

HISTORY OF THE 130th FIELD ARTILLERY

REGIMENTAL HISTORIES SERIES

Compiled by Workers of the Writers'
Project of the Work Projects
Administration in the State of Kansas

Sponsored by the
Adjutant General of Kansas

Topeka, Kansas
1942

THE 130TH FIELD ARTILLERY

Soon after he took the oath of office in January, 1879, Gov. John P. St. John appeared before the Kansas Legislature in an urgent appeal for the reorganization of the State Militia. The plea was ignored by the legislators, but many of the Governor's constituents agreed that something should be done to improve the efficiency of the State's military force, and quite a bit of independent action followed during the spring and early summer. Civil War veterans and men who had served in the Indian campaigns were among the leaders in this movement, which resulted in the organization of a number of independent companies that petitioned the State officials to become units of the organized militia.

Olathe, Governor St. John's home town, honored its leading citizen by calling its new infantry company the "St. John Rifles." Another rifle company was organized at Winfield during the summer, and residents of the Cowley County town were so enthusiastic that they went on to enlist recruits for a battery of light field artillery. The Winfield Courier reported on October 23 that 40 men had been accepted. These men were mustered into service on December 19, as the St. John Battery, Kansas State Militia. Pleased by this new honor, Governor St. John complimented the Winfield men for their efforts. The following officers were confirmed by Adj. Gen. Peter S. Noble: Capt. Eugene E. Bacon, 1st Lt. N. A. Haight, 1st Lt. J. F. Burroughs, 2nd Lt. John Hoensheidt, 2nd Lt. G. W. Anderson; Lieutenant Haight was a veteran artilleryman, having served throughout the Civil War with the 1st Wisconsin Field Artillery. Dr. W. S. Mendenhall was later appointed battery surgeon.

Winfield was so proud of its two companies that it planned a great patriotic celebration for the next National holiday, which happened to be Washington's Birthday. The Rifles and the St. John Battery contributed their utmost to make the celebration one of the outstanding events in the history of the southern Kansas town. There were parades, oratory, dancing, and a benefit performance of the Union Spy, ubiquitous Civil War melodrama, which was held at the opera house in the evening. Newspaper accounts indicate that the soldier-actors gave a very convincing performance, for the audience was reported to have stood and cheered enthusiastically at several scenes, particularly one in which the "Boys in Blue" arrived to liberate their suffering comrades in Andersonville prison.

Guns were issued early in the spring of 1880, two muzzle-loading pieces of pre-Civil War vintage. Almost of equal importance was

the issue of new uniforms. At that time, when the State provided very little assistance for its militia, uniforms and other equipment were purchased from the company fund, which was derived from contributions and replenished from time to time by benefits, entertainments, and performances, such as the Union Spy. Many militia companies indulged a fancy for gaudy trappings; others, more conservative, preferred the traditional Army blue. The St. John Battery turned out for drill with uniforms of dark blue and blue caps with red top knots.

When Gen. Ulysses S. Grant visited Kansas City, Missouri, on July 3, 1880, the city at the mouth of the Kaw River held a grand review in honor of the hero of Appomattox. The Craig Rifles, Kansas City's debonair aristocratic drill company, invited all the Kansas militia companies to take part in the review and most of them accepted the honor, providing they were able to arrange for transportation to the Missouri metropolis. The two Winfield units shared a special train with the Wichita Guards of the 2nd Regiment. Captain Bacon and 20 of his men made the trip and reported a good time despite the down-pour of rain that fell during the parade. The Craig Rifles were highly praised for their hospitality.

The Kansas City review was one of Captain Bacon's last public appearances with the battery, as he resigned late that summer and was succeeded by Lt. N. A. Haight, who was subsequently promoted to captain. There were other changes in the commissioned personnel before the end of the year and the official roster of 1881 was: Capt. N. A. Haight, 1st Lt. Samuel Bard, 1st Lt. W. E. Tansey, 2nd Lt. Cornelius Trump, and 2nd Lt. N. C. Holland. Lieutenant Bard was a Confederate veteran who had served with an Arkansas regiment in the Civil War.

At this time the battery was designated as Battery No. 1, Kansas State Militia. Some effort was made to maintain a battery at Seneca and 1st Lt. W. F. Troughton of that city was appointed commander of the new unit, but the Seneca battery was short lived. When the Kansas National Guard was organized in 1885, the Winfield unit was redesignated as Battery A, St. John No. 1. Meanwhile, Battery B, St. John No. 2 had been recruited at Topeka with the following officers: Capt. Thomas E. Irvine, 1st Lt. Charles Chase, 1st Lt. A. A. Saunders, 2nd Lt. H. S. Reynolds, and 2nd Lt. Ben M. Curtis. Regulation uniforms were adopted for the Guard, consisting of dark blue jackets and light blue trousers. Maj. Gen. Thomas Carroll sternly forbade the State troops to wear the ornate uniforms. "The uniform of a soldier should make him look like a soldier," said the General, "not like the drum major of a brass band."

The artillery units, each equipped with two field pieces, attended the first annual encampment of the Kansas National Guard at Camp Grant, Topeka, in September, 1885. The second encampment was held in 1886 at Camp Phil Sheridan on the Fort Riley Reservation. There the four field pieces added their thunder to the din when the troops engaged in a sham battle on the last day of the encampment.

The batteries were later redesignated as Sections A and B, 1st Light Field Artillery. Section B was subsequently reorganized with a complete change in commissioned personnel. The new officers were: Capt. George O. Nulph, 1st Lt. John G. McLaughlin, and 2nd Lt. A. J. Vaughan.

The Winfield battery was mustered out on June 6, 1888, and reorganized at Wichita as Section A, with Capt. B. H. Downing and 1st Lt. Willis Metcalf as officers. Capt. V. B. Stone assumed command of Section B. O. L. McIntosh was the 1st lieutenant. When the 2nd Regiment went to Stevens County on August 3, Section B was attached to the infantry for the campaign that resulted in the pacification of a southwestern Kansas county that had been embroiled for three years in a bitter county seat war. The murder of the sheriff and his three deputies on July 25 brought martial law to the county. Troops arrived at Hugoton after a 35-mile march across the sand hills in a broiling sun and order was restored within 10 days.

A Gatling gun was added to the State's ordnance equipment in 1890. Five years later the adjutant general listed the artillery armament of the Kansas National Guard as one Gatling gun and four 12-pound Napoleon guns. The field pieces, he said, were more than 50 years old, but they had been rebored and were believed to be in good condition. Nevertheless, a serious accident occurred on May 30, 1895. While Section A was firing the Memorial Day salute, a gun exploded prematurely, and the gunner's left hand was blown off. An investigation revealed that the accident was not caused by a defect in the gun, but was due to the fact that the piece had not been thoroughly swabbed.

The Kansas artillerymen were anxious to go to the front as a unit when war with Spain was declared in 1898, but Gov. John W. Leedy ignored the existing organizations and called for volunteers. The War Department, too, failed to provide for the Kansas artillery, as its quota of troops from the State was restricted to three infantry regiments. Consequently, Batteries A and B were disbanded until after the war, but many of the men volunteered for service in the Kansas volunteer infantry regiments.

New 3.2-inch breech-loading guns were issued to the batteries in 1902 and the old muzzle-loaders were placed in the State House park at Topeka, two at the south wing overlooking W. 10th Street and two by the north wing of the building pointed toward A. 8th Street. They stood guard at the capitol for many years, but were ultimately relegated to the basement where they have been collecting dust and rust since the World War era. The old Gatling gun now reposes in the State Historical Museum at Topeka.

In 1902, the Wichita Memorial Day services again were marred by a premature gun explosion, which seriously injured three men. It was believed that they had not become thoroughly familiar with the operation of the new 3.2 inch breech-loading guns. At that time, Wichita

was headquarters of the 1st Battalion, Kansas Light Artillery. The battalion staff consisted of Maj. William W. Minick, commanding; 1st Lt. Frederick A. Beach, adjutant; Capt. Henry B. Hogeboom, assistant surgeon; 1st Lt. Charles A. Baker, quartermaster. Battery officers were as follows: Battery A, Wichita -- Capt. George D. Downing, 1st Lt. Harvey M. Cain, 2nd Lt. Guy Gasceigne. Battery B, Topeka - Capt. William A. Pattison, 1st Lt. Fred Dodds, 2nd Lt. Byron W. Long.

In 1906, when the Kansas National Guards were preparing for joint maneuvers with the Regular Army at Fort Riley, the battalion had shrunk to a single battery, with one platoon at Topeka and one at Wichita. Capt. W. A. Pattison was in command. The Kansas artillerymen were at Fort Riley from August 18 to August 26, during which time they were attached to the 7th Battalion, U. S. Field Artillery, as a part of a provisional regiment commanded by Col. G. S. Grimes of the Regular Army. The behavior of the Kansans in camp and on the range drew praise from the Regular Army officers. In his report, Colonel Grimes spoke of the "exemplary conduct" of the Kansas Battery and expressed regret that "the battery cannot remain with this regiment longer." Captain Pattison, however, expressed dissatisfaction with the organization of the battery. With one platoon in Topeka and the other in Wichita, 170 miles away, it was impossible to drill the battery as a unit except at the annual encampments, the captain complained. That situation was soon remedied and Battery A was reorganized as an all-Topeka unit.

Topekans of the pre-war generation remember Topeka's Battery A in its biennial appearance on the State House grounds where it thunderously acclaimed the incoming Governor on the occasion of his inauguration. At high noon on inaugural day, the old three-point-two's were unlimbered near the south wing of the Capitol. The gun crew awaited a signal from within, indicating that the new Chief Executive had completed his inaugural address. The officer barked an order, and the gunners took their posts. Small boys and other curious spectators were removed to a safe distance, and the guns, one by one, roared their approval of the people's choice. After this raucous 19-gun prelude to a new administration, the guns were taken back to the armory on Jackson Street and packed in grease until the next state occasion. Dummy guns were used in the weekly drills.

Captain Pattison was confronted with a transportation problem when he learned that the schedule of operations for 1910 included an overland hike from Topeka to Fort Riley for the annual encampment. Battery A had only its guns, caissons, and a few escort wagons, which were usually shipped by rail to Fort Riley, where horses were provided by the Regular Army. The resourceful captain mounted his own horse and galloped up and down country roads, calling on farmers of his acquaintance until he had rounded up enough transport animals for the trip.

They were an odd assortment of draft horses, riding horses, and carriage horses of varying size and color. The battery presented a strange appearance as it moved along the old Silver Lake road west of

Topeka that August morning. The town of Silver Lake, 13 miles up the Kaw Valley, was the first overnight stop. The battery moved at a faster pace on the second day and managed to cover the 25 miles between Silver Lake and Wamego. The third day's march brought it to Manhattan, which is only about 12 miles from Pawnee Flats, the destination. Officers from Fort Riley met the National Guardsmen in Manhattan and conducted them to the camp on the following day. The return march was made in approximately the same length of time. Battery officers who made the trip were: Capt. William A. Pattison, 1st Lt. Clarence G. Grimes, 1st Lt. Charles E. Edwards, 2nd Lt. Martin C. Pennekampf, and 2nd Lt. Herbert W. Clayton.

Captain Pattison retired in 1914. He was succeeded by Capt. Clarence G. Grimes, who retired in March, 1916, at which time Capt. John Marshall Hite became battery commander. William P. MacLean and James C. Hughes were the 1st lieutenants, Richard B. Porter and A. C. Bartel, the 2nd lieutenants. Lieutenant MacLean was athletic director of the Topeka public schools and coach of the high school football team. Through his influence several high school athletes enlisted in the battery, including Ed Kennedy, 1915 football captain and Hugh Mac Lean, star half-back and brother of the coach.

The big whistle at the Atchison, Topeka & SantaFe Railway shops had called nearly 5,000 Topekans to and from work for many years, and it was appropriate that its voice should summon the city's soldiers to the armory on June 19, 1916, the day Kansas troops were mobilized for service on the Mexican border. The Topeka Capital of June 20, 1916, described the scene attending the muster of Topeka's artillerymen:

"A long-drawn moan from the Santa Fe whistle at 12:13 o'clock (June 19) woke varying sensations in the hearts of those who heard it. The whistle blew continuously for three minutes and by the time the sound died away nearly every disc on the boards in front of the operators at the telephone office was being flickered by an inquirer, either anxious, curious, or excited.

"But from a hundred Topeka homes there was no telephoning. Those who lived there knew. And from the hearts of many mothers there was an answering moan to that of the big whistle because they knew that their sons were being called to war; that Battery A had received its orders to mobilize.

"Seven miles southeast of Topeka, Charles Baird, a young farmer, was feeding his stock when he heard the whistle. His wife asked him what it meant, and he tried to evade her question by saying that it was noon. Mrs. Baird, doubting, went into the house and looked at her clock, which she knew was on time. Then she realized what the sound meant and came out crying. Baird comforted her, then came to Topeka and reported for duty.

"If there is a war in Mexico, it will not be the riff-raff, the loafers, the men-about-town that Topeka contributes. The names that

Sergeant Frank Wilson checked off as the men reported are the pick of Topeka's young men. To see those clean-cut, upstanding chaps salute and report for duty, their eyes shining with excitement, and not to feel a thrill would have been impossible ...

"Outside the officers' rooms the men gathered in little groups, discussing the prospects of early fighting ... Someone put a record on a phonograph that stands in a corner of the room. It was the same tune that their granddaddies had marched to 55 years ago, - "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are Marching," the tune went, and a gray-haired old man who limped painfully upstairs turned to a window, winking his eyes to keep back the tears. On the lapel of his coat the old man wore a little bronze button.

"The young soldiers were too much engrossed in their own conversation to take notice of any old men ... They were telling each other where they were when they heard the whistle ..."

On the morning of June 23, Battery A marched across the Melan bridge that spans the Kaw River at Kansas Avenue on its way to the Union Pacific depot, where it was to entrain for Fort Riley. The band was blaring the old marching tune, "There'll be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight," a song that was soon to be supplanted in the affections of the Kansas soldiers by "The Old Gray Mare." But the Spanish War tune was preferred on this occasion. In the center of the marching band shuffled an old man with a bronze button in the lapel of his faded blue coat, carrying the flag. "The spirit of 1916," shouted a man in the crowd.

Battery A was mustered into Federal service at Fort Riley, where it camped at Pawnee Flats for several days before boarding the train for Eagle Pass, Texas. After arriving at the border station on July 6, the Kansans were attached to the 3rd Field Artillery Regiment of the Regular Army as a provisional battery. A detachment of Mexican troops were encamped at Pedras Negras, on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, when the battery arrived. The American officers at Eagle Pass expected trouble and they kept their guns trained on Pedras Negras until the Mexican garrison was removed.

Battery A battled with heat, dust, rattlesnakes, tarantulas, centipedes and tropical storms, but it never fired a gun at anything but the targets on the artillery range near Eagle Pass. A sudden windstorm blew down the tents in battery row one summer night, leaving the Kansans exposed to the fury of the rain storm that followed. The same wind, according to Lieutenant MacLean, blew a 1,100-pound mule so far away the animal was never found and the ensuing flood washed away a 1,000-pound anvil. "There were maneuvers, reviews, horse shows, dances and football games (which Battery A always won), bear hunts and long hikes through cactus, dust and prickly pear ... We went through all the practice that was given to the regular batteries, and more than held our own with the best batteries of field artillery in the Regular Army," wrote MacLean.

Battery A was back at Fort Riley on December 16 and all the men were mustered out in time to reach home for Christmas dinner. A few weeks later they appeared before the home folks to fire the gubernatorial salute for Gov. Arthur Capper's second inaugural. It was the last time they were to perform this duty. On August 5, 1917, the battery was again drafted for Federal service and went into camp at the Kansas Free Fair Grounds in Topeka.

Meanwhile, old Battery A had expanded into a complete regiment of field artillery. The Mexican border veterans had been active in recruiting batteries at Lawrence, Kansas City, and Pittsburg. In the spring of 1917, Capt. W. P. MacLean, the new commanding officer, and Lieutenants McFarland and Anderson of the Topeka unit were detailed to Pittsburg to organize the 2nd Battalion of the regiment, consisting of Batteries C and D. "We had parades and special patriotic programs in which school children and all the people of the city assisted ...", said Captain MacLean. "We made many trips by automobile in that section of the State, where I would make speeches and call for recruits and Roy LaFromboise, then bugler of the battery, would blow the various bugle calls and give an interesting and humorous description of the life of a soldier ... Through the assistance of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce, one of the Battery A guns was shipped to Pittsburg and fired in Lincoln Park. Inasmuch as this was the first time a field piece had ever been fired in Pittsburg, it added great interest to the campaign ..."

Father Pompey, pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Pittsburg, was an energetic volunteer in the recruiting service. The patriotic priest stumped Crawford County, urging members of his church to enlist. "Many are kept out of this battery by flat feet," he said, "but more are kept out because of flat heads and cold feet." He made several efforts to enlist, but was rejected because of his advanced age.

At Kansas City, Kansas, where Battery E was organized, the guns were unlimbered in City Park. A few rounds were fired, and LaFromboise blew his bugle. As the crowd gathered, Battery A officers mounted a platform and called for volunteers. A trip through Osage County brought recruits for a headquarters and supply company. On July 4, its recruiting duties successfully terminated, Battery A went to McPherson, Kansas, where it assisted in the dedication of a statute of Gen. James B. McPherson and was reviewed by Lt. Gen. Nelson A. Miles.

Organization of the 1st Regiment, Kansas Field Artillery, was completed with the recognition of Battery F of Wichita on July 13. The official roster of the regiment when it was drafted into Federal service on August 5 follows:

Field and Staff:

Col. Hugh Means
Lt. Col. Bruce Griffith
Maj. William A. Pattison
Maj. Roy F. Waring

Capt. Richard B. Porter
Capt. Clarence G. Grimes
Capt. Martin C. Pennekamp
1st. Lt. Earl A. Blackman, Chaplain

Headquarters Company, Topeka

Capt. Arthur M. Mills
1st Lt. Frank H. McFarland
Dr. T. S. Morrison, Band Director

Supply Company, Topeka

Capt. Thomas A. Mayhew
1st Lt. Benjamin H. Porter

Battery A, Topeka

Capt. William P. MacLean
1st Lt. Paul T. McFarland
1st Lt. Nels Anderson
2nd Lt. Donald F. McKee
2nd Lt. Hugh A. MacLean

Battery B, Lawrence

Capt. John S. Amick
1st Lt. Charles E. Edwards
1st Lt. Dana T. Jennings
2nd Lt. Ralph H. Spotts
2nd Lt. John F. Troutman

Battery C, Pittsburg

Capt. James C. Hughes
1st Lt. Hal Curran
1st Lt. Peter L. Zickgraf
2nd Lt. John Broadlick
2nd Lt. John H. Blair

Battery D, Pittsburg

Capt. William H. Brady
1st. Lt. C. A. Burnett
1st Lt. Dwight A. Pomeroy
2nd Lt. Gerald B. Fenton
2nd Lt. William W. Bass

Battery E, Kansas City

Capt. Phil S. Hoyt
1st Lt. Early W. Poindexter
1st Lt. Frederick H. Olander
2nd Lt. Roger L. Barker
2nd Lt. Glenn A. Russell

Battery F, Wichita

Capt. B. E. Sauers
1st Lt. Frank T. Priest
1st Lt. Samuel W. Wooley
2nd Lt. Erwin R. Bleckley
2nd Lt. Bert Simons

Medical Detachment, Topeka

1st Lt. C. C. Lull

Battery F, last to be organized, was first to leave its home station for Camp Doniphan, Oklahoma. The Wichita men entrained on Sunday, August 26, to arrive at their destination on the Fort Sill Reservation the following morning. On October 1 the 1st Kansas Field Artillery was concentrated at Camp Doniphan, and was redesignated as the 130th Field Artillery Regiment of the 60th Field Artillery Brigade. Brig. Gen. Lucien Berry was the brigade commander as well as acting 35th Division commander during the temporary absence of Maj. Gen. William C. Wright.

Before Battery A left Topeka for Camp Doniphan, Hugh MacLean and Donald McKee, 2nd lieutenants, with 21 enlisted men, were transferred to the 117th Ammunition Train of the Rainbow Division. The Topeka officers were replaced at Camp Doniphan by Lieutenants M. A. Stuart and Victor J. Wagner, both Californians. There were numerous changes in personnel at the training camp. Colonel Means was sent to an officers school, and Major Pattison became temporary commander of the regiment, but that veteran officer was relieved from active duty before the end of the training period. Meanwhile, Lt. Col. R. T. Ellis of the Regular Army succeeded to the command.

Not long after they arrived at Doniphan, the 130th's cannoneers learned that they were destined to make louder thunder than the 128th and 129th Regiments of the 60th Brigade. The two Missouri regiments were to be equipped with French 75's, modern counterparts of the old three-point-two's, but the 130th was to fire the heavier 155-MM howitzers. This change from light to heavy field artillery necessitated increasing the battery strength from 190 to 220 enlisted men and a number of selectees were sent down from Camp Funston. At first, the volunteer national guardsmen resented their new comrades and held themselves aloof, but the drafted men proved themselves good soldiers and were soon accepted by the rank and file.

The 35th Division overseas detail, organized in March, 1918, was a detachment composed largely of artillerymen and engineers. The artillery section was commanded by Maj. Roy Waring, and Lt. Frank Priest of Battery F was placed in command of the men from the 130th in the detachment. The unit left Camp Doniphan on March 20 and embarked from Hoboken on the U.S.S. George Washington 10 days later. In France the artillerymen, 250 in number, formed a detachment under Lt. Paul T. McFarland, former Battery A officer, and were sent to a French artillery

school, where, as one non-commissioned officer expressed it, "We were told to forget everything we had learned at Camp Doniphan and learn to fire by the improved French methods." Officers and men who took the advanced courses were detailed as instructors when the 60th Brigade arrived.

The 130th was one of the last regiments to leave Camp Doniphan. The Kansans entrained on May 9, arrived at Camp Mills on May 14, and sailed on the Ceramic on May 19. On the morning of May 31 the transport docked at Liverpool, from whence the regiment took a fast train ride to a rest camp near Romsey, in the south of England. On June 6, the 130th marched under full pack to Southampton beneath a blazing sun in the belief that they would immediately embark for France. Arriving at Southampton, the weary artillerymen found that "someone had blundered." They were not scheduled to cross that night, so the column wheeled about and marched back to Romsey. On June 8 they marched back to Southampton, and this time they found a transport waiting. The night crossing of the channel was uneventful.

At the port of Le Havre, the Kansans first set their aching feet on French soil, just in time, they learned with disgust, to take part in a review before Brand Whitlock, U. S. Ambassador to Belgium. Le Hayre was then the provisional Belgian capital. Gas masks were issued to the men during their brief stay. The next destination was Angers on the river Loire, which was found to be a city where soldiers on leave could thoroughly enjoy themselves, according to their tastes. The troops were billeted in nearby villages.

Battery B was quartered at the village of Le Plessis where the Lawrence men were the first American troops the residents of that quiet village had ever seen. The battery had a special fascination for the villagers because it had a large number of Indians, former students of Haskell Institute, in its ranks. The roster included such colorful names as Kalama, Bear, Blackbird, Dove, Half-Moon, Killbuck, Peacock, Pepper, Romero, Sockey, Yardy, Deer and Spotted Horse. Many of the braves were sons of tribal chieftains. The battery was billeted in a bowling alley, which was quickly emptied one evening when Sockey and Spotted Horse, having imbibed too much cognac, started a fight. The Indians decided to settle their differences quickly, and each seized his rifle to shoot it out. Spotted Horse's shot smashed Sockey's weapon at the stock, knocking it from his hands. "When the men inside the bowling alley heard the shots . . . they started for somewhere away from there, taking all doors, fences and other obstructions with them," wrote Captain MacLean, commander of Battery B at the time, "they had come to France to be killed by Germans, not by Indians, and they flattened out a 3-acre field of wheat. It cost 300 francs to square it with the French people." Neither of the belligerents was injured.

At Angers the regiment was joined by the overseas detail, and Lt. Col. Roy Waring, who had recently been promoted, assumed command. The 155's arrived in a few days, but the regiment was still without transport

animals, and a detail was organized to purchase horses from the French farmers in the area. This task completed, the 130th entrained for Coetquidan on July 13, where it was to receive 30 days of instruction in the use of the new French 155's.

On August 13, the regiment entrained for the front. Since late in June the 35th Division infantry had been occupying a sector in the Vosges Mountains, supported by French artillery. The 1st Battalion, Batteries A and B, arrived at Gerardmer, a pleasant resort city in the pine-clad mountains, on August 15 and went into position on that sector. The 2nd and 3rd battalions left the trains at Cornimont, south of Gerardmer, and moved across the old international boundary into Alsace, occupying an area near the towns of Kruth and Oderin. From these bases, batteries C, D, E, and F moved into position near Bussat on August 21.

While the 130th was in the mountain sector, it fired 1,059 shells into the villages behind the German trenches. The regiment was commanded during its brief stay on the Vosges front by Lt. Col. James T. Wilson. On September 1 the 35th Division infantry was relieved by units of the 6th Division and the 60th Artillery Brigade was relieved by the French artillery. The next three weeks were a prolonged nightmare to the men of the division. As the 130th moved out of the mountains, Colonel Wilson was removed by order of General Berry and replaced by Maj. William W. Thurston, one of the California officers who had joined the regiment at Camp Doniphan. Major Thurston had been in command of the 1st battalion. The village of St. Amie was the next stop.

From St. Amie the regiment began a seemingly endless succession of night marches in the rain. Days were passed in musty billets or in pup tents on the sodden ground. On the night of September 11 the regiment entered the city of Nancy, en route to the Foret de Haye, where the division was to be held in reserve for the impending St. Mihiel offensive. For three hours the column was stalled in the heart of the city, while troops up ahead unsnarled their tangled formations. Rain fell in steady downpour. At daybreak the regiment moved into the Foret de Haye, a wooded area near Nancy, where the men pitched their pup tents in the mud and camped for several days while the battle of St. Mihiel was in progress. After the salient was flattened without its help, the 35th Division moved on to its next and biggest objective, the penetration of the Hindenburg Line in the Mouse-Argonne sector.

On the night of September 22 the 130th Field Artillery moved its 155's into position at Fornicourt, in the Foret de Hesse. Great difficulty was encountered in occupying this concealed position on a wooded hill-top. The French plow horses purchased at Angers were not equal to the gruelling work of pulling the heavy gun carriages, many of them fell exhausted by the roadside and were shot. The slope of the hill was slippery from continuous rain and officers concluded it would be folly to expect the tired horses to pull the guns up the incline. Men, 80 or 90 to a gun, relieved the animals and laboriously hauled the heavy engines of destruction into position.

There, in the rain-swept wood, the guns were massed, a part of the greatest artillery concentration ever known to that date. Opposite the 130th's position were the ruined villages of Boureuilles and Petit Boureuilles, near the front line trenches. To the right of the ruins and a short distance behind the German lines, loomed Vauquois Hill, a strongly fortified elevation, often called the "key to the Hindenburg Line." Numerous attempts by the French to capture Vauquois had been thrown back with heavy loss and the poilus regarded it as impregnable. This time, the allied command had prepared an artillery attack designed to blast the hill almost from its base.

While the 130th waited for the zero hour and the enlisted men of the regiment toiled up the muddy hill with ammunition, the Germans shelled the American lines sporadically. Several men were victims of this searching fire. Pvt. Ike Hunter of Battery B, killed on the night of September 24, was the first man of the regiment to die in action. For three long days and nights the regiment waited tensely in the wood.

The attack was scheduled to begin at 5:30 in the morning of September 26, preceded by a 3-hour artillery barrage. Everything was in readiness, the problem of the fire had been figured by candle light in the officers' dugouts and the data relayed to the chiefs of the gun sections. Each gunner, forgetful of his long, sleepless vigil, eagerly awaited the word. At 2:30 A.M. the command rang out sharply in the darkness. "Fire!" The black silence was blasted by the ear-splitting clamor of guns. High explosive shells from the 155's pounded the steel and concrete fortifications of the "impregnable Vauquois," interspersed by whining shrapnel and the hollow "plop" of the treacherous gas shells. Pandemonium broke loose along a front of 20 miles, continuing with unabated fury for three hours. At 5:30 the barrage lifted and the hellish din subsided. Vauquois was well pulverized and the infantry quickly rounded up the cowed survivors of its garrison as they crouched in shattered dugouts. The dough-boys went on, while the 130th harnessed their horses to the gun carriages and prepared to follow in the wake of the advance.

In reviewing the opening phases of the great offensive, General Berry said: "As the history of these past events comes out, particularly from the German side, it appears that the conviction of defeat of that nation arose as a consequence of the successes gained on September 27 and 28, 1918, in the Argonne offensive. On the left of the American line, in the First Army Corps, the only break in the German rear line (the line they evidently intended to hold) was made by the 35th Division, largely through the good work of my command, which included the 130th Field Artillery."

As the infantry fought its way forward, the 130th slowly moved along the Boureuilles-Varennes road, which was choked with traffic -- ammunition wagons, supply trucks, ambulances, and German prisoners. The heavy artillery could not move across country in the soft terrain and had to keep to the road, while the lighter 75's cut through the fields and reached their new positions on the afternoon of the 26th. German mines had made great craters in the road near Varennes, and the

engineers were working feverishly under shell fire to build a detour. The 130th was stalled until the temporary road was built and a damaged bridge across the Aire River at Varennes was repaired. Nevertheless, the regiment entered Varennes on the morning of the 27th, 12 hours after the town had been captured by the infantry.

Less than 30 minutes after the 155's rolled into the town, they were in position and firing. From its position in Varennes the 130th fired 5,053 shells. The guns had an accurate range of 12,000 meters and pounded the German lines of communication unmercifully. Ammunition and supply trains were blown up, advancing columns of reserve infantry were scattered, buildings used as observation points were demolished. The regiment was cited in a divisional order for its assistance in repelling the German counter attack near Exermont.

On the night of September 30 the infantry brigades of the 35th were relieved by the 1st Division but the artillery remained in action throughout the next day, aiding the 1st Division infantry in its attack. For this assistance Maj. Gen. C. F. Summerall, commanding the 1st Division, expressed his appreciation and commended General Berry for his personal leadership of the 60th Brigade.

The 130th lost 5 men killed in action and 31 wounded. A large percent of the casualties occurred at Varennes, where the artillery was subjected to severe bombing attacks from German airplanes. Five men died of disease while the regiment was in service.

The 130th started back on the night of October 2, reached the Bois de la Challade on October 3 and camped there for the rest of that day. Two days later the column reached the village of Hargeville, where there were rest billets. It rained every day and the barns were damp and vermin-infested but the weary men enjoyed a week of rest in the dreary little town. On the night of October 12 the regiment took to the road again, moving in a succession of night marches to the Sommedieue sector, southeast of Verdun. The 35th Division infantry occupied the trenches in this relatively quiet sector until early November, when they were relieved by the 81st "Wildcat" Division, an untried outfit. The 60th Field Artillery Brigade remained in position to support the Wildcats and provide a barrage for the infantry regiments of that division when they went over the top on November 9. The Armistice of November 11 ended the advance of the 81st Division, after the Southerners had suffered rather heavy losses. The 130th became a mechanized regiment before leaving the sector.

Col. Hugh S. Brown replaced Major Thurston as regimental commander on November 1. The new colonel was an efficient artillery officer and became very popular with his men.

On January 28, 1919, the regiment joined the 35th Division in the Commercy area. There the division, including the 130th, was reviewed by Gen. John J. Pershing and the Prince of Wales. Two weeks after the review, which took place on February 17, the regiment entrained for the

Le Mans embarkation area. There Colonel Brown was reassigned and Lt. Col. Thurston was promoted to colonel, succeeding to the command. Battle standards of the regiment were decorated at Brest by General Berry on April 6. The 130th boarded the U.S.S. Mobile four days later, although the ship did not sail until April 13, and reached New York harbor on April 23, where the Kansans were met by a large delegation from the Sunflower State.

From New York the regiment went west in two sections. The Headquarters Company, with Batteries A, B, and E, left in one train so that these units might parade in Kansas City, Lawrence, and Topeka. The Supply Company and Batteries C, D, and F took the second train for Pittsburg and Wichita. The parade in Topeka on May 8 was featured by the greatest welcoming since the 20th Kansas came home in 1899. The all-Kansas 137th Infantry was in the line of march, which was headed by Col. W. McD. Rowan and Capt. Arthur Mills. The 130th Band, led by Dr. T. S. Morrison, played the "Old Gray Mare," while 100,000 persons, nearly twice the normal population of Topeka, jammed the streets. Pittsburg and Wichita also staged colorful celebrations for their artillerymen.

The first section of the regiment arrived at Camp Funston on May 8 and the men received their discharges on May 9 and 10. The Pittsburg and Wichita batteries were mustered out at Funston on May 11. So the long trail ended for the men of old Battery A near Pawnee Flats, where those veterans of the 130th regiment had been mustered into Federal service for the Mexican border nearly three years before. To the other units of the regiment, mustered in at their home stations and trained at Camp Doniphan, Camp Funston was previously unknown.

Plans for the reorganization of the Kansas National Guard in 1920 included a battalion of field artillery, and a group of World War veterans at Hutchinson immediately set the machinery in motion for organizing three batteries in that city and in other communities of Reno County. Batteries A, B, and C were recruited and recognized during the summer, and the Salt City thus became one of the most important military stations in Kansas. The official roster for 1920 was:

Battalion Headquarters

Maj. Guy C. Rexroed, Commanding
Capt. Robert A. Campbell, Adjutant

Battery A. Hutchinson

Capt. John H. Grant
1st Lt. Leslie L. Shawhan
1st Lt. William M. Johnson
2nd Lt. John A. Mead
2nd Lt. (vacancy)

Battery B, Hutchinson

Capt. William F. McFarland
1st Lt. Martin A. Aelmore
1st Lt. Richard B. Hall
2nd Lt. Stephen G. Fairchild
2nd Lt. James E. Baker

Battery C, Hutchinson

Capt. Stuart Simmons
1st Lt. Donald Shaffer
1st Lt. Ira P. Jones
2nd Lt. Harold O. Sluder
2nd Lt. Thomas R. Brandt

The battalion was designated as the 1st Battalion, Field Artillery, K.N.G.

Major Rexroad, the commanding officer, had been in the Kansas National Guard since 1908, when he enlisted as a private in the old 2nd Regiment. He served as a 2nd lieutenant on the Mexican border in 1916. During the World War he was a captain in the 137th Infantry and the 140th Infantry. Captain Campbell, the battalion adjutant, was a veteran of the Spanish-American and World Wars. Capt. John H. Grant of Battery A had served as a sergeant with the 140th Infantry of the 35th Division; Lieutenants Shawhan and Johnson were former members of the 137th Infantry during the World War, and Lieutenant John A. Mead served with a coast artillery regiment.

Capt. William F. McFarland of Battery B and Lt. Donald Shaffer of Battery C served in the A.E.F. with the 110th Field Signal Battalion, which was commanded by Maj. M. R. McLean, now (1941) Adjutant General of Kansas. Capt. Stuart Simmons of Battery C was an enlisted man in the 160th Depot Brigade, Lt. Harold Sluder was a corporal of engineers, and Lt. Thomas Brandt was a sailor in the United States Navy during the World War.

A full regiment of artillery was authorized for Kansas on December 13, 1920, and three new batteries were recruited at Northeast Kansas stations. Battery D, Sabetha; Battery E, Hiawatha; and Battery F, Troy; were recognized by the Adjutant General early in January, 1921. A Headquarters Battery, Service Battery, and Combat Train were organized during the spring and summer. Col. Willie McD. Rowan, veteran Kansas National Guard officer and World War commander of the 110th Military Police, was appointed colonel of the new regiment, Lt. Col. Leigh Hunt was the Executive Officer. The Rev. Earl A. Blackman, World War chaplain of the 130th, returned to his old position with the rank of 1st lieutenant. The regiment was horse-drawn and equipped with 75-MM guns.

In 1921 the War Department announced a policy of perpetuating the World War regiments, and the Kansas Field Artillery was redesignated as the 130th Field Artillery on November 4. Colonel Rowan was promoted to brigadier general on January 8, 1923, to command the reorganized 60th Field Artillery Brigade, Lt. Col. Leigh Hunt succeeding him as commander

of the 130th. The official roster of the regiment in 1923 was as follows:

Headquarters, Partridge

Col. Leigh Hunt, Commanding
Lt. Col. Guy C. Rexroad, Executive
Capt. Don Shaffer, Adjutant
Capt. Grover C. Freeman
1st Lt. Joseph C. Rauh
Capt. Earl A. Blackman, Chaplain

Headquarters Battery, Salina

(Recognized August 10, 1921)

Capt. Ward P. Holly
1st Lt. Edmund Morganstern

Service Battery, Hiawatha

(Recognized April 18, 1922)

Capt. Bion B. Bierer
1st Lt. Warren G. Cook
2nd Lt. Horace W. Amann
2nd Lt. Charles Lamme, Jr.

1st Battalion, Headquarters, Hutchinson

Maj. Albert S. Bigelow, Commanding
Capt. Thomas R. Brandt, Adjutant
1st Lt. Earl P. Friedlove
1st Lt. Harold O. Sluder

Headquarters Detachment, Hutchinson

Combat Train, Sterling

(Recognized August 13, 1921)

Capt. Warren V. Woody
1st Lt. Floyd W. Ross

Headquarters Detachment, Hutchinson (Continued)

2nd Lt. Verne Calvert

Battery A, Hutchinson

(Recognized August 7, 1920)

Capt. Charles J. Jackson
1st Lt. Bruce V. Davis
1st Lt. Lyburne L. Howell
2nd Lt. Thomas J. Dygard

Battery B, Hutchinson

(Recognized July 21, 1920)

Capt. Durward J. Wilson
1st Lt. Charles S. Raffington
1st Lt. A. L. Fenn
2nd Lt. Willard Walsh

2nd Battalion, Headquarters, Hiawatha

Maj. Ralph H. Love
Capt. Henry J. Weltmer
1st Lt. John H. Lamb
1st Lt. Marcellus Black

Headquarters Detachment and Combat Train, Horton
(Recognized April 12, 1921)

Capt. Merle Z. Wilson
1st Lt. Ellis G. Christensen
2nd Lt. Hugh Belden

Battery D, Sabetha
(Recognized January 12, 1921)

Capt. John E. Gardiner
1st Lt. James W. Cavender
2nd Lt. (Vacancy)

Battery E, Hiawatha
(Recognized January 13, 1921)

Capt. Allen R. Andrews
1st Lt. Frank W. Sterns
1st Lt. Harvey W. Kinzie
2nd Lt. Raymond A. Nevin

Battery F, Troy
(Recognized January 14, 1921)

Capt. Roy V. Van Beber
1st Lt. (Vacancy)
1st Lt. Ralph H. Rhudy
2nd Lt. (Vacancy)

Medical Detachment, Hutchinson
(Recognized August 7, 1920)

Maj. Edward K. Lawrence
Capt. Boyd L. Geever
Capt. Ascale A. Roseboom
Capt. E. J. Jones
1st Lt. Lawrence S. Nelson

Colonel Pratt resigned on April 12, 1928, and Lieutenant Colonel Rexroad was promoted to colonel and elevated to the command of the 130th on April 19. The regimental coat of arms and shield were approved by the War Department on January 8, 1929. The shield, which every officer and enlisted man in the regiment is entitled to wear, is red for artillery, and has a gold band from the arms of Lorraine, indicating that the regiment served in that province in the World War. The embattling to chief indicates the capture of Vauquois Hill. Three fleurs-de-lis symbolize the regiment's battle honors -- Alsace, Lorraine and Meuse-Argonne. A coiled rattle-snake represents service on the Mexican border. The regimental motto is Semper Parvo Meliores, which translated means, "Always a little better."

After the annual encampment of 1931, the regiment received a full measure of praise from the Board of Regular Army Officers. Attending the encampment and the maneuvers were a part of the two-weeks' program. Especially commended by the board for their efficiency and application to duty were Col. Guy C. Rexroad, Lt. Col. William F. McFarland, Maj. Henry J. Weltmer, commanding the 2nd Battalion; and Lt. James Cody, Plans and Training officer for the 2nd Battalion. The 130th reported 99.15 percent of its personnel in camp, which the Regular Army officers regarded as a tribute to the leadership of their colonel. The 130th also led the regiments of the Kansas National Guard in attendance at regular drill sessions for three consecutive years, 1931, 1932 and 1933.

On July 1, 1933, the 130th disposed of its horses and was redesignated as a truck-drawn field artillery regiment. Transport trucks of one and one-half tons capacity and station wagons or reconnaissance cars were issued.

The 130th was mobilized for active service on December 23, 1940, and was sent with the other units of the 60th Field Artillery Brigade and the 35th Division to Camp Robinson, Arkansas, for intensive training. The regiment arrived at the big tent camp near Little Rock early in January, 1941. The official roster of the regiment when it was mobilized during the 1940 Christmas holidays was as follows:

Field and Staff

Col. Guy C. Rexroad
Lt. Col. Albert S. Bigelow
Capt. Joseph C. Rauh
Capt. Horace W. Amann
Capt. Joseph H. Chillington
1st Lt. Waldo E. Aikins
2nd Lt. Forrest K. Straub
1st Lt. Phillip W. Smyth

Headquarters Battery, Salina
(Less supply and maintenance platoon)

Capt. John T. Hoyne
1st Lt. Herman F. Schuster

Regimental Supply and Maintenance Platoon
Headquarters Battery, Hiawatha

1st Lt. John R. Moyer
2nd Lt. Chester C. Ingels

Band, Hiawatha

William C. Harnack, Warrant Officer

Headquarters 1st Battalion, Hutchinson

Maj. Harvey R. Rankin
Maj. Elmer L. Lentz
1st Lt. Konrad C. Beck
1st Lt. Harlin L. Fenn
Capt. Lylburne M. Howell

Headquarters Battery 1st Battalion, Sterling
Capt. Thomas W. Ross
1st Lt. Ray K. Green
2nd Lt. Charles G. Bennett

Battery A, Hutchinson
Capt. William N. Pearce
1st Lt. Desmond P. Wilson
2nd Lt. Ralph B. Coffin

Battery B, Hutchinson
Capt. Floyd R. Abbott
1st Lt. E. R. Lord
2nd Lt. John W. Bennett
2nd Lt. John K. Houston

Battery C, Hutchinson
Capt. Alva L. Fenn
1st Lt. Denzil R. Lowe
2nd Lt. Norman F. Abbott
2nd Lt. Russell D. Hughes

Headquarters 2nd Battalion, Hiawatha
Lt. Col. Henry J. Weltmer
Maj. Bion B. Bierer
Capt. David L. Hilton
1st Lt. Samuel Myers
1st Lt. Joseph C. Meek

Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, Troy
Capt. Charles W. Oliver
1st Lt. Forrest H. Hagenbuch
2nd Lt. David W. Simpson

Battery D, Sabetha
Capt. James W. Cavender
2nd Lt. Clyde H. Bloxsom
2nd Lt. Ray L. Pittenger
2nd Lt. Vernon L. Dillaplain

Battery E, Hiawatha
Capt. Jerome J. Meisenheimer
1st Lt. Harry E. Miller
2nd Lt. James C. Hubbard, Jr.
2nd Lt. Tom Montgomery

Battery F, Horton
Capt. John H. Lamb
1st Lt. Kenneth H. Reed
2nd Lt. William H. Myers
2nd Lt. Charles H. Browne, Jr.

Medical Detachment, Hutchinson

Maj. Edward K. Lawrence

Capt. Jacob A. Pinsker

Capt. Ira J. Jones

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