

Arkansas Military History Journal

A Publication of the
Arkansas National Guard Museum, Inc.

Vol. 11

Summer 2017

No. 3



**THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD
AND CAMP PIKE IN WORLD WAR I**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman

Brigadier General John O. Payne
Ex-Officio

Vice Chairman

Major General (Ret) Kendall Penn
Ex-Officio

Secretary

Dr. Raymond D. Screws (Non-Voting)
Ex-Officio

Treasurer

Colonel Damon N. Cluck

Board Members

Ex-Officio. Major Marden Hueter
Ex-Officio. Captain Barry Owens
At Large – Lieutenant Colonel Clement J. Papineau, Jr.
At Large – Chief Master Sergeant Melvin E. McElyea
At Large – Major Sharetta Glover
Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Anderson (Non-Voting Consultant)
Deanna Holdcraft (Non-Voting Consultant)

Museum Staff

Dr. Raymond D. Screws, Director/Journal Editor
Erica McGraw, Museum Assistant, Journal Layout & Design

Incorporated 27 June 1989 Arkansas Non-profit Corporation

Cover Photograph: Scene from Camp Pike, World War I

Table of Contents

Message from the Adjutant General	4
Message from the Editor	4
The Arkansas National Guard in World War I	5
By COL Damon Cluck	
The World War I History of the 154th Aero Service Squadron, United States Army Air Service, 1917-1919	18
By MSgt Phillip D. Parish	
How the 154th Aero Squadron's History was Linked with the Heritage of the Arkansas National Guard's 154th Observation Squadron	24
By MSgt Phillip D. Parish	
Camp Zebulon Pike Construction, World War I	26
Scenes from Camp Pike during the Great War	28
Post Cards from Camp Pike, ARK	34
Featured Artifact: United States Rifle, Caliber .30-06, Model 1903	36
By LTC Matthew W. Anderson	



A 189th Airlift Wing C-130 cargo plane flies over the state capitol in Little Rock, Arkansas
Photo from Wikipedia—154th Training Squadron



Message from the Adjutant General

Fellow Soldiers and Airmen of the Arkansas National Guard; this month marks the centennial anniversary of the Arkansas National Guard's mobilization for World War I. On August 5, 1917 over 6,000 Arkansas citizen-soldiers reported for duty and began an odyssey that would take them through training in Louisiana to the grisly and unforgiving battlefields across France. Our state's contribution to victory in World War I, as well as that of the entire National Guard, should be honored and celebrated as redefining the role of the Guard in defense of our Nation.

Prior to World War I, the National Guard was relegated to defense confined within the borders of the country. However, our role changed drastically due to the need to rapidly expand the Army as the nation entered the war on April 6, 1917. Of the 43 divisions that comprised the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), 18 were National Guard. The price paid by the AEF and our Guardsmen was heavy. Through a little more than one year of combat, American forces suffered over 300,000 casualties, which included over 100,000 Guardsmen. It is hard to imagine in this day and age the amount of suffering incurred in such a short amount of time. Therefore, we as a nation and those of us who wear the uniform, must take the time to reflect on the sacrifices of those brave Americans and Arkansas citizens who answered the call "over there."

This year marks another milestone for the Arkansas National Guard and our service heritage during World War I. In July 1917, Camp Pike was established on what is now largely the Camp J.T. Robinson cantonment and training area. Camp Pike served this nation well as a National Army then Infantry training center, growing to a population of over 50,000 Soldiers and civilian support staff in 1918. The legacy of Camp Pike, and ultimately Camp J.T. Robinson, is one to be proud of. One can imagine the bustling activity, sense of urgency, and enormity of the operation just by taking a drive around the post and exploring the many side-streets and concrete foundations that have seen thousands of Soldiers come and go over the last 100 years. As we look to maintain this post, we should not only be motivated by a sense of personal pride and ownership, but as a matter of principal in honoring those who served here before us.

This month's edition of the *Arkansas Military History Journal* provides us great insight into our state's contribution to World War I. I am grateful to Dr. Raymond Screws, our museum staff, and COL Damon Cluck for bringing the service, sacrifice, and heritage of our Arkansas National Guard into perspective.

Arkansas Proud!

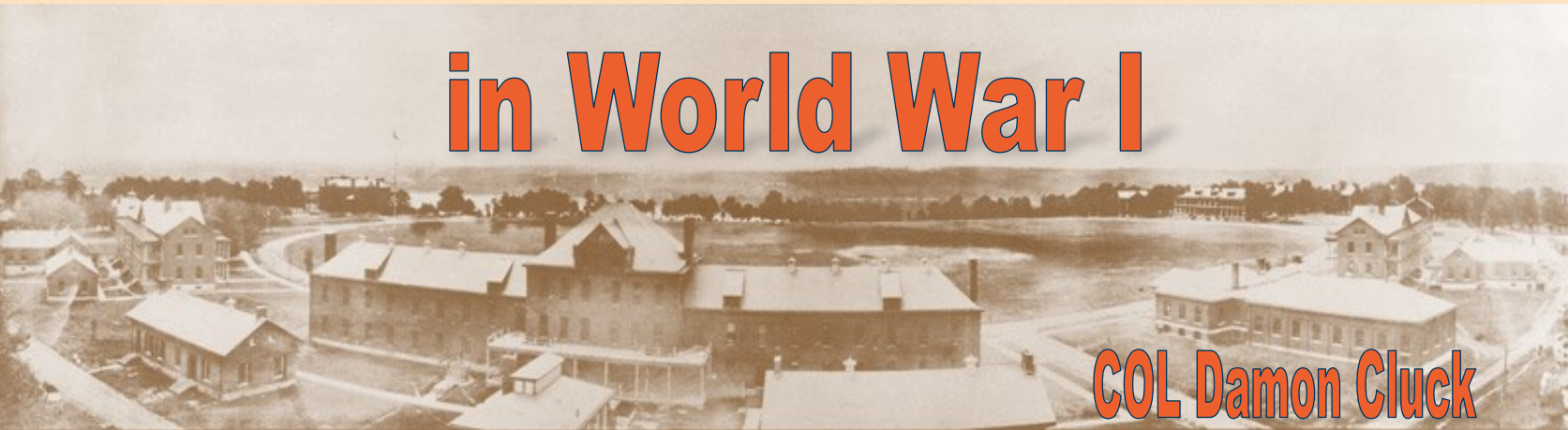
Major General Mark H. Berry
The Adjutant General

Message from the Editor

The Summer 2017 issue of *The Arkansas Military History Journal* is our second covering World War I. Both the Arkansas National Guard and Camp Pike were important in the War effort. It has been difficult over the years to track those from the Arkansas National Guard who fought in Europe because many were utilized as replacements. But COL Damon Cluck sheds some light on our brave Guardsmen who fought valiantly in the Great War. In addition, we learn about the beginnings of the 154th from the Arkansas Guard in two articles written by MSgt Phillip Parish of the 189th Airlift Wing. Three pictorial articles are included covering aspects of Camp Pike as well. TC Matt Anderson includes his regular article "Featured Artifact" covering the M1903 Rifle. Finally, I want to thank the Adjutant General of the Arkansas National Guard, MG Mark Berry for his insightful words.

Dr. Raymond Screws
Editor/Arkansas National Guard Museum Director
501-212-5215; raymond.d.screws.nfg@mail.mil

The Arkansas National Guard in World War I



Panoramic view of Fort Roots; circa early 1900s. Courtesy of the North Little Rock History Commission

The Arkansas National Guard was heavily involved in the Great War. Much of the Arkansas Guards' proud heritage and lineage can be traced to the WWI years. Before embarking in its role in the First World War, the Arkansas National Guard mobilized for duty on the Mexican border in 1916. When the units of the Arkansas National Guard returned from the Mexican border during early 1917, its leaders had a much better understanding of the readiness of the guard. After the War, the Arkansas National Guard experienced more changes that began during the Great War.

STATUS ON EVE OF WAR

When the United States declared war on Germany April 6, 1917, less than two months had passed since the last Arkansas National Guard units completed mustering out from duty on the Mexican border.¹ In March 1917, the Arkansas National Guard was in danger of having its Federal recognition withdrawn. The problem was scarcity of men.² Company "E", 1st Arkansas Infantry, Little Rock Company, only had twenty soldiers and should have had thirty-two additional men. The reason for the shortage was the lack of interest of the businessmen of Little Rock. The employers would not let men off for training, thereby discouraging their employees from joining.³

MOBILIZATION

While Congress was debating the declaration of war the 1st Regiment was mobilized for "police duty" on

March 31, 1917, and began reporting to Fort Roots in North Little Rock. With the increased speculation of the entry of the United States in the war in Europe, plans for mobilization were published.⁴ The War Department initially called the 1st Regiment of the Arkansas National Guard into Federal service for the purpose of police protection.⁵ Meanwhile, Governor Charles H. Brough planned to withhold \$25,000 of the State's appropriation to the Arkansas National Guards, hoping that the Federal government would bear the financial burden of the Arkansas National Guard.⁶

The units of the 1st Arkansas were to proceed to Ft. Roots outside of Little Rock for mobilization when the companies reached the minimum company strength of sixty-five men. The minimum strength was difficult to achieve because of new orders from the War Department mustering out guardsmen with families and those with previous orders. This released all men employed in government work. To counteract the men mustered out, companies were held at their home stations as long as possible to stimulate recruiting. It was known by guard officers that when a company left its home station the boys of the community lost interest in joining the guard for fear that they will not be assigned to their local company.⁷ Recruiting for the guard was greatly aided when Armour, one of the largest companies in Little Rock, gave the difference between salaries to its regular employees who enlisted in the Arkansas National Guard before March 31, 1917, and were called into active service.⁸ Individuals also exemplified patriotism; one man upon learning the

need of men for the guard left his work in the fields and walked thirty miles to enlist.⁹

By April 4, 1917, the 1st Arkansas Regiment was ready to move to Little Rock, and company commanders were ordered to report by wire the hour and date they expected to leave their home stations. New companies at Forrest City, Dewitt, Rison, and Fordyce were organized with the idea of "beating Uncle Sam" and not being drafted.¹⁰ The 2nd Arkansas Regiment was on forty-eight-hour stand by and had not received mobilization orders.¹¹

To equip the companies of the 1st Arkansas, U.S. Arsenal sent Ft. Roots 2,000 rifles, 1,500 uniforms, 2,000 blankets, 1,000 cots, 2,000 pairs of shoes, and 100 pyramidal tents.¹² Policies were established to cope with men unable to pass physical examinations. It was determined that these men would be mustered into Federal service, their status remaining the same as those men passing the physical examination. After being mustered into Federal service, the men who were unable to pass the physical examination were given discharges and furnished with transportation to their homes.¹³ The 1st Arkansas Infantry was proud of its record of only 12 per cent being discharged because of physical defects. When the 1st Arkansas Infantry was mobilized for duty on the Mexican border 50 per cent of its men were rejected because of Physical defects.¹⁴

The first military operation the Arkansas National Guard was assigned was a "find and destroy" mission of a "spy" wireless station located somewhere in the Blue Mountains. After searching the area, they found the station on the highest peak in the Ozarks, Mt. Magazine. It was a forgotten and abandoned radio station used by the Government Geodetic Survey Corps.¹⁵ The second military campaign concerned the right of the governor to order a detail of Arkansas National Guards to Bauzite was fought on paper between Colonel James, Commanding Officer of the Arkansas National Guard, and Governor Brough. The need for troops at Bauzite was due to a German flag being flown by a grape grower. Colonel James refused to send troops on the grounds that he took his orders from General Pershing. The matter was settled when the flag disappeared.¹⁶

The 1st Arkansas was assigned the duty of guarding the State Capital. The Capital contained the arsenal of

the Arkansas National Guard. Troops were placed in and around the building. Company "B" (from Beebe), 1st Arkansas Regiment, was camped on the west side of the Capital, having the distinction of being the first company assigned guard duty. Only persons having passes issued by the Secretary of State, T. J. Terral, could be admitted to the Capital and grounds.¹⁷ Four nights later the men from Company "B" could claim another first for their company when two guardsmen fired eight shots and frightened off an intruder.¹⁸

3RD ARKANSAS INFANTRY REGIMENT CREATED

On April 17, 1917, plans for the creation of a new regiment, the 3rd Arkansas were formulated. Enlistments were for the duration of the war. On May 16, 1917, it was announced that Little Rock was allowed to have a second infantry company, which was part of the 3rd Arkansas Regiment.¹⁹ Recruitment for men in Little Rock was carried out by seventeen girls wearing badges bearing the words, "If You Are A Real Man Enlist." The girls distributed buttonhole tags with, "Are You A Slacker?" The other side of tag read, "Are You A Man?" The girls worked until June 5, 1917, when the draft law became effective.²⁰ The pay per month for the enlisted men was as follows:²¹

Rank	Pay
Sergeants, First Class	\$45
Sergeants	\$36
Privates, First Class	\$18
Privates	\$15
Cooks	\$30

To qualify for a commission in the guard an individual had to be a former officer or private of the guard, officer on reserve or unassigned list, active or retired officer of the regular army, navy or marine corps; graduate of the United States military or naval academies or graduate of schools, colleges or university where military science under a regular army officer was taught. The age limits that were established for officers of the new units were these:²²

Rank	Age Requirements
Colonel	21 to 65 years
Lieutenant Colonel	21 to 50 years
Majors	21 to 45 years
Captain	21 to 40 years
First Lieutenant	21 to 30 years.

Rumors that the 1st Arkansas would be assigned to levee and bridge guard duties throughout the state²³ proved to be false when the men were put to work clearing land for a new campsite for the 1st Arkansas. When 7,000 Reserve Officer Candidates were sent to Ft. Roots, the 1st Arkansas gave up their barracks for tents.²⁴ The 1st Arkansas Soldiers were given anti-smallpox and typhoid fever vaccinations. The new duties for the 1st Arkansas was getting the camp in shape by clearing out brush and trees, by working on post roads, and by performing guard duty for the camp.²⁵

ENTIRE ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD MOBILIZED

On May 18, 1917, the Arkansas National Guard was notified that on August 5, 1917, the guard as a whole would be called into Federal service.²⁶ This announcement caused the 1st Arkansas to start military training. The 1st Arkansas had one-third of the men resume drilling and training while the other men completed the construction on Ft. Roots.²⁷

It was not all work for the men at Ft. Roots, however. The Arkansas soldiers were treated to dances and banquets by the citizens of Little Rock.²⁸ The men of Company "B" of the 1st Arkansas solicited funds at the Capital and used the money to buy baseball suits and baseball materials.²⁹ The men also enjoyed a "breezy" newspaper which was devoted to the interest of the Arkansas National Guard and called the Volunteer.³⁰

The Arkansas National Guard was initially informed that its units would be assigned to the Eighteenth Division, along with the states of Mississippi and Louisiana, and the state was directed to raise one regiment of infantry, one regiment of field artillery, and one outpost of company signal corps.³¹ The men of the Arkansas National Guard trained hard after hearing the news. Intensified cross county hiking, drilling, and maneuvering were evident when the men took sack lunches and marched into Little Rock for the Memorial Day parade with all other troops stationed at Ft. Roots.³²

By July 16, 1917, the Arkansas National Guard included the following:³³

Regiment	Unit	Station	Officers	Enlisted
Staff Corps	O.M. Corps	Little Rock	3	22
	Ordnance Dept.	Little Rock	1	4
	Medical Corps,	Little Rock	2	5
	Dental Corps,	Little Rock	3	3
	Company A,	Heber Springs	3	166
	Company B,	Beebe	3	149
	Company C,	Arkadelphia	3	97
	Company D,	El Dorado	2	70
	Company E,	Little Rock	3	167
	Company F,	Hope	2	120
	Company G,	Jonesboro	3	99
	Company H,	Marvill	2	98
	Company I,	Warren	2	103
	Company K,	Dermott	3	89
1st Regiment	Company L,	Piggott	3	74
	Company M,	Blytheville	3	196
	Headquarters Company	Little Rock	1	33
	Supply Company,	Little Rock	2	53
	Machine Gun Company,	Little Rock	3	53
	Medical Corps,	Beebe	5	22
	Company A,	Springdale	3	141
	Company B,	Fayetteville	3	150
	Company C,	Dardanelle	3	115
	Company D,	Fort Smith	3	140
	Company E,	Paris	1	140
	Company G,	Russellville	3	140
	Company H,	Bentonville	2	150
	Company I,	Texarkana	2	119
2nd Regiment	Company K,	Ozark	3	120
	Company L,	Oin	3	129
	Company M,	Harrison	3	100
	Headquarters Company,	Paris	2	59
	Supply Company,	Van Buren	3	39
	Machine Gun Company,	Fort Smith	3	71
	Medical Corps,	Little Rock	8	32
	Company A,	Augusta	3	150
	Company B,	Little Rock	3	150
	Company C,	Hot Springs and Camden	3	160
	Company D,	Morrilton	3	150
	Company E,	Newport	3	150
	Company F,	Batesville	3	160

Regiment	Unit	Station	Officers	Enlisted
	Company G,	Walnut Ridge	3	160
	Company H,	Paragould	3	160
	Company I,	Ashdown and Nashville	3	150
	Company K,	Magnolia	3	150
	Company L,	Fordyce	3	150
	Company M,	Clarksville	3	150
	Headquarters Company,	Little Rock	2	97
	Supply Company,	Little Rock	2	37
	Machine Gun Company,	Helena	4	74
	Medical Corps,	Eureka Springs	4	33
Ammunition Train	Headquarters Company,	Little Rock	2	8
	Small Arms Headquarters Company,	Little Rock	1	7
	Artillery Headquarters Company,	Little Rock	2	19
	Company no. 1,	Little Rock	1	55
	Company no. 2,	Helene	1	55
	Company no. 3,	Fort Smith	1	55
	Company no. 4,	Stuttgart	1	55
	Company no. 5,	Stuttgart	1	55
	Company no. 6,	Fort Smith	1	55
	Company no. 7,	Mammoth Springs	1	55
	Company no. 8,	Texarkana	1	55
	Company no. 9,	Forrest City	1	55
	Company no. 10,	Pine Bluff	1	55
	Company no. 11,	Forrest City	1	55
	Company no. 12,	Yellville	1	55
	Ambulance Company,	Hot Springs	5	150
	Field Hospital,	Little Rock	6	72

On July 18, 1917, the Arkansas National Guard was assigned to Alexandria, Louisiana, for training as the Eighteenth Division.³⁴ Alexandria, Louisiana, is the location of Camp Beauregard, which was named after General P. G. T. Beauregard, C.A.A.³⁵

By July 24, 1917, Company "B" from Beebe was the only unit of the 1st Arkansas National Guard that had a full war quota of Men after physical examination for Federal service.³⁶ On July 26, 1917, the first guardsman was killed when James Voinche, Company I, 1st Arkansas Infantry, was hit by a streetcar in Little Rock.³⁷

By August 1917, the 1st Arkansas became proficient in firing rifles and had practiced with bayoneting dummies. The machine gun company went to Pinnacle Mountain for target practice. The chaplain of the 1st Arkansas prepared to keep the regiment's history.³⁸ Because Ft. Roots was designated a base hospital,³⁹ the men of the 1st Arkansas were transferred from Ft. Roots to Camp Pike, adjacent to Ft. Roots, and were permitted to sleep in the barracks. The tents were packed by the men with hopes that they would not be unpacked until arrival in France.⁴⁰

The 2nd and 3rd Infantry Regiments were examined for Federal service on August 6, 1917, at Ft. Brough (located on the Capital grounds). The regiments, under the control of General Leonard Wood,⁴¹ were sent to Ft. Roots⁴² and moved to Camp Pike by August 24, 1917.⁴³ The Commander of the supply company of the 3rd Arkansas received instructions from the Augusta Arsenal to go into the open market and buy mess kits to complete the needed equipment for the new regiments.⁴⁴

Arkansas was proud when the 1st Arkansas Regiment Band appeared in a War Department film.⁴⁵ But Arkansas was doubly proud when the largest Southwest parade in over thirty years was held in Little Rock in which the Eighty-seventh Division, Arkansas National Guard, National Army, and the Iowa Field Artillery participated.⁴⁶ This was the last parade in the state of Arkansas for many members of the Arkansas National Guard.

MOVEMENT TO CAMP BEAUREGARD

In late September, 1917, the Arkansas National Guard moved by train to Camp Beauregard in Alexandria, Louisiana. The trip took about fourteen hours. The 3rd Arkansas regiment used the following railroad equipment: Sixty coaches, three standard Pullmans, six baggage cars, twelve boxcars, and one stock car.⁴⁷

RE-NUMBERING AND LOSS OF STATE DESIGNATIONS

The Arkansas troops were demobilized after their transfer to Camp Beauregard, and reorganization of the troops was made under a new system of organization worked out by the commanding officer at Camp Beauregard.⁴⁸ The 18th Division was re-designated as the 39th Division. At this time all National Guard units were stripped of their state designations and re-numbered under a new Federal system:

153rd Infantry Regiment.

- The 2nd Arkansas Infantry Regiment, minus its machine gun company became the 142nd Field Artillery Regiment.⁴⁹
- The 3rd Arkansas Infantry Regiment, minus the 3rd Battalion, was re-designated the 154th Infantry Regiment.
- The 3rd Battalion, 3rd Arkansas Infantry and the Machine Gun Company from the 2nd Arkansas were organized as the 141st Machine Gun Battalion.⁵⁰
- The 1st Arkansas Ammunition Train became the 114th Ammunition Train.
- The 1st Arkansas Ambulance Company and the 1st Arkansas Field Hospital became the 114th Sanitary Trains.⁵¹

The 39th "Delta" Division was composed of the:

- Seventy-seventh Infantry Brigade (153rd Infantry, 154th Infantry, and the 141st Machine Gun Battalion)
- Seventy-eighth Infantry Brigade (155th Infantry, 156th Infantry, 142nd Machine Gun Battalion)
- Sixty-fourth Field Artillery Brigade (140th Field Artillery, 141st Field Artillery, 142nd Field Artillery, and the 114th Trench Mortar Battery)
- Divisional Troops (140th Machine Gun Battalion, 114th Engineers, 114th Field Signal Battalion and Headquarters Troop)
- Trains (114th Train Headquarters and Military Police, 114th Ammunition Train, 114th Supply Train, 114th Engineer Train, and the 114th Sanitary Train.⁵²

The 39th Division was brought up to strength with the addition of soldiers from Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky.

The ability of the Arkansas to fight was soon proven when a free-for-all between soldiers from Louisiana and Arkansas developed in a dance hall. The combatants were placed in the guardhouse. A Louisiana soldier brushed against an Arkansas soldier and caused the uproar.⁵³

When the 2nd Arkansas Infantry Regiment was changed to artillery, the blue hat cord was changed to red and the collar insignia was changed from the crossed rifles to crossed cannon.⁵⁴ But the big change was from the rifle to the six-inch howitzer, which was

used in shelling enemy positions. It took eight horses to pull one of the big cannons.⁵⁵ After several months of classroom training, the 142nd began live fire on the horse drawn 4.7 inch weapon in April 1918. After two and one-half months in the field conducting live fire training, the 142nd was certified for overseas service.

Sickness was a problem for the men from Arkansas. Measles in the later part of October 1917, kept the men from drilling.⁵⁶ Regardless, in January 1918, the National Guard Reserve was transferred to the active list.⁵⁷ Also in the same month, Alexandria, Louisiana, was placed off limits, and soldiers could not visit other regiments because of an outbreak of meningitis.⁵⁸ To help matters, the soldiers were instructed in the use of deadly gases and then exposed to tear gas.⁵⁹ The off limits lasted until March 6, 1918, for the soldiers concerning Alexandria. The soldiers complained about the bugs and were anxious to go to France. By March 1918, the soldiers received new Enfield rifles.⁶⁰ In early October, 1918, Camp Beauregard was struck with Spanish influenza, which led into lobar pneumonia. All available facilities were used when the hospitals became overcrowded.⁶¹

The 114th Engineers made an enviable record by building and improving the roads in and about the camp.⁶² By April 1918, the roads built in the swamps and hills of "Dogville-in-the-Pines" (the nickname given to Camp Beauregard) were completed, and the men were taking physicals for overseas.⁶³

Arkansas troops passed in review for the first time in February for Arkansas Adjutant—General Lloyd England, and the entire 39th Division passed in review in April for the Governors of Mississippi and Louisiana.⁶⁵ On the day after the parade, the Arkansas soldiers learned that they could not vote outside of the state of Arkansas. If they could return to their local residence before or on the voting date, they could vote, according to the Attorney-General's opinion.⁶⁶

REPLACEMENT OPERATIONS

The United States Army had yet to develop a system to mobilized, train and deploy individual replacements. The United States units serving in France experienced losses, with no way to replace them. In May, 1918, up to 5000 soldiers, or 20 percent of the division, were given the opportunity to volunteer for duty overseas. In the rush to reach the combat theater, some officers resigned their

commissions so they would be qualified for duty overseas before the war was over.⁶⁷ These replacements reached France in June, 1918. Twenty per cent of the enlisted personnel of the 153rd (old 1st Arkansas) and 154th (composed of part of the old 2nd and 3rd Arkansas) Infantry, the 142nd (part of the old 2nd Arkansas) Field Artillery, and the 141st (part of the old 2nd Arkansas) Machine Gun Battalion, were allowed to volunteer for early deployment. The officers did not accompany their troops but remained at Camp Beauregard with the other 80 per cent still in training.⁶⁸ At Camp Beauregard the division was brought to full strength by the arrival of troops from Camp Zachary Taylor (men from the states of Ohio, Illinois, and Kentucky.)⁶⁹

Shortly thereafter, Private Robert Springer was the first state guardsman to give his life in France.⁷⁰ In a letter home a guardsman from the old Company "I" of the 1st Arkansas National Guard, described the fighting and sent a coat lapel, which belonged to the best soldier for the Crown Prince. He stated that the German soldiers were best at running.⁷¹ About the same time letters were received in Arkansas from soldiers of the old 1st and 3rd Arkansas National Guard Regiments.⁷²

At the time of its departure from the United States, the 39th Division was composed of 22 per cent Arkansas National Guard, 40 per cent National Army draftees, and 10 per cent shortage from authorized strength.⁷³ On August 1, 1918, the division entrained for the port of embarkation and sailed for overseas service on August 6, 1918.

39TH DIVISION SHIPS TO FRANCE

The 39th Division, less its artillery units, left Camp Beauregard August 1, 1918, and sailed for overseas service August 6, 1918. The first unit of the 39th Division arrived in France on August 12, 1918, and the last unit arrived a month later on September 12. It was then sent to the St. Florent area, southwest of Bourges, where it was designated as a replacement division. In November 1918, it moved to St. Aignan. There several of the units were transferred to combat divisions.⁷⁴ The Division was never a front line division; therefore, it never advanced any miles nor captured any prisoners nor received any replacements. The Division was designated as the Fifth Depot Division on August 14, 1918, and moved to Charost and Mehun-sur-Yeu Area southwest of Bourges. The units of the

Division, for the most part, trained cadres whose duties were to receive, train, equip, and forward replacements of both officers and men for the infantry units, machine gun units, and for ammunition and supply trains. On October 29, 1918, orders directed that the Division be attached to the 1st Depot Division at St-Aignan-Noyers and Loir-et-Cher.

The 142nd Field Artillery Regiment sailed for France August 31, 1918, and arrived September 7. After arrival in France, the 142nd drew equipment and began training on the tractor drawn 155mm howitzer. The 142nd was certified for combat November 8, 1918, and the Armistice was signed on the 11th, preventing the 142nd from participating in combat.

The first unit of the division arrived in France on August 12, 1918, and the last unit arrived on September 12, 1918. It was then sent to the St. Florent area, southwest of Bourges, where it was designated as a replacement division. In November, 1918, it moved to St. Aignan. There several of the units were transferred to combat divisions.

In March 1919, the 1st Battalion, 142nd Artillery, 39th Division was acting as a school battalion for the entire artillery forces of the American Expeditionary Forces with their headquarters at Valdahon, France.⁷⁵

DEMOBILIZATION

In the last half of the 20th century, mobilizations involved a fairly seamless change from state control of a unit to federal control and then back to state control at the end of the mobilization, with the unit remaining intact and individual members' enlistment status remaining unchanged. In the first half of the 20th century, this was not the case. From World War I through the Korean War, soldiers were demobilized and discharged as individuals at the end of a mobilization and the units effectively passed out of existence, at least for a time, only to be reconstituted, months or years later, in the Arkansas Army National Guard. This complicated state efforts to rapidly re-organize the Arkansas National Guard following World War I. The individual soldiers that were demobilized in 1919, with returning Arkansas units, were not only demobilized, but were discharged from service and were told that they were released from any further obligation to serve in the Arkansas National Guard.⁷⁶

Most former Arkansas guardsmen began their return to the United States during January and February 1919. The Division returned to the United States for demobilization during the period between November 30, 1919, and May 1, 1919. The Division demobilized the following month at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana.⁷⁷ With the war ended, the 153rd Infantry landed in Hoboken, New Jersey, February 27, 1919, making the crossing aboard the *USS President Grant*.⁷⁸

On April 12, 1919, the transport *SS Kaiserin Auguste Victoria* brought the Sixty-fourth Field Artillery Brigade and the 141st Machine Gun Battalion of the 39th Division to New York.⁷⁹ The headquarters ordnance and medical detachments and some companies of the 114th Engineers, 39th Division were transported to Newport News, Virginia, on the battleship *Nebraska*.⁸⁰ The 114th Engineers, 39th Division, were transferred to the 1st Army Corps in France. The 114th Engineers operated in the Meuse-Argonne drive, laying railroad and building bridges for the 1st Army Corps during the battle.⁸¹

The 142nd stayed in France to conduct tests and exercises to develop techniques for motorized artillery battalions and won a commendation for efficient performance. In March 1919, the 1st Battalion, 142nd Artillery, 39th Division was acting as a school battalion for the entire artillery forces of the American Expeditionary Forces with their headquarters at Valdahon, France. In May, 1919, word reached Little Rock that the 142nd Field Artillery Battalion (old 2nd Arkansas) was doing convoy duty with the Army of Occupation and a segment was still firing for the Artillery School at Camp Valdahon. It was not until early June when the 142nd Field Artillery left France on the transport *USS Amphion* to arrive June 15, 1919, at Newport News, Virginia. On the train trip to Little Rock the 142nd Field Artillery was asked to march in a parade in Atlanta. This they were proud to do. On June 21, 1919, the group arrived at Camp Pike. On the following day the 142nd Field Artillery was featured in a big parade in Little Rock and then treated to a big show and picnic in the park.

The last group of Arkansas Guardsmen to return to the state for discharge was the 114th Sanitary Train (formerly the 1st Arkansas Ambulance Company and the 1st Arkansas Field Hospital), Seventh Army Corps. The 114th Sanitary Train was stationed for six months at Wittlick, Germany, before it was transferred back to the United States.

On July 17, 1919, the First World War era was over when orders from the War Department instructed the Adjutant-General to organize a militia regiment of infantry to return to guard the Mexican border.⁸²

WARTIME ORGANIZATION ON THE HOME FRONT

On January 1, 1919, the Arkansas National Guard consisted of the Fourth Arkansas Infantry and the First Arkansas Engineers, the only units, which had not been federalized for the war effort. These units however were just paper shells, the majority of their members having been inducted into federal service through the draft. During the war, the state also created the Home Guard units in order to provide the governor with a response force for state emergencies. The first Home Guard units were created in September 1917, and at its height, the Home Guard consisted of 64 companies.⁸³ The Home Guard was demobilized and its officers ordered to turn in all weapons and equipment under General Orders Number 17, dated December 2, 1920.

The Militia Bureau of the War Department on May 3, 1918, authorized the Fourth Arkansas Infantry. The organization was not to be called into Federal service but to be kept complete and ready for any emergency. Men of draft age were not urged to join. The status of the Fourth Arkansas Infantry was the same as the Arkansas National Guard before its calling into the Federal service.⁸⁴ On July 8, 1918, at the request of the sheriffs of Cleburne, Faulkner, and White counties, an officer and thirty men of Machine Gun Company, Fourth Arkansas Infantry, proceeded to the vicinity of Pearson, Arkansas, for the purpose of assisting the sheriffs of these counties in the apprehension of draft resisters, slackers, and deserters.⁸⁵ The following day, an investigation team of Arkansas National Guard officers was sent to Heber Springs, in Cleburne County to investigate the disorderly conditions said to exist in the county and which the county authorities reported they were unable to suppress.⁸⁶ In April 1919, the Fourth Arkansas National Guard Regiment planned to reorganize because of lack of personnel. The draft reduced the Fourth Arkansas ranks in both officers and enlisted men. The regiment was never put into Federal service.⁸⁷

RE-ORGANIZATION FOLLOWING WWI

The effort to rapidly reorganize the Arkansas National Guard following World War I was a complicated task for two

reasons. First the fact that the units mobilized for the war had effectively been disbanded at the end of the war, and second because Federal Authorities were focused on a massive expansion of the National Guard.

PROVISIONAL REORGANIZATION

The state requested authority from the Militia Bureau (predecessor of today's National Guard Bureau) for authority to disband the paper organizations of the 4th Arkansas Infantry and the 1st Arkansas Engineer Battalion. This was accomplished in February 1920.⁸⁸

However, as it became clear that the mobilized units would not simply revert to state control, the state petitioned the War Department to be able to fill the states quota of National Guard Soldiers by establishing several new units, in order to provide the governor with units to respond in case of an emergency:⁸⁹

- 5th Regiment, Arkansas Infantry
- 2nd Battalion, Arkansas Engineers
- 2nd Arkansas Ambulance Company

A Proclamation was issued by the Governor on November 7, 1919, calling upon every county and city to co-operation in the organizing of at least one National Guard Company in each county. A campaign was launched in January 1920, by bringing the Regimental Commander and a group of officers and enlisted soldiers who toured through 64 of the state's largest cities to raise awareness and support of the National Guard. As a result of this campaign, the following units were authorized to expand the new 5th Arkansas Infantry:⁹⁰

- Machine Gun Company, Fifth Arkansas Infantry, stationed at Pine Bluff, was given Federal Recognition on July 31, 1920
- Supply Company, 5th Infantry was authorized to be formed at Fort Smith
- A Band Section under the Headquarters of the 5th Infantry was authorized at Pine Bluff
- Company A, 5th Arkansas Infantry was organized at Hope

Infantry companies were also authorized at the following cities.⁹¹

- Arkadelphia
- Batesville
- Beebe, with a detached platoon at McRea

- Blue Mountain, with a detached Platoon at Plainview
- Blytheville
- Booneville, with a detached platoon at Magazine
- Camden
- Earle
- Eureka Springs
- Heber Springs
- Magnolia
- Marianna
- Helena
- Marshall
- Prescott
- Rison
- Russellville
- Texarkana
- Warren

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE ACT OF 1916

A key piece of Federal Legislation governing the organization of the National Guard had been passed during the buildup to World War I. The National Defense Act of 1916 provided for an expanded army during peace and wartime, fourfold expansion of the National Guard, the creation of an Officers' and an Enlisted Reserve Corps, plus the creation of a Reserve Officers' Training Corps in colleges and universities. The act clarified the authority of the President, in case of war or national emergency, to mobilize the National Guard for the duration of the emergency. The act was passed amidst the "preparedness controversy," a brief frenzy of great public concern over the state of preparation of the United States armed forces, and shortly after Poncho Villa's cross-border raid on Columbus, New Mexico. It authorized an army of 175,000 men, a National Guard of 450,000 men. The Act represented the settlement of a debate that had raged over whether the Nation need a large professional standing army, like the European powers or whether national defense should be provided with a smaller standing regular army, supplemented in time of war by a strong well organized National Guard.⁹²

While the act was utilized to mobilize the entire National Guard for the Mexican Expedition and World War I, the massive expansion of the National Guard, which it authorized had not yet been implemented before the outbreak of the war. This meant that while the state authorities were focused on how to reconstitute the Arkansas National Guard, the Federal Authorities planned the expansion of the National

Guard from a force of 110,000 during the Mexican Expedition to the 450,000 man force authorized by the Act. From 1920–1922 various meetings were conducted at the state and regional level to determine what troops and units would be allotted to the Arkansas National Guard.⁹³

ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD UNITS RE-CONSTITUTION DURING WARTIME

153rd Infantry Regiment

By 1921, the state was authorized to reconstitute its war time units. The 5th Arkansas Infantry was reorganized as the 153rd Infantry and the **141st** Machine Gun battalion. The 153rd Infantry was stationed as follows:⁹⁴

Headquarters	Company	Station	Federal Recognition
153 Infantry Regiment	HHC, 153rd IN	Russellville	January 28, 1926
	Service Company	Searcy	July 2, 1924
	Band Section, Svc Company	Conway	November 13, 1923
	Howitzer Company	Mena	October 25, 1921
	Medical Detachment	Prescott	January 12, 1923
1st Battalion, 153 Infantry Regiment	Headquarters, 1-153rd IN	Hope	October 25, 1921
	Headquarters Company, 1-153rd IN	Ashdown	December 14, 1923
	Company A, 1-153 IN	Hope	December 30, 1920
	Company B, 1-153 IN	Magnolia	March 29, 1921
	Company C, 1-153 IN	Prescott	February 21, 1921
	Company D, 1-153 IN	Pine Bluff	July 31, 1920
2nd Battalion, 153 Infantry Regiment	Headquarters	Little Rock	June 25, 1921
	Headquarters Company, 2-153 IN	Conway	January 27, 1926
	Company E, 2-153 IN	Clarksville	February 25, 1921
	Company F, 2-153 IN	Dardanelle	April 28, 1923
	Company G, 2-153 IN	Conway	April 21, 1921
	Company H, 2-153 IN	Forrest City	May 25, 1921
3rd Battalion, 153 Infantry Regiment	Headquarters, 3-153 IN	Cotton Plant	July 1, 1921
	Headquarters Company, 3-153 IN	Beebe	June 25, 1921
	Company I, 3-153 IN	Cotton Plant	March 15, 1921
	Company K, 3-153 IN	Lonoke	June 23, 1923
	Company L, 3-153 IN	Batesville	October 2, 1924
	Company M, 3-153 IN Command	Blytheville	May 8, 1921

The 141st Machine Gun Battalion becomes the 206th Coast Artillery

The 141st Machine Gun Battalion (Anti-Aircraft) was reorganized in the Arkansas National Guard with units stationed as follows:⁹⁵

Unit	Station	Federal Recognition Dates
Headquarters Battery,	Nashville	June 21, 1921
Battery E	Heber Springs	June 7, 1921
Battery F	Blue Mountain	June 11, 1921
Battery G	Fort Smith	June 23, 1921
Battery H	Little Rock	June 24, 1921

In 1923, The Arkansas National Guard was allocated a new organization, the 206th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft). The unit resulted from the reorganization and re-designation of the 141st Machine Gun Battalion (Anti-Aircraft).⁹⁶ The 141st was incorporated into the new unit as the 2nd Battalion, 206th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft). The newly formed 206th Coast Artillery took its coat of arms from Chaumont, one of the principal towns in the Department of Haute-Marne, France, where the 141st Machine Gun Battalion was stationed during World War I.⁹⁷

The 206th Coast Artillery (AA) was initially stationed as follows:⁹⁸

Unit	Station	Federal Recognition Dates
Headquarters	Marianna	November 23, 1923
Headquarters Battery	Marianna	November 23, 1923
Service Battery	Harrison	December 3, 1923
Band Section, Service Battery	Marianna	June 24, 1921
Medical Department Detachment	Fort Smith	December 18, 1924
Headquarters Detachment and Combat Train, 1st Battalion	El Dorado	November 8, 1923
Battery A	Fayetteville	December 4, 1923
Battery B	Monticello	October 16, 1923
Battery C	Jonesboro	October 19, 1923
Battery D	Russellville	October 23, 1923
Headquarters Detachment and Combat Train, 2nd Battalion	Nashville	June 21, 1921
Battery E	Heber Springs	June 7, 1921
Battery F	Russellville	January 26, 1925
Battery G	Fort Smith	May 26, 1924
Battery H	Little Rock	June 24, 1921

Medical Units

The following hospital units were created during the post-World War I expansion:⁹⁹

Unit	Station	Federal Recognition Dates
Hospital Company Number 216	Hot Springs	September 15, 1922
Ambulance Company Number 216	Carlisle	June 23, 1923

The First unit of the Army Air Corps in the Arkansas National Guard

The state was allocated and Observation Squadron, which assumed to designation of the 154 to continue the history of the 154th Infantry, which was organized during World War I from the former 3rd Arkansas Infantry. The 154th Observation Squadron was organized at Little Rock and federally recognized on October 24, 1925.

Re-Constitution of the 142nd Field Artillery

On June 16, 1931, the state was authorized to reconstitute the 142nd Field Artillery.¹⁰⁰ Several of the new 142nd batteries were organized from the 206th Coast Artillery.¹⁰¹

New Unit	Former Unit	Station	Federal Recognition Dates
Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 142nd FA	New Unit	Prescott	June 26, 1931
Headquarters Battery and Combat Train	New Unit	Haze	June 26, 1931
Battery A	Battery H, 206th CA	Fayetteville	September 2, 1931
Battery B	Battery E, 206th CA	Fayetteville	September 2, 1931
Battery C	Battery G, 206th CA	Fort Smith	April 20, 1936
Medical Detachment	New Unit	Hot Springs	June 26, 1931

On April 3, 1936, the war department authorize the creation of the 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery as follows:¹⁰²

New Unit	Former Unit	Station	Federal Recognition Dates
Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 142nd FA	New Unit	Hot Springs	April 3, 1936
Headquarters Battery and Combat Train	New Unit	Fort Smith	June 26, 1931
Battery C	New Unit	Mena	June 26, 1931
Medical Detachment	New Unit	Fort Smith	June 26, 1931

On March 6, 1937, the War Department authorized the creation the following additional units for the 142nd Field Artillery Regiment:¹⁰³

New Unit	Former Unit	Station	Federal Recognition Dates
Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, 142nd FA	New Unit	Fayetteville	March 6, 1937
Battery E	New Unit	Paris	March 6, 1937
Battery F	New Unit	Rogers	March 6, 1937
Service Battery	New Unit	Harrison	March 6, 1937
Band Section	New Unit	Fort Smith	March 6, 1937

IMPROVED FACILITIES

During the period between the World Wars, the Arkansas National Guard acquired its first permanent facilities. The Guard also received improved training at its annual encampments.

Until the reorganization following World War I, the state owned no armories. A proclamation was issued by Governor Charles Brough on November 7, 1919, appealing to all county and city officials to co-operate in the building of at least one "Memorial Community Armory Building" in each county in honor of World War I veterans.¹⁰⁴ The first of the new armories was built in 1926, and by 1940, the state owned a total of 25 Armories located in the following cities:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| • Batesville | • Magnolia |
| • Blytheville | • Marianna |
| • Clarksville | • Mena |
| • Conway | • Monticello |
| • Dardanelle | • Newport |
| • Fayetteville | • Paris |
| • Forrest City | • Pine Bluff |
| • Fort Smith | • Prescott |
| • Harrison | • Rogers |
| • Hazen | • Russellville |
| • Helena | • Searcy |
| • Jonesboro | • Texarkana |

CAMP PIKE TRANSFERRED TO THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD

The state acquired Camp Pike, the U.S. Army Installation that was built for World War I. The Secretary of War granted the state a revocable license for the Camp, which was accepted by Governor Thomas C. McRae on December 22, 1922.¹⁰⁵ The Camp was turned over to the Camp Pike Honorary Commission, which liquidated surplus Federal government property left at the Camp, raising approximately \$250,000. These funds were utilized for new buildings and to provide for maintenance and upkeep of the facilities. The commission also built a water tank and established a target range with funds from the sale. The Camp was eventually be renamed in honor of Arkansas Senator Joseph T. Robinson in the late 1930s.

REFERENCES

- ¹The Encyclopedia of Arkansas, Arkansas National Guard, Retrieved January 27, 2010, <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=3192>
- ²"Guards Only Hitch Is Scanty of Men", *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), March 27, 1917, p. 4.
- ³"Company E with 20 Men Need Aid", *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), March 27, 1917, p. 4.
- ⁴"Navy, Army, Guard, Women Unite for Big Mass Meeting," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), March 31, 1917, p. 1.
- ⁵"Arkansas Guardsmen Called Out," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), March 31, 1917, p. 1.
- ⁶"Recreate the Militia," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), March 31, 1917, p. 4.
- ⁷"Arkansas Guards to Gather at Ft. Roots for Mobilization," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), April 3, 1917, p. 15.
- ⁸"Armour to Pay Men Who Are Guardsmen," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), April 5, 1917, p. 5.
- ⁹"Walks 30 Miles to Join Guards," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), April 17, 1917, p. 1.
- ¹⁰"Headquarters Men of 1st Arkansas Ready to Mobilize," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), April 4, 1917, p. 1.
- ¹¹"Fort Smith Adds 15 to Machine Gun Company," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), April 4, 1917, p. 3.
- ¹²"U. S. Arsenal Sends Equipment Here for Arkansas Guard," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), April 5, 1917, p. 1.
- ¹³"Soldiers Fire on Capital Intruder," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), April 13, 1917, p. 1.
- ¹⁴"Thirteen Recruits Are Added to Corps," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), April 18, 1917, p. 5.
- ¹⁵"National Guardsmen Search for Wireless Station in Arkansas," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), April 4, 1917, p. 1.
- ¹⁶"German Flag Flies A.N.G. Heads Discuss Right to Remove It," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), April 7, 1917, p. 1.
- ¹⁷"State Capital Is Put Under Guard of Armed Troops," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), April 10, 1917, p. 1.
- ¹⁸"Soldiers Fire on Capital Intruder," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), April 13, 1917, p. 1.
- ¹⁹"Little Rock Will Be Allowed Second Infantry Company," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), May 16, 1917, p. 1.
- ²⁰"Little Rock Girls Recruit," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), May 24, 1917, p. 1.
- ²¹"Plan New Units for Arkansas Guardsmen," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), April 17, 1917, p. 1.
- ²²"Militia Units at Sixteen Cities to Form New Regiment," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), May 14, 1917, p. 1.
- ²³"Plans Under Way for Officer School Here," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), April 18, 1917, p. 1.
- ²⁴"7,000 Troops Coming to Ft. Roots," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), April 24, 1917, p. 1.
- ²⁵"Physical Defects Release Many Men," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), May 10, 1917, p. 1.
- ²⁶"Arkansas Guards Called Aug. 5," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), May 18, 1917, p. 1.
- ²⁷"1st Arkansas Will Resume Its Training," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), May 18, 1917, p. 7.
- ²⁸"Colonel of 1st Assumes Command at Fort L. H. Root," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), April 5, 1917, p. 17.
- ²⁹"Soldiers to Play Ball at Capital," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), May 21, 1917, p. 1.
- ³⁰"Engineering Corps at Training Camp May Go to Kansas," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), May 22, 1917, p. 1.
- ³¹"Scores of New Guard Regiments Are Needed," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), May 23, 1917, p. 4.
- ³²"Troops at Ft. Root to Help in Parade," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), May 28, 1917, p. 1.
- ³³"6,168 Men, 179 Officers in Guard," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), July 16, 1917, p. 1.
- ³⁴"Arkansas Guards Assigned to Alexandria Camp for Training," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), July 18, 1917, p. 1.

- ³⁵"Cantonment Here to be Named Camp Pike after Brig. Gen. Pike," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), July 16, 1917, p. 4.
- ³⁶"Company B Only One at War Quota," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), July 24, 1917, p. 4.
- ³⁷"Infantryman Killed between Street Cars," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), July 26, 1917, p. 1.
- ³⁸"1st Infantry Enters U.S. Service Sunday," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), August 2, 1917 p. 6.
- ³⁹"Arkansas Guard to Train in Louisiana," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), August 9, 1917, p. 1.
- ⁴⁰"1st-Ark. Moving Over to Camp Pike," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), August 18, 1917, p. 1.
- ⁴¹"Eleven Units Being Mobilized in City," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), August 6, 1917, p. 11.
- ⁴²"2nd and 3rd Arkansas Regiments Coming to Ft. Root," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), August 15, 1917, p. 1.
- ⁴³"2nd Battalion Goes to Camp Pike," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), August 24, 1917, p. 1.
- ⁴⁴"'Non-Corns' Named in New Regiment," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), August 18, 1917, p. 1.
- ⁴⁵"1st Arkansas Band in War Department Film," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), August 27, 1917, p. 4.
- ⁴⁶"State Demonstration Is Great Success," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), September 20, 1917, p. 1.
- ⁴⁷"Think 3rd Will Move in 48 Hours," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), September 27, 1917, p. 6.
- ⁴⁸"3rd Infantry Is Ordered to Entrain for Training Camp," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), September 26, 1917, p. 1.
- ⁴⁹"Shakeup Is Being Made in Arkansas Guard Regiments," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), October 31, 1917, p. 1.
- ⁵⁰War Department, Annual Reports, 1918, Report of the Chief of the Militia Bureau, Table 14, Page 1184
- ⁵¹War Department, Annual Reports, 1918, Report of the Chief of the Militia Bureau, Table 14, Page 1184, See Also "2nd Arkansas to be Artillery," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), October 1, 1917, p. 1; and D. T. Herndon, *The High Lights of Arkansas History* (Little Rock, Arkansas: The Arkansas History Commission, 1922), p. 170.
- ⁵²U. S., Historical Section of the Army War College, *Order of Battle of The United States Land Forces in The World War* (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1931), p. 247. Hereafter referred to as *Order of Battle*.
- ⁵³"Arkansas Soldiers in Dance Hall Row," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), October 5, 1917, p. 1.
- ⁵⁴"2nd Regiment Is Artillery, Officially," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), October 8, 1917, p. 3
- ⁵⁵"6-inch Howitzer for Ark. Troops," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), October 18, 1917, p. 4
- ⁵⁶"Arkansas Troops Under Quarantine," *Arkansas Democrat* (Evening Edition), October 23, 1917, p. 1,
- ⁵⁷Arkansas Adjutant-General, "Special Order Number 1: January 5, 1918" (Microfilm reel Number 4 of unpublished Arkansas Military Department Records on file in Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas).
- ⁵⁸"Soldiers Cannot Visit Alexandria," *Arkansas Gazette*, January 4, 1918, p. 5.
- ⁵⁹"Camp Beauregard Shy of Colonels," *Arkansas Gazette*, January 6, 1918, p. 2.
- ⁶⁰"Soldiers Now May Visit Alexandria," *Arkansas Gazette*, March 6, 1918, p. 1.
- ⁶¹"Beauregard Has Many 'Flu' Cases," *Arkansas Gazette*, October 8, 1918, p. 2.
- ⁶²"Baseball Now at Camp Beauregard," *Arkansas Gazette*, March 9, 1918, p. 2.
- ⁶³"Building Roads at Camp Beauregard," *Arkansas Gazette*, April 2, 1918, p. 2.
- ⁶⁴"Camp Regiment Parade," *Arkansas Gazette*, February 24, 1918, p. 1.
- ⁶⁵"39th Division Ready to Fight," *Arkansas Gazette*, April 9, 1918, p. 1.
- ⁶⁶"They Can't Vote Outside of Arkansas," *Arkansas Gazette*, April 10, 1918, p. 10.
- ⁶⁷"Few Arkansas Remain in Camp," *Arkansas Gazette*, May 15, 1918, p. 8.
- ⁶⁸"Arkansas Troops Arrive in France," *Arkansas Gazette*, June 25, 1918, p. 1.
- ⁶⁹"Many Promoted at Camp Beauregard," *Arkansas Gazette*, June 29, 1918, p. 8.
- ⁷⁰"Member of 3rd Arkansas Killed," *Arkansas Gazette*, June 29, 1918, p. 8.
- ⁷¹"Arkansas N. G. Boys in Front Trenches," *Arkansas Gazette*, August 26, 1918, p. 3.
- ⁷²"Arkansas Soldiers Are Now In France," *Arkansas Gazette*, August 27, 1918, p. 8.
- ⁷³Leonard P. Ayres, *The War with Germany: A Statistical Summary* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1917), page 27.
- ⁷⁴"Military History of the Arkansas National Guard," p. 21, (Microfilm reel Number 4 of unpublished Arkansas Military Department Records on file in Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas).
- ⁷⁵"142 D Artillery Has Been Ordered Home," *Arkansas Gazette*, March 31, 1919, p. 3.
- ⁷⁶Harry, Smith (December 21, 1962). "*Arkansas Army and Air National Guard, a History and Record of Events, 1820-1962*". Little Rock, Arkansas: *Arkansas Military Department*: 20.
- ⁷⁷The National Guard Education Foundation, National Guard Division Histories (by John Listman, unless otherwise noted), 39th Infantry Division, Retrieved January 13, 2010 "[Archived copy](#)". Archived from [the original](#) on 2012-02-29. Retrieved 2012-09-17.
- ⁷⁸"Arkansas Guard Officers Return," *Arkansas Gazette*, February 27, 1919, p. 5.
- ⁷⁹"More Men of the 39th Start Home," *Arkansas Gazette*, April 12, 1919, p. 9.
- ⁸⁰"Arkansas Men Coming," *Arkansas Gazette*, April 24, 1919, p. 1.
- ⁸¹"Arkansas Troops Land from Brest," *Arkansas Gazette*, May 3, 1919. p. 3.
- ⁸²"Order Issued to Organize Militia," *Arkansas Gazette*, July 17, 1919, p. 1.
- ⁸³Harry, Smith (December 21, 1962). "*Arkansas Army and Air National Guard, a History and Record of Events, 1820-1962*". Little Rock, Arkansas: *Arkansas Military Department*: 21.
- ⁸⁴"Status of the Fourth," *Arkansas Gazette*, May 15, 1918, p. 8.
- ⁸⁵Arkansas Adjutant-General, "Special Order Number 49: July 8, 1918" (Microfilm reel Number 4 of unpublished Arkansas Military Department Records on file in Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas).
- ⁸⁶Arkansas Adjutant-General, "Special Order Number 50: July 9, 1918" (Microfilm reel Number 4 of unpublished Arkansas Military Department Records on file in Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas).
- ⁸⁷"Fourth Arkansas May Reorganize," *Arkansas Gazette*, April 24, 1919, p. 8.
- ⁸⁸Smith, *Arkansas Army and Air National Guard*, 15.
- ⁸⁹*Ibid.*
- ⁹⁰*Ibid.*, 18.
- ⁹¹*Ibid.*
- ⁹²Herring, Jr., George C. (1964). "*James Hay and the Preparedness Controversy, 1915-1916*". *The Journal of Southern History*. **30** (4): 383–404. doi:10.2307/2204278.
- ⁹³Smith, *Arkansas Army and Air National Guard*, 17–18.
- ⁹⁴*Ibid.*, 22.
- ⁹⁵*Ibid.*, 23.
- ⁹⁶Lineage and Honor Certificate for the 5th Battalion, 206th Field Artillery
- ⁹⁷"*206th Field Artillery Regiment*". *The Institute of Heraldry*. Archived from [the original](#) on June 17, 2008. Retrieved December 22, 2009.
- ⁹⁸Smith, *Arkansas Army and Air National Guard*, 24.
- ⁹⁹*Ibid.*, 25.
- ¹⁰⁰*Ibid.*, 31.
- ¹⁰¹Lineage and Honors Certificate, 142nd Field Artillery, [United States Army Center of Military History](#)
- ¹⁰²*Ibid.*, 33.
- ¹⁰³*Ibid.*
- ¹⁰⁴*Ibid.*, 13.
- ¹⁰⁵*Ibid.*, 22.



The World War I History of the 154th Aero Service Squadron, United States Army Air Service, 1917-1919

By MSgt Phillip D. Parish, Law Office Superintendent, 189th Airlift Wing Staff Judge
Advocate Office, Arkansas Air National Guard

On December 8, 1917, at Kelly Field, Texas, 150 enlisted soldiers and their officers formed one of the hundreds of military organizations the United States Army created from scratch in 1917, as our nation's military mobilized to fight Germany and its allies in Europe in The Great War, better known today as World War I.

Most of the Army's 1917 volunteers and draftees were funneled into the infantry, artillery or cavalry, military units that fought all of our nation's wars since the Revolutionary War. But the 154th's soldiers and officers at Kelly Field, Texas, created something unique in American military history. They formed by authority of Special Order 198, par. 14, Hqs. Kelly Field, South San Antonio, Texas, as the 154th Aero Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service, a supply and maintenance squadron organized to support the Army's first wartime use of a new weapon - combat air power.

The heritage of the 154th Aero Squadron is indirectly linked to the Arkansas Air National Guard's present-day 154th Training Squadron. The U.S. Army's 154th Aero Squadron was the nation's first air squadron to carry the 154th numerical designation into military service.

For months after the United States Congress declared war on Germany April 6, 1917 (and on Austria—Hungary Dec. 7, 1917, ironically 24 years before Japan's 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into the Second World

War), the nation's war planners lurched from peacetime to a wartime footing. Through the summer and fall, thousands of men volunteered or were drafted into one of the services – Army, Navy, Marines – and shipped to train in one of the dozens of military cantonments that sprang up from coast-to-coast (such as Arkansas' own Camp Pike, built in 1917 in the area now occupied by Camp Robinson).

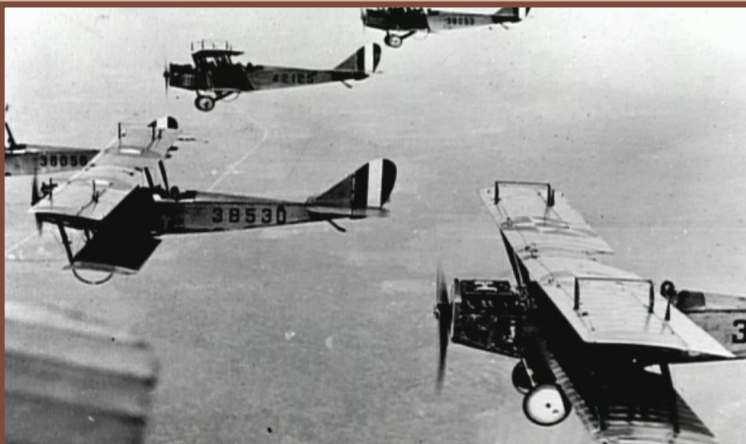
Many Army aero squadrons had already organized as flying squadrons, and Kelly Field, Texas, opened in fields south of San Antonio, Texas, was a major organizational area for hundreds of these squadrons. But all flying squadrons needed hundreds of support and maintenance crews to keep the propeller-driven aircraft ready to fly in the harsh weather and combat conditions of the European front. So in addition to forming flying squadrons, the Army also created many maintenance, or service, squadrons such as the 154th.

Most of the squadron's World War I service was documented in an official history memorandum, or after-action report, written by 1st Lt. Sidney R. Simmons, the officer who commanded the squadron from its arrival in England until its debarkation from France in January 1919. Other than the report from 1st Lt. Simmons, few details are known about the men who initially joined the airplane maintenance and supply squadron. This much is known - the 154th's men came from 32

states from across the nation; many of them, though not all, were trained craftsmen from the nation's industries that were booming in the early 1900s.

The same day the squadron organized, Kelly Field Army Headquarters placed 1st Lt. E.P. Larned in command of the squadron.

Eight days later, the 154th shipped out of Kelly



Curtiss JN-4 Jennys training at Kelly Field 1918

Photo From: Wikipedia.org

Field to Scott Field, Illinois (today's Scott Air Force Base), arriving on December 18, 1917. While stationed at Scott, as with all Army units in training camps, the squadron soldiers' daily routine included infantry drills and turns at guard duty.

On January 1, 1918, the squadron suffered its first casualty when Pvt. Wales W. Tabler died of pneumonia. One can only speculate, but was Tabler's death perhaps misdiagnosed as pneumonia? Was Private Tabler instead perhaps one of the first in 1918 to die from influenza, the epidemic that would sweep the nation and world in the last half of 1918 and claim the lives of thousands of U.S. soldiers and civilians? Whether or not he was felled by pneumonia, Pvt. Tabler was one of thousands of Americans during this war who would die of illness or disease while serving their country.

The squadron continued training, new officers replaced current ones in Supply, and the squadron's ranks received new transfers of men skilled in the machinery trades needed to build,

repair and maintain World War I era aircraft engines and frames. To bring the squadron up to the trade requirements specified in the Table of Organization for Service Squadrons in the U.S. Army Air Service, the squadron transferred 76 men out and 78 men into the unit.

New movement orders came. Verbal orders from the Commander of Scott Field shipped the 154th on Jan. 26, 1918, from Scott Field to Garden City, Long Island, New York, where the squadron arrived January 29. Here the squadron was equipped, and awaited orders to ship overseas. While there, 1st Lt. Larned was relieved of command and replaced on February 14, 1918, by 1st Lt. W. D. Robbins. On February 16, 2nd Lt. Herbert S. Jordan was assigned as squadron Supply Officer and 2d Lt. Frank H. Tomkies was assigned as Adjutant.

The only noteworthy milestone to occur at Garden City during the squadron's wait for orders to ship overseas was enduring a ten-day quarantine due to measles, from February 1 to the 11th. The squadron's history makes no note of any casualties from exposure to this disease.

On Feb. 16, 1918, the men boarded the Cunard Line Steamer *Carmania* at Hoboken, New Jersey, and sailed immediately for Foreign Service in The Great War. The 154th was one of 12 squadrons aboard the steamer that formed a provisional wing under the command of Captain A. J. McElroy. Although German submarines were a threat to ships traveling the Atlantic, the voyage was uneventful. The ship arrived in Liverpool, England, on March 4. The soldiers went ashore and were immediately shipped to the American Rest Camp in Romsey, England, arriving the same day they stepped on English soil.

During the squadron's first week in England, 1st Lt. W.D. Robbins was relieved of command and replaced by 1st Lt. Sidney R. Simmons, who commanded the squadron throughout its European service, and wrote the squadron's official service report.

The 154th and five other squadrons of the provisional wing were ordered to move to Camp

No. 21 at Amesbury, Lark Hill, England, on or about March 9. On March 17, the 154th and other squadrons were ordered to proceed on March 19 to Mo. 3 T.D.S. Lopcombe Corner, England, for training with the Royal Air Force on constructing, maintaining, and repairing engines and airframes used in the war. This was a relatively isolated post, six miles from the nearest railroad station. Apparently the Royal Air Force was ill prepared to welcome or accommodate their American guests, or how to employ them in the war effort, according to Lieutenant Simmons:

“We arrived at night; practically no preparation had been made for taking care of us, being among the first Americans to arrive in that section of the country, there seemed to be very little knowledge on the part of anyone as to American traits or character or as to what our status should be at the station.”

As the United States Army was a relative novice at aerial warfare, the 154th and other U.S. aero squadrons were sent to Royal Air Force instruction schools for a logical reason. The British had been fighting the air war in Europe since 1914, and through the victories, wounding and death of its pilots, and the loss of many planes, the British had learned many lessons for repairing and restoring battle-damaged fighter and observation planes.

Through orders received March 29-30, 1918, the 154th and other American personnel were assigned to duty and training at various RAF hangars and schools of instruction. While the British maintainers were initially distrustful of the capabilities of their American students, the mechanical aptitude and eager work ethic of the 154th's soldiers quickly won over their teacher hosts.

“At the beginning of our training there was a

tendency upon the part of the British authorities to minimize the mechanical knowledge of our men, but owing to their consistent efficiency, and anxiety to learn displayed by almost every one in every department, the British officers and enlisted men very quickly passed the organization out of the elementary training stage and entrusted it [the 154th Squadron] with work of the most important nature,” 1st Lt. Simmons wrote. “At the end of about two months training, we were in complete control of two full Flights, consisting of approximately twenty-four airplanes, Sopwith Camels, Sopwith Pups and Avroes. Besides this, our mechanics in the Workshops, the Airplane Repair Shops, the Armourers in the Gunnery School, and the Chauffeurs in the Transport Flight had relieved a large proportion of the British personnel for overseas service.”

On April 10, 1918, the 154th's Adjutant, 2d Lt. F.H. Tomkies, left the squadron on orders to train for aerial combat at the No. 1 School of Aerial Fighting in Ayr, Scotland.

The 154th spent six months training with the RAF at the Lopcombe Corner airdrome, and Lieutenant Simmons proudly reported that “during the entire time we were in charge of R.F.C.

[Royal Flying Corps] Flights and responsible for the upkeep of airplanes, there never occurred an accident to flyers due to negligence or inefficiency on the part of our mechanics.” Most of the Americans' time training and working with their British hosts, hundreds of miles from the fighting across the English Channel, was ordinary and monotonous work, but one day proved the exception, and soldiers of the 154th Squadron distinguished themselves in that May incident.

On May 21, 1918, in the words of 1st Lt. Simmons: “About 4:30 p.m. ... a fire of unknown origin completely destroyed four hangars and some



very important equipment in the Airplane Repair Shops and Engine Workshops. But owing almost solely to the hasty and courageous action on the part of every American Officer and Enlisted man



154th Aero Squadron

Enlisted Man RPPC

Photo From:

www.vintageproductions.co

at the Post, the majority of the hangars and airplanes were saved besides much valuable equipment in the two departments affected.”

1st Lt. Simmons proudly added the text of a citation from the Air Ministry of the Royal Air Force addressed to the U.S. Army Air Service’s Aviation Officer in London, England, which commended the actions of the 154th

Aero Squadron and another American squadron. The citation, from W.C. Strand 2, Air Ministry, dated 11 June 1918, and addressed to H. McAnally, Aviation Officer, United States Air Service, 35 Eaton Place, London S.W.A., stated: “Sir: I am commanded by the Air Council to inform you that the Central Officer Commanding the South Western Area, Royal Air Force, Salisbury, has reported that the 154th American Aero Squadron, and the American Construction Squadron, rendered very valuable services at Lopcombe Corner on 21st May 1918 on the occasion of a fire in the Hangars.”

It continued: “The Secretary of State desires me to express to you his warm appreciation of the courage and coolness displayed by the Officers and other ranks of these Squadrons, whose prompt and efficient action were instrumental in saving a large quantity of very valuable stores.”

After months at Lopcombe Corner, the men of the 154th, in accordance with Wing Order No. 162 dated August 26, 1918, assembled on the 30th at Air Service Camp, Flower Down, Winchester, England. From August 30 through September 12, the 154th’s enlisted strength was increased to 161

men, as transfers were made to fill all the enlisted mechanical trades required by the squadron table of organization issued by the Army Air Service’s Aviation Officer in London. The soldiers spent days at this camp in drill and guard duty while anticipating orders sending them to active duty in France.

On September 12, 1918, the Squadron received Overseas Travel Instructions per Special Order 88, Paragraph 30, Hqs. Air Service Squadron Command at Flower Down, Winchester, England. The men of the 154th left Winchester, England, aboard the steamer *Mona Prince* on September 12, and stepped ashore at Le Havre, France, on September 13. Their next destination was the Air Service personnel assembly camp at St. Maixent, France, where the squadron arrived on the 17th to receive equipment for the business of war.

“At this station [St. Maixent], we were fully equipped with ordnance property including rifles, pistols and ammunition; fully equipped with quartermaster property; and partially equipped with air service property,” 1st Lt. Simmons reported. “Received course in anti-gas measures and devoted remainder of time to drill, fatigue and guard duty.” Army soldiers needed to know how to use firearms and gas masks as the men might be called into infantry service in emergencies. Perhaps the most well-known account of the Army turning musicians and mechanics into infantry fighting men occurred during the first days of the brutal 1944-1945 Battle of The Bulge.

After a week at St. Maixent, Simmons wrote that on September 25, 1918, per Special Order 256, Hqs. A.S.R.C.B., B.S. No. 1, the 154th Aero Squadron shipped off for duty to the American Aviation Acceptance Park No. 1 in Orly, France, “for temporary duty and to await orders for the front.”

Some service maintenance squadrons were shipped to front-line airfields, where they maintained the airplanes of the flying squadrons operating at the same fields. If not immediately sent to the front, service squadrons such as the 154th Aero Squadron were often assigned to one of two major air parks in France that provided direct supply and

maintenance support to the front-line squadrons. One of the two major air parks, built at Romorantin, France, assembled all airframes and engines received from the U.S. and shipped these aircraft to their destinations. The other major airpark at Orly, France, the 154th's assignment, received, assembled and dispatched European-designed aircraft primarily from European suppliers. In fact, many American flying squadrons flew aircraft built by our French and British allies. Park Number 1 at Orly was one of the war's largest stations for assembling European airframes, making minor repairs on battle-damaged aircraft, and installing new engines.

Instead of front-line duty, the soldiers of the 154th Aero Squadron were quickly employed in the important work of assembling aircraft and in repairing other planes damaged by shrapnel, bullets or weather.

1st Lieutenant Simmons was detached from commanding the 154th and assigned as temporary commander of the park's Transfer Office, Dispatch Division. While 1st Lt. Simmons assumed this post, 2nd Lt. H. S. Jordan, the 154th Supply Officer, assumed squadron command. 2nd Lt. Samuel W. Howell, the squadron Engineering Officer, was assigned to the Minor Repairs Department, and the squadron medical officer and enlisted medical staff were detached for duty with the air park's Infirmary. As for the other enlisted men, the 154th's fitters and riggers worked in the Sopwith Camel Section and the Minor Repairs Department; the flight sergeants, coppersmiths, vulcanizers, carpenters, and sailmakers worked in the Engineering Section and the Department of Major Repairs.

The Orly, France, airpark turned out to be the final duty station of the squadron for the remainder of the war, which culminated with the November 11, 1918, signing of the Armistice Agreement, ending hostilities among the warring nations.

"Owing to the sudden and unforeseen developments in the war situation..." culminating in the signing of the Armistice and war's end "...orders for us to proceed to the front were never issued," 1st Lt. Simmons wrote.

Following the Armistice, the squadron did not have long to wait to return home. On December 3, 1918, the enlisted men and officers were relieved of their duties at Orly, France, so they could prepare for the journey home. After turning in all ordnance, air service and quartermaster property to the proper authorities, the squadron spent several days engaged in infantry drills and practicing for "the usual marching out inspections."

Orders arrived for the 154th to travel to the port city of St. Nazaire, France, to await shipment home on the first available transport vessel. Enroute to St. Nazaire, the squadron stopped to rest at Nantes, France, just a few miles from the port city. Here Lieutenant Simmons received orders via telephone from his Commanding Officer at St. Nazaire to remain at Nantes until the squadron received final orders to move into the coastal city.

Those orders came on December 24, 1918, something of an early Christmas present for the men. On the morning of December 26, 1918, the men boarded a train at Nantes and arrived later that day at the base Port at St. Nazaire.

Sometime in early January, the 154th Aero Squadron boarded the steamer *Manchuria* and arrived in the United States January 22, 1919, according to an October 16, 1936, War Department memorandum from The Adjutant General's Office in Washington, D.C. to the Chief of The National Guard Bureau. On February 1, 1919, the squadron officially demobilized at Garden City, New York, and ceased to exist as a military organization.

But despite never facing the dangers of battle, the 154th Aero Squadron fulfilled all the tasks asked of its soldiers during The Great War. 1st Lt. Simmons official memorandum accounting the squadron's history did not include a date when he wrote the memorandum. It's not known if he wrote this report shortly before the squadron boarded the *Manchuria* to steam home (as Simmons' history, remarkably detailed, provides no mention of the squadron's homebound voyage). It's also not known if he was relieved of his command duties before the squadron returned to

the U.S., which might account for his report not noting the return voyage or the squadron's demobilization.

However, 1st Lt. Simmons does fittingly end his report with an eloquent summary of the squadron's record, providing perhaps the best testament of the honorable World War I service of his men:

"...I may state that the morale of the 154th Aero Squadron during its stay in the A.E.F. (American Expeditionary Forces) has been of the highest sort. During this time, we have been credited with only one court-martial and one venereal disease. And even though the ambition of every officer and enlisted man of the organization always was to reach the front and see active service, the organization did the work placed before it without complaint and with earnestness and zeal. And even though there will be no wound chevrons on our sleeves, every man will return to America conscious of the fact that the 154th Aero Squadron has faithfully done its bit in the struggle for humanity and right."

(Information for this article came primarily from an official historical report on the war service of the 154th Aero Service Squadron, by Sidney R. Simmons, 1st Lt., Air Service, Commanding Officer, 154th Aero Service Squadron, as copied from the Gorrell History of the American Expeditionary Forces 1917-1918 Air Service, Series E, Volume 20, and from page 79, "The U.S. Air Service in World War I, Volume 1, The Final Report and A Tactical History," edited by Maurer Maurer. Special thanks are due to the following individuals for their referrals and assistance with information for this article: Ms. Yvonne Kinkaid, Research Historian of the Air Force Historical Support Division, who provided us from the National Archives the official report of the World War Service of the 154th Aero Squadron, written by 1st Lt. Sidney R. Simmons, who commanded the unit through virtually all the squadron's wartime service in Europe; Dr. David P. Anderson, Chief Historian of the Air National Guard History Office, Dr. Jeremy P. Prichard, 19th Airlift Wing Historian, Little Rock AFB Arkansas; and Daniel L. Haulman, PhD, Chief, Organizational Histories Branch, Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell AFB Alabama).



Photo Found Online, Source Unknown

Variations of the Native American diamond patch emblem worn through the decades by airmen of the 154th Observation Squadron. The diamond emblem above was officially approved for squadron wear on 29 April 1954 by the Heraldic Branch, Headquarters, United States Air Force. (Archive images, 154th TRS).





How the 154th Aero Squadron's History Was Linked With the Heritage of The Arkansas National Guard's 154th Observation Squadron



By MSgt Phillip Parish, Law Office Superintendent, 189th Airlift Wing Staff Judge Advocate
Office, Arkansas Air National Guard

On October 24, 1925, the United States Army gave federal recognition to the 154th Observation Squadron, the first military flying squadron organized in Arkansas by the state National Guard. It was the 19th National Guard air service organization activated by the nation. The squadron, which would not receive its first planes until 1927, distinguished itself with flood relief service during the Great Flood of 1927 that devastated Arkansas and many other states bordering the Mississippi River.

The 154th Observation Squadron recognized only its own flying heritage for the first 11 years of its existence.

There apparently was no connection between the Arkansas National Guard's 154th Observation Squadron OBS, activated in 1925, and the World War I era, active-duty Army's 154th Aero Service Squadron, which demobilized February 1, 1919. That changed when an official memorandum from the United States Adjutant General dated October 16, 1936, bearing the authority of the United States Secretary of War, arrived at the desk of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

The subject of the memorandum was titled: "History and Reconstitution of the 154th Aero Squadron (Service) (World War)." Note the memorandum referred to World War I as only The World War. In 1936, no one knew that in the 1940s a Second World War would engulf virtually the same world powers who fought The Great War of 1914-1918.

The 1936 memorandum, from Adjutant General D. H. Torrey, was a brief two-paragraph, one-page letter. The first paragraph recounted highlights of the World War I origin and service of the 154th Aero Squadron, until its demobilization in Garden City, New York on February 1, 1919. The memorandum states that the aero squadron "is not entitled to credit for battle participation but is entitled to credit for service in England from March 4, 1918, until September 12, 1918, and for service in France from September 13, 1918, until November 11, 1918."

But the letter's second paragraph carried the most importance for the Arkansas National Guard's 154th Observation Squadron OBS. That paragraph stated: "In order to perpetuate the history and traditions of the 154th Aero Squadron which served as a unit of the American Expeditionary Forces in the World War, it is hereby reconstituted and consolidated with the 154th Observation Squadron OBS, a unit of the National Guard of the State of Arkansas, which received Federal recognition October 24, 1925." The memorandum closed with the signature line "By order of the Secretary of War: Signed: D. H. Torrey, Adjutant General." And through the receipt of an official memorandum, carrying the endorsement of the Secretary of War of the United States, the history of the 154th Observation Squadron OBS was united with the heritage of the 154th Aero Squadron.

But Arkansas National Guard squadrons, like all air squadrons, were formed as military organizations, not

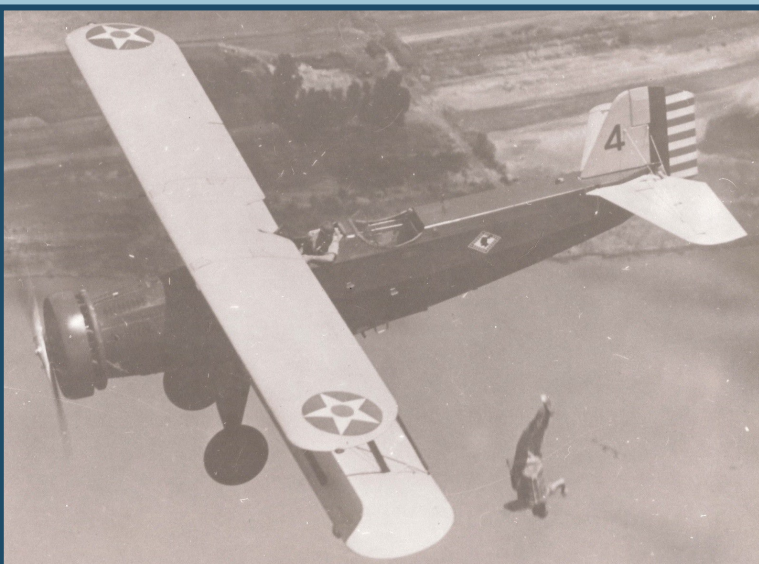
primarily to record history. Moreover, Air National Guard flying squadrons, particularly in their early decades, did not have active historian programs documenting their heritage. As the 154th Observation Squadron built a proud military heritage of its own in World War II, Korea, the Vietnam War, and in various other conflicts and humanitarian aid relief missions, the 1936 memorandum reconstituting and consolidating the 154th Aero Squadron heritage with the 154th OBS was possibly filed and forgotten. It is not known if squadron and wing leaders through the following decades ever knew of or received the 1936 War Department memorandum.

The 189th Airlift Wing and 154th squadron commanders (currently operating as the 154th Training Squadron as part of the 189th Airlift Wing) over the past 40-50 years have apparently focused more on the Arkansas squadron's 1925 organization date as the most significant date in the history of that squadron and our wing. Evidence of this is demonstrated by the fact that previous 189th group and wing commands have produced anniversary events and publications in 1975 and 2000, commemorating the 50th and 75th anniversary of the 154th OBS's 1925 organization date.

The fact that Airmen in the 154th Training Squadron TRS and the parent 189th Airlift Wing AW are proud of their heritage as Arkansas Air National Guardsmen possibly accounts for the tendency to focus on the squadron's National Guard origin as a military aviation unit. While the 154th Aero Squadron was the first organization to carry that numerical designation, the World War I squadron was formed as an active duty Army maintenance service squadron, and was not associated with a National Guard flying squadron until its heritage and lineage were attached - 17 years after the Army aero squadron demobilized - to the 154th OBS, by virtue of the 1936 War Department memorandum.

In essence, the 154th Observation Squadron OBS has the luxury of commemorating two distinct origin dates – the formation of the United States Army Air Service's 154th Aero Squadron on December 8, 1917; and the 154th Observation Squadron's OBS's organization October 24, 1925, as an Arkansas National Guard flying squadron, the first of its kind in our state. In fact, the 154th Training Squadron TRS, the descendant of the 154th Observation Squadron OBS and the 154th Aero Squadron, proudly boasts that it is the nation's most decorated Air National Guard flying squadron.

(Information explaining the reconstitution and lineage connection of the 154th Aero Squadron with the 154th Observation Squadron OBS came from a Memorandum from the United States Adjutant General, U.S. War Dept., to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, dated Oct. 16, 1936).



ABOVE: A parachutist practices bailing out of an O-38 airplane, the primary aircraft flown from 1933-1939 by the 154th Observation Squadron, identified by its distinct diamond patch insignia enclosing the profile of a Native American warrior. (Archive photo, 154 TRS).

BELOW: 154th Fighter Squadron F-84E jets touch down following a sortie during the squadron's Korean War service. During part of the war the squadron flew combat fighter-bomber missions while stationed at Taegu, Korea. (154 Training Squadron Archive Photo)



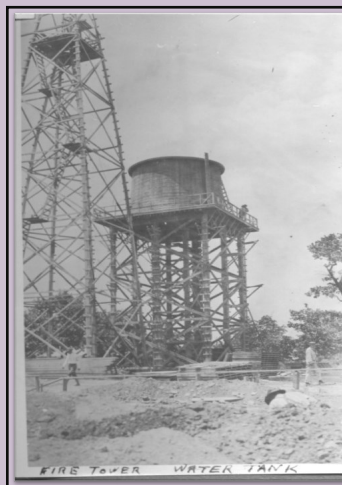
Camp Zebulon Pike Construction, World War I

On April 6, 1917, the United States entered the Great War. Shortly thereafter, the Little Rock Board of Commerce formed a Military Affairs Committee to attempt to gain an Army training post in the Little Rock area. On June 11, Little Rock was awarded the post, which became Camp Pike, and is now known as Camp Joseph T. Robinson. Arkansan MAJ John Fordyce was called back to the state to be the Construction Quartermaster.

The Following photographs were taken during the construction of the Post.

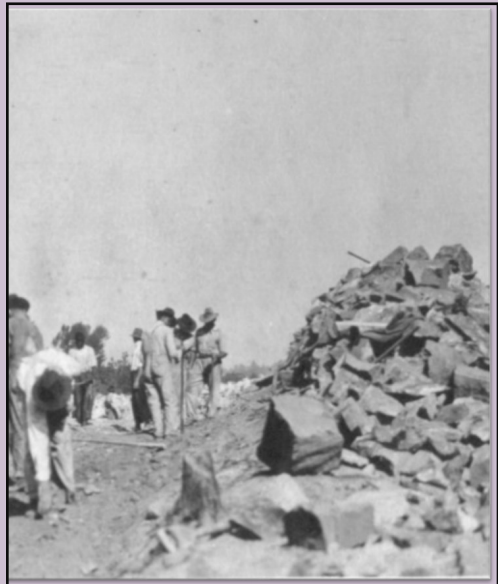


Slattery (USCE), Fordyce (R), Garsaud (R), Scott Stewart



Fire Tower Water Tank





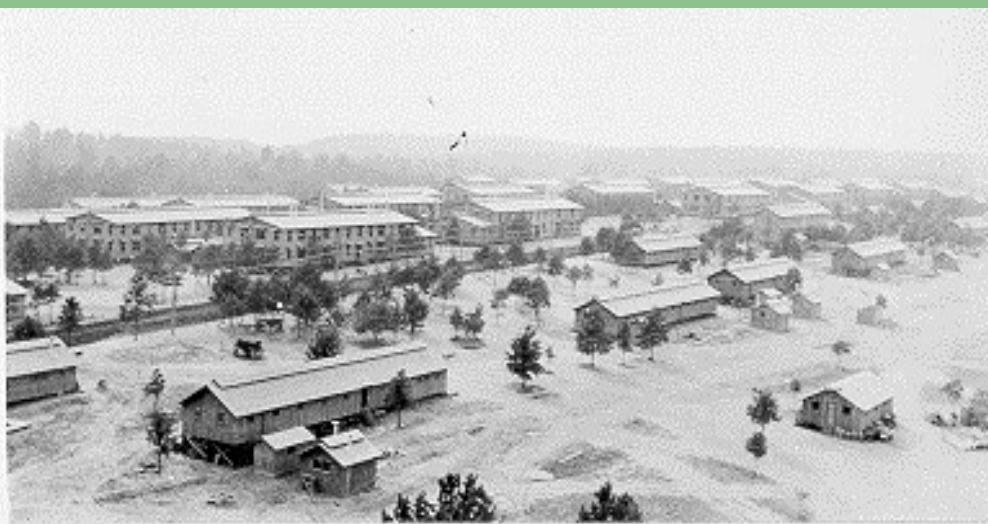
Heavy construction began in July 1917, the first troops arrived in September 1917, and construction completed between December 1917 and February 1918.

Scenes from Camp Pike during the Great War



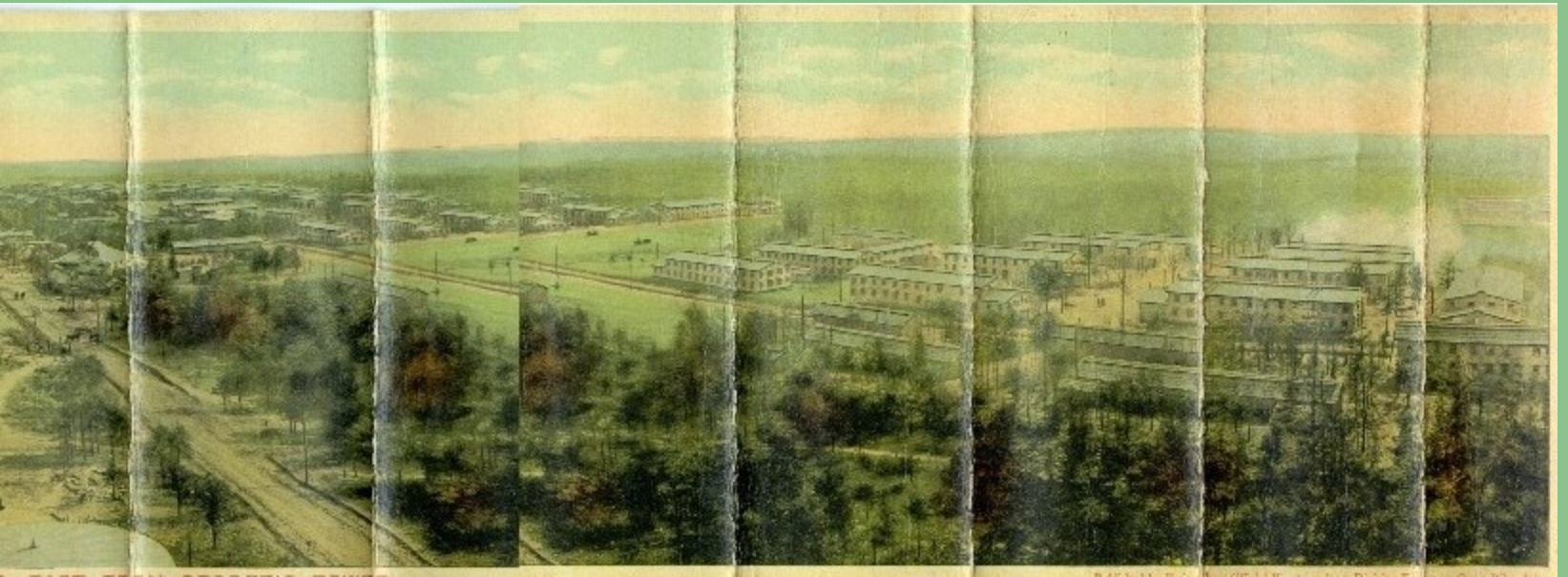
Camp Pike was home to the 87th Division during WWI. At its peak in 1918, the population of the Post was more than 54,000. Over 22,000 soldiers received infantry training and sent overseas from Camp Pike. In December 1918, almost a month after the Great War ended, the Post was designated as a demobilization center. In all, more than 105,000 soldiers demobilized at Camp Pike. The following are scenes from the Post during WWI.

SUBJECT:	NUMBER
165-WW-528E-6	A. U.
C.P.I.	
C.M. BRASHEAR, LITTLE ROCK, ARK.	
PHOTOGRAPHER	
REC'D 3-24-19	TAKEN 9-8-18.
DESCRIPTION:	
165-WW 528E 6	
VIEW OF CAMP PIKE, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.	



NUMBER	SYMBOL
165-WW-528E-10	Att.
EWING, CAMP PIKE, ARK.	
165-WW 528E 10	
PHOTOGRAPHER	
REC'D 1918.	TAKEN
DESCRIPTION:	
FIRE DEPARTMENT, CAMP PIKE, ARKANSAS.	





NUMBER 165-WW-528E-9	SYMBOL AU.
EWING, CAMP PIKE, ARK.	
165-WW 528 E 9	
PHOTOGRAPHER	
REC'D 1918.	TAKEN
DESCRIPTION:	
SCENE AT CAMP PIKE, ARK.	

Below: Rail Yard at Camp Pike, ARK
During Construction, over 1 million linear feet of board lumber was railed in on a daily basis. This was an estimated 90 rails cars daily.



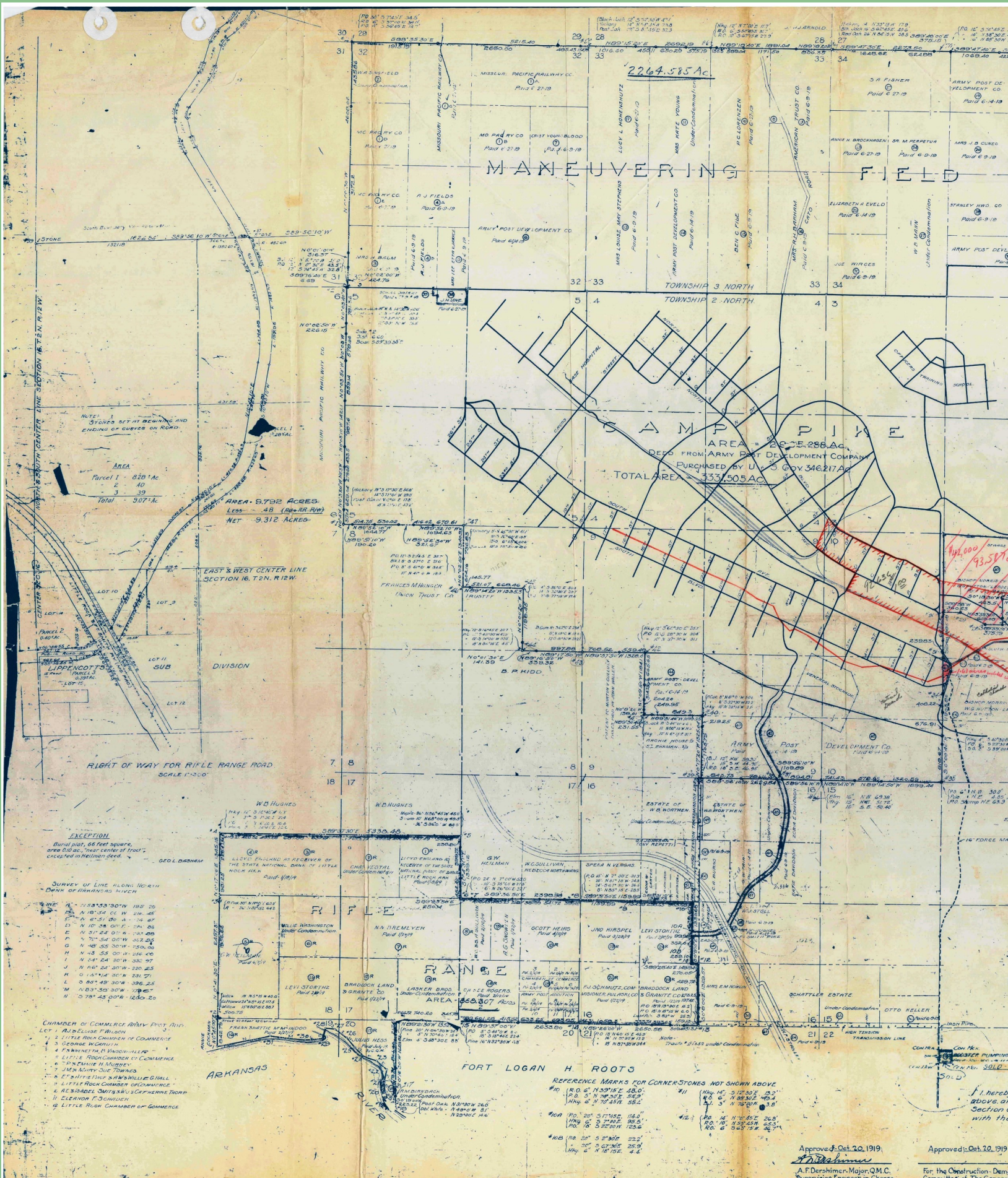
Another view of
16" REMCO Redwood
pipe line, Camp Pike
Little Rock, Arkansas



NUMBER	SYMBOL AU.
C. P. I. WASH. D. C.	
165-WW 528E16	
PHOTOGRAPHER	
REC'D 1918.	TAKEN
DESCRIPTION:	
SCENE AT CAMP PIKE, ARKANSAS.	



Camp Pike Property Survey, October 15, 1919



Facts about Camp Pike Construction

Little Board of Commerce Funding Requirements

- Required to raise \$325,000 (*Successfully raised \$230,000 of these funds in the first 2 days of fundraising.*)

Land Purchase/Lease

- 3,000 acres of land purchased
- 10,000 acres of land leased

3 Concerns Regarding the Location

Lack of Rail Service

- Solution: Missouri Pacific promised to build a spur line on post.

Adequate Water Supply

- Concern: Did this location have access to the minimum capacity of 2.5 Million Gallons required by the Army?
- Solution: Spent \$5,000 to dig a well and test. The water supply was adequate.

Mosquitoes

- Concern: The pure number of mosquitoes and the potential to spread disease such as malaria.
- Solution: The City developed a plan to eradicate them and spend \$50,000 to implement this plan.

Major John R. Fordyce Construction Quartermaster

Little Rock native Major Fordyce was appointed construction quartermaster and construction began in July. At the peak of construction, 10,000 men were employed and the weekly payroll was \$300,000. The workers build 1,100 building in a span of six to eight months.

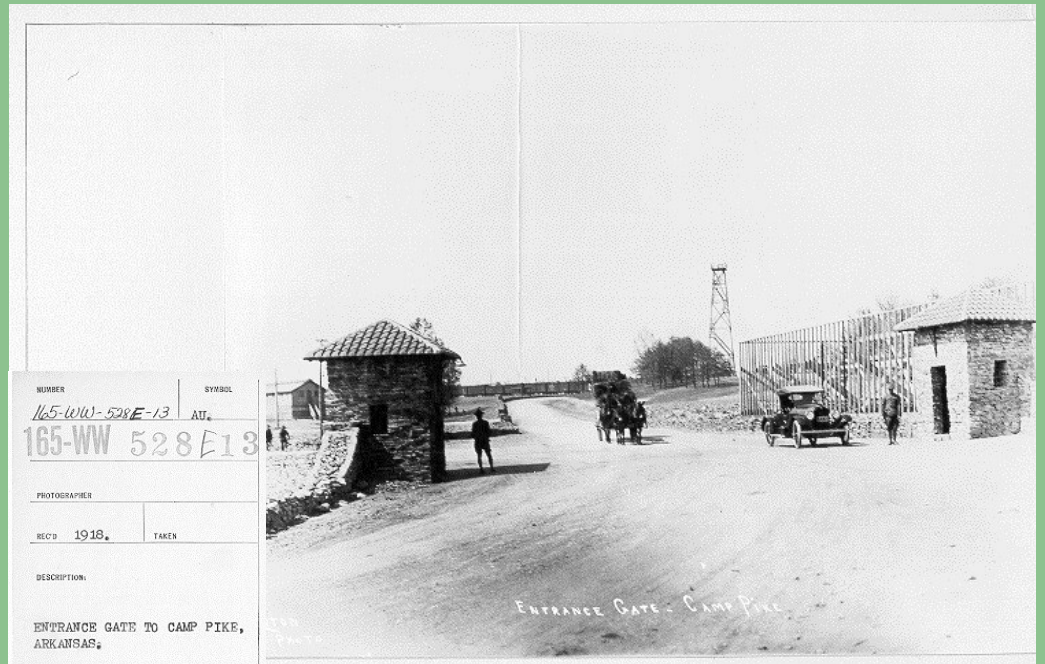




NUMBER 62,410		SYMBOL A	
S.C. PHOTOGRAPHER			
REC'D 9/24/19		TAKEN '19	
DESCRIPTION: CAMP PIKE, LITTLE ROCK, ARK. Operating room, main Camp telephone exchange.			



NUMBER 62,408		SYMBOL A	
S.C. PHOTOGRAPHER			
REC'D 9/24/19		TAKEN '19	
DESCRIPTION: CAMP PIKE, LITTLE ROCK, ARK. Inside distributing panel, main camp telephone exchange			



NUMBER 165-WW-528E-13		SYMBOL AU	
PHOTOGRAPHER			
REC'D 1918.		TAKEN	
DESCRIPTION: ENTRANCE GATE TO CAMP PIKE, ARKANSAS.			



SUBJECT:

NUMBER

AU

Rec'd from C.O. Camp Pike, Ark

165-WW 89B32

PHOTOGRAPHER

RECD

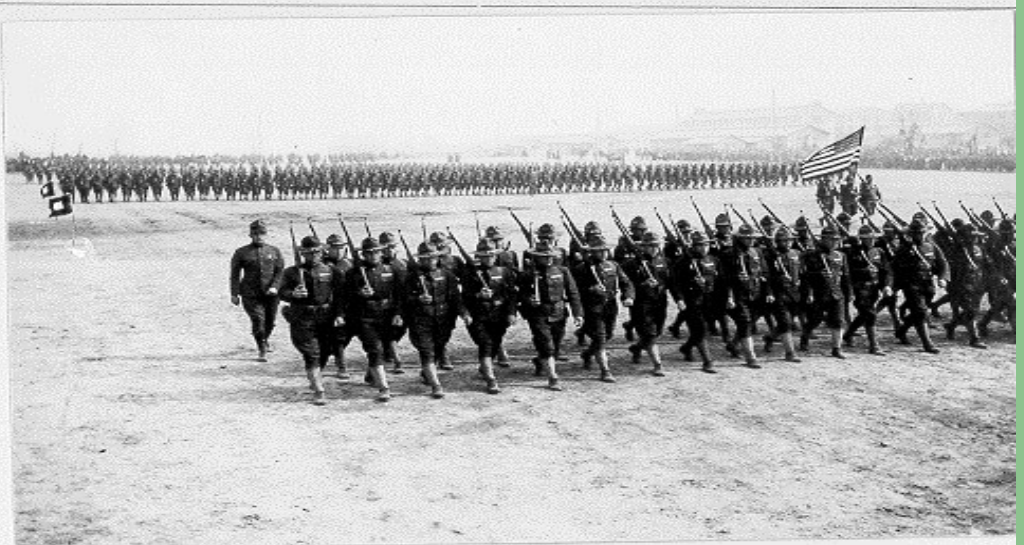
1918 Mar. 11, 1918

TAKEN

DESCRIPTION:

REVIEW OF THE 87TH DIVISION,
LITTLE ROCK, CAMP PIKE, ARK.

Passing in review.



NUMBER

165-WW-528E-7

SYMBOL

AU

C.P.I., WASH. D.C.

165-WW

PHOTOGRAPHER

528 E 7

RECD 12-28-18

TAKEN

DESCRIPTION:

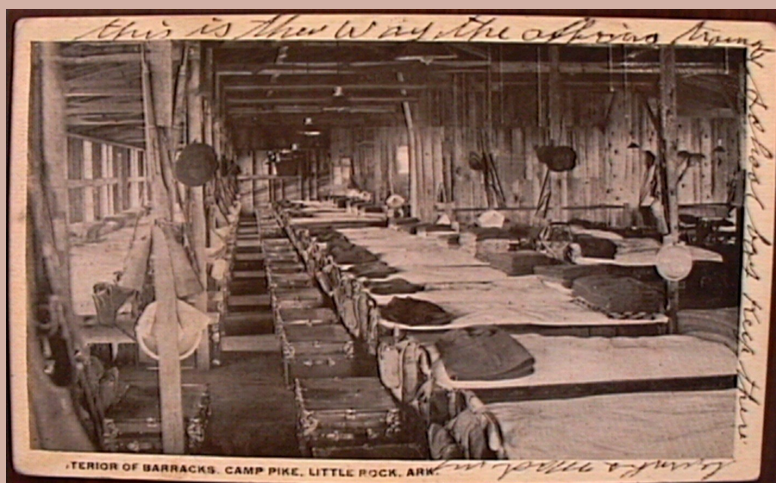
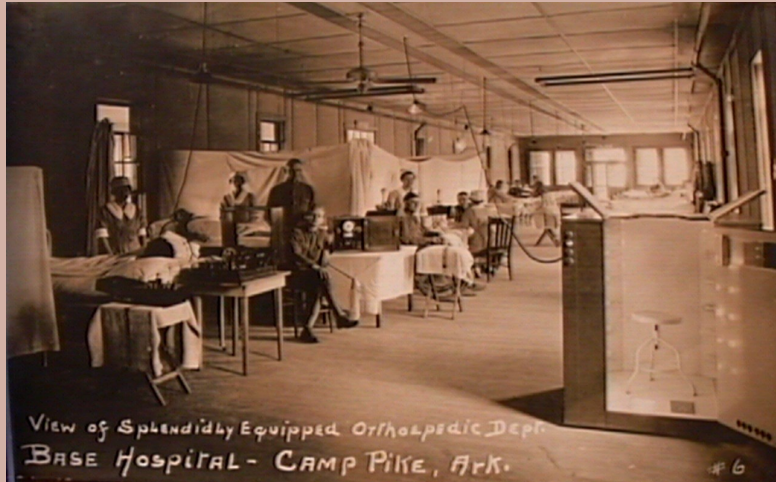
ONE OF THE STREETS AT CAMP
PIKE, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.



Post Cards from



Camp Pike, ARK



Featured Artifact: United States Rifle, Caliber .30-06, Model 1903

By LTC Matthew W. Anderson



America's entry into the Spanish American War found its forces equipped with a variety of small arms. Regular Army and Volunteers were armed with Model 1892 Krag-Jorgensen in .30 caliber, Model 1873 Springfield Trap Door in caliber .45-70, and the Models 1885 Remington-Lee and 1895 Lee Rifle in 6mm. The Navy and Marine Corps were also armed with Models 1885 Remington-Lee and 1895 Lee Rifle in 6mm. In addition to resupply problems created by the variety of small arms ammunition, they also found the Spanish Army Regulars, although small in numbers, were better armed with the M1893 Spanish Mauser Rifle in 7 x 57mm. The M1893 Mauser was able to be reloaded faster from five round stripper clips than American arms which had to be loaded one round at a time. The M1893 Mauser also fired a higher velocity, smokeless powder round which provided a flatter trajectory for more accuracy and extended range as well as being harder to detect the shooter.

With the capture of thousands of M1893 Spanish Mausers in Cuba, Springfield Armory and an Army Board of Investigations all came to the conclusion that a Mauser rifle type design was superior and a similar design needed to be adopted for US military service. Some of the main features to be adopted were the five-round capacity internal magazine well, the ability to accept the five-round stripper clip for speed loading, and the two-lug bolt face to accept higher chamber pressures. After several prototypes, trials and revisions derived mainly from combining the best features of the Krag-Jorgensen, M1893 Spanish Mauser and the Gewehr M1898 Mauser, the United States Rifle, Caliber .30-03, Model 1903 was officially adopted 19 June 1903. Mauser Werke soon brought suit against the US Government which paid out \$250,000 in royalties. By 1905, over 80,000 M1903 rifles had been manufactured.

Still more revisions to the M1903 were needed. The round nosed caliber .30-03 bullet was replaced with a new round designated the Cartridge, Ball, Caliber .30 Model of 1906 or commonly referred to as .30-06 Springfield. The new round had a pointed tip, lighter 150-grain bullet, a shorter casing and higher velocity of 2,800 ft. per sec. Adoption of the new bullet required a modification to the sights. It was also determined that the 30 inch barrel was unnecessary and could be reduced to 24 inches with no adverse effect on accuracy. This also allowed the rifle to be issued to both infantry and cavalry rather than producing a separate cavalry carbine for mounted use. A final revision was directed by President Theodore Roosevelt who stated upon seeing the rod bayonet on the weapon:

I must say that I think that ramrod bayonet is about as poor an invention as I ever saw. As you observed, it broke short off as soon as hit with even moderate violence. It would have no moral effect and mighty little physical effect.

As a result, the rod bayonet was removed and a lug was attached to accept a newly designed bayonet designated US Bayonet, Model of 1905. Its 16 inch blade was sure to give the morale and physical affect the President desired. The

M1903 Springfield replaced all previous rifles and carbines in service and became the first rifle to serve in the Army, Navy and Marines.

Anticipating America's entry into the Great War, 843,239 M1903 Springfield rifles had been manufactured by Springfield Armory and Rock Island Arsenal by April 1917. During the war 265,620 additional Springfield rifles were made. Springfield Armory could only produce 1,000 rifles a day while Rock Island Arsenal could only produce about 500 rifles per day. The British Enfield rifle which was being manufactured in the US in British .303 caliber was seen by the Ordnance Department as a possible solution to shortage of arms. The British Enfield design was retooled to .30-06 and designated the M1917 US Enfield Rifle. The M1917 US Enfield Rifle was issued to US troops during the Great War in greater numbers than the Springfield. After the war the Springfield was again the primary arm of the military.

In 1936, the M1 Garand became the standardized rifle for the US military, however, M1903 rifle production resumed in September 1941 with Remington Arms utilizing the old Rock Island Arsenal tool sets from 1919. Serial number blocks starting at 3,000,000 were assigned by contract. Remington Arms requested and got approved to make several changes to simplify production and improve the design. These involved making several parts from stamping rather than milling. This process made the parts faster and lighter weight. The wooden stock was simplified forgoing the finger grooves. The ladder sight was replaced with a simplified sight similar to that used on the M1 Garand for better target acquisition and to aid Soldiers in transitioning between the two. Enough design changes were instituted that the Army designated the rifle the M1903A3 on 21 May 1942. The M1903A1 had been a revision of the stock to include more of a semi pistol type grip. The M1903A2 was simply the designation for a sub caliber training device used with artillery pieces. Toward the end of 1942 the demand for M1903A3s increased so Smith Corona Typewriter Company was awarded contracts to produce the rifle. The largest users of M1903s in WWII were the Navy and Marines. In the Pacific, the battles of 1942 and 1943 were fought primarily with the M1903s. There was a fear that the M1 Garand would be more prone to jamming as a result of corrosion in the jungle environment. For the Army, the M1903 was replaced as quickly as possible in all theaters with the M1 Garand, relegating the M1903 for use by support troops. Even so, M1903s continued to see front line service in a few units reluctant to give them up and for use as rifle grenade launchers assigned one per squad and as the M1903A4 Sniper Rifle.

In the Korean and Vietnam Wars M1903A4 Sniper Rifles continued to be used. The military continued to keep stock of M1903A1s and M1903A3s for marksmanship competition and ceremonial use. The last of the rifles were removed from the service in 1974.



Rear sight on M1903 Springfield graduated out to 2,850 yards. Long lines represent 100 yards, medium length represent 50 yards and short lines represent 25 yards.

Barrel marking shows date of barrel manufacture to be 12 – 18 for December 1918.





The ON switch seen on the left side allowed for the operation of the magazine well and would lock the bolt to the rear ready to receive the next five rounds when emptied. In the OFF position, it allowed for the Soldier to load and fire one round at a time without interference from the magazine well. The midway position between the two was used to remove the bolt for disassembly.

Photo shows the bolt fully to the rear.



Receiver markings show the Model 1903 Serial Number 779552 built by Springfield Armory approximately January 1918.

M1905 Bayonet with 16-inch blade manufactured in 1909. The scabbard was manufactured much later in WWII



References

Canfield, Bruce N., (1994). U.S. Infantry Weapons of World War II. Andrew Mowbray Publishers

FM 23-10 Basic Field Manual: U.S. Rifle Caliber .30, M1903, 20 September 1943, War Department

Crozier, William (1920). Ordnance and the World War, A Contribution to the History of American Preparedness. Charles Scribner's Sons New York, pages 56 – 73



The Arkansas National Guard Museum Foundation



BG Keith A. Klemmer

In July Brigadier General Keith Klemmer retired from the Arkansas National Guard. With his retirement, his position as the chair of the Arkansas National Guard Museum Foundation was vacated. The new chair of the Foundation is John Payne who was promoted to Brigadier General in July, and we congratulate him on his promotion!

The Museum staff and Foundation Board would like to thank BG Klemmer for his years of leadership and dedication to the ARNG Museum. Now we begin a new area as we welcome BG Payne to the Museum family.



BG John O. Payne

In addition, the staff and Foundation welcome Major Marden Hueter to the Board. He has already demonstrated his value to the Museum. The future looks bright for the Arkansas National Guard Museum.

Arkansas Military History Journal
A Publication of the
Arkansas National Guard Museum, Inc.

Located at:
Camp J.T. Robinson
Lloyd England Hall
Building 6400, Box 58
North Little Rock, AR 72199-9600
Phone: 501-212-5215
Fax: 501-212-5228