

PART TWO:

The Famed 14th,
Vancouver's Favorite
1893-1917

*See our soldiers scale the wall
And the Stars and Stripes are floating
O'er the ramparts of Peking.*

—from the song of the China
Relief Expedition

*Down in the jungles soon we'll be,
Fighting mosquitoes patiently. . .*

—from the 14th Infantry song

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By TED VAN ARSDOL*

The decade of the 1890s, one historian has commented, “marks a dividing line between that older, isolated America and the new urban society of our own times, the era of income taxes, big government, vast technology, restless minorities, and international horrors” and in the same era “we ventured forth beyond our continental limits to plant the flag in Hawaii, in the Philippines, and in the West Indies and our isolation came to an end.”¹

Troops of the 14th United States Infantry Regiment, stationed at Vancouver Barracks during most of the '90s, participated in the turbulent changes of the decade—they were a police force during the riotous conditions of the economic depression and in the Alaska

* The author is a reporter for the Vancouver Columbian and a frequent contributor to “Clark County History.” The first article in this two-part series was published in the 1971 issue. Readers may also wish to reread Mr. Van Arsdol's article on Vancouver Barracks in the 1966 issue.

gold rush, and were in the forefront of America's push into the Pacific arena of world affairs.

The 14th, which had been at Vancouver since 1884, also returned to the Barracks for at least two more tours of duty, from 1905 to 1908 and briefly in the World War I era.

This article is a recounting of the 14th's activities in its later days at the Barracks, from 1893, with a brief record also of experiences in Alaska, the Philippines, China and San Francisco.

For much of the 1890s, the early part, the Barracks gave little indication of turbulent changes that were afoot. It was a peaceful setting despite the military trappings.

This post, as one writer noted, "divides with the Presidio at San Francisco the honor being the finest laid out military reservation in the United States." He also expounded:

"The parade grounds, flower gardens, lawns and serpentine paths of the reservation are kept in perfect order, equal to those of any Eastern pleasure park. In addition it possesses attractions in the various phases of military life lacking in mere city parks. The Barracks have been steadily occupied by United States troops since 1849. Military drills, accompanied by fine music, are of daily occurrence here, and they afford a pleasant diversion for the citizens of Vancouver as well as for visitors from abroad, who gather in crowds on pleasant days to witness the pageantry."

The post, according to this same writer, was important in the economy of the town, whose main street ran up from the Columbia River wharves and was "built up solidly on each side with substantial . . . structures of brick and stone." Main street of that era was well paved with cedar blocks, and had "a lively appearance during business hours."²

On the post in 1893 and in the winter in early 1894 the usual diverse recreations provided a change from military drill and training. Included were a "grand reception" for officers of the *Monterey*, a U.S. Navy monitor stopping at Portland, regularly-scheduled band concerts, occasional dances, athletic activity in the garrison gym, and reading of books and periodicals in the small libraries maintained by each regimental company.³

Early in 1894 Company H of the 14th received its new uniforms and the *Columbian* reported the men "look more warlike than ever." The soldiers were scheduled to get new guns soon, too. The new gear apparently was timely for the 14th's roles in the various disturbances of that depression year of 1894—a military role that disorganized "hops, theatricals, parties, club and other social engagements at Vancouver Barracks," according to the weekly *Independent*.⁴

An "industrial army" was the source of a lot of trouble in 1894. Members of this group were often called Coxeyites, after Jacob

Sechler Coxey, an Ohioan who led an Army of the Commonwealth of Christ from his home state to Washington, D.C., that year to seek legislation from Congress to remedy economic problems.

Demonstrations by some of the industrial army at Portland, where they had congregated to start for Washington, D.C., to help support the effort for new legislation, "created the impression that it would endeavor to compel the railway lines of the country to transport it East free of cost, or would forcibly seize the rolling stock of the roads and proceed with it over the lines at its pleasure," according to Brig. Gen. Elwell S. Otis, who was stationed at Vancouver as commander of the Department of the Columbia.

Otis said one railroad engine with boxcars was taken east 100 miles from the Portland area, but troops from Fort Walla Walla stopped the train; the train stealers were taken prisoner and returned to Portland. Other Coxeyites headed east on foot from Seattle and Tacoma, and clashed with deputy marshals along the Northern Pacific route.

"The conflicts along the line of the railroad and the arrests made intensified the excitement, and the lawlessness increased until the civil officers were powerless to execute the injunctions of the courts or to give protection to railway officials and communities," Otis stated.

Troops from various stations in the Northwest were dispatched to key towns and other points along the railroad lines in mid-May. ⁵

Lt. Col. H. A. Theaker with nearly 240 men in five companies of the 14th was sent to Seattle, after a U. S. judge had called for help. Arrival of deputy marshals there with 135 Coxeyite prisoners and some residents of North Yakima (now Yakima) had touched off some threatening scenes among Populist and Coxeyite residents. At the end of May, the 14th men returned home.⁶

In May, Company C was dispatched to Wallace, Idaho, because of troubles with miners, and stayed for nearly two weeks. Company D was dispatched to Umatilla Junction, Ore., for a short time, leaving the Barracks almost without troops. Objective of the company was "to prevent the wandering detachments of industrials from passing southward from the Northern to the Union Pacific Railroad with stolen property." Other troops were involved in coping with various straggling groups of the industrial army in the Northwest. The industrial army's fragments soon "disintegrated and scattered," according to General Otis.⁷

Company G from Vancouver with other troops escorted the majority of the "industrial army" prisoners from Boise, Idaho, to an improvised prison in western Idaho near Huntington, Ore., after they had been sentenced to various periods of incarceration. The troops provided protection to deputy marshals and prevented the prisoners

from escaping.⁸

Company H, which had been at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., since 1890, also was busy with turbulent characters. From May through July the troops were in Indian country, arresting and taking out "sooners," or intruders. The company was back at the fort in July, and in October was sent to join the regimental headquarters at Vancouver.⁹

A major strike on the railways in the summer of 1894 required dispatch of most of the 14th's companies to the rail lines including a company—F—which was stationed at the time at Fort Townsend. Most of the 14th's troops received temporary duty in Tacoma, and two headed for Ellensburg. Job of the 14th during the strike was to guard railroad property such as terminals, roundhouses, yards and bridges, and provide train guards when needed.¹⁰

This noted "Pullman strike" had originated in Chicago in May, and a sympathy boycott by the American Railway Union brought about a nation-wide railway tie-up. (Eugene Debs, the union president, was jailed and prosecuted as a result of the strike.)

Relating background of the troop use, General Otis recalled:

"Early in July the Northern Pacific road was completely paralyzed, and the United States courts under which its receivers had been operating the system found it impossible, with the civil force at its command, to remove the obstructions, which strikers and their sympathizers had imposed. Interstate commerce and all mail service were forcibly obstructed and entirely suspended."¹¹

On July 7, President Grover Cleveland dealt what a news service termed a heavy blow "at the spirit of lawlessness abroad in the West by causing the issue of sweeping orders to the commanders of the great army departments to open up and maintain free communication over the transcontinental railroad lines from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean." Such orders were termed unique in the time of peace. Troops already were concentrating in Chicago.¹²

Four companies of the 14th Infantry were dispatched to Tacoma, arriving on the morning of July 8 under command of Col. Thomas M. Anderson. Strikers at Tacoma, reportedly in an "ugly mood," had given the railroad master mechanic 24 hours to draw the fires of all engines operated by non-union crews. Shots also had been fired from ambush at trains. Soon after the 14th arrived a crowd of several hundred strikers gathered at the depot—their faces were "dark" but they made no threats. The depot on July 8 was said to be "fairly bristling" with arms; deputy marshals and special police were on duty with the troops. Starting that night, seven or eight 14th Infantry troops would ride out with each train leaving the city. More troops arrived in the next several days including Troop E of the



As a brigadier general, Henry Clay Merriam headed the Dept. of the Columbia in 1897-98 when the 14th was sent to Alaska to keep order during the gold rush. (Archives.)



Brig. Gen. Elwell Otis was commander of the Dept. of the Columbia when the 14th Infantry was used to quell labor disturbances in the Northwest in 1894. (Nat'l Archives.)

Fourth Cavalry from Vancouver Barracks with Cap. Fred Wheeler in command.¹³

There were compensations for some of the troops, as the Independent pointed out at Vancouver on Aug. 1:

"The officers of the 14th Infantry . . . were in the social whirl from the time they arrived 'til they departed for home. The unmarried officers were much sought."

Problem with the strikers was resolved briefly, and withdrawal of troops along the main line of the NP started July 23. All soldiers from the Pacific Northwest had returned by the end of July. Vancouver was "brightened up" by the troops' return, the Independent stated, also remarking, "If anyone thinks that a military post on its borders is not of great business importance to Vancouver they are much mistaken."¹⁴

No other major disturbance marred the year, which ended in a festive note during the holidays. A reporter who visited the post on the morning of Christmas Day 1894 reported the scene at Company C and G Barracks, for the Columbian of Dec. 26:

"Both are always neat, but on this occasion decorations and bounteously-laden tables with an odor of turkey and other good

things . . . make a fellow wish he were going to take his Christmas dinner with the boys. The finest decorated dining room at the Barracks was that of Company G with its festoons and Maltese Cross inscribed with the leading battles of the Civil War in which the company took an honorable part.”

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Early in the new year, 1895, the entire 14th Infantry Regiment was reunited at Vancouver. Company F arrived on March 6 from Fort Townsend.¹⁵

One of the main social events of the year was a presentation of two amateur plays, “A Husband in Clover” and “My Lord in Livery” by officers and ladies of the Barracks at Marquam Grand Opera House in Portland on April 17, a benefit for Vancouver’s Episcopal church. The 14th Infantry band opened the event “with choice selections,” and the Barracks orchestra provided music for the remainder of the evening. The opera house was “well filled with society people” of Vancouver and Portland, the Oregonian commented. “A feature of the evening was numerous floral offerings to the participants by friends in the audience.”¹⁶

In May, Colonel Anderson, the 14th’s commanding officer, visited the dress parade of cadets at Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, and reviewed the companies. He talked to the students in the evening, expressing the view that “it was not the pen of the idealist that had brought about the great achievements (in America) but the sword of the soldier.” And he said that “of the things America had neglected, her available army forces was the most important.” The colonel from Vancouver also boosted for religious liberty.¹⁷

Meantime, training continued for troops at the Barracks. The *Columbian* of May 24, 1895, noted:

“The troops have been drilled during the week on climbing fences. All the old men were excused but it was fun to watch the youngsters get over the fence.”

During the spring the companies had been equipped with a new rifle which reportedly fired “a bullet not any larger than a lead pencil and about one and one-half inches in length.”¹⁸

The spring and summer included some ceremonial appearances by the troops.

On Memorial Day the 14th’s band and troops headed a large procession to the park for services. The same day, the band led the Army and Navy Union, totaling 100 men, to Portland on the steamboat *Undine*.¹⁹

Another activity was a reception for Lt. Gen. John McAllister

Schofield, 64, commander of the United States Army, on June 25, 1895.

Schofield's party arrived at the government wharf on the Columbia on the *Undine*, and was met by General Otis, Maj. George S. Wilson and others including Colonel Anderson, post commander. The visitors and resident officers "passed between a double row of sentries, drawn up in open ranks on the wharfs," to reach waiting carriages, and were escorted to Otis' residence by a battalion of infantry and troops of cavalry, commanded by Lt. Col. Hugh A. Theaker. "The column was a brilliant one as it passed up the beautiful drive through the lower barracks to the officers' quarters above the parade," the Oregonian commented on June 26. The 14th Infantry in "glittering uniforms" headed the march; cavalry, carriages, then sentries followed. A salute of 15 guns was fired as the column entered the parade ground.

At 11 a.m., "a grand regimental parade," involving all garrison troops, with Anderson at the head, passed in review. Formal reception for Schofield was held at the Otis residence, while the band played at the parade ground bandstand. Shortly afterward, Schofield left for Portland. The Columbian expressed the opinion later that "the troops never drilled better than they did on Tuesday when reviewed by the general commanding the army."²⁰

On July 4, 1895, a salute of 44 guns was fired at the Barracks as required by regulations, and the Vancouver populace celebrated at the city park. But most residents traveled to Portland to see the big parade there. Colonel Anderson commanded the Barracks in the rain-doused parade—the 14th Infantry, band and Troop E, Fourth Cavalry. No participants in the long march were more "universally admired" than the cavalymen—"a superbly mounted lot of men, whose perfect alignment, drawn sabres and waving yellow plumes gave a formidable appearance."²¹

The Columbian of July 12, 1895, stated that General Otis and Major Wilson had gone to Fort Sherman, Idaho, on July 3, to meet the Secretary of War (Daniel Scott Lamont) and his party and accompany them to Vancouver. The visitors arrived a few days later, and a salute was fired just before guard mount in their honor.

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Reference to camp-followers are scarce in the 1890s for Vancouver Barracks and one of the few was published in the wake of a pay day in March 1896. "A large number of hangers-on were run out of the post by order of the commanding officer who has become tired and out of patience with the crowding around of this class of cattle," a newsman wrote.²²

The lack of many items on friction between soldiers and civilians during the 1890s would seem to indicate generally good relations. Some earlier units had not fared so well, judging by surviving accounts of clashes between the military and townspeople.

Vancouver pride in its garrison is indicated by stories such as the one in the *Columbian* of April 10, 1896, mentioning that the post resembled a city more than a military barracks "owing to the new paint and air of neatness which pervades therein." The painting had abetted the natural beauty of the parade ground, where many persons were lured to watch the dress parades and to hear "the exquisite music of the regimental band nearly every evening."

The band participated that year in Memorial Day services, where the address was delivered by Capt. William W. McCammon of the 14th. At one of its concerts later, the band offered a program of church selections, "which were highly appreciated by hundreds of soldiers and citizens of Vancouver, who were stretched out on the velvety parade grounds, enjoying the music and cool evening breezes. . ."²³

In July a small detachment of the 14th under Capt. F. F. Eastman traveled to Hillsboro, Ore., area on a roadmapping assignment. The band took 10 days off on a fishing and camping trip to Lewis River, and while it was gone "dress parades will doubtless be dispensed with, and the post will be rather dull in consequence of the absence of the music makers," it was reported. Some of the troops participated in a practice march in Willamette Valley later, and Lewis River was visited too.²⁴

The 14th Infantry Regiment remained a relatively small unit that peacetime year, with only 555 officers and enlisted men, as of June 30. The entire United States infantry force at the same time numbered only 13,441. The 14th, with Colonel Anderson in charge, and the Fourth Cavalry had a total of 614 soldiers stationed at Vancouver Barracks in 1896, by far the largest number of any Army installation in the Pacific Northwest. Headquarters of the Fourth Cavalry was at Fort Walla Walla. Other Army posts in the Northwest were Fort Canby (71 soldiers), Fort Spokane, Fort Sherman and Boise Barracks, the latter two in Idaho.²⁵

General Otis continued in command of the Department of the Columbia at Vancouver during 1896, and in his report that year stated that the situation was "unusually tranquil." The general did visit southeastern Alaska, which had no troops at that time. The last troops had been withdrawn in 1877, during the Nez Perce Indian war. Otis estimated the population of whites in Alaska at 7,000 to 8,000 including those who worked there only during the summer—half were engaged in mining and the rest in trade and fishing. Civil and education officials felt that troops were needed on Yukon River



Blankets being aired from the second story of a barracks building at Vancouver Barracks, around 1890.

near the international boundary lines, “where mining interests were extensively conducted,” the general wrote. However, Otis did not feel they were required at that time.²⁶

For the average GI at Vancouver, Alaska still was a long way off.

At the garrison, one innovation, apparently new in 1896, was the *Sport*, a paper published by members of the 14th Infantry. The post canteen helped morale too, by adding new items.

“The bill of fare at the lunch counter has also been enlarged,” the *Columbian* reported. “Now, in addition to the good things formerly kept there, oyster stews, clam chowders and other epicurean delicacies are kept in readiness.”²⁷

About the start of February the garrison troops turned out “in force,” the *Sport* observed, for opening of the Barracks’ new post exchange. “The boys can pride themselves of having a place of recreation, in which to while away their evenings, that is fully as snug and comfortable as can be found anywhere on the outside,” according to the *Sport*, which also termed the PX a benefit because profits were used for the benefit of the company messes.²⁸

On a March day the canteen at the post was crowded with soldiers waiting for returns from “the big scrap” at Carson City, Nev.²⁹ This was the heavyweight championship fight in which “Gentleman Jim” Corbett, the conqueror of John L. Sullivan, lost his title to Robert Fitzsimmons.

In the late winter, gardeners were busy planting the season's crop. Also, a new quarter-mile athletic and bicycle race track was being constructed around the ball ground in the rear of the officers' quarters. The athletic contests of the Fourth of July were planned for the new track.³⁰

A command shift in the Department of the Columbia took place on May 21 when General Otis was succeeded by Colonel Anderson of the 14th Infantry. Anderson continued in command until July 31, when Brig. Gen. Henry Clay Merriam arrived.

Merriam, a Civil War veteran, had participated in the Nez Perce war and the conflict with the Sioux in 1890-91. In the year after he arrived at Vancouver he was appointed a major general of volunteers, and had charge of organizing and equipping the Philippines Expeditionary Force.³¹

Otis went from Vancouver to the Department of Colorado. Later he was a major general of volunteers in the Spanish-American war, commanded the Department of the Pacific in 1898, and was a military governor of the Philippines.³²

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Fourth of July festivities at Portland were again a highlight for the 14th Infantry Regiment in 1897. Major Charles Franklin Robe³³ led Vancouver's contingent in the Oregon city, which was bedecked with red, white and blue, and, to quote the Oregonian, full of noise and clamor, with patriotism "rampant." After the band—"a fine-appearing body of musicians"—came "the splendid body of regular troops famed throughout the Northwest as the 14th Infantry." And the Oregonian continued:

"The military precision of their movements won from the spectators frequent applause. The small black helmets, mounted with polished brass, pretty dress uniform and precise equipments were the source of admiration to all who prize Uncle Sam's military styles."

Following the 14th in the parade came Troop D, Fourth Cavalry, commanded by Captain Wheeler, in "brilliant cavalry dress uniform, including large yellow plumes from each helmet, and the bay steeds they rode were sleek and well-trained." In the rear of the Army section was the hospital corps attached to the 14th Infantry.³⁴

An unusual feature of the Independence Day doings was a broadsword competition at Multnomah Field between a Vancouver Barracks soldier, Carl Nelson, and Baron Ivan deMalchin of Russia, who claimed the world's championship in broadsword dueling. Although Nelson lost, he gave the crowd "a run for their money," the Oregonian announced. The combat, recalling the jousts and tournaments in the days of Ivanhoe and Richard the Lion Hearted, was called "a beautiful exhibition of swordmanship and kept the

great crowd (2,000) that filled the field at the highest pitch of excitement.”

The horsemen were covered with masks and padding, and carried “formidable” swords. The dueling did not go to the full scheduled 29 attacks. In a detailed report on the lunges and thrusts, the Oregonian told of one occasion in which Nelson “made a beautiful thrust and the crowd went wild.” Also: “The baron landed in the 16th and 17th and received a blow in the 18th which set his scalp to bleeding copiously, a circumstance which appeared to edify the crowd immensely.” Nelson was the crowd’s favorite; he had gotten an ovation earlier. Several of the bouts were fought out in front of the grandstand, and “the excitement was so great that the audience remained standing ’til they were finished.” Nelson reportedly “dealt wicked blows, twice bending his sword nearly double.” But the Cossack was the superior horseman, waiting for an attack, then driving in at an opportune time. Nelson wounded Malchin’s horse over the right eye in a foul and lost—he was behind on points already. The crowd swarmed onto the field to congratulate Nelson following the first broadsword contest ever held in Portland.³⁵

A more sedate activity, on July 14, was the 14th Infantry band’s participation in the anniversary celebration of the fall of the Bastille, at Gambrinus Gardens in Portland. Included on the schedule of the French national celebration along with the band music was singing of the Marseillaise in chorus, reading of the declaration of rights of man, “an illumination,” dancing, and “a grand display of fireworks.”³⁶

Another event, in late summer, was an athletic entertainment at the Standard Theater in Vancouver, sponsored by the 14th, involving wrestling, sparring, club-swinging, song and dance and tumbling, and concluding with a dance.³⁷

The 14th’s second battalion and some of the Fourth Cavalry from Vancouver, with Major Robe in charge, marched to the Warm Springs Indian reservation in September, and also traveled to Salem Ore., where they camped while the Oregon state fair was in progress. The Salem weekly Statesman reported that the crowds “made a rush” for the parade ground when the Vancouver troops drilled on Salem Day. The troops were said to have made an excellent showing, “and their splendid machine-like movements made many a girlish heart beat faster and her eager eyes flash. . . .”³⁸

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Writing about the same time, the Department of the Columbia commander, General Merriam, pointed to the lessened need for outlying military installations in the Northwest, as the Indians were quiet and railroad transport to various parts of the region was good.

He recommended that Vancouver should have a larger garrison "including all arms."

As in the case of Otis, Alaska was strongly on the mind of Merriam. He had good reason, when he wrote under date of Sept. 14, 1897. "The discoveries of gold mines of almost fabulous richness along the tributaries of the upper Yukon have already added several thousands of miners and speculators to the white population of that region, with the prospect that many more thousands will go there with the first opening of its waterways and trails next year," Merriam declared. He foresaw congestion and the possibility that many adventurers would be stranded. Merriam advised that Congressional legislation was required, and if that was not provided there would be a military government in Alaska.³⁹

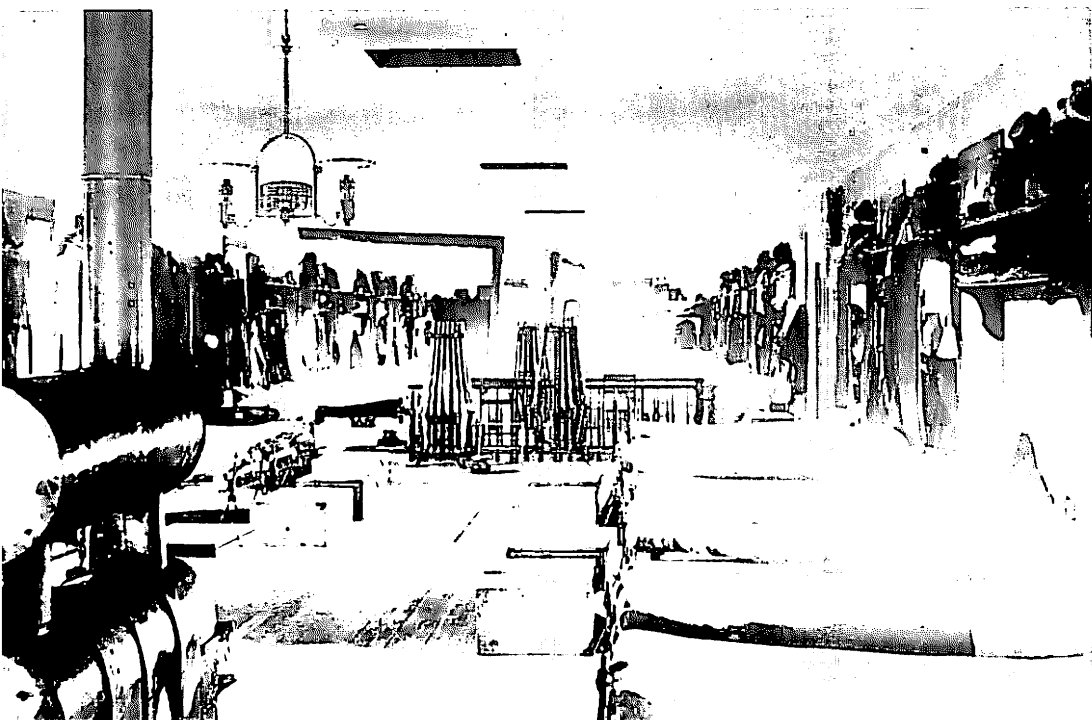
First activity for Vancouver Barracks in connection with the Alaska gold rush was outfitting of government pack trains for miners' relief, and these trains of animals began to arrive at the end of 1897 from other posts in the West. Fifty soldiers who were accompany the trains were getting some rugged training including daily marching. In January a pack train, "all rigged out," traveled along Vancouver streets for exercise, "and everybody along the line," a journalist claimed, "witnessed the show with a suppressed longing to follow the train to the gold fields of Alaska."⁴⁰

Klondike clothing for troops ordered to Alaska had been authorized by the Quartermaster General of the Army. Among the items of garb were sheepskin coat and trousers, with pelt on the inside. The coat was equipped with a hood, and German stockings were to be worn over the customary stockings. Arctic overshoes completed the outfit.⁴¹

The government relief expedition was shipped out early in the year.⁴²

But Alaska was booming in a way by this time that made the relief train seem like a piddling effort, and Skagway, a port on the way to the gold trails, was one of the new big names. One new arrival in Skagway that winter reported that "you are greeted with an endless number of saloons, dance halls, lodging houses and restaurants," and a business place could not be rented for "love or money." The residents, he asserted, were "a hard crowd," made up of two classes—one of sportsmen and tin-horn gamblers, and the other a rough-looking group composed of farmers, miners and "scrub" businessmen. The town's population was 7,000 to 8,000 already and more were "pouring in on every steamer."⁴³

In early February most of the 14th Infantry Regiment was alerted for movement to the northern region. Four companies of the 14th, under Colonel Anderson, were instructed to start for Alaska at the "earliest possible date," and two more were to be ready to move at



A squad room in the 1880's at Vancouver Barracks. Note the double-chambered heating stove at the left, the oil lamps above and the foot lockers at the foot of each bunk. Note the solitary spittoon in front of the Spencer type rifles, an ever-present appliance in any neatly kept barracks, public building, office or home at that time. (National Archives photo.)

any time. General Merriam, department commander, immediately launched preparations for the 14th's move.

"The constantly increasing danger of disorder at Skagway and Dyea⁴⁴ has led the war department to insure peace by the presence of a force sufficiently large to hold any disturbance in check," the Oregonian stated. "Whether the 14th will be permanently located in Alaska has not yet been determined."

Anderson's headquarters was to be established at Dyea, and two companies were to be stationed at Skagway. Two companies which were to follow were to be quartered with the commander.

Band of the 14th also was slated for the trip, and the Oregonian suggested that its music "may exert a subduing influence even on a Skagway tough."

General Merriam was to leave earlier than the 14th on the steamship Oregon, accompanied by two other officers, and was to

have charge of establishing the new post in Alaska. However, he planned to return to Vancouver as soon as possible.

Quartermaster job involved getting enough supplies together to last 250 men one year, and bids were sought on the needed items.

Major Robe was to take charge of the post at Vancouver when Anderson left.^{4 5}

On Feb. 15, 1889, A and G companies of the 14th assembled at noon hour at the barracks in heavy marching order, for inspection. The men toted a weight of 45 pounds each, consisting of a gun, 100 rounds of ammunition in field belt, also knapsack, haversack, empty canteen, overcoat, shelter tent, tent pole, change of underclothing and field gear. Only their best clothes had been left in lockers at the garrison. What was described by the Oregonian of Feb. 16 as the entire post population and most of the people of Vancouver accompanied the troops to the steamer wharf, while the band played "the inspiring sounds of Sousa's marches."

"At the dock," the Oregonian remarked, "hundreds of people were gathered to witness the departure of friends and relatives, and many touching scenes were enacted, particularly when the case was that of a mother saying good-bye to her son. The men. . . were serious, and with a good cause. . . if the duty of the troops be changed from fort building and preserving the peace to exploring in the interior, a large number will not return, and this probability was entirely appreciated by the mothers, wives and sweethearts assembled."

The Oregon newsman continued:

Then minutes after the arrival at the dock all were on board, and the boat moved into the stream to the fateful strains of 'The Girl I Left Behind Me,' which was not enough to drown the sounds of sobs and tears from those who were left behind.

The families of the men in the ranks are to be pitied, for a private's pay is not large, and certainly is not sufficient for two establishments, and there are many women who will have to work hard and late to keep the wolf from the door.

When the band was playing 'The Girl I Left Behind Me,' a veteran was heard to exclaim: 'When I left Montana in the days of Sitting Bull they played that, and I'll bet there was not a girl within five miles of the place.' This speech aroused the only laugh heard during the scene.

One of the departing soldiers told an Oregonian reporter that the men were going to a cheerless country, leaving many comforts. Some would be found to take their place, he said, but "there is no hope, however, of finding in that forbidding land girls to take the place of those left behind."

The two companies took two mascots—a terrier dog which had been with Company A for 10 years, and a Company G mongrel, both overfed.



Typical quarters for military units sent to Alaska from Vancouver in 1898 during the gold rush. Over 100,000 prospectors invaded the territory after the Klondike River strike and provided one of the more colorful chapters in the history of our 49th state. (Oregon Historical Society photo.)

“Any soldier will freeze himself in order that the company dog may be wrapped snug and warm—too warm perhaps,” a newsman observed.

A and G companies, consisting of 108 men and four officers, unloaded from the *Undine* at Portland and marched to the railroad depot to get on some railroad tourist sleepers. The troops sailed later from Seattle on the steamer *Queen*.⁴⁶

Notice had been received at the military headquarters at Vancouver Barracks that a military district to be known as Lynn Canal had been established in southeastern Alaska. Colonel Anderson was assigned to command the district.⁴⁷

On Feb. 25 two more companies for the 14th, H and B, headed for the government wharf at Vancouver, with the band leading, and another crowd was on hand for the departure. While the troops marched aboard, the band played “Auld Lang Syne.” Companies C, D, E and F remained at the barracks but were expected to move

north before summer.^{4 8}

Companies A and G arrived on the *Queen* at Skagway, Alaska, where an incident involving Indian dock workers added excitement to the debarkation. The 35 Indians had been employed for 25 cents an hour; the company hiring them had refused to pay 50-75 cents per hour demanded by white men. The Indians, who had worked at unloading the *Queen* at Juneau, went ashore at Skagway and were "beset" by a well-organized crowd of 50 angry men who did not know that government troops were aboard the *Queen*, according to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

The results were reported by the P.I.:

The stevedores made a rush that would have done credit to a football team. The Indians fell back, and were crowded closer and closer to the edge of the wharf.

At this juncture, three shots were fired at the Indians by one of the attacking party. The shots did no damage, but greatly excited the crowd of passengers and spectators who were gathered around in hundreds. As the Indians retreated along the high wharf on their way back to the ship, one of their number was crowded off. He went down about 25 feet into the cold water, in which cakes of ice were floating. After considerable delay, he was hauled out, more dead than alive.

Then the 110 soldiers, in charge of Capt. F. F. Eastman, were called on by Captain Wallace to protect the Indians. The company quickly formed on the dock, and the men were driven back at the point of bayonets.

After this, a patrol was formed and none were allowed to pass the line without credentials. The Indians finished the unloading. The guard was maintained until Saturday to guard against open threats made by the stevedores that they would blow up the ship. There was no trouble, however . . .

Because of the foul weather, the two companies of infantry remained on the *Queen* for two days, until the craft was ready to sail. A gale wind had been blowing. When the 14th's troops finally camped, they pitched tents among logs and brush, a few rods from the river bank and close to the trail, about one mile from the center of the business section.

Captain Eastman was quoted as telling the P.I. that he would not interfere with the government of the city, and would permit the constituted authorities to "attend to law and order, if possible." The newspaper surmised that "the chief occupation of the soldiers here will be to get as much comfort as they can out of their tents pitched on the ice with weather hovering about zero."^{4 9}

The 14th's tents were on a foot of snow, Sidney Calligan of Company G stated in a letter.

This is a tough place—all gamblers and sure-thing men.

The wind blows all the time at about 90 or 100 miles per hour, and goes clean through a fellow.

We are camped on the trail of White Pass, and it is crowded all the time with dogs, oxen, horses and hundreds and hundreds of men. Men can't get work here; there are a great many here, and lots of them are going back.

The town is wide open day and night.

Men are dying like sheep; water has to be boiled before it is used.

If I were you I would not come near this place for it is no good. There will be a tough time here next fall; the government will have to take the people back.

The redcoats are just on top of the hill, and charge \$10 to pass, after charging at Victoria; that is the way they do; every time you move it costs from \$100 to \$200."⁵⁰

Another 14th Infantry soldier, writing at Skagway on March 23, contended that "colder than blazes and blowing like thunder describes this place from one week's end to another."

He also wrote:

I suppose the chances for war is the all-absorbing topic in the states; up here it is, when will we get out of here. I expect we will have lots of desertions as soon as we get paid.

I am glad the boys down there [apparently at Vancouver Barracks] have decided to saw wood and say nothing as their lot is a far happier one than ours. The boys are out working all day long, felling trees and clearing ground for the new camp, and when they are not doing that they are doing guard. You never saw a more disgusted set of fellows in your life than our men.

We have been having lots of sickness, have averaged five a day for the hospital, several having been very close to death's door . . . I suppose you have heard of Sergeant Major Kelley's death⁵¹ before this.

A man was murdered up on the trail a few days ago; also had a shooting fracas in town in which one man killed another in self-defense.

There are hundreds of people coming up all the time. We see pack trains going by all the time, also men with big packs on their backs or driving a horse hitched to a sled. In spite of the unkindly feelings we have toward this place it is very interesting. You can see all kinds of people, young, old, short and fat, tall and slim, and all they know is 'Klondike and Gold.'

The people who have established good stores, restaurants and hotels are making money hand over foot. One thing is sure, there is loads of money in Skagway. Everthing is high comparatively, in most places double prices prevail.

They had a Charity ball here on the 17 inst., for the benefit of the town hospital; tickets were \$1 and quite a sum was realized. They gave an entertainment at the church the 22d, where some of the boys in blue were requested to help make it a success. . .

I hope no one in Vancouver will get it into their heads to come up here as people coming from Klondike say that everything in sight is taken and that a blame sight more gold is being taken into the interior than will ever come out, and I firmly believe it.

Young Brant does not have as much liking for soldiering now; he is very tired of it.⁵²

One of Company G's members wrote back on April 4 from

Skagway that all troops were anxious to return to Vancouver.

"He thinks that the Lord, when he made Alaska, was in too big a hurry and forgot to put on the finishing touches," the Vancouver weekly *Columbian* noted on April 15 "...The temperature was rising and the mud getting deeper."

The 14th Infantry Regiment's official history states that although the main job of the unit in Alaska was to keep order, the 14th also "rendered an invaluable service...by preventing the permanent British occupation of the Lynn Canal district, the ownership of which was in dispute at that time between Great Britain and the United States."

After the 14th arrived at Skagway, it was found that a major of the Canadian Mounted police had established himself there with five men and had the British flag flying. The major, Commissioner of the Yukon, had distributed maps showing the British claims of territory down the coast, with the boundary line passing from headland to headland of Lynn Canal.

The American claim, as boosted by Colonel Anderson, was that the boundary line was at the crest of the mountains, about 36 miles from the sea, and as Lynn Canal was an arm of the sea about 90 miles long "there was at this point a difference of 126 miles between the line respectively claimed," the history states.

Anderson ordered the major to take down his flag and move his men back to the boundary claimed by the United States. Ten days later a British vessel arrived with two full companies of Canadian Mounted Police, armed as soldiers, on board.

Two companies of the 14th were placed on the dock, and the Canadians were forbidden to land until the Commissioner of the Yukon agreed to move back to the crest of the mountains.⁵³

* * * * *

Meantime, deteriorating relations between Spain and the United States following the blowing up of the battleship *Maine* at Havana Feb. 15 reached a new critical point April 20-25 when Congress debated a resolution recognizing independence of Cuba, and asking Spain to withdraw. On April 24 Spain declared war. Congress adopted the joint resolution, with a statement that war had existed since April 21.

Troops had been alerted even earlier, and on April 22 the *Columbian* reported that the 14th "is the only regiment of the Army not under marching orders to the south and the boys feel badly."

Near the end of the month the regiment's band, still at Vancouver, participated with the general populace in a patriotic mass meeting. The *Columbian* exulted that the crowd was "tremendous," music excellent, singing beautiful and speeches "glorious."



Capt. William McCammon delivered the local Memorial Day speech in 1896. At the time he had already served 29 years with the 14th Infantry regiment. (Nat'l Archives.)



As a lieutenant, Charles R. Krauthoff served with the 14th in the Philippines. In this 1918 photo he is a QMC brigadier. (Archives.)

A resolution adopted by the people stated that they heartily approved the action of President McKinley and the Congress "in their resistance of Spanish despotism, and cruelty in Cuba, and pledge our aid in all practicable ways for the independence of the people of that island."⁵⁴

The kind of patriotic spirit that was in evidence in the Vancouver-Portland area about this time is shown in a Portland Evening Telegram article of May 7:

The war spirit is manifesting itself in little details around Portland . . . Besides the tri-colored ribbon now so ubiquitous and the eager scanning of the bulletin boards for something new from Dewey, the shooting galleries have the cruel Spaniard set up as a dummy with a conspicuous spot over the heart to shoot at for so much a shot. At a sawmill you will find guns cut out of Oregon pine, nailed over the entrance to the workshop, and the legend, "Death to Spain." The school children have sham battles in which Spain always gets whipped. . . while the little toy flags left over from the last Fourth of July may be seen sticking out of bedroom windows, nailed low down on front porches, or occupying all sorts of nooks and corners about the playgrounds.

Company F of the 14th Infantry, commanded by Capt. John Murphy, was ordered to Fort Canby near the mouth of the Columbia

River about the start of May.⁵⁵

On May 3, General Merriam issued orders for immediate return of troops in Alaska, including those of three exploring expeditions, comprising about 25 men each, if they could be reached. All of the 14th Infantry at Vancouver—Companies C, D, E and F—were alerted to head for the Presidio at San Francisco. Recruiting had started to place the 14th on a war footing of three battalions. When this job was accomplished there would be 106 men in each company and three battalions of four companies each in the regiment.

Companies A and G of the 14th were relieved from duty in the Lynn Canal district and were to return to Vancouver. General Merriam, Department of the Columbia commander, had been appointed by President William McKinley as a major general of volunteers, and Colonel Anderson, the ranking colonel of the United States Army, had been appointed a brigadier general of volunteers.⁵⁶

But some work remained to be done in Alaska. General Merriam ordered Capt. Bogardus Eldridge, stationed at Skagway, to proceed with one company of infantry to Fort Wrangel. This move “was occasioned by reports of wholesale robberies and holdups at Wrangel by thugs and gamblers.”⁵⁷

Companies C, D, E and F were to be part of the first expedition shipped out of San Francisco to the Philippines.

On May 7, the soldiers formed on the parade ground during the noon hour and marched through Vancouver by way of Tenth and Main, then down Main to the wharf. Major Robe, who commanded the departing soldiers, had been asked to march the troops through the town “as special preparations had been made to demonstrate the regard in which the men were held.” The town was decorated with flags and bunting, and business houses were closed from 12 to 1.

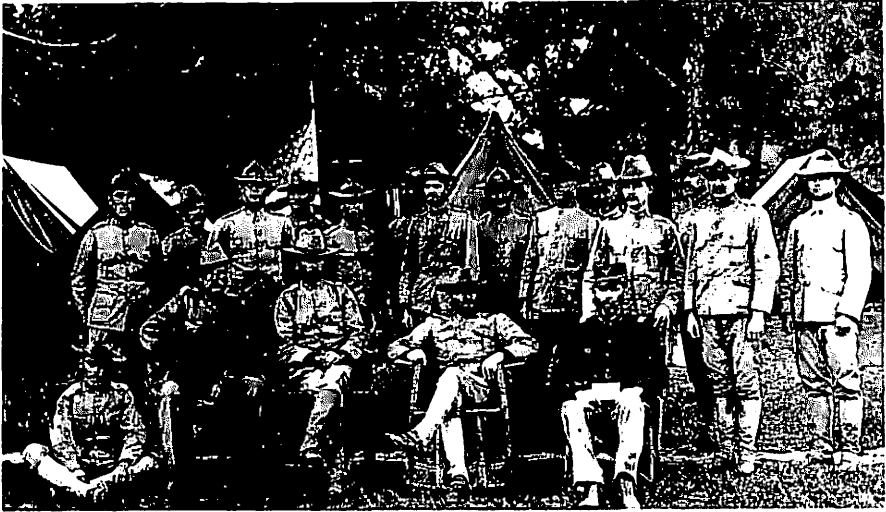
At the wharf the troops were met by a crowd of friends, for last good-byes, and they left on the steamboat *Undine* “amid the cheers by hundreds.”

Portland provided a rousing good-bye too:

Stirring strains of martial music roused Portland’s patriotic pulses and cheers rent the air as the four companies . . . marched through the streets, headed by their band of 23 pieces . . . The men presented a very soldierly appearance, in heavy marching order, with three days’ rations in their haversacks, and their little dog tents rolled on top of knapsacks. They marched splendidly, and attracted crowds of people, who rent the air with patriotic cheers. Every man had the appearance of a thorough soldier, and crowds of people accompanied them to the Union depot.

Major Clem, quartermaster, had arranged the transportation by providing seven tourist cars, one sleeper and one baggage car . . .

Company C was headed by 1st Lt. William S. Biddle and Second Lt. L. R. Krauthoff; D was commanded by Captain McCammon; E



Lt. Col. Aaron Daggett (seated, second from left) with other officers of the 14th Infantry when they were in Manila during the Spanish-American War. Daggett commanded the 14th when it was sent to China to put down the Boxer uprising. (Archives photo.)

by 2nd Lt. P. L. Miles, and F by Captain Murphy. Each company totaled about 55 men.⁵⁸

In mid-May the steamboat *Undine* brought back to Vancouver Companies A and G of the 14th, which had been in Skagway.

“Notwithstanding the lateness of the hour the wharf was crowded with people who welcomed the soldiers with round after round of cheers, to which hearty responses came from the boys on the boat,” the *Columbian* of May 20 reported. “Troop E, Fourth Cavalry, having charge of the barracks since the departure of the infantry, had a good hot supper ready for the returning Alaskans and there was a banquet that beat any silk-stockinged affair ever devised. Those of the boys who had families were allowed by the captains to stop at home over night.”

Shortly after their arrival, Companies A and G departed on the *Undine* for San Francisco, on a portion of the trip that would take them to the Philippine Islands.⁵⁹

Preparations for departure moved ahead rapidly at San Francisco, and on May 23 the California volunteers moved through the city before embarking. On the following day the big camp at the Presidio was astir long before daylight.⁶⁰

Departure of the troops that day is vividly described by the *San Francisco Call* of May 25:

Early in the day every available view-point was occupied by sight-seers. Men and boys climbed high on telegraph poles, women sat in doorways and windows, while cheers and tender good-byes characterized the day . . .

All along the line of march there was such enthusiasm as moved the vast throngs to cheer with unabated vigor. When the procession had gone as far as Second Street there was a chorus of steam whistles that almost drowned the trampling of soldiers and the music of the bands, though the inspiration of fife and drum kept time along the weary march.

“Hurrah for the Oregon boys!” was the cry heard everywhere. . . [Oregon volunteers were among the soldiers departing for the Philippines.]

To the strains of the “Red White and Blue” the regulars of the 14th United States Infantry marched away from the Presidio Reservation at 6:30 o’clock yesterday morning. They were followed an hour later by . . . heavy artillery . . . which took the Union Street car line . . . The Second Oregon Regiment was delayed some time by a flag presentation and did not leave the reservation for over an hour after the 14th.

It was exactly 4 o’clock when the clear, mellow note of the trumpet awoke the men of both camps, while the artillerymen who were quartered in the barracks at the post were tumbled from their beds at the same time by a roll of the drum. Scarcely was there light enough to see the soldiers at work in their camps when they were first roused, and in the dim and uncertain shadow of the fading night they looked like phantoms as they moved here and there getting everything in readiness to leave. In the camp of the regulars there was no confusion. Every man knew what he had to do and how and when to do it, and the soldiers moved like a well-oiled piece of machinery. Silently the white tents were thrown and folded, the company property piled in orderly heaps at the ends of each street, the haversacks and heavy marching-order equipment arranged and every detail attended to with faultless system. The 14th was ready and prepared to march before the Oregonians had got their first tent down.

At 6:10 o’clock the first call was sounded, and ten minutes later the hoarse voices of the sergeants gave the commands to fall in, and the determined-looking fighting machines stepped silently into line and answered ‘Here’ in no uncertain tone when their names were called. The company was inspected, and the automatic opening and closing of the chambers of their deadly Krag-Jorgensen rifles was ominously suggestive of the fatality of war. Lieutenant Krauthoff acted as adjutant, and the five companies were formed in front of Major Robe’s headquarters and turned over to Captain Murphy.

That white-haired veteran with the eye of a martinet scanned the motionless lines of blue, then, drawing his sword, he gave the command right shoulder arms, and then four right, forward march, and the battalion swung into column, and the band at its head making martial music they tramped away, while (other) soldiers . . . lined the sides of their camps and cheered the 14th to the echo.

The march along Lombard was uneventful save for the salute blown by the whistles of the different factories . . . ⁶¹

Five companies of the 14th were among the 1,400 men boarding ship during the day. Company G was left behind at Camp Merritt, to collect recruits and organize the four companies of the newly-authorized third battalion.⁶²



Tents of the 14th Infantry are pitched in the Temple of Agriculture grounds in Peking, following rescue of besieged whites during the Boxer rebellion. (Nat'l Archives.)

Three transports, the *Peking*, *City of Sydney* and the *Australia*, had been prepared in what the 14th's history terms "a crude way," to hold the 14th, the First California Volunteers, a detachment of California Heavy Artillery, and the Second Oregon Volunteers. Captain Murphy was in immediate command of the 14th, and Krauthoff was adjutant. The transports, convoyed by the steamer *Charleston*, sailed on May 25.

On June 1 the first expedition arrived in Hawaii, which was soon to be taken over by the United States.

The 14th's history describes this visit:

The four days' stay of the troops at Honolulu was one continuous ovation. Everything was literally free to them: carriage rides, cigars, drinks of all kinds, food, curios; everyone was decorated with leis or flower wreath of the Hawaiians, and exhibitions of native dances alternated with visits to Waikiki beach . . . and other points of interest, and the beautiful strains of the native music were a constant source of pleasure.⁶³

One of the soldiers commented in a letter written June 2:

"Our farewell at San Francisco was nothing as compared with our reception here . . . the people . . . had the finest fireworks I ever saw; American flags are everywhere and the decorations are innumerable."

Another GI wrote that the fine reception helped compensate for

the poor accommodations on the *City of Sydney*, where “we are so crowded that bunks are made four high and five wide. The heat is terrible at night. On board we get two meals a day and have to sit on our knees or lie down to eat . . .”

Three hundred letters were sent to Vancouver by troops at Honolulu, along with a number of souvenirs.⁶⁴

On June 4, the expedition resumed its westward trip in the Pacific.

* * * * *

Some troops remained in Vancouver, which was destined to become even more important later as a staging base for the Pacific.

The Portland Evening Telegram of June 4 described payday at the Barracks:

The regulars were paid yesterday, and last evening times in Vancouver were very lively. The money paid the soldiers circulates through the town and forms its lifeblood. Without the soldiers' pay, it does not take a very keen observer to see that the place would be as dead as a doornail, even with the fine farms which it has to draw upon, stretching back clear to the mountains.

Pay day is a gala event in the life of the town. All debts are squared and money jingles on every side. The red-nosed sergeant, that has kept away from the corner owing to the fact that the rotund proprietor would not trust him for any larger sum, can approach with the triumphant air of a soldier making a victorious charge.

It is expected that the volunteers will be paid today.

Early in June, Troop E of the Fourth Cavalry left the Barracks for San Francisco. This move took the last of the U. S. regulars from the garrison. The *Columbian* stated that the volunteers who were in possession of the post “are doing lots of work, getting themselves in good shape for a move to the front.”⁶⁵

On July 15, the Headquarters of 14th Infantry and companies G, I, K, L and M, commanded by Major Robe, sailed from San Francisco, where the new third battalion had been under organization. One month later the troops arrived at Manila Bay. This battalion joined the battalion commanded by Captain Murphy. Companies B and H remained in Alaska.⁶⁶

* * * * *

On the Alaskan front, Capt. “Dickie” Yeatman had, in the *Columbian's* words, “a persuasive argument” with the disorderly element at Skagway during the summer. He notified them that they were in Indian territory, and if he was compelled to declare martial law he would destroy all saloon property in town. “Under this inspiration the saloon keepers are effective workers for the

preservation of good order," according to a news account.^{6 7}

Companies B and H of the 14th Infantry arrived at Vancouver from Alaska in the spring of 1899 after spending the previous year at Fort Wrangel and Dyea, Alaska. The companies, numbering 60 enlisted men each and commanded by Captains Yeatman and Eldridge, were bound from Vancouver Barracks to Benicia Barracks in California to wait for a transport, prior to joining their regiment in the Philippines.^{6 8}

* * * * *

Adventures of the 14th Infantry Regiment in the Philippine Islands are too detailed for recounting in this short historical treatise. Among the troops' activities were some skirmishes with Filipino insurgents in early 1899. An account at considerable length can be found in the 14th Infantry history published in 1909.

A number of interesting letters from members of the regiment were published in newspapers, offering some lively insights on Americans in an Asian environment, an early phase of the massive long-range United States commitment in the western Pacific.

Writing from camp at Manila Bay on May 28, 1899, Cpl. John J. Crabb of Company E reflected:

The mosquitoes are perhaps more troublesome than the natives for they are as big as wasps and as persistent as devils. We have, perhaps, a more wholesome respect for the Mausers in the long run, for that is principally what friends, relatives and old Army veterans cautioned us about when, on leaving Vancouver Barracks, we were bidden God speed. As a blood-letter, however, I believe that I can conscientiously say, that as things go now, the mosquito gets two pints of blood to the Mauser's one.

Corporal Crabb concluded that it was "an inglorious war," and most of the men "have relinquished all that true Quixotic feeling which so characterized their enlistment, and are no longer bubbling over with spontaneous and enthusiastic patriotism."^{6 9}

A news story of 1901 pictured the Philippine situation as a sobering responsibility. Possession of the islands before the war with Spain was not foreseen, and "certainly not desired." But when the authority of the Spaniards was destroyed, the United States had to assume responsibilities, it was asserted. "It has required three years to reach the civil government just begun."^{7 0}

* * * * *

Temporary duty in China in 1900 was an unanticipated side adventure for the 14th Infantry.

In 1900 the foreign population in Peking (also spelled Pekin) was menaced by the Boxer movement. As explained by the Army

commanding general, "the perilous situation of members of the American legation at Peking and their almost complete isolation in the midst of an unruly and murderous populace . . . demanded prompt action for their relief."

The 14th was one of two American infantry regiments chosen for the job; some cavalry and artillery and a hospital corps also went along. American troops totaled 2,500. Lt. Col. Aaron Daggett commanded the 14th when it left the Philippines for China. He had been at Vancouver Barracks at least briefly in earlier years,⁷¹ but did not assume command of the regiment until after it was in the islands. General Anderson, meanwhile, had been transferred to a departmental command in Chicago.

Maj. Gen. Adna R. Chaffee had over-all command of the American relief force, and was in the lead of the 14th Infantry when it entered Peking on Aug. 14. On Aug. 28, the allied forces formally entered the palace grounds at Peking. British, French, Japanese and Russian troops also composed the rescuing Army. Some fighting with Chinese Boxers had been necessary along the route to Peking.⁷²

A review of the American troops was held Oct. 3 at Peking. As the 14th and other soldiers marched by with flags and guidons fluttering gaily, the massed bands of the units played "A Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight." Alignment and marching of the troops "were all what could be expected of the finest veterans in the world," Gen. James Harrison Wilson remembered.⁷³

Shortly afterward the 14th returned to the Philippines.

Daggett left the 14th late in 1900 in the Philippines for the States, and was replaced as commanding officer by Maj. William Quinton.

In February, Col. Stephen Jocelyn became colonel of the 14th; Quinton was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

The 14th was ordered back to the States in 1901, and Quinton was the CO on the trip. Units of the 14th were stationed at several posts in the East and Midwest, before the 14th returned to the Philippines again, sailing in late February 1903.⁷⁴

* * * * *

In 1905 the 14th returned to Vancouver Barracks, replacing the 19th Infantry.

The 19th received orders to go to the Philippines, and departed about the first of April after a grand ball and other social activities.⁷⁵

Troops of the 14th came up the Columbia River on a fine Sunday afternoon in April on the ship *Sheridan*, and a historian says they were given a continuous ovation enroute:

At every hamlet or canner, houseboat, or other inhabited place there was some kind of ovation, varying between cheering and waving of handkerchiefs,



Units of the 14th Infantry marching in the palace grounds in Peking during the Boxer rebellion. This was our country's first military venture into mainland Asia. (Nat'l Archives.)

raising of flags, firing of guns, pistols and cannon, ringing of bells and blowing of whistles. The big whistle of the *Sheridan* was kept busy acknowledging the salutes of river craft, of factories on shore and even from passing locomotives.

The reception filled the soldiers' hearts "with agreeable emotions."⁷⁶

From Portland the following day, river transportation took the 14th to the government dock at Vancouver, where a large crowd welcomed the regiment. The boys "looked strong and healthy," the *Columbian* stated, but the 14th had been gone so long from Vancouver that most of the soldiers were strangers to the Vancouver people. Maj. John S. Parke was commander of the 14th at the time.⁷⁷

Two other changes of station at Vancouver, in March, had been the arrival of the 17th and 18th Field Artillery.⁷⁸

Lt. Col. James A. Irons took over command of the regiment at Vancouver in May. Late in the same year two of the 14th's companies were sent to Monterey, Calif., for several months.⁷⁹

Garrison duty for the 14th was relatively uneventful except for an occasional parade in Vancouver and Portland.

But on April 20, 1906, 10 companies of the 14th as well as the 17th and 18th batteries left for San Francisco to aid in relief work and policing the city, after the devastating earthquake and fire. A great quantity of rations and practically all the tents at the Barracks also were dispatched. Colonel Irons commanded the troops from Vancouver. Only two companies of infantry and the hospital corps were left behind at the Barracks.⁸⁰

Headquarters of the 14th was established at the Presidio, and various companies were dispatched to other parts of the city. Two companies also went on duty in Oakland.

"It was a most depressing experience," recalled historian L. S. Sorley, "for one who had known the old bustling, breezy, gay, hospitable San Francisco of former days to pass through the miles of stark ruins where magnificent residences, churches, museums and business houses had once stood; to see people who, but a few days before were in affluence, now standing in the bread line waiting for their turn to receive the daily dole of food or clothing . . ."

All companies of the 14th returned to Vancouver in June,⁸¹ in time to participate in the 4th of July celebration.

Mid-1906 activities included maneuvers at American Lake, Wash.,⁸² one of a number of annual excursions by Vancouver soldiers to that area, a forerunner of greatly expanded activity there in World War I, when Camp Lewis was established to help provide for rapid mobilization of troops for shipment overseas.

Col. John C. Dent joined the 14th, taking command in late August.

Also during 1906, a former member of the 14th returned to Vancouver Barracks as commander of the Department of the Columbia. He was Brig. Gen. Stephen Jocelyn. The new arrival took the Department command vacated in the summer by Gen. Constant Williams, who was transferred to Wyoming. Jocelyn had been commanding officer of the 14th from 1901 to 1904, traveling with the unit from Fort Snelling, Minn., to the Philippines. Jocelyn, subject of a 1953 book titled "Mostly Alkali," had served at the military post at Vancouver during the Indian wars. He was a long-time member of the 21st Infantry Regiment, which was in the Pacific Northwest in the 1870s and early '80s, with headquarters at Vancouver.⁸³

Another change at the Barracks in 1906, in the early fall, was that the 17th and 18th Mountain batteries were shipped to Cuba.⁸⁴



A typical Chinese Boxer, waving a propaganda flag, at the time the 14th Infantry and other allied troops rescued foreign residents of Peking in the 1900 rebellion. The uprising was a grass roots movement to try to oust foreigners and keep China for the Chinese. (Nat'l Archives.)

Among highlights of the social season for the soldiers in late 1906 and early 1907 were: a grand military concert and ball at the Auditorium in Vancouver sponsored by the 14th's band, with A. E. Pankopf in charge, on Dec. 5; retirement ceremony held March 1, 1907, for General Jocelyn by the Department of the Columbia and the 14th Infantry; and the "red letter hop" of the season on Decoration Day 1907 by the Literary Association of Company B in the post gym to get money for books and magazines for the company library. Souvenirs and relics from the Mt. Dajo fight in the Philippines were displayed at the latter event, along with other military arms arranged so as to be "things of beauty."⁸⁵

On Jan. 2, 1908, 800 men of the 14th left from the Barracks to relieve the First Infantry Regiment that had been stationed in the Philippines. Only 200-300 men remained at the post after the move.⁸⁶

* * * * *

Less than a dozen years later, the 14th Infantry returned to Vancouver Barracks, during a major expansion of the post.

The construction had been launched to accommodate the 14th and other troops—as many as 10,000 were expected to be trained. New garrison structures were "springing up like mushrooms" in the spring of 1917, after America had entered World War I. The Barracks boom also was affecting the town. Empty store buildings were being filled in, hundreds of residences were being occupied and new ones built, as hundreds of new residents flocked in. The Oregonian commented that business at Vancouver was "better than for years past."⁸⁷

In late May the 14th Infantry Regiment, consisting of two battalions, detrained at Vancouver on their arrival from the Southwest; the 14th's headquarters had been at Yuma, Ariz.

One of the old-timers who arrived was Maj. L. R. Groves— he was the father of Leslie Groves who commanded the Manhattan Engineer District (the atomic project) during World War II. Groves, the 14th's chaplain for more than 20 years, had been at Vancouver Barracks twice previously. He went to Cuba in 1898, and after being away returned to recuperate. Groves then was sent to the Philippines. His family remained in this area for about six years.⁸⁸

Among the many new men who arrived with the 14th, but virtually unknown to Vancouver people at that time, was Omar Nelson Bradley, who was 24.

Bradley, later one of the leading American commanders in World War II and still later General of the Army, was assigned in 1915 to



Major John Parke was commanding officer of the 14th Infantry at Vancouver Barracks in 1905. (Nat'l Archives.)



Stephen Jocelyn commanded the 14th from 1901 to 1904, and headed the Dept. of the Columbia in 1906-7 when the 14th was again stationed here. (Nat'l Archives.)

the 14th Infantry after he was graduated from West Point. A Bradley biography states that he was promoted to captain when he moved to Vancouver Barracks.⁸⁹

Gen. Charles P. Gross, of Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y., who was with the Fourth Engineers at the Barracks, recalled that he lived in the same set of officer barracks as Bradley.

Bradley, now residing in Los Angeles, Calif., reminisced years later that he "was scarcely there long enough to learn to catch salmon." He added that he did not remember much about Vancouver, and never served at Vancouver at any other time than World War I.⁹⁰

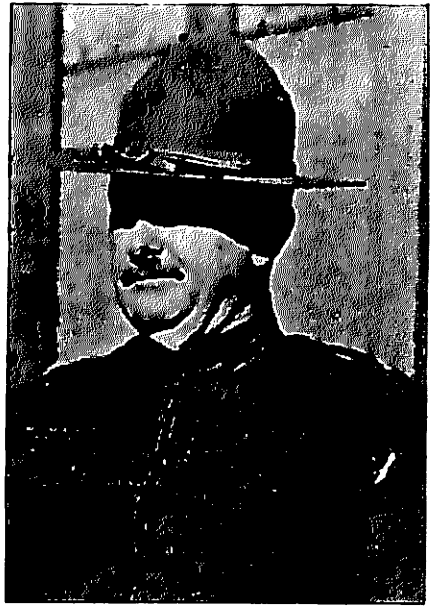
General Gross remembered the post at that time:

All buildings were attractively built. The plain or parade was a long quadrangle parallel to the Columbia. Our company barracks buildings were on the river side of the parade, with Headquarters buildings in the center. Officers' quarters were generally on the north side, some single sets and some doubles. There was a little open ground north of the officer's quarters and then woods to the northern limit of the post.⁹¹

In June 1917 the 14th's commanding officer, Col. Richard H. Wilson, retired. He was presented by officers of the 14th with a



Gen. Constant Williams commanded the Dept. of the Columbia in 1906. (Nat'l Archives.)



Lt. Col. James A. Irons was appointed commander of the 14th at Vancouver in 1905, and led the unit when it was assigned to the San Francisco earthquake in 1906. (Archives.)

history and encyclopedia of music. The colonel was said to be “very fond” of music, and always had paid especial attention to the band of his organization.⁹²

A news report in late October stated that three-fourths of the troops stationed at Vancouver Barracks were to be transferred to Camp Lewis soon to complete training. These were the 14th and 44th Infantry regiments, comprising 2,500 men but still not recruited to war strength. Since its return from the Mexican border at Yuma, the 14th had been subdivided and the new unit formed was the 44th. Both regiments had been recruiting extensively.

The Fourth Engineers and reserve officers also were stationed at the considerably expanded post at the time.⁹³

Farewell events including motion pictures and music programs were held for each of the departing regiments at YMCA buildings at the Barracks. On Nov. 16, men of the 14th, loaded with heavy kits, moved out, while the band in the lead played lively tunes. “Everybody was there and everybody endeavored to say goodbye to every one in the regiment,” according to one account, and many eyes were dimmed by tears. Every whistle in town reportedly “did its bit,” all the church bells rang and the fire bell was sounded. Apples from Oregon Packing Co. were passed along by spectators to the



Col. William Quinton was placed in command of the 14th Infantry in the Philippines in 1900 and returned with it to the United States. (National Archives.)



Col. Richard H. Wilson, shown here as a captain of the Eighth Infantry, was the 14th's commander just before World War I. (Archives.)

departing troops. A similar send-off was given to the 44th.⁹⁴

The 14th Infantry was at Fort George Wright in 1918, went to Camp Dodge, Iowa, and Camp Grant, Ill., the same year, and in at least part 1919 was at Camp Custer, Mich. But it did not add to its combat record by going overseas in World War I.⁹⁵

Other regular Army troops were garrisoning Vancouver Barracks, where the 14th had chalked up such a long record. The Seventh Infantry Regiment, especially, was a lengthy tenant of the post, in the 1920s and '30s.

Today the Barracks still gets extensive use, although it is the base only for Army reserves and National Guard, and the acreage of the military reservation has been trimmed down considerably from days when the 14th Infantry Regiment was so prominent a part of the Vancouver scene.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A sequel to this article, the biography of Gen. Thomas M. Anderson who led the 14th Infantry to the Philippines, will be published in the 1973 issue of "Clark County History." The author is Dr. Charles Gauld, a grandson of the general.

Notes on the 14th Infantry

1. P. 5, *The Nineties*, New York, 1967.
2. *Portland Oregonian*, July 3, 1897.
3. *Vancouver weekly Columbian*, July 21, Aug. 4, 1893, March 14 two items, March 21, April 18, 1894.
4. *Columbian* March 16, 1894, *Vancouver weekly Independent*, May 16, 1894.
5. P. 152-4, *Report of the Secretary of War*, 1894.
6. P. 8, L. S. Sorley's *History of the 14th U. S. Infantry*, January 1890 to December 1908, Chicago, 1909; *Portland Oregonian*, May 13, 14, 1894; *Vancouver Independent*, May 16, 1894.
7. P. 8, Sorley's *History of the 14th U.S. Infantry*; P. 154-5, *Report of the Secretary of War*, 1894.
8. P. 155, *Report of the Secretary of War*, 1894; *Independent*, June 13, July 25, 1894.
9. P. 8 *History of the 14th Infantry*; see also *Independent*, May 23 two items, May 30 two items, June 6, 1894, for various news on the disturbances.
10. P. 8-9, *History of the 14th Infantry*; *Independent*, June 13, 20, July 11, 1894.
11. P. 155, *Report of the Secretary of War*, 1894.
12. *Oregonian*, July 7, 8, 1894.
13. *Ibid.*, July 7, 8, 9, 10, 1894.
14. P. 156, *Report of the Secretary of War*, 1894; *Independent*, Aug. 1, 4, 1894.
15. P. 9, *History of the 14th Infantry*.
16. *Oregonian*, April 17, 18, 1895; *Columbian* April 19, 1895, two items. The band had been active in the previous year as usual -- one of its appearances was at the Astoria, Ore., regatta. One band program in this period consisted of a march (the Marksman's Parade), selection maritana, a Spanish waltz, a schottische (Dream of Love), serenade labeled Sweet Thoughts, and an "idyl" (The Mill in the Forest).
17. *Columbian*, May 17, 1895.
18. *Ibid.*, May 3, 1895.
19. *Ibid.*, May 31, 1895.
20. *Ibid.*, June 28, 1895; *Oregonian*, June 26, 1895. Wilson was identified in the *Columbian* of July 19, 1895, as adjutant general of the Department of the Columbia.
21. *Columbian*, July 12, 1895; *Oregonian*, July 5, 1895. The *Oregonian* refers to the mounted troops as the Second Cavalry, but they apparently were Barracks soldiers.
22. *Columbian*, March 13, 1896.
23. *Ibid.*, June 5, July 17, 1896. McCammon, a Civil War veteran, had been appointed a second lieutenant with the 14th in 1867. He joined the Fourth Infantry in 1900, retired in 1902, and died in 1903, according to Francis B. Heitman's *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, 1789-1903*, two volumes, Washington, 1903.
24. *Portland Oregonian*, July 18, 1896 three items, *Columbian*, July 24, Oct. 16, 1896. Heitman's book states that Eastman had become an officer of the 14th in 1879, and was named captain in 1894. He was appointed major of the 28th Infantry in 1901.
25. P. 90-1, and facing P. 84, *Report of the Secretary of War*, 1896.
26. P. 211, Clarence C. Hulley's *Alaska Past and Present*, Portland, Ore., 1958; P. 160-3, *Report of the Secretary of War*, 1896.
27. *Columbian*, Aug. 28, Dec. 25, 1896, two items. A copy of the Sport newspaper has been preserved at the U. S. Grant Museum in Vancouver.
28. *Columbian*, Feb. 12, 1897.
29. *Ibid.*, March 19, 1897.
30. *Ibid.*, March 12, April 2, 1897; *Independent*, Feb. 25, 1897.
31. *Independent* May 27, 1897; P. 197, *Report of the Secretary of War*, 1897; P. 553-4, *Dictionary of American Biography*, Vol. XII, New York, 1933.
32. P. 94-5, *Dictionary of American Biography*, Vol. XIV, New York, 1934.
33. The *Columbian* of Aug. 2, 1895, told of Robe's transfer from the 25th Infantry. Robe was a Civil War veteran as were most 14th Infantry officers. He was named a lieutenant colonel of the 17th Infantry in late 1898, Heitman's book relates.
34. *Oregonian*, July 6, 1897 (The Independence Day activities were held on two days, July 4-5).
35. *Ibid.*, July 5, 1897.
36. *Vancouver Register*, July 15, 1897; *Oregonian*, July 14, 1897.
37. *Independent*, Sept. 2, 1897.
38. *Independent*, Sept. 16, 30, 1897; *Salem, Ore., Weekly Statesman*, Oct. 8, 1897.

39. P. 197-200, Report of the Secretary of War, 1897.
40. Vancouver Columbian, Dec. 31, 1897, Jan. 7, 21, 1898.
41. Vancouver Independent, Jan. 20, 1898.
42. Independent, Jan. 27, 1898; Columbian, Feb. 11, 1898, three items. The Independent of March 17 tells of part of a pack train returning to the Department of the Columbia. For more on the relief and exploring expedition plans, see the Seattle Times, Jan. 16, 18, 20, 1898; Vancouver Register, Jan. 6, Feb. 10, 1898, and The Columbian, March 11 and 18 and April 8, 1898. Details of relief and exploring expeditions which were sent to Alaska in 1898 are too involved to be outlined in this regimental history.
43. Lewiston, Idaho, Tribune, Feb. 23, 1898.
44. The Feb. 14, 1898, Oregonian has two columns of material on "Life in Skagway"; part of this relates to the lawlessness of the community. Soapy Smith was one of the notables of this wild time. His death is reported in the Oregonian of July 17, 1898. A historian of the era says he "rode herd" over the carnival-like main street of Skagway, and that "the old shell game that Soapy had practiced so deftly in Denver and Creede, Colo.," was prominent in Skagway (P. 75, Ellis Lucia's book on Klondike Kate, New York, 1962).
45. Oregonian, Feb. 9, 1898; Columbian, Feb. 11, 1898; Vancouver Register, Feb. 10, 1898.
46. Oregonian, Feb. 16, 1898; Columbian, Feb. 18, 1898.
47. Columbian, Feb. 18, 1898, two articles.
48. Columbian, March 4, 1898.
49. As copied in the Vancouver Independent of March 10, 1898; the letter in the P.I. was dated Feb. 27 at Skagway. The soldiers became more active than the letter would indicate. A Portland Oregonian article of March 16, titled "Driven Out of Skagway," tells of gamblers and con men being ousted from the town by the Army.
50. Independent, March 17, 1898.
51. Sergeant Major James Kelley's grave is in the Vancouver post cemetery, marked by a large monument in a row with markers for four officers including Capt. Charles Western of the 14th who died in 1890. Kelley died on March 19, 1898, after an illness of three days, and the regimental flag was flown at half staff in front of his tent, "a most gloomy and foreboding omen for the regiment." See Vancouver Independent, March 31, April 7, 1898.
52. Independent, March 31, 1898.
53. P. 9-10, History of the 14th Infantry.
54. Columbian, April 29, 1898.
55. Ibid., April 29, May 6, 1898.
56. Oregonian, May 4, 1898; Dayton Wash., Columbia Chronicle, May 7, 1898; Columbian, May 6, 1898.
57. Oregonian, May 9, 1898; Captain Eldridge took command of the District of Wrangel, according to P. 10, History of the 14th Infantry.
58. Oregonian, May 8, 1898; Columbian, May 13, 1898. Capt. Frank Taylor was to join his company, E, after he was relieved from duty as mustering officer in Washington. Heitman's book says Taylor was assigned to the 14th in 1869, that he was appointed captain in 1892, and transferred to the Eighth Infantry in 1900.
59. Columbian, May 27, 1898.
60. Portland Evening Telegram May 24, 1898; San Francisco, Calif., Call, May 25, 1898.
61. San Francisco Call, May 25, 1898.
62. Ibid., May 25, 1898; P. 12, History of the 14th Infantry.
63. P. 12, History of the 14th Infantry. See also Vancouver Register of July 7, 1898, "Soldier Boys at Honolulu," for a 1-2/3 column letter from Corporal Bales of the 14th.
64. Columbian, July 1, 1898, three items.
65. Ibid., June 10, 1898, two items.
66. P. 25, History of the 14th Infantry Regiment.
67. Columbian July 29, 1898.
68. Ibid., May 19, 26, June 2, 1899; Independent, June 1, 1899; Vancouver Register, June 1, 1899.
69. Columbian, July 21, 1899. In the same year Colonel Anderson wrote a farewell to the 14th when he was ordered back to the States from the Philippines. See Independent, May 18, 1899.
70. Columbian, July 18, 1901.
71. See Independent, Sept. 25, Nov. 20, 1884.
72. See: Report of the Secretary of War, 1900, P. 20-21, 61-71; The Life of Lieutenant General Chaffee by William Harding Carter, Chicago, 1917; James Harrison Wilson's Under the Old Flag, New York, 1912, two volumes (Wilson was at Vancouver Barracks in 1860-61); and History of the 14th Infantry.
73. P. 534-5, Under the Old Flag, Vol. II.

74. History of the 14th Infantry.
75. Independent, Feb. 16, 1905; Columbian, March 16, 23, 30, 1905.
76. P. 127, History of the 14th Infantry.
77. Columbian, April 27, 1905.
78. Independent and Columbian, March 23, 1905.
79. Independent Nov. 2, 1905; P. 128, History of the 14th Infantry.
80. Columbian, April 26, 1906.
81. P. 128-9, History of the 14th Infantry.
82. P. 129, History of the 14th Infantry; Columbian, July 26, 1906.
83. Columbian, Sept. 27, 1906; "Mostly Alkali" by Stephen Perry Jocelyn, Caldwell, Idaho, 1953.
84. Ibid., Oct. 4, 1906.
85. Ibid., Nov. 22, 1906, May 23, 1907; P. 128-9, History of the 14th Infantry.
82. P. 129, History of the 14th Infantry; Columbian, July 26, 1906.
83. Columbian, Sept. 27, 1906; "Mostly Alkali" by Stephen Perry Jocelyn, Caldwell, Idaho, 1953.
84. Ibid., Oct. 4, 1906.
85. Ibid., Nov. 22, 1906, May 23, 1907; P. 128-9, History of the 14th Infantry.
82. P. 129, History of the 14th Infantry; Columbian, July 26, 1906.
83. Columbian, Sept. 27, 1906; "Mostly Alkali" by Stephen Perry Jocelyn, Caldwell, Idaho, 1953.
84. Ibid., Oct. 4, 1906.
85. Ibid., Nov. 22, 1906, May 23, 1907; P. 128-9, History of the 14th Infantry.
86. Columbian, Jan. 2, 1908.
87. Portland Oregonian, May 27, June 2, 1917.
88. Ibid., May 26, 1917.
89. Current Biography, Who's New and Why, New York, 1943.
90. Letter from Col. Grover W. Asmus, Bradley's aide-d-camp, to Ted Van Arsdol, June 17, 1971.
91. Letter May 21, 1971, to Ted Van Arsdol.
92. Oregonian, June 13, 1917.
93. Oregonian, Oct. 28, 1917; Columbian, Nov. 1, 1917.
94. Oregonian, Nov. 17, 1917; weekly Columbian, Nov. 15, 22, 1917.
95. P. 1375, Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War (1917-19), Zone of the Interior, Vol. 3, Part 1, Washington, D.C., 1949.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FORT VANCOUVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- Annual salmon barbecue, Leverich Park, July 20, 1972
- Bus tour to Oregon City, August 10, 1972
- Exhibit at county fair, August 8-13, 1972
- Third quarterly meeting, Camas-
Washougal Electric Center, October 5, 1972
- Annual dinner meeting, November 2, 1972