

PART SEVEN

HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD

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CHAPTER I

1879 - 1934

The history of the Medical Department of the Colorado National Guard has its genesis in an Act of the General Assembly, State of Colorado, providing for the "Enrollment and Organization of the Colorado National Guard" approved February 8, 1879, which provided, among other things, for the appointment of Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons in the regiments and battalions of infantry and cavalry authorized by the act. The infantry regiment was to have one surgeon with the rank of major, one assistant surgeon with the rank of captain, and a second assistant surgeon with the rank of first lieutenant; battalions of four or more companies, or similar organizations were to have first and second assistant surgeons of the ranks given above. The strength of the Colorado National Guard at this time precluded the formation of the regiments contemplated under the Act of 1879, and it was not until July 7, 1880, that the first of the battalion organizations was completed. The first appointments of the surgeons were as follows:

Captain John Elsner, First Assistant Surgeon, 1st Battalion Cavalry, Colo. N. G., Denver, July 14, 1881;

Captain J. H. Kimball, First Assistant Surgeon, 1st Battalion Infantry, Colo. N. G., Denver, December 29, 1881;

Captain Samuel Rapp, First Assistant Surgeon, 2nd Battalion Infantry, Colo. N. G., Lake City, November 12, 1881;

Captain John Law, First Assistant Surgeon, 3rd Battalion Infantry, Colo. N. G., Leadville, July 7, 1880;

Captain W. G. Scott, First Assistant Surgeon, 4th Battalion Infantry, Colo. N. G., Pueblo, November 1, 1882;

Captain A. S. Everett, First Assistant Surgeon, Chaffee Light Artillery, Denver, March 17, 1879.

Later, on organization of the First Regiment of Infantry on March 22, 1883, Captain J. H. Kimball was promoted Major and Surgeon of the regiment. He had as his assistants Captain Patrick V. Carlin as First Assistant Surgeon, and 1st Lieutenant John P. Kelly, as Second Assistant Surgeon. A brigade surgeon with rank of major was authorized during the year 1886, and Major D. H. Dougan assumed the duties of the office on April 15, 1886.

On April 2, 1889, the State Legislature again amended the law with reference to the Colorado National Guard, and in addition to the surgeons assigned to regiments and other units, the new law provided for a Surgeon General on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief with the rank of Colonel. Major D. H. Dougan, Surgeon, First Brigade, Colo. N. G., was appointed Surgeon General on April 3, 1889, the first to be appointed to the new office, and on his resignation on May 3, 1891, Captain and Assistant Surgeon F. J. Crane, Chaffee Light

Artillery was appointed to fill the vacancy on May 19, 1891. No provision had as yet been made under the law for an enlisted hospital or medical detachment, but in his first biennial report Surgeon General Crane, under date of December 11, 1892, called attention to this defect in the following words:

"The necessity of a body of men trained in the care of the sick and wounded is now fully recognized; and nearly every state, as well as the regular service, has such a corps, composed of men especially enlisted or detailed for that purpose. I therefore would respectfully recommend that steps be taken for the formation of such a corps * * *." Despite the fact that the law governing the Colorado National Guard was again amended by the Legislature on April 15, 1893, the recommendations of the Surgeon General, repeated again in his report of December 1, 1894, were not given any consideration, and the lack of a trained enlisted personnel for duty with the various organizations was keenly felt during the Cripple Creek and Leadville campaigns of 1894 and 1896. So urgent, indeed, had the necessity for trained enlisted (and commissioned, by the way) medical personnel become that Adjutant General Cassius Moses in his biennial report of November 30, 1896, called forcible attention to the situation in the following words:

"An entire reorganization of this Medical Department is necessary. At present there are no qualifications required by law for the appointment of either surgeon general or regimental surgeons. In my opinion the department should be under the control of the surgeon general, and be separate and distinct from the line. A sufficient number of surgeons and assistant surgeons should be appointed by the governor upon the recommendation of a board to consist of the brigadier general, adjutant general and surgeon general, to provide sufficient medical attendance for the guard under any and all circumstances. These surgeons, etc., should be appointed only from physicians who have been graduated from some medical college in good standing, who are actively engaged in the practice of their profession at the time of appointment. Hospital corps, whose duties should consist of nursing the sick, driving ambulances, cooking for the sick, etc."

Evidently the recommendations of the Adjutant General received the consideration that they merited, and under the provisions of Section 4, Article III, of an Act passed on April 13, 1897, amending the law governing the state forces, a Medical Department, Colorado National Guard, was established. In compliance with the law, General Orders No. 43, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, Colorado, was issued on September 15, 1897, and the new department was directed to be organized with a Surgeon General, two surgeons (Majors), two assistant surgeons (Captains), two assistant surgeons (First Lieutenants), and a Hospital Corps of two stewards, one assistant steward, and fifteen privates. The actual muster in of the enlisted detachment was accomplished on April 9, 1898, in compliance with Special Orders No. 25, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, Colorado, of the same date.

Surgeon General Crane had resigned on May 19, 1895, and was succeeded in the same office and on the same date by Dr. Clayton Parkhill, one of the ablest surgeons in the state.¹ However, Colonel Parkhill resigned as Surgeon General on December 4, 1895, to accept a commission as Captain, Denver City Troop (Troop B), 1st Squadron Cavalry, Colorado N. G., and the position of Surgeon General was supposedly vacant until his reappointment thereto

¹ "Doctor Parkhill had a strong propensity towards invention, and many of his instruments were of his own design. His method of exposing the ends of broken bones and fixing them together is still used with some modification." (History of Colorado—Baker and Hafen).

on July 10, 1897.² However, while carried on the rolls as captain of the Denver City Troop, Special Orders No. 89, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, Colorado, dated September 28, 1896, directed that, "*Colonel Clayton Parkhill, Surgeon General*, on receipt of this order, will assume command of the Surgeon General's Department of the State of Colorado."

On April 25, 1898, war was declared against Spain, and under the proclamation of the President calling for volunteers the Colorado National Guard was assembled at Camp Adams, Denver, Colorado, on April 29, preparatory to muster in to the United States service. Answering the President's Call, the medical personnel of the Colorado National Guard reported as directed at Camp Adams, and on May 12, 1898, were mustered in to the United States service as the medical officers and Hospital Corps detachment of the First Colorado Infantry, United States Volunteers. At muster in the following appointments were made:

Colonel Clayton Parkhill, Surgeon General, appointed Major and Surgeon, 1st Colorado Infantry Volunteers;

Major L. H. Kemble, appointed Captain and Assistant Surgeon, 1st Colorado Infantry Volunteers;

Captain Charles E. Locke, appointed First Lieutenant and Assistant Surgeon, 1st Colorado Infantry Volunteers.

The enlisted men of the Hospital Corps mustered in with the regiment included three stewards and nineteen privates. On May 25th, 1898, soon after arrival of the First Colorado Infantry Volunteers at San Francisco, Major Parkhill was transferred to duty with the Department of the Pacific, and Captain L. H. Kemble was promoted Major and Surgeon of the regiment in his stead. Lieutenant Locke was likewise promoted Captain and assistant Surgeon, and Private D. D. Thornton, M. D., of the Hospital Corps, appointed First Lieutenant and Assistant Surgeon.

The detachment accompanied the First Colorado Infantry Volunteers to the Philippine Islands, and served with the regiment throughout the Spanish-American War and the subsequent Philippine Insurrection. Returning to the United States, the detachment was finally mustered out of the United States service at San Francisco, California, on September 8, 1899.³ The officers and men of the medical detachment of the regiment had performed their duties with efficiency and devotion, and when it is considered that the First Colorado Volunteers numbered about 1,300 of all ranks and that it served more than a year in a tropical country under climatic conditions to which the men were not habituated, the small number of deaths by disease was indeed remarkable. This was due not alone to the splendid physical excellence of the men of the Colorado regiment, but also to the careful attention to sanitary precautions and an unusually efficient medical service within the regiment.

Soon after the departure of the Volunteers from the state, steps were taken to reorganize the Colorado National Guard. As a preliminary step towards the reorganization of the medical department Major R. W. Corwin was appointed Surgeon General on May 3, 1898, and before the end of the year he had about completed his task by the muster in to the State service of three additional medical officers and a Hospital Corps of twenty-one enlisted men. On April 1, 1899, Dr. W. W. Grant was appointed Colonel and Surgeon General vice Cor-

² Special Orders No. 48, A. G. O., Denver, Colo., July 12, 1897, states that Colonel Parkhill was re-appointed Surgeon General as of July 10, 1897.

³ Full details of the movements and activities of the First Colorado Infantry Volunteers during its period of service are given in the "History of the 157th Infantry".

win, resigned, and the Adjutant General's report of November 30, 1900, shows the "Medical Department," stationed in Denver, to consist of seven officers and nineteen enlisted men.

The activities of the medical department of the Colorado National Guard for the next two years (1901 and 1902) are well summarized in Surgeon General W. W. Grant's biennial report to the Adjutant General, and from which I quote the following excerpts:

"The hospital corps of the state of Colorado consists by law of the following officers and men: Surgeon General, with the rank of colonel; two major surgeons; two assistant surgeons with the rank of captain; two assistant surgeons with the rank of first lieutenant; six full stewards and five acting stewards; not more than thirty-four privates.

"The official staff is filled with competent and conscientious military medical officers. The enlisted men now number twenty-two, distributed throughout the state of Colorado. One steward and one acting steward and eight privates at Boulder, called the Boulder detachment and officered by Major Sard Weist and Lieutenant M. E. Miles. They were made a part of the hospital corps of the state in May, 1901.

"At Denver, under the name of the Denver detachment, are eight men officered by Major Matt R. Root, Captain Thomas M. Hopkins and Lieutenant J. K. Swinde. At Colorado Springs are Captain R. K. Hutchings, who has been authorized by the surgeon general to organize a detachment of ten men there. This is in process of formation. * * *.

"The corps is equipped, though, to a great extent, with the old style equipment, sufficient to be able to establish in the field an eight cot hospital ready for all ordinary military work. In the past two years it has had field experience on two different occasions. First during the Boulder encampment which lasted three days. At that time Corporal H. V. Palmer and Private Wright, of the Chaffee Light Artillery and First Regiment of Infantry, N. G. C., respectively, were seriously injured and taken care of with great credit to the officers and corps. In the case of Corporal Palmer, amputation by Colonel Grant of the left arm at shoulder became necessary; and the treatment of a severe powder burn, sustained by the premature explosion of a piece of artillery, necessitated hospital and office treatment at my hands and the hands of my assistants, extending over a period from July 1, 1901, to April, 1902, * * *.

"The next period in the field was during the military maneuvers of the United States Army and Colorado National Guard at Fort Riley, Kansas, in the month of September, 1902. Fortunately no casualties of any moment occurred, but owing to the inclement weather the usual amount of minor disabilities occurred, and in all, one hundred and eighty-three men were treated at sick call and in hospital and quarters. The corps deported itself with credit to the state, and came home having won the praises of both officers and men of the National Guard.⁴ * * *.

"During the periods between field service, weekly drills have been maintained by both detachments in their respective armories in all work, so far as possible, pertaining to military medicine. The drill with litters (regulation) and hand litters, collecting the wounded, first aid in the field, bandaging and minor surgery has been kept up and, as already shown during our field service, has proven of great value in advancing the work of the corps.

⁴ See History of 157th Infantry recamp at Fort Riley, Kansas, September 29 to October 8, 1902.

"In the last two years the medical department has been represented by two or more commissioned officers at the annual conventions of the national association of military surgeons at St. Paul, Minn., and at Washington, D. C. The value of such attendance to medical officers of the Guard is beyond question. * * *

Colonel Grant resigned as Surgeon General of the state and was placed on the retired list on April 1, 1903, and Dr. Peter O. Hanford of Colorado Springs, was appointed to fill the vacancy on the same date. Hectic days were just ahead for the new surgeon general and the officers and men of the medical department of the Colorado National Guard, and in the ensuing calls to active service during the Colorado City, Cripple Creek, Leadville and Telluride strikes the department did splendid service for their comrades of the other arms. The story of this service is an interesting one, and perhaps no one is more competent to tell it than Surgeon General Hanford, hence we shall take the liberty of quoting from his report to the Governor of Colorado dated December 31, 1904:

"* * * Within the past two years the Guard has seen its greatest activity in the field and rendered its greatest service to the State. The previous periods of active duty have been productive of benefit, but have none of them been so extensive nor so far-reaching in their results as the campaigns of the last two years.

"The famous Bull Hill war has been the campaign which the Guard has counted its most extensive service. The Leadville campaign was conducted at a great altitude and under severe climatic conditions, but the Guard was quartered in one position and its service was conducted from one base. The Lake City campaign marked the starting point of its most arduous service, and, while by few hardships other than those of the going and the coming. The Colorado City campaign marked the starting point of its most arduous service, and, while performed under the present administration, the Medical Department was under the command of another Surgeon General; though the present incumbent was there on active duty, the report of that campaign fell to his predecessor.

"The Colorado City campaign showed some of the needs of the Medical Department, and the proper methods of correcting the faults were started at its close. But with the usual drag that hampers all attempts at reform during a period of inactivity, the changes were just taking place when the Cripple Creek call came, in September, 1903. New men had been enlisted, new material had been secured, and the non-commissioned officers were just becoming acquainted with their duties when the orders came for active service, and some changes were being made amongst the medical officers upon my staff. Lieutenant Miles was succeeded in the command of the Boulder detachment by Lieutenant, afterward, Captain, George Cattermole. Major Matt R. Root resigned shortly after the Colorado City affair, his practice not permitting him to devote the time he considered he owed the Guard from the rank he held. The loss of Major Root was regretted, not only by myself, but by the entire Guard; his services and experience gained during the Spanish-American war as a surgeon of volunteers made him a valuable man. Captain R. K. Hutchings succeeded Major Root.

"The Teller County military campaign is one of the greatest undertakings ever attempted with a National Guard. At the time no one questioned—they 'simply went and did.' But looking back upon the fact that near twelve hundred (1,200) unseasoned men were taken to an altitude of 10,000 feet, just at the beginning of winter, and that they covered the entire area of the greatest gold-producing district in this country, one cannot help but think that the natural mortality would be great. The Guard was called almost without warning; the men came from all vocations of life; they were encamped first upon the bare

hillside, between the Portland and Stratton's Independence properties, at an altitude of over 9,000 feet, and from this base outposts were located at points covering the entire district. At Altman, the highest incorporated town in the United States, was established the highest military camp in the country.

"Requisition was made upon the government of the United States for hospital stores and supplies, but they could not be secured at once, and, acting upon the generous suggestions of our Commander-in-Chief, such provision was made by the Medical Department that the wants of every man in the field were supplied. In the regular establishment the supplies are necessarily limited, and the private soldier knows that his needs must be small, but in the Guard every enlisted man is a "king in his own right," and his needs are correspondingly great.

"A field hospital was immediately established in Camp Goldfield and the Medical Department was in a position to render active service before the remainder of the camp had its tents pitched. Dressing stations were established on Bull Hill and at El Paso, and these were later enlarged to hospitals. The medical officer at El Paso covered all the territory around to the Midland sampler, in Cripple Creek; the Bull Hill hospital cared for all the outposts and guards around Independence and about the summit of Bull Hill. Steward Morris was promoted to a first lieutenancy. Captain Cattermole resigned and was succeeded by Captain Charles Cattermole, U. S. V., who is now in command of the Boulder detachment. Captain Rothrock was forced to return to his home, and, upon his resignation, Stewards Carmody and Packard were promoted to be lieutenants. As the winter set in and the guard work increased, the altitude began to tell upon the men, and it was judged best to establish a base hospital at Colorado Springs, that being the most available point at a lower altitude. The field hospital was maintained at Camp Goldfield and all the minor cases were treated there. The records show the majority of the cases to have been those caused by lack of sleep due to the high altitude. But one fatality occurred in Camp Goldfield, or, rather, upon the road from the camp to Colorado Springs. Private L. G. Montgomery, Company H, Second Regiment, First Brigade, died October 2, 1903, enroute to Colorado Springs, and it was afterwards learned that he had been using a drug that caused his death.

"Troops were sent from Camp Goldfield to Telluride, and a section of the Medical Department was detailed to accompany them. No fatalities occurred in this camp and the sick call was responded to by very few men. Bathing facilities were provided and the situation was such that great care could be given to the diet and exercise of the men. The more serious were transferred to the base hospital at Colorado Springs. A second occupation of Telluride was called and the same policy was followed, the men being seasoned in the Goldfield camp were in better condition to meet the demands of a camp at the altitude of Telluride.

"A third military district was established in Las Animas county, and a section of the Medical Department established a hospital there with several outposts. This was the hardest camp, in respect to the travel of the medical officer, in the series, some seven different stations existing, with some thirty miles between the extreme posts and opposite directions from Trinidad made work for the medical officers extremely difficult, and they are deserving of great praise for the manner in which they performed their services. The battalion commander was rather inclined to allow his men to obtain their own treatment from the local practitioner in the district, and for this reason the men received less attention from the Medical Department and there was more complaint and finally

greater proportionate expense than came from any of the other districts of the campaign.

"At the base hospital in Colorado Springs were treated the more serious cases developing during the campaign; the cases of pneumonia, exhaustion, erysipelas, gunshot wounds, were all transferred from the camps to the Springs, and there one (1) death occurred amongst the surgical cases, contracted outside the line of duty—Max Moore, Company H, First Infantry, First Brigade, was wounded in the abdomen by the accidental discharge of a riot gun in the hands of a recruit. He died in the base hospital October 13, 1903. But one medical case was lost during the entire campaign—Private Don Stevens, G Company, First Infantry, First Brigade, died of pneumonia November 5, 1903. He had been a tubercular patient and his enlistment should never have been accepted. The statement of his parents was that he had not been well for a long time, and that he was unfit for service. This is the one unfortunate feature that will recur in the Guard until an appropriation is made that will pay for the physical examination of every enlisted man and every recruit.

"The officers and men of the Medical Department should receive their quota of praise; they have all served with enthusiasm and without complaint, and of the officers now holding commissions they have nearly all earned their promotion in the field. Under the present administration the policy has been carried out, whenever possible, of promotion from the ranks for services rendered. Major Wiest was on duty but three or four days. Major Hutchins rendered most excellent services in all the different camps, serving in the Teller county, San Miguel county and Las Animas county military districts. Captain Morris and Captain Cattermole have each served in the several camps, and the same can be said of Lieutenants Carmody and Packard, the latter two having served as sergeants and earned their shoulder straps. The enlisted men performed their duties faithfully and conscientiously, and it is to their faithful work the wonderful mortality record of the campaigns is due.

"The Medical Department is now in a most excellent condition—the entire equipment used in the different campaigns is accounted for and available for use at any time, in addition to the outfit drawn from the Medical Department of the United States Army—all of which, with the exception of two regulation field chests and two detached service chests, have remained in the Curtis Street Armory in Denver since their delivery. That the equipment that was purchased for use in the hospitals before the delivery of the government outfit is serviceable, has been proven, because it was practically all that was used during the campaigns. From the United States government has been purchased a complete equipment; two full regulation regimental hospital outfits, complete in all their details, even to the Colt acetylene gas outfit; one detached service equipment has been provided for use with the cavalry, and another for use with the battery. In the matter of medical equipment the regulation medical and surgical chests were provided; thus the Guard could enter the field with the same outfit as the regular army. Its officers are trained by actual experience in the field, and, should the occasion demand, the State of Colorado could send its forces into camp anywhere with the regulars, and they would reflect only credit on their State.

"In review, the Guard has done service from November till June, in two of the roughest mining districts in the Rocky Mountains and amongst the southern coal camps. During that time it has performed guard service with about one-quarter the hours off duty that are allowed in the regular army. The Medical Department has, at its different stations, handled thousands of individual treatment cases of all classes, has made hundreds of surgical dressings

has performed all kinds of major and minor surgical operations, and has attended to the individual wants of men used to the ministrations of a family physician. It has supervised the sanitation, food, quarters, refuse disposal and comfort of the men. And during all this time, with all the unusual work and exposure, but three deaths have occurred amongst the officers or men, one of these in no way chargeable to the service, one an accidental gunshot, and one in a case that should have been rejected when he applied for enlistment. That is the best information this report will bring to you—the knowledge that, because of your liberality and broadness, no lives were sacrificed, and that the State has not lost a single citizen through any fault of your officers.”

Following the strenuous period of active duty of 1903-1904, military affairs in the state took the inevitable slump, and for a year or two the medical department of the Colorado National Guard had some little difficulty in maintaining its organization. However, it *did* survive the slump, and that it was functioning let the following extract appearing frequently in General Orders of the Adjutant General's Office of this period, when troops of other arms were ordered into camps of instruction or on practice marches, tell:

“The Surgeon General will establish a field hospital and detail an officer of his department for duty at all times during the encampments.”

Detachments of the medical department, the size depending on the importance of the camp, were on duty at all camps of instruction and overnight practice marches held in the state during the period 1905-1912, and a regularly organized regimental detachment accompanied the First Infantry, Colo. N. G., to the maneuver camps at Pole Mountain, Wyoming, August 1-10, 1908, and July 18-27, 1912.

Colonel Matt R. Root was appointed Surgeon General on April 11, 1905, vice Hanford retired on same date, and re-appointed on March 30, 1907, on the appointment of Brigadier General Carleton A. Kelly as Adjutant General. On April 23, 1909, Colonel Root retired, and Major T. E. Carmody was appointed Colonel and Surgeon General in his stead on the following day.

The law relating to the Colorado National Guard was again revised by the State Legislature on April 15, 1909, and the following provisions adopted with reference to the medical department:

“126. The Medical Department of the National Guard shall consist of one Surgeon, with the rank of Colonel, who shall be the Surgeon General, a medical corps and a hospital corps.

“127. The Medical Corps shall consist of one Surgeon, with the rank of Major, for each brigade and regiment organized; one Assistant Surgeon, with the rank of Captain, for each regiment, separate battalion or squadron; one Assistant Surgeon, with the rank of First Lieutenant, for each regiment, separate battalion or squadron, artillery, engineer, or signal corps; Provided, however, that no person shall be appointed an officer in the Medical Department who is not at the time of his appointment a member of the Medical Department of the National Guard of the State of Colorado.⁵ No one shall be appointed sergeant, first class, or sergeant unless he shall hold a certificate as a registered pharmacist or be a regularly licensed medical practitioner in the State of Colorado, or shall demonstrate his fitness for the position by a satisfactory examination.

“128. Non-commissioned officers of the Medical Department shall be appointed by the Surgeon General.

⁵ This provision was obviously inserted to prevent the appointment of outsiders as Surgeon General—not at all a remote contingency as past experiences demonstrated.

"129. The minimum strength of the Hospital Corps shall be as follows:

Sergeants, first class—2.
Sergeants—7.
Acting Cook—1.
Privates, first class, and privates—33"

Under the provisions of General Orders No. 12, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, Colorado, April 5, 1911, section 127 of the above provisions were amended to provide "one additional Major for duty as sanitary inspector, and one additional Major for the command of a field hospital." These sections were again amended on January 20, 1912, in accordance with the provisions of General Orders No. 3, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, Colorado, of the same date. The provisions, as finally amended read as follows:

"126. The Medical Department of the National Guard shall consist of one Surgeon, with the rank of Colonel, who shall be the Surgeon General, a medical corps and a hospital corps. The medical corps and hospital corps shall be organized as a field hospital and be designated Field Hospital No. 1, National Guard of Colorado, but the Surgeon General is authorized to detail the personnel of the field hospital for service with the troops of the line in such manner as the exigencies of the service shall demand.

"127. The minimum strength of the Hospital Corps shall be as follows:

Sergeants, first class—3.
Sergeants or Corporals—8.
Privates, 1st Class and Privates—39."

Thus was authorized a field hospital company which, at a subsequent period, was to bring honor to itself and to the State of Colorado on the battlefields of France. The new company was initially organized with detachments at Denver, Boulder and La Junta, and with Captain (promoted Major on June 11, 1913) William A. Jolley, Medical Corps, Colorado National Guard, in command.

Major George P. Lingenfelter was appointed Surgeon General on June 20, 1913, with rank of Colonel, (the last to be so appointed in the Colorado National Guard), vice Carmody retired on June 19, 1913.

The insurrection and mine war in the coal mine districts of the state during the years 1913 and 1914 again called the entire Colorado National Guard into active service, and the troops of the Medical Department and Field Hospital were distributed among the various camps established throughout the state. The duties of the medical and hospital personnel were much the same as those in the 1903-1904 campaign, as detailed heretofore, but the situation was far more critical, and the service much nearer akin to that experienced in actual warfare.⁶ Several severe skirmishes were fought, and the Medical Department sustained a severe loss in the death of Major Pliny P. Lester who was killed under a flag of truce in the fight between the state troops and the armed strikers at Walsenburg on April 30, 1914. The shooting of Major Lester was a most detestable and cowardly act—he had gone forward to the front lines to render aid to a wounded guardsman and his red cross brassard was in plain view all the time—and a flagrant violation of a flag of truce which was flying in the striker's lines at the time. Major Lester fell in the performance of his duty, and his heroic sacrifice was not in vain—his name will be forever an inspiration to the medical personnel of the Colorado National Guard.

⁶ For details of the campaign see History of the 157th Infantry.

The active service of 1913-1914 was the most severe that the state troops had ever experienced in civil disturbances, before or since, and it is fervently to be hoped that never again will our beloved state experience another such catastrophe. There was no glory in it for the guardsman, and his patience and fortitude under the most adverse circumstances is to be highly commended, despite what his bitter critics may say to the contrary.

On May 31, 1915, a detachment of the First Field Hospital and the following medical officers, Colorado National Guard,

Major George E. Osborn,
Captain Edward W. Lazell,
Captain Louis H. Schultz,
Captain Orville D. Wescott,

left Denver, Colorado, for ten days' field duty at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo., (now Fort Francis E. Warren), for instruction in a joint camp for field hospitals and ambulance companies of the regular army and national guard. The camp was highly successful from a training point of view, and much valuable experience was obtained by all ranks.

Once again the State Legislature tried its hand at amending the law governing the National Guard, and on the twelfth of April, 1915, it directed that (among other provisions)—

"The Medical Department shall consist of a Medical Corps, a Medical Reserve Corps, a Dental Corps, and a Hospital Corps. The personnel of the department and all other persons assigned to duty therewith shall be collectively known as sanitary troops. For duty in the field the sanitary troops shall be divided into, first, those assigned to regiments and other units; second, those organized into independent sanitary units.

"The Medical Corps shall consist of one Chief Surgeon, with the rank of Major, and two surgeons, with the rank of Captain or First Lieutenant, attached to State Headquarters, and the medical officers required to furnish the necessary commissioned medical personnel of sanitary troops.

"The Medical Reserve Corps shall consist of such medical officers as may be commissioned as First Lieutenants in said corps by the Governor.

"The Dental Corps (optional) shall consist of two acting dental surgeons.

"The Hospital Corps shall consist of the enlisted personnel of the Sanitary troops assigned to regiments and other units, and of the field hospital."

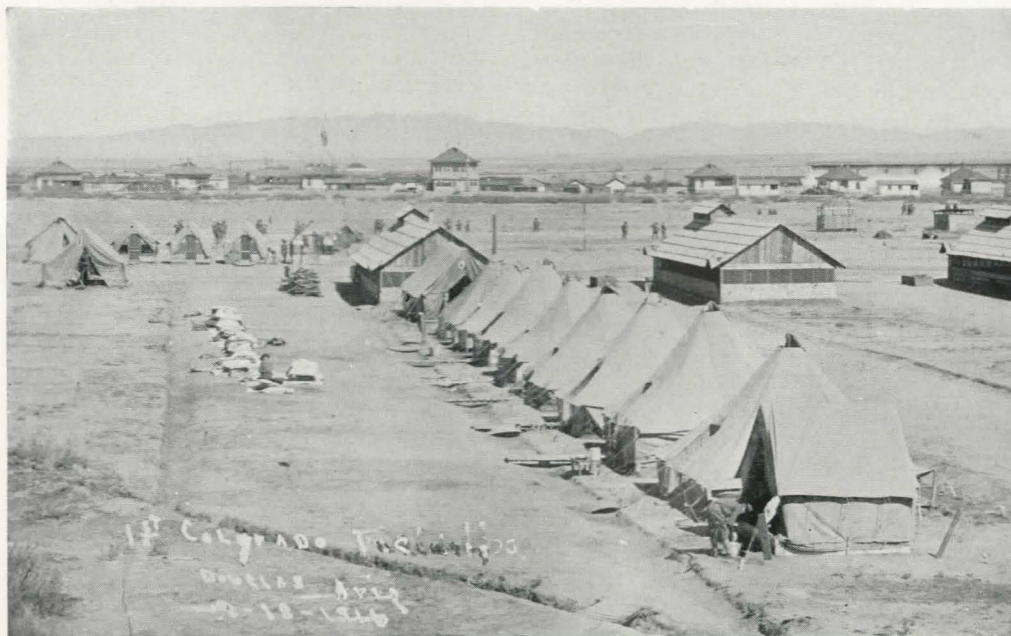
Inasmuch as the Act abolished the position of Surgeon General, Colonel Lingenfelter was discharged as such on July 10, 1915, and reappointed Major and Chief Surgeon on July 13, 1915. On July 17, 1916, Major Lingenfelter resigned his commission in the Colorado National Guard, and Major William A. Jolley, Medical Corps, was appointed Chief Surgeon in his stead on June 20, 1916.

On June 18, 1916, President Wilson issued his proclamation calling the National Guard of the several states into the federal service for duty on the Mexican Border, and included in Colorado's quota of troops was Company No. 1, First Field Hospital, * * * and such officers of the Medical Corps, as may be necessary * * *." The First Field Hospital Company and the officers of the Medical Corps, Colorado National Guard, responded promptly to the call and by 9:00 P. M., June 19, 1916, had reported at the mobilization camp at the Rifle Range, near Golden, Colorado. Formal muster in to the federal service of the First Field Hospital Company, Colo. N. G., with a strength of 5 officers and

55 enlisted men, took place at the Rifle Range camp on July 6, 1916. The officers of the company at muster were,—Major E. W. Lazell, commanding company; Captain H. C. Dodge; First Lieutenants F. J. Pierce, R. C. Cook, and C. W. Dodge. Officers of the Medical Corps assigned to duty and mustered in with the staffs of combat organizations were as follows: First Lieutenant Seth H. Savage, 1st Separate Battalion Colorado Infantry; First Lieutenant F. J. Pierce (detached from duty with First Field Hospital), 2nd Separate Battalion Colorado Infantry; Captain Harry S. Finney, First Separate Battalion Colorado Field Artillery; First Lieutenant Robert E. Talbot, First Separate Squadron Colorado Cavalry. The Chief Surgeon, Major William A. Jolley, and Majors Geo. Osborn and O. D. Wescott, Medical Corps, Colo. N. G., were assigned to duty at camp headquarters, and assisted in the physical examinations prior to muster in of all organizations in camp.

During its stay in the mobilization camp the First Colorado Field Hospital Company received its equipment for a complete field hospital, and established the camp hospital. Intensive training under supervision of a regular army medical officer was commenced soon after establishment of camp and continued until the departure of the organization for duty on the Mexican Border at Douglas, Arizona, on October 13, 1916. Arriving in Douglas on October 16, the First Colorado Field Hospital Company and the two Colorado infantry battalions all under command of Major Patrick J. Hamrock, 1st Separate Battalion Colorado Infantry, established camp near the international border and about two miles west of the town.

The intensive training initiated at the mobilization camp in Colorado was resumed as soon as camp was well established, and on November 1, 1916, the First Colorado Field Hospital Company, National Guard, left Douglas, Arizona, with the 2nd Field Hospital Company, regular army, for a practice march to



CAMP OF THE FIRST COLORADO FIELD HOSPITAL COMPANY,
Douglas, Arizona, October, 1916.

Fort Huachuca, Arizona, returning to Douglas on November 8. The march was made with mule drawn ambulances, and afforded much in the way of instruction and a relief from the routine of garrison duty in the camp at Douglas. On November 24 the company participated in a maneuver with all troops of the Douglas garrison, and gained considerable experience in setting up a field hospital under actual field conditions. Another practice march of four days duration was participated in by the company, December 10-13, 1916, and on January 9, 1917, the detachment of the company on duty at the camp Harry J. Jones hospital (regular army camp just east of Douglas) was inspected by Major General Funston, commanding the Southern Department. A case of spinal meningitis having developed, the company was placed in quarantine from February 3 to 10, 1917; however, no further cases eventuated, and training was resumed on February 23 by starting out on a five days' march to Bisbee and return.

The First Colorado Field Hospital Company, left Douglas, Arizona, on March 17, 1917, and, after a short stop-over in Denver enroute, arrived at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming, on March 20. Here the company was mustered out of the federal service on March 26, 1917, and returned to Denver, Colorado, on the same date.

On April 6, 1917, war was formally declared against Germany, and anticipating the early call of the federal government for the mobilization of the National Guard, Governor Gunter, on July 7, 1917, ordered all units of the Colorado National Guard not then in the federal service to assemble at their respective home rendezvous equipped, as far as possible, for field service. The movement of all units from home rendezvous to the various mobilization camps was directed under the provisions of General Orders No. 60, Office of the Adjutant General, Denver, Colorado, dated July 10, 1917, and in compliance therewith the First Field Hospital Company arrived at the mobilization camp at Overland Park, Denver, Colorado, on July 12. Meantime all other Medical Corps personnel reported for duty with the organizations to which attached, or, in the case of the Staff Corps, to the Adjutant General. The formal "draft" of all units of the Colorado National Guard into the federal service took place on August 5, 1917, and at the subsequent muster on August 11, the First Colorado Field Hospital Company became a part of the great war-time army of the United States with a strength of three officers and seventy-nine enlisted men. The officer personnel of the unit had changed somewhat since the return from Mexican Border service, and on the re-entry to federal service the following officers were on duty with the company: Major E. W. Lazell, commanding; First Lieutenant R. C. Cook, and First Lieutenant Joseph F. Snedec. The Company remained on duty at Camp Baldwin until early in September when orders were received assigning it to the 42d Division which was being organized in the east. However, the story of the unit's subsequent activities is a long one, and must be reserved for another chapter.

Under the provisions of the "Tables of Organization" promulgated by the War Department on May 3, 1917, the sanitary detachments attached to infantry and cavalry regiments were assigned a maximum strength of four officers and thirty-three enlisted men, respectively. In compliance with these "tables" assignment of medical, dental, and veterinary corps officers was initially made to regiments, etc., of the Colorado National Guard as follows:

First Infantry:

Major Orville D. Wescott, M. C.
1st Lieutenant S. H. Savage, M. C.

Second Infantry:

Major Horace C. Dodge, M. C.
 First Lieutenant Harold T. Law, M. C.
 First Lieutenant Leon Block, M. C.
 First Lieutenant Harry Block, M. C.
 First Lieutenant D. L. Taylor, D. C.

First Cavalry:

Major George E. Osborn.
 First Lieutenant Dell W. Van Gilder.
 First Lieutenant John S. Chase.
 First Lieutenant H. P. King, D. C.
 Second Lieutenant Earl T. Martin, V. C.
 Second Lieutenant C. V. Williams, V. C.

First Separate Battalion of Artillery:

First Lieutenant Philip Chase.

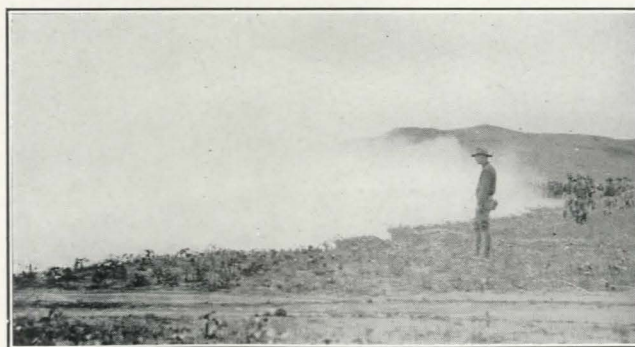
First Separate Battalion of Engineers:

First Lieutenant M. T. Rothwell, M. C.

These assignments were considerably changed on arrival of the Colorado organizations assigned to the 40th Division at Camp Kearny, California, and all sanitary detachments were brought up to war strength by the assignment of medical, dental and veterinary reserve officers, and of enlisted men by transfer from other units and from the draft recruits. The reorganization of the old First Infantry, Colo. N. G., as the 157th Infantry and the transfer of the First Cavalry, Colo. N. G., thereto necessitated many transfers and re-assignments of medical corps personnel of the former cavalry regiment. The 2nd Infantry, Colo. N. G., was reorganized as the 115th Ammunition and Supply Trains and the 115th Trench Mortar Battery and its Sanitary Detachment was transferred to the 115th Sanitary Train to form the nucleus for the 160th Field Hospital Company, Major H. C. Dodge commanding.

The history of the sanitary detachments of the respective Colorado organizations during the World War is that of the organizations themselves, and the reader is referred to these histories for further details.⁷ However, the following general observations on the work of the Medical Department of the 40th Division as a whole, taken from the official history of the division, are of interest:

"The successful movement of replacement troops and finally of the division itself across the country and overseas, notable for a general absence of disease incidence, gave further proof of the Medical Department's efforts. No disease conditions impeded the rapid dispatch of replacements to the front. During the occu-



A GAS CLOUD—CHEMICAL WARFARE INSTRUCTION.

⁷ See histories of the 157th Infantry, 168th Field Artillery, 115th Engineers, and 115th Ammunition and Supply Trains.



MEDICAL DETACHMENT, 157TH INFANTRY, COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD, RIFLE RANGE CAMP, 1932.

pation of the S. O. S. area by the remaining divisional cadre, a high degree of perfection in sanitation was obtained. The division received favorable comment on inspection. Disease was quickly and effectually controlled. The influenza epidemic did not assume the serious character prevalent in other sections. What cases occurred were treated mainly at the camp Hospital established at Grossouvre, Department Cher, with Major Charles E. Sisson as Commanding Officer. While the Fortieth Division Medical Department was not called upon to stand the strain of battle, it was put to the test of organizing rapidly sanitary service in several billeting areas, each in a different section of France and each with its own peculiarities of terrain, soil, physical surroundings, etc. Each time the divisional units detrained in a new area a system of promptly disposing of the sick was devised, and each time the system proved efficient.

* * *

"During the stay in France, the divisional medical department was gradually reduced in personnel, especially after the move to the Advance Section, and principally because of demands in the forward zones, behind the army of occupation. Large numbers of replacements were sent from the Sanitary Train, of which, in fact, nothing but the bare skeleton remained in the end. Thereafter, even part of the skeleton, including several cadre units (all in fact except the 160th Field Hospital Company), was removed. Lieutenant Colonel William A. Jolley and a number of the other officers were transferred to duty elsewhere * * *. From their arrival at Camp Kearny until they reached foreign soil, and thereafter, the original sanitary troops were carefully trained for whatever part they might have to take in the war. The standard of efficiency throughout the medical organization was high. The work, assuming continually varying characters, was at all times performed satisfactorily and with spirit."

Following the draft of the entire Colorado National Guard into the Federal service on August 5, 1917, the state was practically denuded of troops amenable to the call of the state authorities and steps were immediately taken to organize new units to take the place of those now in the United States service. The reorganization of the Medical Department was commenced on August 14, 1917, under the provisions of General Orders No. 79, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, Colo., of the same date, which directed Captain W. E. Stemen, Medical Corps, Colo. N. G., to report for duty as Acting Chief Surgeon vice Major William A. Jolley who had been drafted into the Federal service. Due to the constant mustering in of new units of the Third Colorado Infantry and the First Separate Battalion of Colored Infantry, Colo. N. G., and the fact that Captain Stemen was the only medical officer available at this time (August to December, 1917), the Acting Chief Surgeon's duties were far from being a sinecure and orders of the day contained the following oft repeated paragraphs: "Captain W. E. Stemen, Acting Chief Surgeon, National Guard of Colorado, will upon receipt of this order, proceed to * * * Colorado, for the purpose of inspection and inoculation." A small enlisted detachment of the Medical Department was organized in the fall of 1917 to assist Captain Stemen and early in 1918 upon his recommendation certain members of the medical and dental profession were appointed "provisional" first lieutenants of the Medical and Dental Reserve Corps, Colorado National Guard. Nine medical officers and one dental officer were thus appointed, and this assured sufficient medical and dental service to the state troops then on active duty within the state. On July 16, 1918, General Orders No. 34, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, promoted Captain Stemen to Major, Medical Corps, Colorado N. G., and assigned him to duty as Chief Surgeon, Colorado National Guard. The same order appointed First Lieutenant Benjamin F. Griffith, Med. Res. Corps, Colo. N. G., Captain,

and First Lieutenants H. E. Bacon and C. S. Davlin, Med. Res. Corps, First Lieutenants, Medical Corps, Colo. N. G.

The Third Regiment of Infantry Colorado National Guard having been organized, Major Stemen was directed under the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4, General Orders No. 47, Adjutant General's Office, Denver, Colorado, September 30, 1918, to organize the Sanitary Detachment, Third Infantry, Colo. N. G., with himself in command. Captain B. F. Griffith and First Lieutenant H. E. Bacon, C. S. Davlin, and Kent K. Cross, were under the provisions of the same order, assigned to duty with the detachment. The enlisted men of the detachment were recruited from the existing medical detachment of the Colorado National Guard, and under date of December 2, 1918, the Chief of the Militia Bureau granted Federal recognition to the Sanitary Detachment, Third Infantry, Colo. N. G., Denver, Colorado, as of November 27, 1918, the date the detachment was finally organized and inspected as a legally constituted National Guard unit under the National Defense Act of June 3, 1916. The strength of the detachment at this time was five officers and nineteen enlisted men.

During the months of October, November and December, 1919, the Sanitary Detachment, Third Infantry, was on active duty with the regiment in connection with the coal miners strike in both the northern and southern coal fields of the state. The detachment was at first concentrated as a unit at the Rifle Range near Golden, but was later employed in small detachments as needed in other camps. The Chief Surgeon's report on this tour of duty states, in part, as follows: "During the 1919 coal strike, in which there were 833 men on duty for 41 days with very little sickness, due to the fact that the men were properly housed, fed and clothed, with sanitary inspection every other day, and all water used examined once a week." Major W. E. Stemen was, at his own request, relieved from duty as detachment commander, Sanitary Detachment, Third Infantry, Colo. N. G., on April 20, 1920, and Private Lawrence C. Cook of the detachment was appointed Major, Medical Corps, Colo. N. G., as of the same date and assigned to command the detachment.

On the disbandment of the Third Infantry, Colorado National Guard, February 9, 1921, the Sanitary Detachment was assigned, together with all other active units of the old regiment, to the First Provisional Battalion Infantry, Colorado National Guard. This organization was in turn disbanded on October 5, 1921, and its existing units assigned to the 177th Infantry, Colo. N. G., then in process of organization. On November 16, 1921, the designation of the 177th Infantry was changed to that of the 157th (1st Colorado) Infantry in order to perpetuate the number and traditions of the infantry regiment that had represented Colorado in the Federal service during the World War.⁸ The designation of the Sanitary Detachment was changed with that of the regiment, and it now became the Sanitary Detachment, 157th Infantry, Colo. N. G.

During the Pueblo flood of June 3, 1921, and the coal miners' strike in the northern coal fields in June, 1922, the Sanitary Detachment, 157th Infantry was called to active duty, and rendered efficient medical service to the troops in the field.

The post-war reorganization of the Colorado National Guard was undertaken in earnest in 1921, and the reorganization of the old units and the organization of the new necessitated a corresponding increase in medical department

⁸ See History of the 157th Infantry, Chapter 16.



MEDICAL DETACHMENT

168th Field Artillery Battalion (Horse), Fort Collins, Camp Rifle Range,
1932. Captain D. F. Hartshorn, M. C., Commanding.

personnel. Accordingly during this period the following detachments were organized:⁹

Medical Detachment, 158th Field Artillery, Pueblo, Colo., Captain Joseph M. Feder, M. C., commanding; mustered in January 29, 1924. Disbanded January 21, 1929, and reorganized at Fort Collins, Colo., on February 1, 1929.

Medical Detachment 45th Division Aviation, Denver, Colo., Organized July 29, 1924, Captain James L. Hammond, M. C., commanding.

Medical Detachment 117th Cavalry, Denver, Colo., Organized April 20, 1927, Captain Philip W. Whiteley, M. C., commanding.

Major W. E. Stemen resigned January 15, 1926, and was succeeded as Acting State Surgeon by Major John Chase, M. C., commanding Medical Detachment 157th Infantry, on the same date. On December 21, 1927, Major Chase was confirmed as State Surgeon under the provisions of Special Orders No. 100, A. G. Office, Denver, Colo., December 22, 1927. All medical detachments of the Colorado National Guard were again called to active duty with their respective organizations during the strike in the northern coal fields of Colorado from November, 1927, to April, 1928, and due to their efficient services accomplished splendid results in maintaining the health of the troops during the severe winter season.

The organization of the Medical Department, Colorado National Guard, at this date, May 1, 1934, is as follows:

State Surgeon:

Major P. A. Waters, M. C., Denver, Colo.

(Succeeded Major Chase on April 4, 1930).

⁹ Now designated **Medical** detachment; old designation of **Sanitary** detachment changed under provisions of Tables of Organizations of 1921. The designation of Chief Surgeon of the state was also changed at this time to State Surgeon.

Medical Department Detachment, 157th Infantry, Denver, Colo.

Major P. W. Whiteley, M. C., Commanding.

Captain Colo C. Combs, D. C.

Captain M. C. Jobe, M. C.

Captain S. Towbin, M. C.

Captain Thos. R. Stander, M. C.

Thirty-two enlisted men.

Medical Department Detachment 168th Field Artillery, (Truck Drawn), Fort Collins:

Major Duane F. Hartshorn, M. C., Fort Collins, Colo., Commanding.

Captain Edgar Durbin, M. C., Denver.

Captain Joseph J. Parker, M. C., Telluride, Colorado.

Captain A. M. Lininger, D. C., Englewood, Colorado.

Twenty-two enlisted men.

Medical Department Detachment, 45th Division Aviation, Lowry Field, Denver, Colorado:

Captain Nolie Mummey, M. C., Commanding.

Five enlisted men.

In addition to the active units listed above Colorado has also assigned two inactive medical organizations, the 124th Medical Squadron and the 137th Medical Regiment, which would become active units of the Colorado National Guard in the event of a major emergency. Under the War Department's policy of preservation of historical continuity these units would be a re-constitution and reorganization of the two Colorado field hospitals, the 160th and the 168th, that served in the 40th and 42d Divisions, respectively, during the World War, thus carrying on the splendid traditions and magnificent record of Colorado's medical units of the past.