

Parkhill (C.) & Kemble (L. H.)

THE
LEADVILLE
CAMPAIGN

A PAPER PRESENTED TO THE
ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY SURGEONS
OF THE UNITED STATES,

AND REPRINTED FROM THE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
SEVENTH ANNUAL
MEETING.

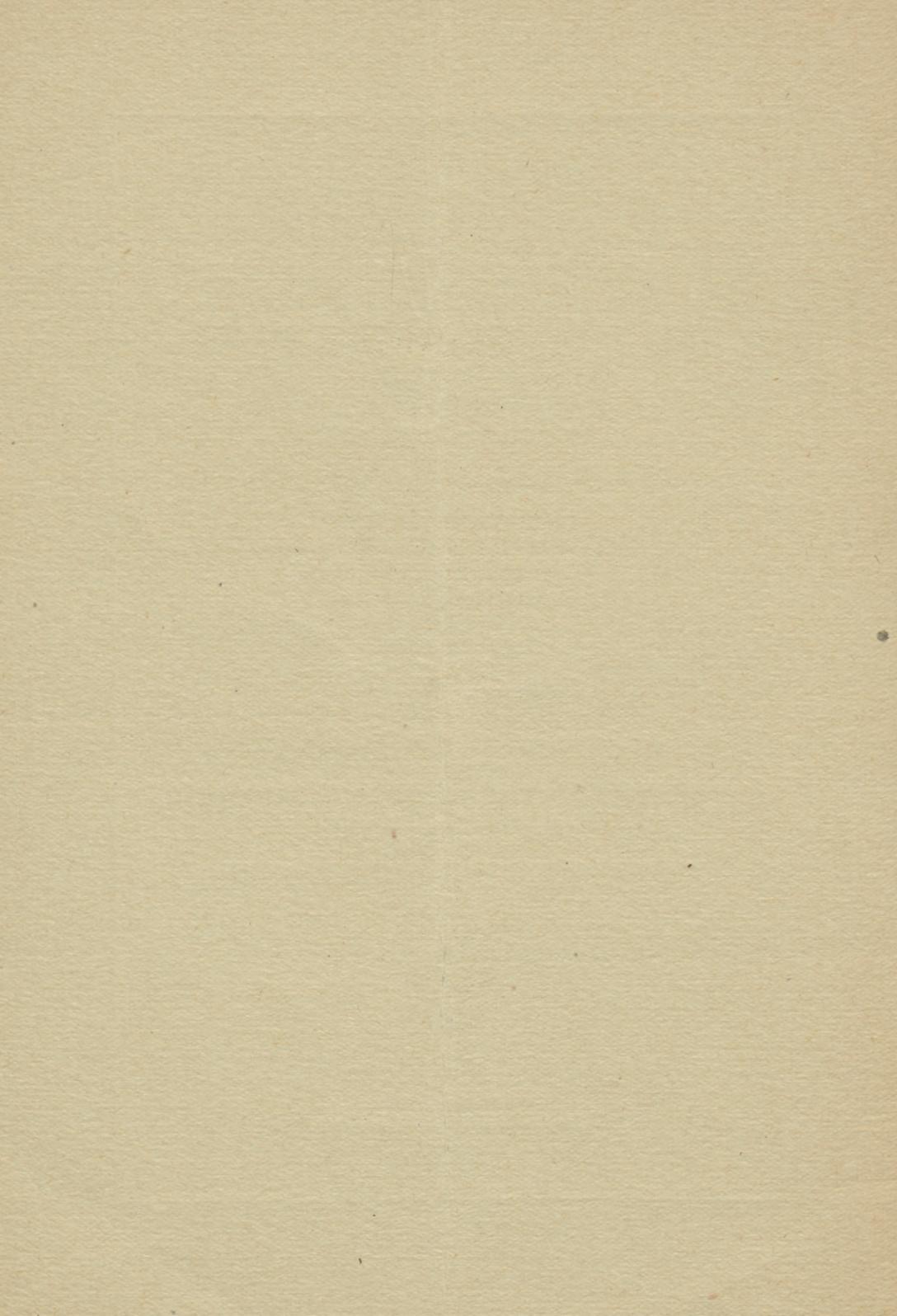
BY COLONEL CLAYTON PARKHILL,
DENVER, COL.
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF COLORADO.

AND MAJOR L. H. KEMBLE,
DENVER, COL.
SURGEON IN THE NATIONAL GUARD OF COLORADO.



COLUMBUS, OHIO :
BERLIN PRINTING COMPANY.
1897.

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ON June 15, 1896, the Cloud City Miners' Union, of Leadville, declared a strike. This strike is supposed to have involved about three thousand men, with the result that work in all the mines, both of gold and silver in that district, was practically suspended. No agreement could be reached between the mine managers and the striking miners, and on the night of the 20th of September, 1896, an attack was made upon the Coronado and Emmet mines.

The Coronado is located three blocks from the center of the city of Leadville and consisted of a shaft house, a pumping plant and a trestle about twenty-five feet in height, extending across the street to the adjoining block, on which the refuse of the mine was dumped. The mine was guarded by about a dozen men armed with Winchester rifles, and shot guns loaded with buckshot. Inasmuch as there had been rumors of an attack upon the property it had been surrounded by a stockade of heavy pine boards about eight feet high. It is impossible to accurately determine the number of men who made the attack, but it has been estimated at several hundred. They were armed principally with Marlin and Winchester rifles of the latest pattern and heavy calibre, and also with dynamite bombs. The attack began about midnight and lasted about one hour and it is supposed that many thousands of shots were fired. Finally a dynamite bomb exploded the oil tank and ignited the building. The defenders in order to escape were obliged to pass along the trestle above described and leap to the "dump," some ten or twelve feet below. This was lit up by the fire and in full view of the attacking party.

The only casualty among those defending the mine was the loss of a toe by one of the men. A fireman was shot and killed while in discharge of his duty in attempting to put out the flames. The fire was finally controlled, after a large part of the property had been destroyed.

Following this the attacking party proceeded to the Emmet mine, a distance of a mile from the Coronado, and made an attack



Fig. 1.—Camp McIntire, Leadville, Colorado, from a Photograph.

upon it. In addition to the weapons which they had used in attacking the Coronado, they had a cannon of home manufacture. It consisted of about five feet of three-inch iron pipe, inserted into a four-inch iron pipe, the interspace being filled with Babbitt metal. This was secured in a crevice of the rocks above the shaft house and fired from that position. It was loaded with chain and scrap iron and was aimed at the oil tank, but fortunately did no more damage than tearing a hole through both sides of the building. The attack lasted about an hour. The attacking party in the two

engagements lost six men killed, but accurate information could not be obtained in regard to the number of wounded.

Upon receiving information of these attacks, Governor McIntire ordered out the entire National Guard of the State. This consisted of one brigade of two regiments of infantry, one troop of cavalry and one battery of artillery. Within twenty-four hours 653 men had reported for duty.

The campaign which followed, lasting 172 days, was remarkable in several respects. It was the longest campaign that the National Guard of any State has endured as an organization. The camps at the Ibex and Resurrection mines were the highest ever occupied by any troops in the world. No troops, either State or National, in this country have ever experienced a campaign of such length at such an altitude. Notwithstanding the very arduous duties imposed upon the men, the number unfit for duty on account of illness or injury was remarkably small.

The city of Leadville has an altitude of 10,250 feet. The area guarded by the troops was practically ten miles square. This country is exceedingly rugged and mountainous. The main camp was located in the city of Leadville, and was called "Camp McIntire." Other camps were established at a number of the principal mines. The properties guarded in this district with their distance from camp and their altitude is as follows:

NAME.	DISTANCE.	ALTITUDE.
Ibex	5 miles.	11500 feet.
Resurrection	7 "	11500 "
Herman Lease	4 "	11250 "
Emmet	2 "	10500 "
The R. A. M.	2 "	10700 "
The Bohn	1 "	10200 "
The Bon Air	1 "	10175 "
The Last Chip	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	10325 "
The Bison	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	10350 "
Delantis, Nos. 1 and 2	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	10250 "
Powder Magazine	1 "	10075 "
Maid of Erin	$1\frac{3}{4}$ "	10450 "
Penrose	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	10275 "

Camps were established at the Ibex, the Maid of Erin, the Emmet and at the Resurrection a part of the time.

When it is considered that this campaign was made in the winter; that at times the temperature was as low as fifteen to

twenty degrees below zero; that the snow at times had a depth of from two to five feet; that the majority of the members of the guard came from much lower altitudes, ranging from 4,000 to 5,000 feet, some conception may be had of its trials and difficulties.

The troops were ordered out about midnight on a Sunday, consequently many of them had no opportunity to properly clothe themselves for such an experience. They arrived in camp with thin shoes and linen or cotton underclothing. They were illy prepared to make camp in the cold rain and mud which greeted them in Leadville. Many of them were on duty continuously for two days and a half. These duties consisted in marching to the various properties which have been mentioned and standing guard over them in absolutely exposed positions. The quartermaster and commissary departments were entirely unable to properly clothe and feed the men at first, consequently they were fed at the Hotel Vendome for a few days. The facilities of the hotel were limited and the food was poor and imperfectly cooked. It was impossible during the first few days to provide bedding for the men in their tents. Straw and hay could not be procured, so the only protection they had were their blankets on the cold, muddy ground. Notwithstanding all these disadvantages the record for health was remarkable. These conditions were quickly altered by the efficiency and energy of Adjutant General Cassius M. Moses. Too much praise cannot be given him for the excellent way in which he clothed and fed the men. Warm woolen underclothing, which later included sweaters, caps, overshoes and gloves, were rapidly procured. When the weather became more severe sentry boxes were furnished at the main camp, each containing a stove. No man was permitted to walk his beat unless provided with overshoes. The commissary department was equally well equipped. The meats were cooked in Buzzacotts. All the supplies were of excellent quality. The men at outlying camps were provided with shelter and sleeping quarters in the mine buildings.

Three cases of gunshot injury and one of bayonet wound are of interest. Captain McGwire, while bearing an order to Denver, stepped from a moving train at Burnham, Colorado. He was thrown forward and his left foot was caught under the car wheels and was completely crushed. He was removed to St. Luke's Hospital, Denver, and it was found necessary to amputate the leg at

the junction of the lower with the middle third. His recovery was satisfactory and complete.

Sergeant Hamilton, of G Company, Second Regiment, while acting as Corporal of the Guard, was fired upon by mistake at a distance of about 250 yards. The shot was from a Springfield rifle and penetrated the left patella, taking a course backward and outward, crushing the external condyle in its way and finding exit at the inner side of the tendon of the biceps. He was conveyed to St. Luke's Hospital in Leadville and a careful antiseptic dressing applied. At the end of forty-eight hours he was removed to St. Luke's Hospital in Denver in order to secure better facilities for treatment. The joint was opened and the comminuted fragments of the outer condyle removed together with large quantities of blood clots. The explosive force of the bullet had been terrific. The joint was drained, a sterile dressing applied and the extremity placed in a plaster splint. His recovery from the operation was entirely satisfactory and very rapid. There was no infection of the wound. At the end of two months new bone had apparently re-formed to take the place of the condyle which had been destroyed, but there remained a cavity half an inch in diameter and three-fourths of an inch in depth. Some motion was present in the joint. At this time he was transferred to Alton, Ill., in order that he might spend the remaining time of convalescence with the members of his family.

Private Bonner, of C Company, of the First Regiment Infantry, received a gunshot wound by the accidental discharge of his pistol while in the holster on his hip. The pistol was of the Colt pattern, 32 calibre. The bullet entered the left popliteal space on the outer side of the inner hamstring muscles and passed downward and forward, striking the inner side of the fibula, where it was slightly diverted from its course, and lodged finally quite superficially four inches above the ankle joint. It carried with it a patch of the pantaloons and another of the drawers. It was dressed antiseptically at the camp hospital, and he was transferred to St. Luke's Hospital in Denver for further treatment. The fragments of clothing carried with the bullet gave rise to infection of the wound and necessitated operation. The entire tract of the wound was laid open and the bullet removed. The infection rapidly cleared up and his progress to recovery was perfect.

Private Cramer, of C Company, Second Regiment, dropped his rifle and the piece was discharged. The bullet entered the lower border of the pectoralis major muscle and found exit at the outer third of the clavicle. The wound was superficial and under antiseptic dressing healed satisfactorily.

Sergeant Wilson, of K Company, while climbing over a high stockade slipped and fell upon his bayonet which, contrary to instruction, was fixed upon his rifle. The bayonet entered at the lower border of the left pectoralis major muscle and emerged at the tip of the acromion process. The shoulder joint was not penetrated and no important structures were involved. Under careful dressing the wound healed perfectly.

Below will be found a tabulated statement showing the diseases from which the men suffered in this campaign, the number of cases of each, the duration of each and the period of disability, as shown by the hospital records:

DISEASE.	NO. OF CASES.	DAYS SICK.	TERMINATION.
Alcoholism	1	1	Recovered.
Bilious	2	1	"
"	1	3	"
"	1	3	"
Bronchitis	1	3	Furloughed.
"	2		"
"	1	1	Recovered.
"	2	6	"
"	1	9	"
"	1	10	"
"	1	12	"
Catarrh, (Chronic).....	1	17	Improved.
" (Nasal).....	1	3	"
" (Gastric).....	2	2	"
Colic, (Lead).....	1	3	Recovered.
Cold, (General).....	1	2	"
" ".....	1	4	"
" ".....	1	5	"
" ".....	2	8	"
Diarrhœa.....	1	6	"
Dysentery	1	2	"
Erysipelas.....	1	33	"
Exhaustion	1	1	Improved.
"	1	2	Recovered.
"	1	5	Furloughed.
" (Alcoholic).....	1	7	Recovered.
Fever, (Bilious).....	4	1	"
" ".....	2	2	"
" ".....	1	3	"
" ".....	1	5	"
" ".....	1	7	"

DISEASE.	NO. OF CASES.	DAYS SICK.	TERMINATION.
Fever, (Bilious)	1	15	Recovery.
“ (Delirious)	1	5	“
“ (Mountain)	1	2	“
“ “	1	4	“
“ “	1	6	“
“ “	1	5	“
“ “	1	9	Furloughed.
“ “	1	28	Recovered.
“ (Unclassified)	2	3	“
“ “	2		Furloughed.
“ “	2	4	Recovered.
“ “	2	5	“
“ “	2	5	“
Gastritis	1	4	Recovered.
Gingivitis	1	3	Improved.
Heart, (Irritable)	2	3	“
“ “	1	6	“
“ “	1	11	Discharged.
Jaundice	1	18	Recovered.
Laryngitis	3		Furloughed.
“	1	7	Furloughed.
“			Recovered.
Necrosis of Turbinated Bone.	1	Indefinite	
Orchitis	1	6	Recovered.
“	1	16	Furloughed.
Otitis Media, (Chronic)	1	5	Improved.
“ “	1	8	“
“ “	1	Indefinite	
“ “	1	Indefinite	
Pharyngitis, (Chronic)	2	Indefinite	
Pneumonia	1	2	{ Sent to Denver.
“	1		Died.
“ (Complicated by			{ Sent to Denver.
Secondary Syphilis)	1		Recovered.
Syphilis	2	56	“
Stricture	1	8	Discharged.
Tonsilitis	4	3	Improved.
“	1	5	Recovered.
“	1	6	“
“	2	7	“
“	1	8	“
“	1	10	“
“	1	11	“
“	1	14	“
Gonorrhœa	1	4	Furloughed.
Rheumatism	1	3	“
“	1	9	“
“	1	6	Recovered.
“	1	7	“
“	1	9	“
“	1	27	“
Sprain, (Ankle)	1	8	Relieved from duty
“ “	1	1	“ “ “
“ (Shoulder)	1	2	Recovered.
“ (Back)	1	11	“

DATE.	NO. IN CAMP.	NO. UNFIT FOR DUTY.	PER CENT.	DATE.	NO. IN CAMP.	NO. UNFIT FOR DUTY.	PER CENT.
1896.				1896.			
Sept. 21....	230	None		Nov. 10....	616	16	.026
" 22....	653	"		" 11....	609	19	.03
" 23....	706	3	.004	" 12....	614	17	.027
" 24....	776	10	.012	" 13....	608	23	.037
" 25....	767	17	.022	" 14....	616	12	.019
" 26....	765	10	.013	" 15....	625	8	.012
" 27....	752	15	.019	" 16....	628	11	.017
" 28....	749	12	.016	" 17....	635	13	.02
" 29....	734	13	.017	" 18....	635	15	.023
" 30....	725	12	.016	" 19....	646	18	.027
Oct. 1....	719	12	.016	" 20....	731	18	.024
" 2....	710	13	.018	" 21....	810	11	.013
" 3....	696	13	.018	" 22....	778	10	.015
" 4....	683	13	.019	" 23....	795	12	.015
" 5....	680	10	.014	" 24....	827	15	.018
" 6....	675	13	.019	" 25....	808	16	.019
" 7....	662	12	.011	" 26....	805	17	.021
" 8....	649	17	.026	" 27....	817	19	.023
" 9....	640	22	.034	" 28....	823	14	.017
" 10....	641	29	.045	" 29....	823	17	.02
" 11....	637	24	.037	" 30....	827	18	.022
" 12....	635	14	.022	Dec. 1....	803	18	.021
" 13....	639	17	.026	" 2....	821	12	.014
" 14....	627	11	.017	" 3....	810	15	.018
" 15....	616	10	.016	" 4....	801	16	.019
" 16....	616	10	.016	" 5....	779	16	.02
" 17....	615	11	.017	" 6....	767	15	.019
" 18....	628	9	.014	" 7....	761	18	.023
" 19....	629	12	.019	" 8....	762	14	.018
" 20....	620	14	.022	" 9....	652	13	.019
" 21....	613	9	.014	" 10....	622	12	.019
" 22....	610	10	.016	" 11....	614	12	.019
" 23....	611	9	.014	" 12....	605	13	.021
" 24....	612	10	.016	" 13....	603	9	.014
" 25....	636	13	.02	" 14....	603	10	.016
" 26....	612	12	.019	" 15....	599	9	.015
" 27....	610	10	.016	" 16....	599	9	.015
" 28....	619	12	.019	" 17....	599	8	.013
" 29....	633	12	.019	" 18....	545	6	.011
" 30....	599	11	.018	" 19....	540	8	.014
" 31....	608	11	.018	" 20....	535	8	.015
Nov. 1....	602	12	.019	" 21....	532	6	.011
" 2....	620	15	.024	" 22....	532	8	.015
" 3....	591	13	.022	" 23....			
" 4....	606	13	.021	" 24....	510	9	.017
" 5....	624	13	.02	" 25....	501	8	.015
" 6....	616	12	.019	" 26....	504	7	.013
" 7....	610	13	.021	" 27....	503	9	.017
" 8....	614	12	.019	" 28....	507	8	.015
" 9....	615	15	.024	" 29....	511	8	.015

THE LEADVILLE CAMPAIGN.

DATE.	NO. IN CAMP.	NO. UNFIT FOR DUTY.	PER CENT.	DATE.	NO. IN CAMP.	NO. UNFIT FOR DUTY.	PER CENT.
1896.				1897.			
" 30....	510	9	.017	Jan. 24 ..	249	2	.008
" 31....	511	9	.017	" 25....	248	2	.008
1897.				" 26....	247	2	.008
Jan. 1. . .	505	9	.017	" 27....	245	2	.008
" 2 . . .	502	9	.017	" 28....	246	2	.008
" 3....	369	3	.008	" 29....	242	2	.008
" 4....	369	3	.008	" 30....	152	1	.006
" 5....	371	4	.01	" 31....	77	0
" 6....	366	3	.008	Feb. 1....	77		
" 7....	371	3	.008	" 2....	77		
" 8....	364	2	.005	" 3....	77		
" 9....	363	2	.005	" 4....	77		
" 10....	362	3	.008	" 5....	76		
" 11....	359	2	.005	" 6....	76		
" 12....	251	2	.007	" 7....	75		
" 13....	250	2	.008	" 8....	75		
" 14....	252	3	.007	" 9....	75		
" 15....	250	3	.008	" 10....	73		
" 16....	254	3	.007	" 11....	73		
" 17....	255	3	.007	" 12....	74		
" 18....	253	3	.007	" 13....	72		
" 19....	253	1	.003	" 14....	72		
" 20....	257	2	.007	" 15....	71		
" 21....	256	2	.007	" 16....	71		
" 22....	255	2	.007	" 17....	64		
" 23....	254	2	.007	" 18....	57		

Average number of men in Camp..... 422.
 " " " " from Feb. 18 to Mar. 10..... 55.
 " " unfit for duty 7.85
 " per cent. of men unfit for duty 1.8
 Largest number of men unfit for duty in any one day, 29—out of total
 of 641 or 4.5 per cent.

