News from Our Division Units

1ST REG'T. FIELD ARTILLERY.

(Col. Merritt H. Smith, Commanding.)

The entire First Regiment of New York Field Artillery is now well established in their encampment on the shore of Lake Champlain just outside of the town of Plattsburg, after the most successful and efficient mobilization in the history of the Regiment. On the date of call, June 29th, the men responded promptly and on the next day left for temporary encampment at Van Courtland Park. The Regiment was Mustered into Federal Service on July 9th, and left for Plattsburg on July 13th under the command of the following officers: Regimental Staff; Colonel Merritt H. Smith; Lieut.-Col., John T. Delaney; Capt.-Adjutant, Arthur W. Hofmann; Major Wadhams, Sanitary Detachment; Captain Kenyon in command of the Headquarters Co.; Supply Co., Capt. Michaelis; Major Seymour in command of the First Battalion; Major Austin commanding the Second Battalion; "A" Battery, Captain Guido Verbeck; "B", Captain Walter S. McClure; "C" Captain Blakesley; "D" Captain Sylvester Simpson; "E" Captain Russell; and "F" Captain George B. Gibbons.

With the unloading of the cars on the morning of the 14th began the course of rigid training outlined for the men during their stay at Plattsburg, for the purpose of rapidly whipping them into shape for overseas service. Before nightfall every man in the Regiment was under canvas and ready for the regular routine of drills and duties to begin on the next day. This expediency was due to the fact that a detail from each Battery, consisting of one officer and twenty-three experienced men, was sent on to the site ten days in advance of the Regiment for the purpose of laying out streets, drains and sewage, and attending to the construction of kitchens and mess halls.

While the accommodations for the men are good there is a marked absence of any of the luxuries and laxities that might tend toward softening the men. The food is plentiful, plain and wholesome, and the mess halls like all the buildings on the encampment are mere shelters from the rain, so that the men are practically in the open day and night.

Colonel Smith has done wonders with the Regiment in the few weeks since the call. Every man in the Regiment, far from chafing under the strict routine of drills and duties is straining every effort to meet the requirements of the life, and thus far has made great strides in both soldierly appearance and in mastering the duties that make up the business of an Artilleryman. Up to date there have been but few men on the sick report, most of these suffering from minor accidents and colds. Battery "F" has a clean bill of health, not one man having reported sick since the date of call.

The daily routine of the Regiment begins at First Call for Reville at 5.40 A. M., after which the entire Command is put through a course of calisthenics for ten minutes, the camp policed and the horses fed. Mess is at 6.30, and at 7.30 begins an hour at stables. Drill call is at 8.40 and consists of drill of the Battery dismounted, while the new men are lectured on the customs and courtesies of the Service. This drill lasts until the horses are fed at 11.20, and at 12 the men go to mess. Promptly at 1.20 drill call blows again and the men are kept hard at it until nearing time for stables at 3.30. Guard Mount is at 4.30; Mess at 5.00 and by the time Retreat is sounded at 6.00, a good day's work has been done both in drills and fatigues.

The Regiment is at present suppling single mounts and harnessed pairs for the instruction of the Reserve officers in Training Camp, where the guns and material of the Regiment are parked for the use of the students in standing gun drill and firing batteries.

The first dismounted review of the Regiment was held on the afternoon of the 20th, when the entire organization was paraded before The Honorable Mayor Mitchel of New York City. The Mayor expressed his admiration by complimenting Colonel Smith upon the appearance of the men and their marching which was the equal to that of a good regiment of Regular Infantry. The Regimental Guard Mount under the direction of Capt.-Adjt. Hofmann is growing to be a feature of the camp and the men are striving to outdo each other in soldierly appearance and military bearing.

The Regimental Supply Department is a vast improvement over that of last Summer at the Border, and the Sanitary Detachment under Major Wadhams has applied some of the most modern and efficient methods in ridding the camp of refuse.

A great service has been done the camp by the Y. M. C. A. which has erected a huge tent on the edge of the encampment and besides furnishing the men with writing materials free, provides an excellent moving picture entertainment every night. The men are now busily preparing for a series of entertainments to be given by the men themselves and the canvass for material promises well.—A. W. H,. July 23.

74TH N. Y. INFANTRY

(Col. Arthur Kemp, Commanding.)

Officers and enlisted men of the 74th N. Y. Infantry standing knee-deep in real Texas mud at McAllen in the early days of last February, listened with something akin to a real thrill to the reading of that momentous radiogram announcing the severance of diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany. Real events began to happen after that; events that kicked great, gaping holes in the monotony of life in the valley of the Rio Grande. Home orders for the regiment were suspended, then they were put in force again and quickly the command was rolling northward to that heavenly bit of territory embraced within the boundary lines of the Empire State.

The dopesters of the command were wrong. They prophesied the regiment wouldn't be mustered out. Back it went, however, into the state service where it remained just twenty days. Then it climbed back once more into it's desert-worn togs and set out upon the new job Uncle Sam had picked for it.

Since that time it has waited four long months to welcome back into the Federal service its old pals of the Magic Valley. And now that day has come, and standing in solemn array on the banks of the swift Niagara, the 74th Infantry hoists its tankards, —"pursuant to the provisions of G. O. 7,"—filled with ice water, and drinks deeply to the health of the soldier hosts of Manhattan and the lower reaches of the Hudson.

Incidentally it hopes soon to be kicking up the dust of South Carolina with its old friends of Texas, and then on to that mighty task that awaits us all in the Old World.

1ST BATTALION SIGNAL CORPS.

(Maj. Wm. L. Hallahan, Commanding.)

The First Battalion, Signal Corps, left McAllen, Texas, on December 13th, 1916, and after a slow but uneventful journey reached New York on the 20th and was mustered out on December 23rd. Its strength was:

	Muster in. (July 3, 1916) Officers	Enl'd Men
Headquarters	2	9
Co. A. (Radio)	3	77
Co. B (Wire)	3	76
Total	8	162
	Muster out. (Dec. 23, 1916) Officers	Enl'd Men
Headquarters	2	9
Co. A. (Radio)	3	69
Co. B. (Wire)	3	72
Total	8	150
	Authorized. Officers	Enl'd Men
Headquarters	2	9
Co. A. (Radio)	3	77
Co. B (Wire)	3	77
Total	8	163

By order of the Battalion Commander, Major William L. Hallahan, regular drills in the home armories were resumed on February 1st, 1917. Each Company met twice a week, and by June 30th, besides passing Federal inspection, March 20th-22nd, had put in between 30 and 35 drills, with over sixty per cent. enlisted attendance at more than twenty-four of them. The work consisted of practical and theoretical instruction in signalling and horsemanship, and proceeded with vigor despite a natural tendency to let down a bit on the part of men who had put in six months Border duty. A few recruits were obtained without any special effort being made for them, and the Companies maintained approximately full strength; the same for peace or war in a Field Battalion, Signal Corps.

With the gathering and eventual burst of the war cloud over this Country, the number of applications for enlistment rapidly increased, so that the Battalion was enabled to choose its recruits with especial regard for their experience and probable efficiency. In May, 1917, the Commanding Officer received authority from the War Department to form the Outpost Company which should complete the organization of the Battalion according to orders of September, 1916, suspended during Border Service. Captain Robert W. Maloney was accordingly transferred at once to command Company C, a short brisk recruiting movement was started, and on June 1st the new Outpost Company was mustered into N. G. N. Y. with 1 officer and 53 enlisted men. It received Federal recognition on July 13th, 1917, and the Battalion was then complete and in form prescribed for Field Battalion of Signal Corps; certainly the first National Guard unit, and perhaps earlier than any Regular Army unit, to establish itself up to such standard.

During the six months in which the Signal Battalion was getting into the daily routine of its civilian business and preparing to leave it again, many of the enlisted men took sufficient interest in their military future to seek and secure the just reward of their service and experience, by obtaining commissioned rank. Of the men of the Battalion who served on the Border, 4 from Co. A and 1 from Co. B were commissioned in the Battalion by reasons of the organization of the new Co. C; 1 each from Co. A and Co. B was made a Lieutenant in another N. G. N. Y. organization; 4 from Headquarters, 5 from Co. A and 2 from Co. B were commissioned in the Signal Officers' Reserve Corps and are now in training at Monmouth Park, N. J.; and 2 men from Headquarters obtained commissions in other branches of the Officers' Reserve Corps, a total of 20 commissions in an enlisted strength of 150 men. Besides these, three men each from Co. A and Co. B were selected for the First Officers' Training Camp and are now at Plattsburg.

The Battalion responded with the same promptness as the year before to the call on July 16th, 1917; and the preparation of forms, physical examinations and closing of records was in shape to be so successfully completed that the whole Battalion was mustered in on July 21st, with the following strength:

	Authorized. Officers	Enl'd Men
Headquarters	2	8
Supply Section		6
Co. A (Radio)	3	75
Co. B (Wire)	3	75
Co. C (Outpost)	5	75
Total	13	239
Med. Dept. (att'd)	1	6
	Muster in. Officers	Enl'd Men
Headquarters	2	8
Supply Section		6
Co. A (Radio)	3	75
Co. B (Wire)	3	67
Co. C (Outpost)	5	73
Total	13	224
Med. Dept. (att'd)	1	6

We are rejoicing that the forecasts of Spartanburg, S. C., so rosily outshine the memories of our Texas environs; and are ready for whatever may be on the wire for us thereafter. —G. J., July 23.

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