the history of the 66th Field Artillery Brigade, "From the time these regiments (the 146th and 148th Regiments, Field Artillery) entered the sector of the First American Corps, and were assigned their first definite missions until their relief after more than three weeks of the hardest kind of fighting, constant fire was maintained and each advance of the infantry and divisional artillery was accompanied by at least one battalion of our G. P. F's. In practically every position our guns were on the same line as the 75's and howitzers, the theory of the brigade commander being that long range guns were designed to shoot far in enemy territory and not to remain far behind our own lines."

On August 4th the 148th Field Artillery took part in the general forward movement of the corps artillery. The regimental C. P. was established at Montaon Farm, and the three battalions were in position in the vicinity of Chery Chartreuve, the First and Second Battalions to the east and the Third Battalion to the south thereof. Heavy rains which commenced on August 3rd made a quagmire of the country, and great difficulty was experienced, especially in Battery C, in getting the guns into their final positions. The enemy resistance had stopped our advance and the regiment's duties now were to maintain a continuous fire on the crossings of the Aisne River and to subject

<sup>3</sup> The phrase "Accomplished with Energy" is now the official motto of the 168th F. A., (Truck Drawn), Colo. N. G.



the towns and roads between the Vesle and the Aisne to concentrations of high explosive and gas. The Aisne-Marne Offensive officially closed on August 6th. However, the brigade was not relieved from the line until August 12th, when it moved to a position in readiness in the vicinity of Moncheton Chateau, about 25 kilometers to the south of Chery Chartreuve. The 148th Field Artillery moved to the Bois de Chatelet near Coincy on the night of August 12-13th. Here a stop of four days was made, and on August 16th the regiment made a convoy to stations as follows: Regimental Headquarters and First Battalion to St. Auld, the Second Battalion to Le Limon Farm, and the Third Battalion to Bezu-le-Guery.

On August 12th Colonel Cavender, who had commanded the regiment since its organization, was relieved from duty with the 148th Field Artillery, and Lieutenant Colonel Burke H. Sinclair assumed command in his stead. Captain Victor W. Hungerford again took command of the Second Battalion, and First Lieutenant Daniel Knowlton assumed command of Battery C.

Between August 21st and 23rd the regiment moved to the vicinity of Cirey-sur-Blaise and Daillancourt, and here the troops rested until August 26th when the march was started towards Toul preparatory to taking part in the St. Mihiel offensive. Marching at night by way of St. Dizier, Bar-le-Duc, and Bois de Souilly the regiment was preparing to go into positions on the west side of the St. Mihiel salient when orders were received transferring it to the southern sector. The movement was commenced on the night of September 6, 1918, and by midnight September 11th all guns of the regiment were in position in the vicinity of Ansauville, Grosoruvres, and Noviant in support of the 4th American Corps. The 66th Artillery Brigade had, on August 25th been designated as Army Artillery of the First American Army, and for the St. Mihiel Offensive certain French artillery units were to cooperate with the brigade under Colonel Scott's command.

At 1:00 A. M., on September 12, 1918, the greatest concentration of artillery in the history of the American Army opened the battle of St. Mihiel, and so intense was the fire that practically no return fire was possible by the Germans. At 5:00 A. M. the infantry and tanks advanced, overcoming all obstacles and reaching all of their objectives the first day. Before nightfall all the battalions of the 148th Field Artillery were ordered to advance and the Second Battalion, going forward on the night of the 12th, was in firing position near Limey on the 13th, but before the First and Third Battalions, which were to "leap-frog" the Second, had reached their positions, orders were received for the regiment to withdraw immediately and proceed to the vicinity of Rampont.

The battle of the Meuse-Argonne was about to open, and the movement of practically all combat troops of the American Expeditionary Force in France to the new sector was under way. Marching by night the 148th Field Artillery reached its new battle positions at Montzeville and Le Claire on the nights of September 21st and 22nd, and by September 23rd the entire regiment was in complete readiness to function. At 11:30 P. M., Wednesday, September 25, 1918, the artillery preparation for the battle of the Meuse-Argonne got under way, and the terrific bombardment exceeded even that of the St. Mihiel offensive. At 5:00 A. M. on September 26th the infantry advanced, and despite stiff resistance pushed on to their various objectives. The 148th Field Artillery followed the advance, and on September 28th the Third Battalion changed position almost as far north as Montfaucon. The Second Battalion advanced to Esnes, and the First Battalion guns were emplaced so as to counter the German fire from east of the Meuse. Quoting once again from the History of the 66th Field Artillery Brigade:



"While the front lines were less than a kilometer north of Nantillois, the Second Battalion advanced to a position near that town, from which they could reach far into enemy territory and cut off supplies and destroy rear concentration points and lines of communication. When the first platoon of Battery D went into position at this point, its guns were the furthest advanced of any in that sector. Although in this position the Second battalion was subjected to heavy artillery fire and even to machine gun fire, the work of the batteries never stopped and a constant fire was maintained.

"The advance of the Second battalion had been made on October 5th. On October 2nd, the First battalion had advanced to a position east of Cuisy, from which position fire was resumed against the German batteries east of the Meuse. The Third battalion was advanced to a position in the Briulles woods on October 16th, and on the 20th the First battalion moved north of Nantillois to a position about two kilometers south of Cunel, from which village the Germans had recently been driven.

"The fighting, which had been pushed without a moment's rest, continued with vigor. Divisions were relieved by fresh divisions and the attack renewed, but the heavy artillery hammered away unceasingly and without hope of relief until the army objectives were won. Gun crews worked in reliefs and the guns fired day and night. Truck drivers and ammunition details were hard pressed to keep the supply of ammunition sufficient. Despite the terrible condition of the roads which were made worse by the mud and slime caused by the daily rains, the rations and supplies arrived regularly. Every officer and man worked to the limit of his strength, the one thought uppermost in the minds of all being to give the infantry constant support that they might accomplish their missions with the minimum losses and maximum speed.

\* \* \* \* \*

"After the heights north of Bantheville had been captured in the attack of November 1st, the advance progressed very rapidly, and on the 3rd of November the Second battalion was advanced to the neighborhood of Clery-le-Grand. While the allied troops were everywhere advancing, events elsewhere were moving rapidly. The capitulation of Austria, the abdication of the Kaiser and the Crown Prince, the revolutions in Berlin and all the subdivisions of the German Empire, with the request for terms for an armistice, showed that the end was near. These developments in no wise affected the movements of the allied forces.

"An attack was to be launched north and east from Verdun towards Metz and the First and Third battalions were ordered to cross the Meuse at Verdun and advance on the east bank in support of the attack. But no sooner had the river been crossed than new orders were received taking the battalions back to their former area. This movement occurred November 9th, and the return was made on the 10th. By this time the terms of the armistice had been communicated to the Germans and it was generally understood that if accepted by them all hostilities would cease at 11 A. M., November 11; but despite this, the Second battalion moved one gun across the river at Dun-sur-Meuse, and arrangements were made to push all guns toward Stenay. But on the morning of November 11th orders were received to cease fire promptly at 11 A. M., as the armistice had been signed.

"With but a very short interval and that interval devoted mostly to long convoys, the regiment had been constantly active since July 5th, and it was with combined feelings of elation and relief that the order was received. The

physical and mental strain of four big battles in as many months had been more than any one had actually realized until the ordeal was over, and although both the physical and weather conditions encountered during the intervening period were most unfavorable in the neighborhood of Blercourt and Dombasle, to which the regiment had been withdrawn after the armistice became effective, and pending the next disposition of the command, the opportunity thus afforded for rest and relaxation was welcomed by all.

"The continuous strain had not only been hard on men but also on clothing and equipment, and while men were resting every effort was made to re-equip the regiment with everything required. This process was speeded up when it was learned that the 66th F. A. brigade had been transferred to the Third American army, which had been designated as the American army to act as our Army of Occupation in Germany and before the end of November the regiment was in complete readiness for the movement towards the Rhine.

"All shortages of personnel and equipment had been made good, practically every man had drawn new clothing, the material had been thoroughly cleaned and overhauled, and after turning in most of the Renault tractors and all of the White trucks which had served us faithfully and well since their issue at Camp de Souge, the regiment was issued an equivalent of rehabilitated Renaults and a motley collection of Nash Quad and F. W. D. trucks, all of which had been in service at the hands of other organizations. Thus equipped, with road reconnaissances made and the first billeting are located, the order for the march into Germany was impatiently waited."



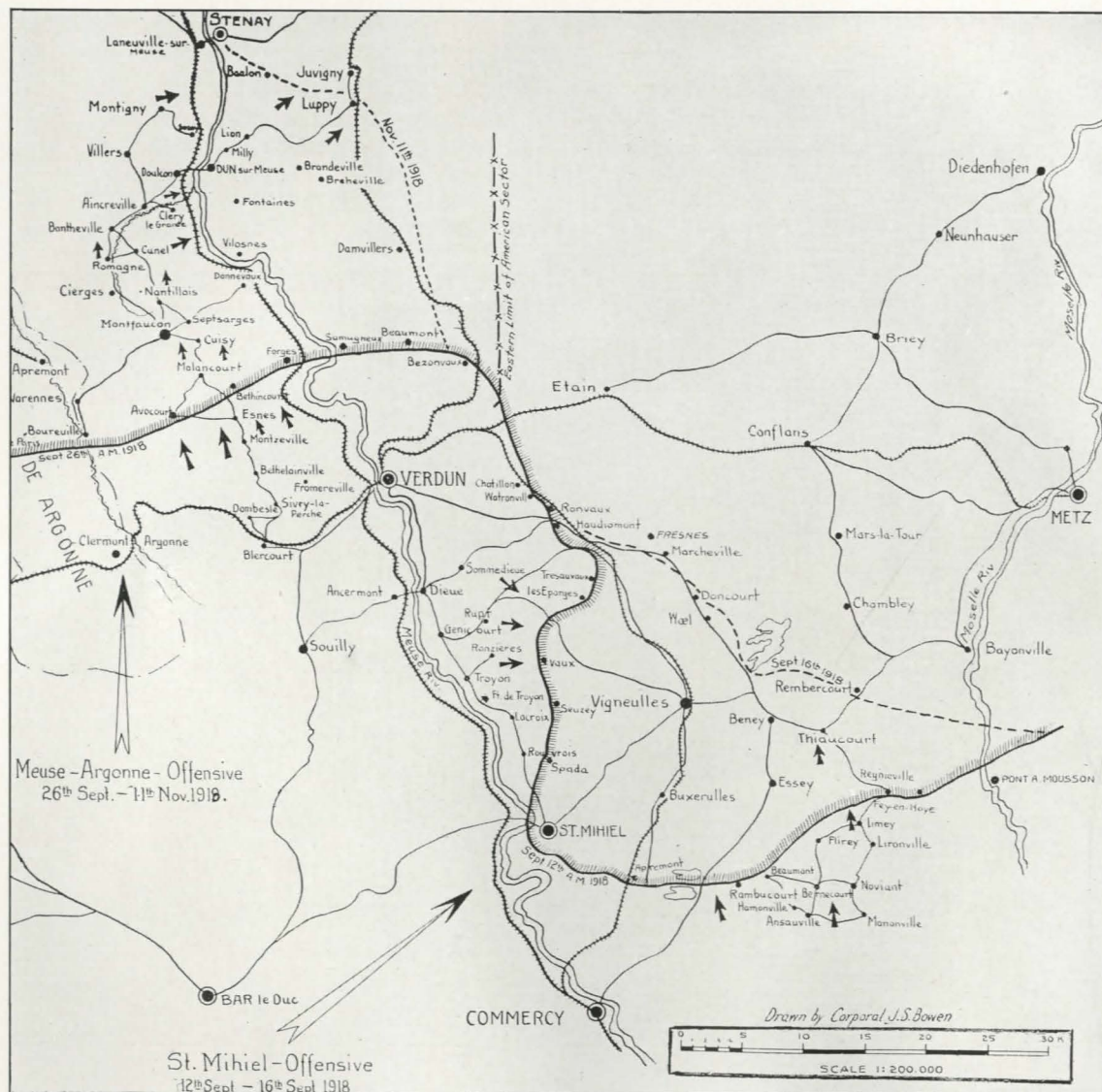
(Photo by U. S. Army Signal Corps)

155 MM. G. P. F. GUNS IN ACTION  
Battle of the Meuse-Argonne, France, October, 1918.



During the Meuse-Argonne operations the regiment suffered numerous casualties, practically every unit having men killed or wounded. Many heroic deeds were performed by the personnel of the regiment, and Private John Murphy of Battery F was awarded the D. S. C. for conspicuous gallantry in action.

Colonel J. P. Spurr assumed command of the regiment on September 22, 1918, but was succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel Sinclair on October 22nd, and he in turn was succeeded by Colonel Marion S. Battle on November 18th. Major



Map—St. Mihiel Offensive, 12-16 September, 1918, and Meuse-Argonne Offensive 26 September-11 November, 1918. Small arrows indicate direction of advance of 66th Field Artillery Brigade.

Nickerson, Captain W. H. Cranmer and Captain O'Donnel commanded the regiment, the First and Second battalions, respectively, from November 3rd to November 11th, during a temporary absence of Lieutenant Colonel Sinclair and Major Hungerford.

On December 2, 1918, the regiment started from Blerecourt on the long trip to the Rhine, and traveling by way of Piennes, Schiffflange, Luxembourg, Wasserbillig, Bitburg, Budesheim, Oberehe, Kurrenberg, and Mayen eventually reached Weissenthurm, a small town on the Rhine about twelve kilometers northwest of Coblenz, on Sunday, December 22nd. Here the regiment remained until December 30th when it moved to Hohn, across the Rhine, for permanent billets.

With the organization of the American sector of the Coblenz bridgehead, the 66th Brigade was ordered to take a position in readiness to support the Third Corps, which was occupying the outer limits of the bridgehead with the 1st and 32nd Divisions in line and the 2nd Division in reserve. As army artillery, the brigade was to cover the entire sector occupied by our troops.



GUN SECTIONS, BATTERY B, 148TH FIELD ARTILLERY

Hohn, Germany, January, 1919.



Battery positions were at once reconnoitered, battle maps were prepared, and all necessary preparations made for the defense of the sector. Gun positions were not actually occupied, but all guns were kept in readiness for instant service. Duties in the Army of Occupation were not onerous and every opportunity was given the men to study, travel, enjoy athletic meets and other forms of amusement. However, all were anxious to get home, but the immensity of the task of transporting the A. E. F. back to the United States was also fully appreciated, and the morale and high standard of discipline of the regiment never suffered a let-down.

On April 8, 1919, Colonel Battle was transferred to duty in Paris, and Lieutenant Colonel Sinclair assumed command of the regiment in his stead. A few days later, (April 13th), Lieutenant Colonel Sinclair was promoted to a full colonelcy, and thus retained command of the regiment until its demobilization.

An epidemic of influenza spread throughout the Army of Occupation during the winter of 1918-19, and the 148th Field Artillery was to suffer the loss of two officers and six enlisted men before the disease was subdued. The entire losses of the regiment during its service in the A. E. F. were as follows:

	Killed in action	Died from wounds	Died from disease or accident	Wounded	Missing
Officers	1	—	5	4	0
Enl. Men	36	6	60	168	0
Totals	37	6	65	172	0

On May 11, 1919, orders were received transferring the brigade to the S. O. S. for return to the United States. The order to turn guns, tractors and equipment over to the Ordnance Department was obeyed with alacrity, and after a few more days spent in packing the equipment to be taken home, the regiment, on May 26th, left Hohn by marching to entrain at Engers, about twelve kilometers distant. Arriving at St. Nazaire, France, on May 29th, the regiment went through the usual physical examinations and delousing process, and at 8:30 P. M., Monday, June 2, 1919, boarded the *U. S. S. Peerless* for the voyage to the homeland. The *Peerless* left St. Nazaire at 6:00 A. M. the following morning and after an uneventful trip arrived at New York on Sunday, June 15, 1919. Disembarking, the regiment was transported by ferry and train to Camp Mills, N. J., and here on June 19th it was split up into detachments for the final move to the demobilization camps. The Colorado, Oregon, and Wyoming detachments, the actual cadre of the original regiment, left for their demobilization camps—Colorado and Wyoming to Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming, and Oregon to Camp Lewis, Washington—on June 20th and 21st.

The reception to the home-coming veterans in Colorado and Wyoming was wildly enthusiastic, and the regiment paraded amid cheering throngs in Colorado Springs, Denver, Fort Collins, and Cheyenne, eventually arriving at Fort D. A. Russell on June 24th.

The 148th Field Artillery was mustered out of the Federal service between June 27th and 29th, 1919, and the officers and men returned to their respective homes in Colorado, Wyoming and other western states. Of the original com-

plement of officers of the Colorado battalion that left Camp Baldwin in September 1917, six only remained with the organization until muster out. These were: Major Victor W. Hungerford, Captains Canton O'Donnell and W. H. Cranmer, and First Lieutenants Waite D. Conover, C. A. Hackstaff, and W. R. Wright.

The 148th Field Artillery, A. E. F., with a record of splendid achievement in four major engagements, (Champagne-Marne, July 15-18, 1918; Aisne Marne, July 18-Aug. 6, 1918; St. Mihiel, Sept. 12-16, 1918; and Meuse Argonne, Sept. 26-Nov. 11, 1918), and active participation in the Champagne defensive sectors (Chateau Thierry, July 8-14, 1918, and Vesle, August 7-12, 1918), had passed into history, but its glorious record was not allowed to pass with it, and today the soldiers of Wyoming and Colorado "carry on" the traditions of the old regiment in the reorganized 115th Cavalry, Wyoming National Guard, and the 168th Field Artillery, (Truck Drawn), Colorado National Guard.

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The draft of the entire Colorado National Guard into the Federal service on August 5, 1917, left the state practically denuded of troops, and to insure the safe-guarding of public utilities within the borders of Colorado other units were organized and mustered into the state service. Among these was a battery of light artillery organized at Colorado Springs and mustered in on September 7, 1918, as Battery D, Colorado National Guard. Federal recognition was extended to this unit on February 11, 1919, and on April 23, 1919, it had attained a strength of 3 officers and 84 enlisted men (Biennial Report, A. G., Colo. for the years 1919-1920). "However," to quote from Adjutant General Spangler's biennial report, "upon the signing of the Armistice November 11, 1918, these men felt that they had carried out their obligations to the Government and State, and being for the most part business men and men of families, were anxious to be relieved from all connection with any military organization." Accordingly, on March 1, 1920, in compliance with S. O. No. 12, A. G. O., same date, the battery was mustered out of the service.

Meantime, authority having been granted by the Militia Bureau under date of March 27, 1918, General Orders No. 6, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, Colo., dated January 31, 1919, provided for the reorganization of the field artillery of the Colorado National Guard as a battalion of light artillery (3 batteries) to be armed with the 75 mm. French field gun. The first unit of the reorganized battalion to be mustered in was Battery A, Pueblo, on June 14, 1921, federal recognition being granted as of June 15, 1921. The officers of the battery on organization were—Richard A. Talbott, Captain; Morris Penter and Marion K. Weaver, First Lieutenants; and James H. Naden, Second Lieutenant. The battery had not as yet completed its organization when, on June 3, 1921, the city of Pueblo was overwhelmed by a flood of the Arkansas River, and all troops in the city were turned out at the request of the civil authorities to assist in saving life and property and to preserve law and order. The battery was relieved from this duty on June 24, 1921, and the Chief of the Militia Bureau commenting on the service of the Colorado National Guard during the flood said in part, "The work all these men did was highly commendable; that of the newer organizations was extraordinary. The state and the United States may congratulate themselves on having that type of men in the National Guard."

Under the provisions of General Orders No. 25, A. G., Colorado, dated October 27, 1921, Battery A, Field Artillery, C. N. G., was designated Bat-



tery A, 158th Field Artillery, C. N. G., effective November 1, 1921. On May 1, 1922, in compliance with S. O. No. 20, A. G., Colo., dated April 17, 1922, the designation of the battery was again changed to Battery C, 158th Field Artillery, C. N. G.

On February 4, 1922, Battery B was reorganized in Denver with the following officers—Harold O. Nichols, Captain; Harry J. Fisk and Frederick W. Ruble, First Lieutenants; and Merle C. Goff, Second Lieutenant. The battery was granted Federal recognition as Battery B, 158th Field Artillery, C. N. G., on February 17, 1922, (S. O. N. 20, A. G., Colo., April 17, 1922), and steps were now taken towards the completion of the battalion organization. Under the provisions of paragraph 1, Special Orders No. 48, A. G., Colo., May 21, 1923, William L. Hogg of Denver was appointed Major commanding, and Captain Harold O. Nichols adjutant of the reorganized battalion. However, Federal recognition of the battalion was not granted until July 9, 1923, following the muster in of Headquarters Detachment and Combat Train, 1st Battalion 158th Field Artillery, Denver, on May 4, 1923. This unit was formed by the transfer of excess enlisted personnel from the Service Company, 157th Infantry, C. N. G., and the appointment of the following officers: Captain R. H. Jancke, First Lieutenant R. T. Wilson, and Second Lieutenant T. T. Houghton. The Medical Detachment, 1st Battalion 158th Field Artillery, C. N. G. was mustered in at Pueblo on January 19, 1924, and on April 1, 1925, under the provisions of General Orders No. 10, A. G., Colo., same date, the designation of the Headquarters Detachment and Combat Train was changed to "Headquarters Battery and Combat Train." Major Hogg resigned on September 30, 1923, and Captain R. H. Jancke was promoted Major commanding the battalion on October 1, 1923.

The 158th Field Artillery was at this time allotted to states as follows:

Oklahoma: Regimental Headquarters, Headquarters and Service Batteries, and Second Battalion (less Battery E).

Colorado: First Battalion (less Battery A).

New Mexico: Battery A.

Arizona: Battery E.

The state of Oklahoma being desirous of having the bulk of the regiment organized within the state, and the Colorado battalion desiring to be transferred to the Twenty-fourth Cavalry Division, request was made to the War Department to have the First Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, C. N. G., redesignated as the 168th Field Artillery Battalion (Horse), C. N. G. The request was granted by the Secretary of War, and on June 25, 1926, General Orders No. 8, A. G., Colo., announced the redesignation effective as of July 1, 1926.

On January 21, 1929, the Medical Detachment of the battalion was disbanded in Pueblo, and on February 1st of the same year reorganized at Fort Collins. The bloody mutiny at the Colorado State Penitentiary, Canon City, during October, 1929, necessitated the calling out of the Howitzer Company, 157th Infantry, Canon City, and Battery C, 168th F. A. Bn. (Horse), Pueblo, to assist in quelling the mutineers. The troops performed their task with credit, and ably assisted the prison authorities in the restoration of order.

The organization of the battalion was finally completed on September 25, 1930, when Battery A was mustered in at Fort Collins, and, to quote from Special Orders No. 58, A. G., Colo., dated September 17th, 1930, "such action

has been taken and considered as a reorganization of the old prewar Battery A, Field Artillery, Fort Collins, Colorado." Extension of Federal recognition was granted the new unit as of the date of muster in.



SECTION, BATTERY B, 168TH F. A. BN. (HORSE)  
Rifle Range, Colorado, February, 1931.

Early in 1933 the Militia Bureau (now National Guard Bureau) of the War Department at Washington, D. C., announced a policy of motorizing all field artillery regiments of the National Guard of the United States in the interest of economy and modernization. In keeping with this policy it was suggested to the state authorities in Colorado that the horse battalion be enlarged to a regiment by the transfer of the 117th Cavalry Squadron to the artillery arm and the conversion of the newly formed organization to a truck drawn regiment of artillery. Naturally, the project met with a good deal of opposition from the cavalymen and those of the artillery who were equine enthusiasts, but eventually the insistent arguments of the National Guard Bureau authorities, and the realization that the modern trend of mechanization could not be stalled off much longer, resulted in the consent of the bulk of the officers to the change. Accordingly on August 1, 1933, Special Orders No. 53, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, Colo., were issued consolidating the 117th Separate Squadron of Cavalry and the 168th Field Artillery Battalion (Horse), Colo. N. G., to form the 168th Field Artillery Regiment (Truck Drawn), Colo. N. G.

The units and stations of the 168th Field Artillery Battalion (Horse) at the date of conversion to truck drawn artillery were as follows:

*Headquarters—Denver, Colorado.*

Major Wm. Q. Howell—Commanding.  
Captain Thurston T. Houghton—Adjutant.  
1st Lieut. Sidney P. Godsman—P. and T. O.  
2nd Lieut. Kenneth S. Johnson—Liaison Officer.  
Chaplain (Capt.) Wilson P. Ard.



*Headquarters Battery and Combat Train—Denver, Colorado.*

Capt. Ralph M. Bitler, Commanding.

*Battery A—Fort Collins, Colorado.*

1st Lieut. Jos. E. Ryan, Commanding.

*Battery B—Denver, Colorado.*

Capt. Floyd R. Pool, Commanding.

*Battery C—Pueblo, Colorado.*

Capt. Ronald H. Peters, Commanding.

*Medical Dept. Detachment—Fort Collins, Colorado.*

Capt. D. T. Hartshorn, M. C., Commanding.

The units of the 117th Separate Squadron Cavalry which, under the provisions of the order, were to be transferred to the artillery included Troop A of Monte Vista which was to become Battery D; Troop B of Denver, to be redesignated Battery E; and Troop C of Loveland which was to change its designation to Battery F.<sup>4</sup> Squadron Headquarters of Denver was to become the Second Battalion Headquarters of the new regiment, and the order also stated that officers and enlisted men of both the old cavalry and artillery units were transferred in their respective grades to constitute the personnel of the new regiment.

In compliance with Special Orders No. 53 referred to above, the organization of the new regiment was completed during the month of August, 1933, and its status on November 30, 1933, was as follows:

168TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT (TRUCK DRAWN),  
COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD.

*Headquarters, Denver, Colorado.*

Colonel Joseph W. LeFever, Commanding.

Major Wm. Q. Howell, Executive.

Captain Thurston T. Houghton, P. & T. O.

Captain Howard E. Reed, Adjutant.

1st Lieut. Robt. D. Charlton, Liaison officer.

Chaplain (Capt.) Wilson P. Ard.

*First Battalion.**Headquarters:*

Major Raymond W. Combs, Commanding.

Captain Jay H. Bouton, Adjutant.

1st Lieut. Sidney P. Godsman, I. P. & T. O.

2nd Lieut. Aden A. Holson, Liaison Officer.

<sup>4</sup> Under the provisions of a later order (G. O. No. 18, A. G. Colo., Sept. 1, 1933) Troop C become Battery C, and old Battery C of Pueblo became Battery F.

*Headquarters Battery and Combat-Train, Denver*—Capt. E. F. Arnbrecht.

*Battery A, Fort Collins*—Capt. J. E. Ryan.

*Battery B, Denver*—Capt. F. G. Pool.

*Battery C, Loveland*—(Formerly Troop C), Capt. Wm. F. Hunn.

*Second Battalion.*

*Headquarters:*

Major Ronald H. Peters, Commanding.

Captain Floyd Cross, Adjutant.

1st Lieut. Daniel G. Oakly, Liaison Officer.

2nd Lieut. Ralph D. Caldwell, I. P. & T. O.

*Battery D, (Formerly Troop A), Monte Vista*—Capt. A. E. Kistler.

*Battery E, (Formerly Troop B), Denver*—Capt. R. M. Bitler.

*Battery F, (Formerly Batt. C), Pueblo*—Capt. T. R. Peck.

*Medical Detachment:*

*Denver Detachment*—Capt. E. Durbin.

*Fort Collins Detachment*—Capt. D. F. Hartshorn.

(Note: The Denver Detachment, with the exception of Captain Durbin, was disbanded on October 15, 1934. Captain Hartshorn was promoted Major on October 15, 1934.)

For reasons of economy it was found impracticable by the National Guard Bureau to increase Colorado's quota of National Guard troops, and as a consequence the Regimental Headquarters and Service Batteries and the Headquarters Battery and Combat Train of the Second Battalion of the new regiment were not organized at the time of the conversion. However, on January 1, 1934, the Headquarters Battery and Combat Train, 1st Battalion, 168th Field Artillery, in compliance with Par. 1, G. O. No. 1, A. G. O., Colorado, was redesignated Headquarters Battery, 168th Field Artillery (Truck Drawn).

On March 31, 1934, the regiment, and in fact the entire Colorado National Guard, was saddened by the death of Colonel Joseph W. LeFever, commanding officer of the 168th Field Artillery, Colo. N. G. The regiment is, at this date (May 1, 1934), commanded by the senior field officer, Major W. Q. Howell.

In concluding this history of the 168th Field Artillery Regiment (Truck Drawn), Colorado National Guard, it is fitting that I repeat the words of Major General Ernest Hinds, Chief of Artillery, A. E. F., in complimenting the 66th Field Artillery Brigade (of which the Colorado battalion was a part) on its work in France; General Hinds said in part: "Its record is one in which all its members may well take pride". Colorado is indeed proud of the magnificent record of its artillery units from McLain's gallant battery to those of the present day, and there is little doubt that whatever tasks the future may hold for the regiment they will be "Accomplished with Energy".



COAT OF ARMS 168th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION (HORSE)  
COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD

*Crest:* That for regiments of the Colorado National Guard.

*Shield:* Gules, on a bend between a scorpion bendways and a sheathed Roman sword, point to base, or 5 fleur-de-lis paleways azure.

*Motto:* Accomplished With Energy.

*Description:* The shield is red for artillery. The bend is from the arms of the provinces of Lorraine and Champagne and with the 5 fleur-de-lis denotes the five major engagements in which the organization participated during the World War. The scorpion symbolizes service on the Mexican Border, and the sheathed Roman sword from the Spanish War service medal represents Spanish War service. The motto is from a letter of commendation from General De Mondesir commanding the 38th Army Corps (French) which the 148th Field Artillery supported during the Champagne-Marne Defensive.

*Battle Honors: World War:*

Champagne  
Aisne-Marne

Champagne-Marne  
St. Mihiel

Meuse-Argonne

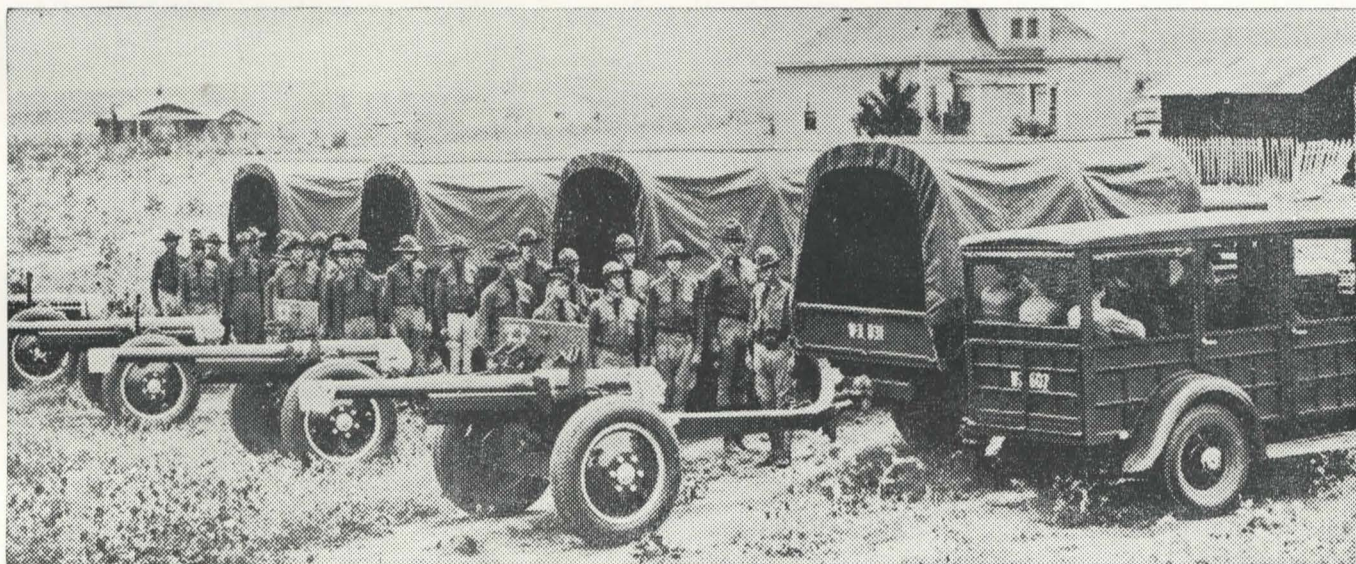
NOTE: The description given here refers to the coat of arms of the old artillery **battalion**; the coat of arms for the new artillery **regiment** is now undergoing consideration. The new design embodies all of the data given above.



COLONEL JOSEPH W. LEFEVER  
First Regimental Commander 168th  
Field Artillery (Truck Drawn)  
C. N. G.

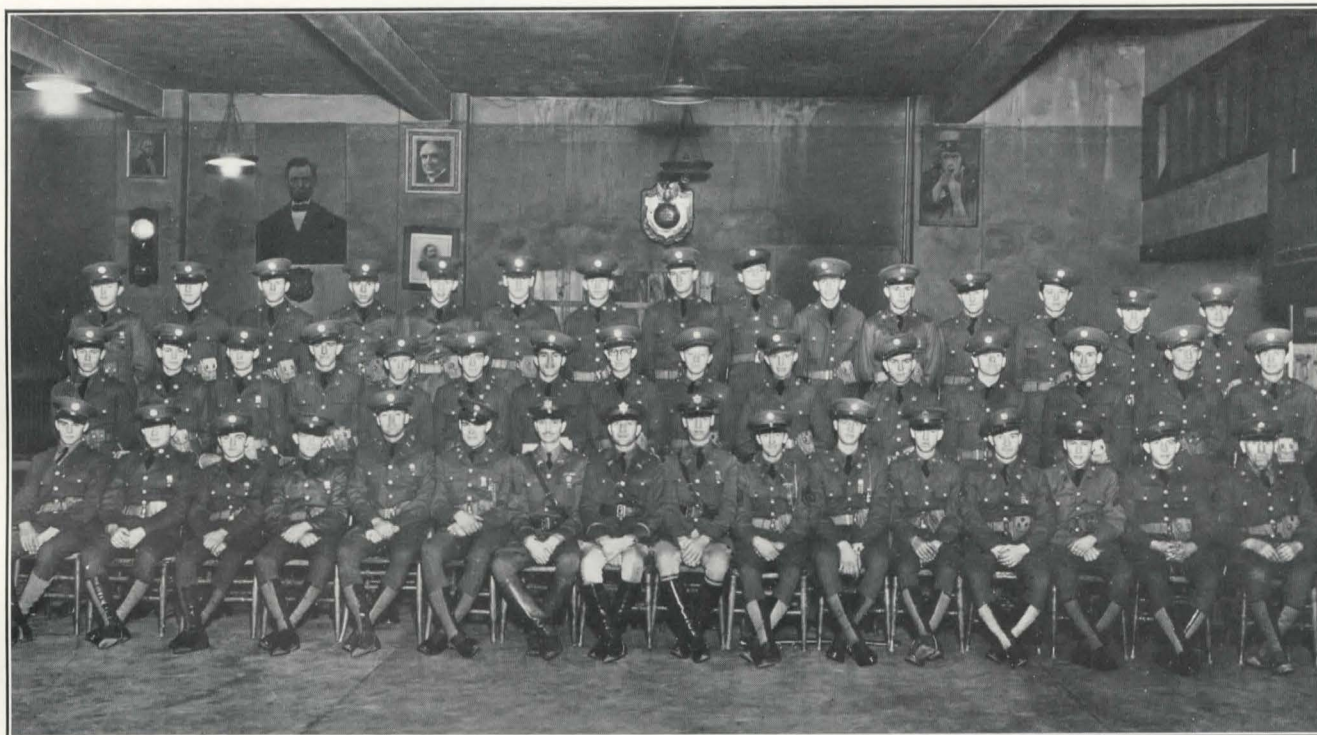


COLONEL JOHN P. DONOVAN  
Regimental Commander 168th Field  
Artillery, C. N. G., 1935



BATTERY B, 168TH FIELD ARTILLERY (TRUCK-DRAWN), COLO. N. G., WITH NEW TRUCK EQUIPMENT. (Photo Courtesy of The Denver Post)





BATTERY B, 168TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION (HORSE)  
 Denver, Colorado, February, 1931.  
 1st Lieut. F. M. Carhartt, Capt. F. R. Poole, 2nd Lieut. T. O. Marshall.



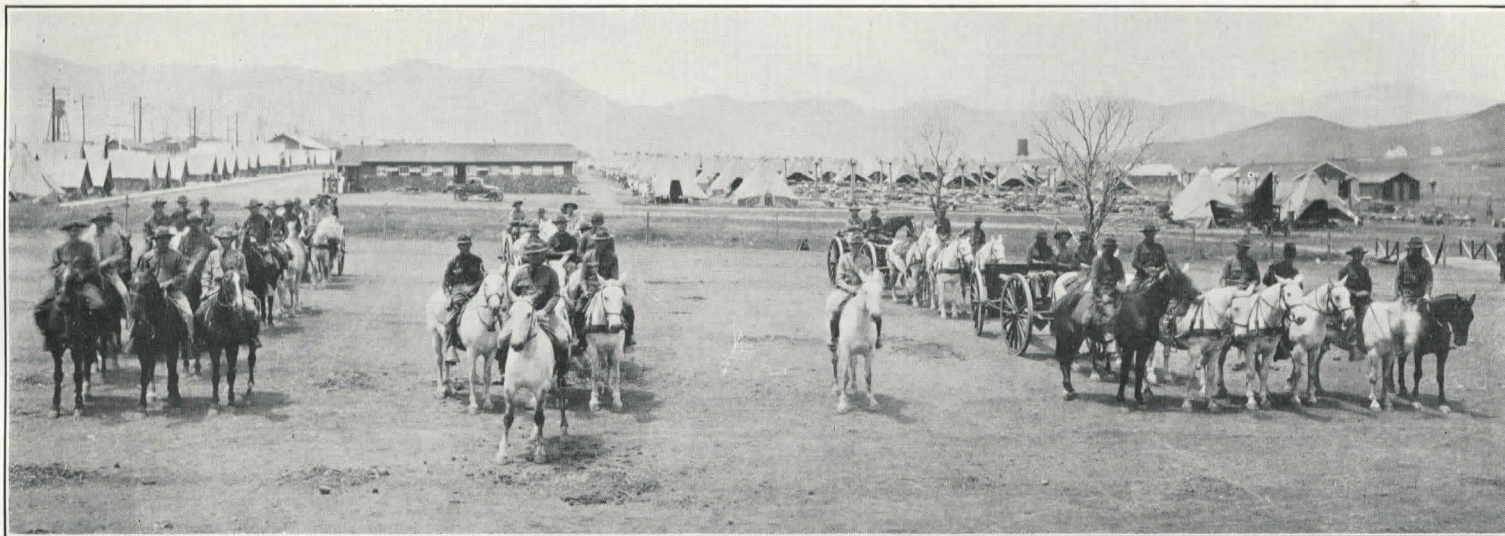


HEADQUARTERS BATTERY AND COMBAT TRAIN, 168<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY (HORSE), DENVER, COLORADO  
Capt. R. Bitler, Commanding—1932.



A BATTERY, 168<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY (HORSE), FORT COLLINS, COLORADO  
Capt. J. E. Ryan, Commanding—1932.





C BATTERY, 168TH FIELD ARTILLERY (HORSE), PUEBLO, COLORADO  
Capt. R. H. Peters, Commanding—1932.