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EFFICIENCY SPELLS CONTENTMENT

Soldiers Have Comforts in the Field if Their Brains and Hands Work

BATTERY A, 2ND, SPEAKS TO YOU

It is very obvious that an army in the field must be self-sufficient, or as nearly self-sufficient as is physically possible. While it relies upon a supply train from the source of its food, its march, it must rely upon itself in all other matters of life in the field—its necessary buildings, its engineering work, its system of food distribution and of mail distribution, its medical service and all things of this sort. From the ordinary problems of the officers who are responsible for the welfare of a large number of men under their orders, and guidance. The best officer is he who is able to meet an emergency and find a way out promptly and efficiently. And way down in the ranks a trained observer sees one man taking care of himself and his belongings, and, right along side of him, another who seems to be fated with continual trouble, trouble with his uniforms, trouble with his tent, trouble with his supplies. Nine times out of ten it is the latter who complains that the officers and non-coms of his particular outfit are "rotten," and are always "picking" on him, while the other fellow seems to be comfortable all the time.

Sergeant Shagnon in charge of the Signal Section of Battery C, Second Field, furnishes a handy example of the man who can run a tent full of ten men and that is certainly a tent full— and although there are many others whose tents may be called model, his domicile rivals any in all McAllen, his dome rivals any in all McAllen, his tent has a cot. If he couldn't buy one, he got wood from "somewhere" and made one. Now anyone who has lived under a piece of brown canvas, 16x16 with nine other fellows, knows that he has to be neat in order to be able to find his "this and that" when he wants it. If he can't get a two-foot box in a one-foot space, one way, he can get it in another, and he soon discovers how valuable a box is, and that it holds a big pile of stuff. Lots of men have boxes, but not all of them can put their hands on any specified article in that box without spilling everything else topsey turvey, and it isn't every man who is energetic enough to put shelves in his box and utilize it as his mother does a closet at home. But in Sergeant Chagnou's tent there are "cabinets" which contain everything required for daily use.

Moreover the Sergeant, like a number of other fellows in C, has a writing table, which consists of a long board and a support which lets down along side of his bed, and folds up when not in use. When his men want to write a letter, they don't have to fret and stew around looking for a pen or ink, and a place to write. And there are many other ways in which this tentful of men are self-sufficient. They don't bother their neighbors, needless to say.

Battery C is self-sufficient in another particular. The hair cuts the boys have been getting at McAllen have been anything but satisfactory. For five and fifty cents for a hair-cut is a lot of money, and after the barber is through with you your head looks like the coat of a mummy dog. You wonder if it isn't time for the barber to retire on a physical disability discharge. Hence, Private Felny, Battery C, Felny runs his shop under a tree at the end of C street and advertises "Ocean Breezes." While you have to wait on a long line when your hair is cut, you feel like taking a stroll down Fifth Avenue, without a hair, rather than hiding your head by the nearest water pail. The barber is not a barber by trade, but he says his opportunity to make a bit of spare cash and a little brains did the rest. He asks no odds of McAllen barbers and charges one-third as much. Battery C doesn't have to rely on outsiders in order to keep from looking like a band of Apaches, any more than it has to rely on outsiders for its carpentering work, which is in charge of Mechanic Brophy. C's new mess shack is sufficient evidence. And there are many other ways in which the Battery shows its originality and the quality of its individual members, that quality which overcomes obstacles by its own force and ingenuity in things trivial as well as important. Perhaps it is this very quality in its leader, Captain Hamilton, which makes him not only liked, but boasted about, and his tenants in the field. Gilmore, McSweeney and Floore and Top Sergeant Gittinger enjoy the same kind of popularity with the men.

And it is true that such spirit prevails throughout the Second Field Artillery and throughout the Division of New York Troops. The air about McAllen has been lighter of late, and there seems to be more joy in it. Perhaps it is because so many of the recruits have found out how they can make themselves much happier than they have been in the past.

3RD AMBULANCE COMPANY.
Those interested in the field work of the sanitary troops will perhaps search the columns of The Rattler for some record of the work accomplished by the first unit of that division to arrive on the border, namely, the 3rd Ambulance Co., which arrived at McAllen on the afternoon of July 5.

The outfit completed its journey in seven days with all its animals in perfect condition and without a case of severe illness among the men. It has handled between 800 and 1000 cases of illness calling for ambulance work in McAllen and surrounding camps, up to Aug. 14, when the other ambulance company received its assignment of mules. The 3rd ambulance troops comprising the New York Division, which has successfully transported to the Base Hospital at Fort Sam Houston 249 cases of serious illness, with the loss of but a single case. One or

more of the 3rd's ambulances have been with every detachment of infantry and cavalry sent out on hikes either for one day or for ten days. It has established a permanent milk station at which fresh milk may be had at all times, and which has proved a source of help to all organizations of the 2nd Brigade, as well as to the entire Sanitary Division.

Private Reynolds, formerly of the Engineers, has been instrumental in bringing this about. All the horses with which the 3rd left New York, as well as all the horses and mules added to that number since arrival here, are alive and in perfect physical condition save one, and that was killed by an unavoidable accident. The welfare of the animals is considered a remarkable record in view of climatic conditions, unsettled weather and other difficulties. Due credit should be given the men in charge of this detail, namely, Sgt. Robert Bondfather, ex-polo player and formerly of Squadron A, and Farrier, Frank Winston.

During the height of the 3rd's transportation activities one-third of the command was on detached service. The camp routine was efficiently carried on by the details under 1st Sergeant Thomas Wilson.

To the officers of the organization, Captain Sheerer and Lieutenants Prekharit, Seillick, Siley and McGuire is due full credit for this well-trained and well drilled outfit.—D. E.

The 3rd has also furnished from its ranks an art editor for the Rio Grande Rattler, the N. Y. Division's Camp newspaper which is receiving much favorable notice in the columns of the great dailies of New York. Portrait sketches drawn by Private Donald Emory of the 3rd Ambulance Co., appear on the first page of each edition.—(Ed.)

4TH AMBULANCE COMPANY.

The return of the 4th Ambulance Company N. Y., U. S., to Syracuse, its home station from the Mexican border, will be the signal for the division of that outfit and the organization of the 4th Field Hospital, N. G., N. Y., by the Ambulance Company's Commander, Captain Jefferson B. Latta, it was officially announced today to the Rattler's staff correspondent. The proposition was quietly discussed prior to the departure of the unit for Camp Whitman, but did not receive official sanction until today. From the expression of sentiment, Captain Latta will have the enthusiastic support of every man in the 4th, and its depot unit at home in the undertaking. New York state at present has three field hospitals and four ambulance companies. Until last October there were but three ambulance units, located respectively at Binghamton, Rochester and New York City. Until shortly before the calling out of the National Guard, there were but two field hospitals—one at New York and the second at Albany. Last Fall, Captain Latta, then in command of the Medical Reserve Corps, organized the Fourth Ambulance Company, the former unit being mustered out. Late in the spring the Third Field Hospital was organized at Brooklyn and arrived at Camp Whitman just prior to the departure of the Fourth for Mexican service.

The forming of the Fourth Field Hospital will give the New York or Sixth Division its full quota of sanitary units. The Fourth Ambulance Company would then in all probability do the ambulance service while in camp or in the field for the proposed outfit. This would be a great advantage, for both units would enjoy the privilege of dealing together while quartered at home. Should there be a vacancy in the office of commander of the Fourth Ambulance Company, this would undoubtedly be filled from one of the present four lieutenants—Drs. William E. Truax, Frederick S. Wetherill, Ralph H. Dunning and Seymour B. Schwartz. Lieutenant Truax is the senior lieutenant.

It is highly probable that one or more of the other officers will assist Captain Latta in organizing the field hospital.

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