

THE GREAT WAR, WORLD WAR I, AND OSCAR BURTON THOMAS' EXPERIENCES

INTRODUCTION

The Great War, World War I, was a major factor in the life of O. B. Thomas. He was seriously wounded on July 26, 1918 during intense fighting in the area near Chateau Thierry in France. Because of that World War I involvement, an effort has been made to include brief historical information about that period of his life - a period that led to the deaths of a generation of young men and countless numbers of non-combatants on both sides, and that has influenced world history ever since.

The Great War, in a narrow technical sense, began in August, 1914 with the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife in Sarejevo, Bosnia. Bosnia was a state recently annexed by the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which was ruled by the elderly Emperor Franz Joseph. Franz Ferdinand was the Emperor's nephew, and the heir apparent to the Austro-Hungarian throne.

The assassin was a young Serbian student, a member of a politically active organization in Bosnia. Nearby Serbia viewed the annexation of Bosnia as a threat. The assassination was viewed by Austria-Hungary as an attack by terrorists, supported by the Serbian state, which triggered a rapid sequence of events that soon became The Great War, World War I.

Sarejevo, and the region known as Yugoslavia during the mid-twentieth century, again became the locale for intensive fighting during the 1990s.

The United States, however, did not become directly involved until it declared war on April 6, 1917, two and one-half years later.

One sometimes reads or hears that The Great War was fought "to make the world safe for democracy." But that concept was irrelevant at the onset of the war. The expression was introduced two and one-half years later, when on April 2, 1917 President Woodrow Wilson asked the U.S. Congress to approve a declaration of war against Germany. In that address to the Congress, President Wilson said "The world must be made safe for democracy."

Of incidental interest: Winston Churchill was British First Lord of the Admiralty (like our Secretary of the Navy) at that time. Adolph Hitler was an ordinary foot soldier in the Austrian army at the same time.

Royal Family Quarrels

To some extent the events leading up to The Great War might be viewed as a family quarrel amongst royal cousins and other relatives. At that time the royal families still had a degree of political power in the affairs of their countries. Most of that royal family power vanished as a result of The Great War.

Queen Victoria of England had married Albert, a German prince. In 1914 King George of England, Czar Nicholas of Russia, and Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany were cousins. All were grandsons of Victoria. Czarina Alexandra of Russia was Victoria's grand-daughter. Some of the relations involved intermediate marriages with other royal families, such as those of Denmark and Greece. Following WW II, Lord Mountbatten became the last British Viceroy of India. The name Mountbatten originally was the German name Battenberg. It was Anglicized decades earlier to minimize anti-German sentiments in England.

THE U.S. EXPEDITION AGAINST PANCHO VILLA IN MEXICO

WW I - 2

During the early part of The Great War, the attention of the United States was directed more toward Mexico. Things came to a head very early in Woodrow Wilson's first term, when William Jennings Bryan was his Secretary of State. Bryan is remembered primarily for his role in the "Scopes Monkey Trial" in Dayton, Tennessee, in July, 1925. The opposing attorney was Clarence Darrow.

In the early 1900s, the United States had a pattern of intervention in various Latin American and Caribbean countries. In April, 1914 the United States landed a military force and occupied Veracruz, Mexico on the Gulf of Mexico. That led to the collapse of the government of President Huerta of Mexico.

The "government" of Mexico split into factions with three primary leaders: Zapata, Carranza, and Pancho Villa, a kind of "bandit chieftan." The general situation in Mexico steadily deteriorated. In January, 1916 Villa's forces murdered seventeen American mining engineers in Mexico. In March, 1916 Villa's forces raided the town of Columbus, New Mexico, killing sixteen residents.

There was a great public outcry in the U.S. In April, 1916 Wilson ordered a force of 6,000 troops into Mexico to hunt down Pancho Villa. The force was commanded by General John J. [Black Jack] Pershing. George Patton, a young army officer, was on his staff.

Villa was not caught by this US force. By February, 1917 it was becoming increasingly probable that the United States would enter The Great War in Europe, so President Wilson withdrew Pershing's army force from Mexico. The United States on April 6, 1917 declared war on Germany and its allies. Many soldiers who had enlisted to go fight Pancho Villa were thus drawn into The Great War in Europe.

The declaration of war by the U.S. was triggered by the escalation by Germany of unrestricted submarine warfare in the Atlantic.

Some of those forces included the Fourth Alabama National Guard Infantry which had gone to the Mexican border in late October, 1916. It returned to Montgomery, Alabama on March 22, 1917. The declaration of war against Germany and its allies was only two weeks away, so the hoped for demobilization was cancelled. Instead, recruiting began for the purpose of building up the unit's strength.

On August 5, 1917 the Fourth Alabama National Guard Infantry was incorporated into the United States Army. On August 14, 1917 it was redesignated as the 167th United States Infantry, and was made a part of the 42nd Army Division. The 42nd Division became known as the Rainbow Division because it was made up of units from so many of the states. Colonel Douglas MacArthur was a senior officer in the command structure of the Rainbow Division.

THE GREAT WAR & OSCAR BURTON THOMAS: 1917-1919

Oscar Burton Thomas enlisted in the Fourth Alabama Infantry on June 6, 1917. This was after the unit had returned from the Mexican border, and after the United States had declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917. He had not enlisted earlier "to fight Pancho Villa," as many others had done. Instead, he had enlisted as a consequence of the United States involvement in The Great War in Europe. The Fourth Alabama National Guard Infantry was incorporated into the regular U.S. Army as the 167th United States Infantry about six weeks later.

He was promoted to Corporal on August 20, 1917. The unit arrived at Mineola, Long Island, New York on September 1, 1917 for further training. Then it moved to Nova Scotia, Canada and sailed for Europe on November 6, 1917, on the British Transport Andania.

He was in heavy fighting along the Defensive Sector, at the Battle of Champagne-Marne, at the Battle of Aisne-Marne, and at Chateau Thierry ... generally referred to as the Second Battle of the Marne.

All this intense fighting was in a short time in mid-1918. It was a maximum effort to repulse Germany's "last gasp" attempt to win the war. The German effort was repulsed during these intense battles. It signaled the end of Germany's hopes to win the war. Although Germany had "lost" the war by the summer of 1918, fighting did continue until November, 1918.

He was seriously wounded during intense fighting in the area around Chateau Thierry in France on July 26, 1918. He was struck in the jaw by a German machine gun bullet. Following extensive medical treatment in France, he returned to the United States on November 25, 1918 aboard the U.S. Transport Orizaba.

He was at the Army Hospital in Cape May, New Jersey for further medical treatment and recovery until early 1919. He was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on February 5, 1919, at Camp Sheridan, Alabama. He received \$60 in severance pay from the Army.

The following pages are copied from his "Remembrance Book" of the Fourth Alabama Infantry. The original pages are about 20% larger than the copies contained here.

The unit has a long history which dates back to 1846 when the First Alabama Volunteers marched 900 men through Texas and Mexico to the village of Jalapa near Mexico City. The unit returned to Alabama and in 1861 was reorganized as the "Fourth Alabama." When the Civil War began, the "Fourth Alabama" marched to Lynchburg, Virginia where it received orders to proceed to Harper's Ferry.

During the Civil War the "Fourth Alabama" participated in 38 skirmishes and 17 major campaigns. The major battle in which this unit participated was the Battle of Manassas. At Appomattox, approximately 300 officers and enlisted men surrendered their arms.

The Fourth Alabama was mustered and reorganized in 1875 and served as the state militia until 1911. On July 15, 1911 the Fourth Alabama became a National Guard unit. Capt. Mortimer H. Jordan, although a physician in Birmingham also was an infantry officer in the Fourth Alabama at the beginning of the First World War.

On June 28, 1916 the unit was called into Federal service and soon afterwards was sent to the Mexican border, because of problems related to Pancho Villa. The unit returned to Camp Sheridan near Montgomery, Alabama on March 16, 1917.

On August 14, 1917 the unit was taken into the regular army and was designated as the 167th United States Infantry. It was assigned to the 42nd "Rainbow Division" which was activated at Camp Mills, Mineola, Long Island, New York. In November, 1917, the 167th crossed the Atlantic. The unit was sent to the front lines in northeastern France, initially in "defensive sectors." During the late spring and early summer of 1918 it participated in the largest engagement of World War I, the "Second Battle of the Marne," which was a final and desperate effort by Germany to break through to Paris and win the war. This "Second Battle" was in reality a large number of battles - each of which was significant.

After serving in the Army of Occupation, the 167th was returned to Camp Sheridan near Montgomery, Alabama, where it was mustered out on May 19, 1919. In July, 1923 the regiment was assigned to the 31st Dixie Division.

The following pages document some of Oscar Burton Thomas' involvement with the Fourth Alabama Infantry.

BACKGROUND OF THE GREAT WAR IN EUROPE, AND U.S. INVOLVEMENT BEGINNING IN 1917.

It often is said that The Great War was caused by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarejevo, Bosnia in August, 1914. But, this was simply the immediate “trigger” for actions that had a very long historical background in Europe.

The circumstances which finally precipitated The Great War, beginning in the autumn of 1914, had roots going back a century or more.

The Europe of the early 1900s politically was still very much in the 19th century. Kings and Emperors still had far more personal power than is the case today. There was a long history of wars, alliances, territorial disputes, and jockeying for land, power, and prestige.

Germany

At the turn of the century, Germany was still a very young nation. It was formed in 1871, immediately following the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71, by the consolidation of 26 Germanic states, kingdoms, duchies, free cities, etc. The force behind the consolidation was Otto von Bismarck who became known as the “Iron Chancellor” of Prussia, and then of the new Germany. Bismarck was an authoritarian and powerful ruler, whose power base was the military.

The first King of Prussia was William I. His grandson, William II {Kaiser Wilhelm} was the German head of state at the time of The Great War. Kaiser Wilhelm was a grandson of Queen Victoria of England and the cousin of both King George of England and Czar Nicholas of Russia.

The Franco-Prussian War

The Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 was a precursor to the formation of the German nation. There were territorial disputes, such as in the regions of Alsace and Lorraine. France at the time was ruled by the Emperor Napoleon III.

The Franco-Prussian War was won by the emerging German nation, and that planted the seeds of continuing animosity between the two countries, leaving France thirsting for revenge and for recovery of its lost territories.

During this short war Germany lost 28,000 soldiers killed, and France lost 136,000 killed.

France: Great Britain: Russia Alliances

During the quarter century preceding The Great War, these three countries had entered into various “mutual security” and “mutual defense” alliances. The alliance between France and Russia created fears in the new Germany of a “war on two fronts.” Part of Russia’s interest arose from its cultural and historical ties with the Slavic states in the Balkans and the emerging threat to Serbia arising from the Austro-Hungarian annexation of Bosnia in 1908.

Great Britain was a less enthusiastic partner in the alliance, since at the time it was having major problems in Ireland. Great Britain’s involvement was linked to preserving the neutrality of Belgium, and violation of that neutrality by Germany was the final step of drawing Great Britain into the war.

ILLUSTRATED REVIEW

Fourth Alabama Infantry, United States Army

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

 1917 

EMBRACING

An historical Sketch of the movements and operations of the Regiment since organization.

Roster of its present Officers, Field, Staff and Line, Headquarters Company,
Supply Company, Companies A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., K.,

L., M., Machine Gun Company and Attached Sanitary Unit

With Illustrations

WWI-057 From O. B. Thomas' "Remembrance Book" of the Fourth Alabama Infantry. The book was prepared some time in 1917 before the unit moved to Long Island, New York for further training. This book was somewhat like a school year book. We have the original, and have copied selected pages into this memoir.

You can finish out this record as far as you care about it.
 wife write and let you know as I can about it. O.B.T.

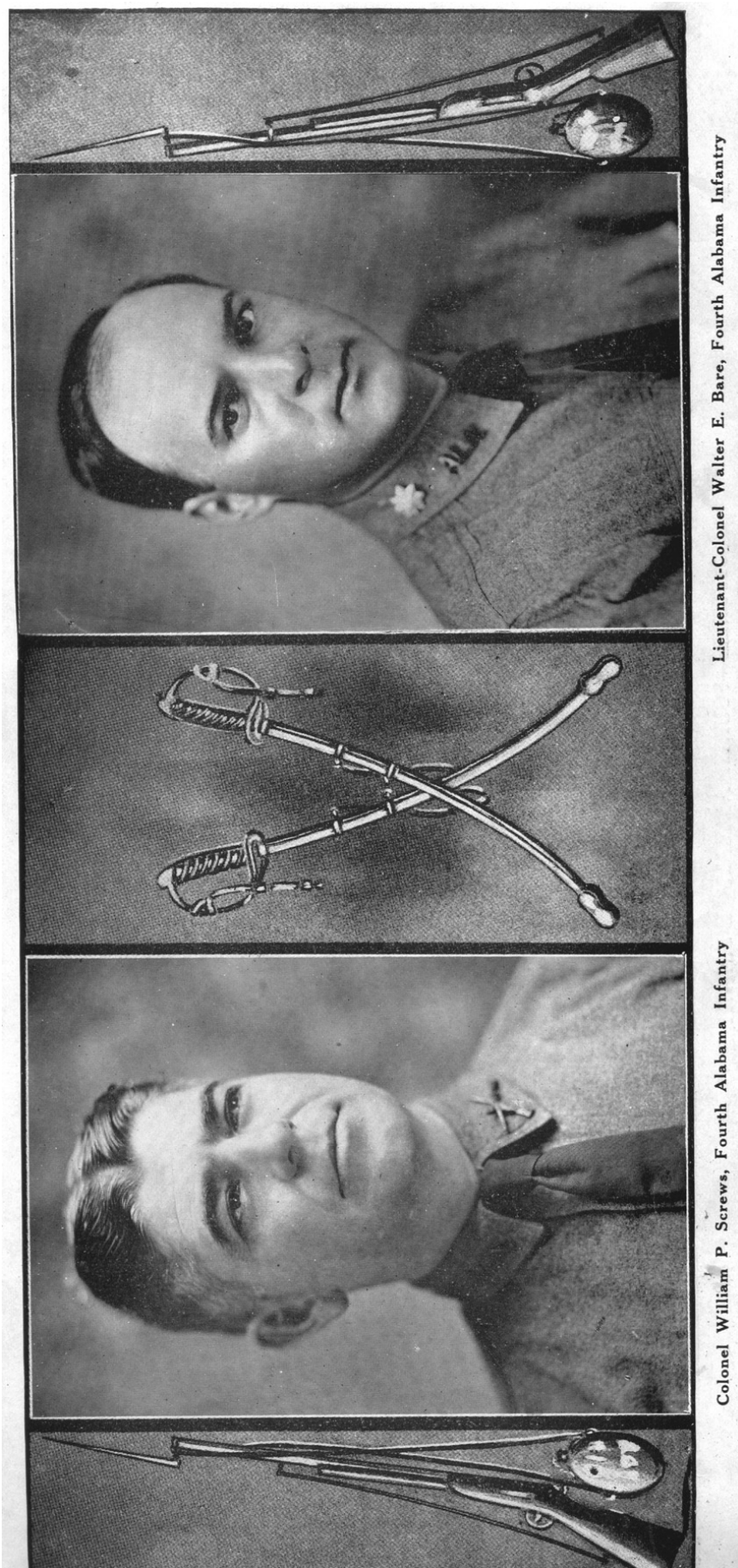
PERSONAL RECORD



Name Oscar B. Fowler
 Date of Enlistment June 6, 1917
 Reached Mobilization Camp,
 Montgomery, Ala. June 13, 1917
 Assigned to Co. K 4th Ala. inf.
 Transferred to 167th U. S. Infantry,
 RAINBOW DIVISION, August 15, 1917
 Date of Commissions or Warrants Aug. 20-1917
 Rank Corporal

Date of Departure from Camp Sheridan Aug. 28-1917
 Arrived Mineola, Long Island Sept. 1st 1917
 Sailed for France Nov. 6-1917
 On U. S. Transport Andonia
 Returned to U. S. A. Nov. 25-1918
 On U. S. Transport Arizona
 Honorably Discharged Feb. 5-1919

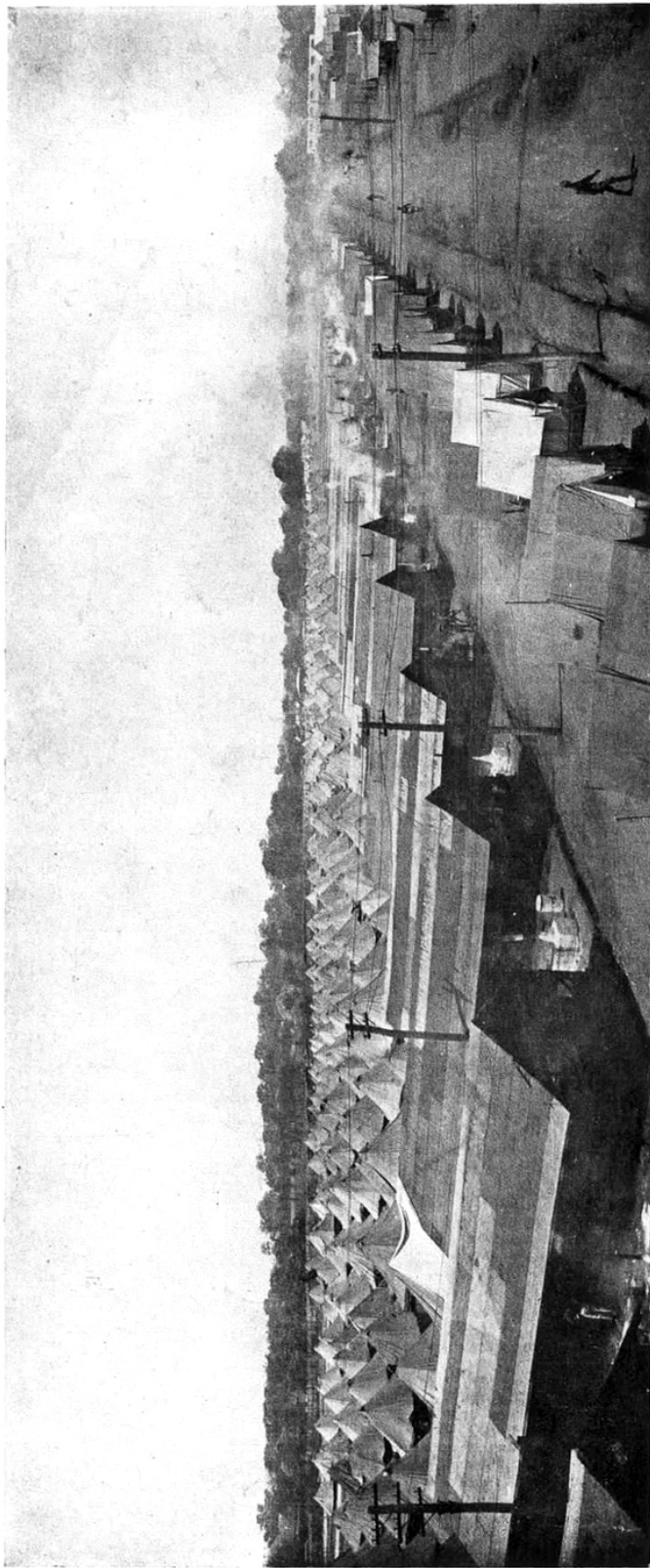
WWI-056 This "Personal Record" appears as one of the pages in O. B. Thomas' "Remembrance Book" about the Fourth Alabama Infantry. Notice the handwritten note across the top. It appears that most of this book was assembled in mid-1917, and that most of the above information was entered before he left for France in November, 1917. The last four entries with names of the two transport ships and the dates in 1918 and 1919 were probably added after he returned to the U.S. --- An interesting item from the family oral history. As children we heard the story that he had enlisted in the army to go and fight Pancho Villa along the Mexican border and down into Mexico. A large number of young men did that, but I personally doubt the story. The US declared war on Germany April 6, 1917 and he enlisted on June 6, 1917, only about two months later. It appears that he enlisted specifically because war with Germany had been declared.... Note that he moved up to Corporal pretty fast, in just a little more than two months. Perhaps it was a sign of maturity, as he was 25 years old at the time.



Colonel William P. Screws, Fourth Alabama Infantry

Lieutenant-Colonel Walter E. Bare, Fourth Alabama Infantry

WWI-058 The senior officers of the Fourth Alabama Infantry, summer, 1917

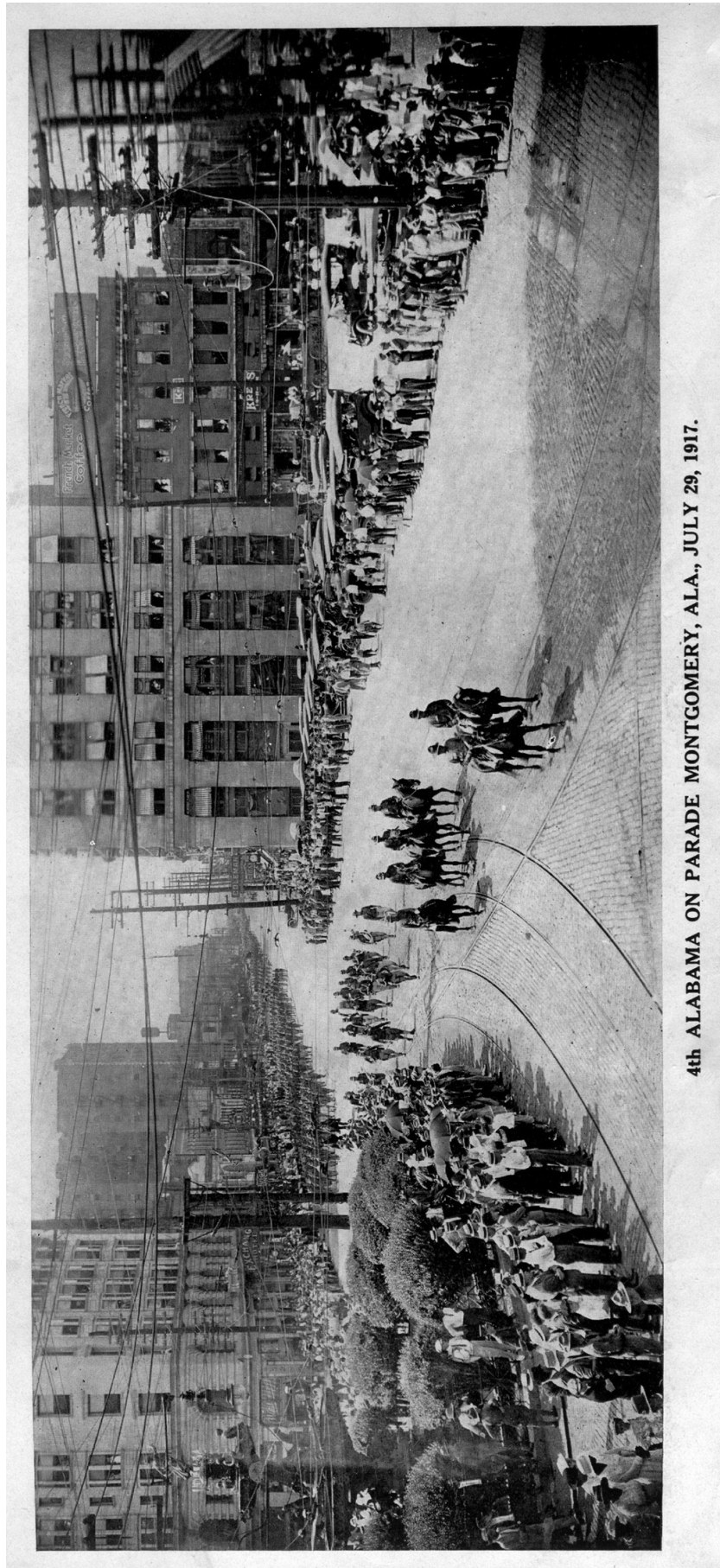


CAMP SHERIDAN, MONTGOMERY, ALA.

Home of the Fourth Alabama Infantry during the involvement with Pancho Villa in Mexico, and later when mobilized for the war in France. Oscar Burton Thomas returned to Camp Sheridan for discharge from the U.S. Army after he was released from the U.S. Army Hospital in Cape May, New Jersey in early 1919.

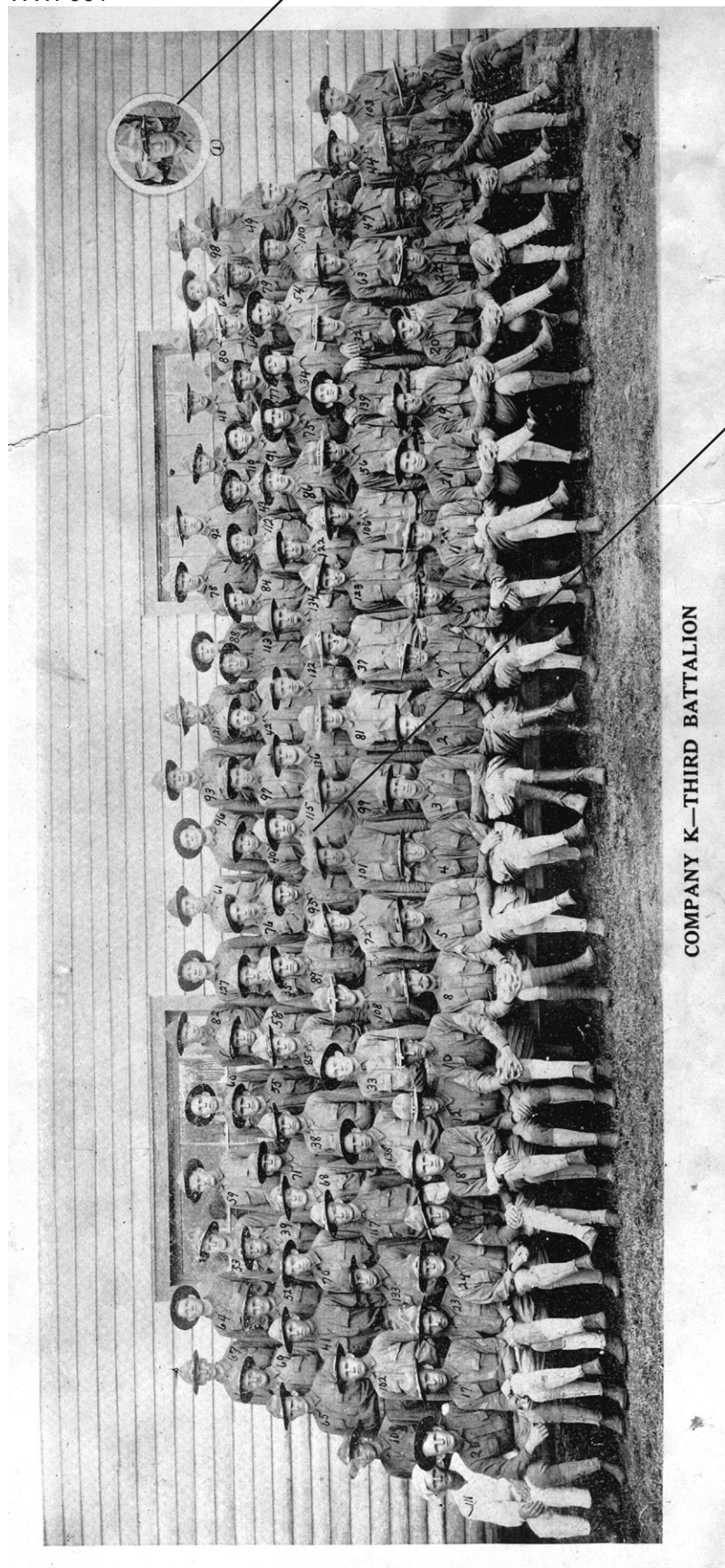
WWI-069

WWI - 8



4th ALABAMA ON PARADE MONTGOMERY, ALA., JULY 29, 1917.

WWI-060 The Fourth Alabama Infantry left Montgomery on August 28, 1917 for further training at Mineola, Long Island, New York. It then went to Nova Scotia, Canada and from there by ship to Europe.



COMPANY K—THIRD BATTALION



Oscar Burton Thomas

WWI-061 Company K of the Fourth Alabama National Guard Infantry, while finishing training at Camp Sheridan near Montgomery, Alabama. The photo is from the summer of 1917 before moving to Long Island, New York for further training. O.B. Thomas was in Company K, and is No. 115 in the center of the third row up, and also in the enlarged cutout. Company K was commanded by Capt. Mortimer Jordan, who was killed in France. His photo is in the circular highlight in the upper right corner. Mortimer Jordan High School, north of Birmingham up toward Warrior, was named in his honor. Martha {Skinner} Thomas, Sara Skinner and other members of the Reese and the Skinner families attended Mortimer Jordan High School. The Jordan family was an old one in Birmingham, and the old family home on Highland Avenue in Birmingham is now an historical site.

WWI-062

ROSTER COMPANY "K" 4th ALABAMA INFANTRY

NO.	RANK	NAME	RESIDENCE
1	Captain	... Mortimer	... Birmingham, Ala.
2	1st Lieut.	... Alan M. Smith	... Birmingham, Ala.
3	2nd Lieut.	... Walter H. Lawson	... Kinsale, Fla.
4	1st Sergeant	... M. J. Leath	... Birmingham, Ala.
5	2nd Sergeant	... M. J. Leath	... Birmingham, Ala.
6	"	... C. H. P.	... Birmingham, Ala.
7	"	... C. H. P.	... Birmingham, Ala.
8	"	... L. M.	... Birmingham, Ala.
9	"	... L. M.	... Birmingham, Ala.
10	"	... L. M.	... Birmingham, Ala.
11	"	... L. M.	... Birmingham, Ala.
12	"	... L. M.	... Birmingham, Ala.
13	Corporal	... Harrison, Frank J.	... Edgewater, Ala.
14	"	... McCreary, W. H.	... Birmingham, Ala.
15	"	... Parham, W. H.	... Cullman, Ala.
16	"	... Love, F. E.	... Birmingham, Ala.
17	"	... G. B. P.	... Birmingham, Ala.
18	"	... G. B. P.	... Birmingham, Ala.
19	"	... G. B. P.	... Birmingham, Ala.
20	"	... G. B. P.	... Birmingham, Ala.
21	"	... G. B. P.	... Birmingham, Ala.
22	"	... G. B. P.	... Birmingham, Ala.
23	"	... G. B. P.	... Birmingham, Ala.
24	"	... G. B. P.	... Birmingham, Ala.
25	"	... G. B. P.	... Birmingham, Ala.
26	"	... G. B. P.	... Birmingham, Ala.
27	"	... G. B. P.	... Birmingham, Ala.
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45	"	... G. B. P.	... Birmingham, Ala.
46	"	... G. B. P.	... Birmingham, Ala.
47	"	... G. B. P.	... Birmingham, Ala.

NO.	RANK	NAME	RESIDENCE
48	Private	... Bass, W. T.	... Haynesville, Ala.
49	"	... Compton, Charles E.	... Mt. Pleasant, Ala.
50	"	... Clemmer, Earl W.	... Cooper, Ala.
51	"	... Cantrell, Barney M.	... Rockledge, Ga.
52	"	... Cook, Gustav L.	... Birmingham, Ala.
53	"	... Calloway, Walter	... Deatsville, Ala.
54	"	... Caldwell, Wilbur	... Birmingham, Ala.
55	"	... Chambliss, Malcolm G.	... Mt. Creek, Ala.
56	"	... Cooley, Sam G.	... Andalusia, Ala.
57	"	... Cooley, Charles M.	... Rockledge, Ala.
58	"	... Day, Chap P.	... Argo, Ala.
59	"	... Downey, Daniel	... Birmingham, Ala.
60	"	... Downey, Richard P.	... Natural Bridge, Ala.
61	"	... Evans, Roy S.	... Mt. Creek, Ala.
62	"	... Faulkner, Hugh I.	... Wadsworth, Ala.
63	"	... Farley, Mose	... Birmingham, Ala.
64	"	... Fennell, James S.	... Morris, Ala.
65	"	... Fennell, James S.	... Birmingham, Ala.
66	"	... Fennell, James S.	... Birmingham, Ala.
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87	"	... Fennell, James S.	... Birmingham, Ala.
88	"	... Fennell, James S.	... Birmingham, Ala.
89	"	... Fennell, James S.	... Birmingham, Ala.
90	"	... Fennell, James S.	... Birmingham, Ala.
91	"	... Fennell, James S.	... Birmingham, Ala.
92	"	... Fennell, James S.	... Birmingham, Ala.
93	"	... Fennell, James S.	... Birmingham, Ala.

*Not shown in illustration.

The roster of Company K, Fourth Alabama Infantry, before leaving Camp Sheridan near Montgomery, Alabama. These are the 141 people in the preceding photograph. The makeup and the size of Company K almost certainly changed as it moved through training, was absorbed into the regular army, went overseas, and became involved in the actual fighting in France.

NO.	RANK	NAME	RESIDENCE
1	Captain	Mortimer H. Jordan	Birmingham, Ala.
2	1st Lieut.	Alan M. Smith	Birmingham, Ala.
3	2nd Lieut.	Walter R. Lawson	Kissimmee, Fla.
4	1st Sergeant	Davis, J. P.	Birmingham, Ala.
5	Sergeant	Marlard, Leslie J.	Birmingham, Ala.
6	"	Couch, H. P.	Birmingham, Ala.
7	"	Cullen, L. M.	Birmingham, Ala.
8	"	Loveman, B. B.	Birmingham, Ala.
*9	"	Leath, E. M.	Birmingham, Ala.
10	"	Rainey, C. V.	Jasper, Ala.
11	"	Eakins, S. B.	Birmingham, Ala.
12	"	Harrison, Frank J.	Edgewater, Ala.
13	Corporal	Seale, M. J.	Birmingham, Ala.
14	"	McCreery, W.	Birmingham, Ala.
15	"	Patjant, W. H.	Cullman, Ala.
*16	"	Love, P. E.	Birmingham, Ala.
17	"	Sherrell, J. B.	Birmingham, Ala.
18	"	Gidly, Dewitt	Dolomite, Ala.
19	"	Trainor, James T.	Birmingham, Ala.
20	"	Atwood, Joseph T.	Birmingham, Ala.
21	"	Malone, J. A.	Birmingham, Ala.
22	"	Drewery, George H.	Gannessy, Ala.
23	"	Blackman, Stinson B.	Birmingham, Ala.
24	"	Lehman, William F.	Birmingham, Ala.
*25	"	Welborne, Floyd C.	Birmingham, Ala.
26	Mechanic	Vermillion, John E.	Edgewater, Ala.
*27	Bugler	Bolin, P. L.	Birmingham, Ala.
*28	"	Hendrix, F.	Pratt City, Ala.
*29	Cook	Parish, J. M.	Irondale, Ala.
30	"	Gaffney, W. Z.	Birmingham, Ala.
31	Private 1st Class	Bell, Glen A.	Birmingham, Ala.
32	"	Barrett, Wm. C.	Birmingham, Ala.
33	"	Cornellus, Fred	Oneonta, Ala.
34	"	Harville, Braxton B.	Edgewater, Ala.
35	"	Harmon, John A.	Lewisburg, Ala.
*36	"	Howard, Hovey	Birmingham, Ala.
37	"	Hughes, Floyd	Embry, Miss.
38	"	Moore, Walter L.	Bradford, Ala.
39	"	Smith, James C.	Autoona, Ala.
40	"	Wolfe, Dewey H.	Camden, Ala.
41	"	Rudd, Malt	New Castle, Ala.
42	"	Wood, Wiley H.	Tallassee, Ala.
43	"	Wooten, James B.	Anniston, Ala.
44	Private	Allen, Arden R.	Cooper, Ala.
*45	"	Allison, Archie B.	Ensley, Ala.
*46	"	Byrd, James F.	Birmingham, Ala.
47	"	Barton, John M.	Geneva, Ala.

Left section of the name list shown on the preceding page.

NO.	RANK	NAME	RESIDENCE
48	Private	Brinson, W. T.	Haynesville, Ala.
49	"	Bass, James	Montgomery, Ala.
*50	"	Compton, Charles E.	Mt. Pleasant, Ala.
*51	"	Clenner, Earl W.	Cooper, Ala.
52	"	Cantrel, Barney M.	Rochelle, Ga.
53	"	Chappell, C. B.	Birmingham, Ala.
54	"	Cook, Gustav L.	Birmingham, Ala.
55	"	Calloway, Walter	Deatsville, Ala.
56	"	Crawder, Wilbur	Birmingham, Ala.
*57	"	Clark, Johnie	Mt. Creek, Ala.
58	"	Chambliss, Malcolm G.	Montgomery, Ala.
59	"	Couch, Sam G.	Anniston, Ala.
60	"	Cooley, Charles M.	Brookside, Ala.
61	"	Day, Chap P.	Argo, Ala.
62	"	Dawson, James A.	Birmingham, Ala.
63	"	Downey, Daniel	Natural Bridge, Ala.
64	"	Dennis, Richard P.	Mt. Creek, Ala.
65	"	Ellas, Roy S.	Birmingham, Ala.
66	"	Evatt, Carl E.	Wadsworth, Ala.
67	"	Faulkner, Hugh I.	Birmingham, Ala.
68	"	Farley, Mose	Morris, Ala.
69	"	Flemming, James S.	Birmingham, Ala.
70	"	Poster, H. S.	Birmingham, Ala.
71	"	Glass, William L.	Birmingham, Ala.
72	"	Glass, James B.	Jemison,
*73	"	Grover, Lee	Birmingham, Ala.
*74	"	Golden, Herbert	Hanceville, Ala.
75	"	Grier, Nell	Lightwood, Ala.
76	"	Hawkins, Charles E.	Wylam, Ala.
77	"	Hansberger, Bruce N.	Birmingham, Ala.
78	"	Hendricks, Rufus P.	Greenville, Ala.
79	"	Hendricks, Winston	Greenville, Ala.
80	"	Hurst, Robert	Dothan, Ala.
81	"	Henckell, Emile	Birmingham, Ala.
82	"	Hodges, Arthur J.	Birmingham, Ala.
*83	"	Holderfield, Tommie	Birmingham, Ala.
84	"	Hunter, Carl J.	Clanton, Ala.
85	"	Jenkins, William J.	Mobile, Ala.
86	"	Jolly, Earnest G.	Birmingham, Ala.
*87	"	Johnson, Lawrence G.	Birmingham, Ala.
88	"	Jones, Lonnie M.	Lomax, Ala.
89	"	Kelly, Walter D.	Adamsville, Ala.
*90	"	Kirkland, Fountain	Birmingham, Ala.
91	"	Lovette, Miller S.	Natural Bridge, Ala.
92	"	Little, Arthur	Village Springs, Ala.
93	"	Lewis, Charley	Grady, Ala.

*Not shown in illustration.

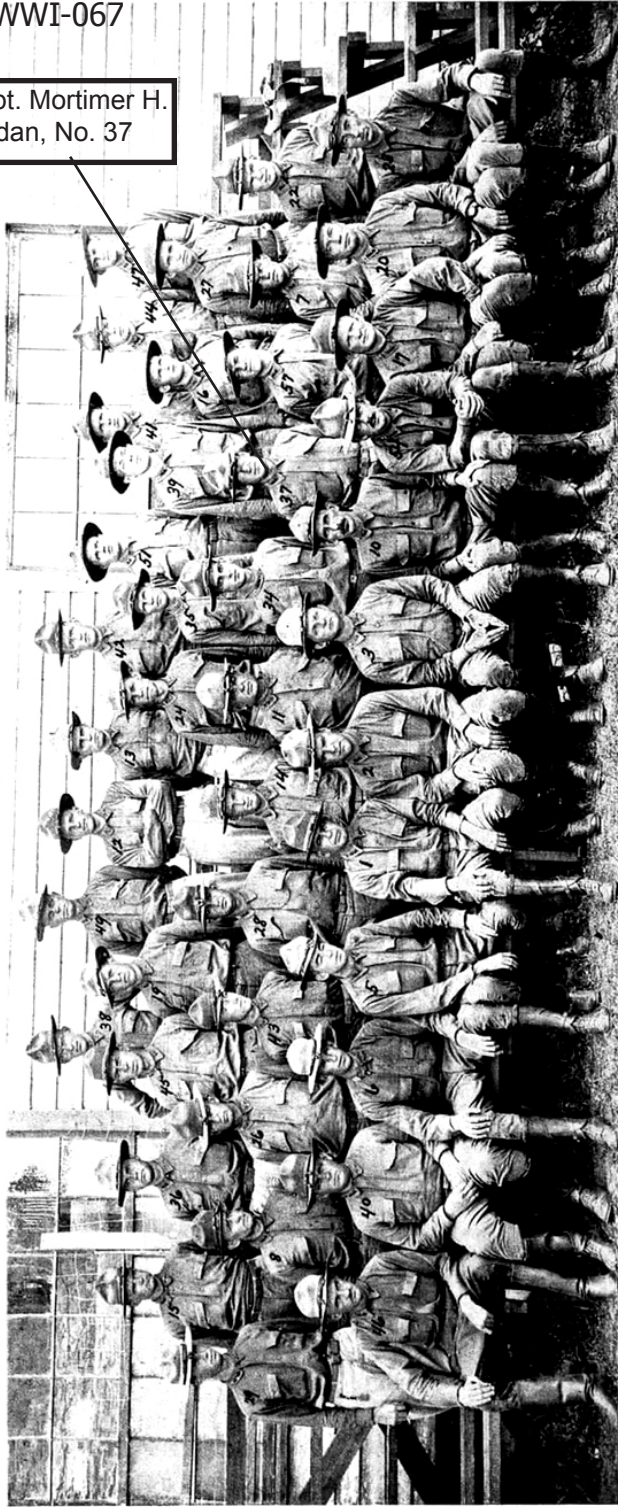
Center section of the name list shown on the preceding page.

NO.	RANK	NAME	RESIDENCE
*94	Private	Lockhart, Frank	Clanton, Ala.
95	"	Little, James W.	Montgomery, Ala.
96	"	Malone, Alfred M.	Sayreton, Ala.
97	"	Moore, Lee	Winterboro, Ala.
98	"	Moore, Spurgeon	Talladega, Ala.
99	"	Moore, Earnest	Rendalia, Ala.
100	"	McGaugh, Joseph H.	Cordova, Ala.
101	"	McGlawn, Jesse L.	Lanett, Ala.
102	"	McDonald, Doyard L.	Birmingham, Ala.
103	"	McCain, John B.	Birmingham, Ala.
*104	"	Pratt, Robert	Birmingham, Ala.
105	"	Pettus, Northern	Hanceville, Ala.
106	"	Rhodes, Percy H.	Saville, Ala.
*107	"	Robinson, J. P.	Birmingham, Ala.
108	"	Robinson, Argueson	Clanton, Ala.
109	"	Rosser, Thomas	Bessemer, Ala.
*110	"	Rylant, Rivers H.	Birmingham, Ala.
111	"	Smith, Euclid J.	Birmingham, Ala.
112	"	Spinks, Samuel L.	Thomasville, Ala.
113	"	Sheppard William B.	Covington, Ga.
*114	"	Shouse, John	Montgomery, Ala.
115	"	Thomas, Oscar	Warrior, Ala.
*116	"	Trainor, Everett T.	Birmingham, Ala.
117	"	Vann, James M.	Deatsville, Ala.
*118	"	Woodall, Mabry W.	Birmingham, Ala.
119	"	Worley, Charles	Birmingham, Ala.
*120	"	Wren, Harmon E.	Birmingham, Ala.
121	"	Mason, Arrell V.	Birmingham, Ala.
122	"	Hays, Elmus J.	Adamsville, Ala.
123	"	Swann, Ross B.	Garden City, Ala.
*124	"	Rappeport, Eugene	Birmingham, Ala.
*125	"	Taylor, Owen L.	Birmingham, Ala.
*126	"	Clarke, Bassil M.	Birmingham, Ala.
127	"	Cothron, Cabot	Birmingham, Ala.
*128	"	Gandy, James S.	Birmingham, Ala.
*129	"	Robb, Joe S.	Birmingham, Ala.
*130	"	Harmon, John S.	Lewisburg, Ala.
*131	"	Heath, Luther Z.	Birmingham, Ala.
132	"	Wagsdale, Charlton L.	Birmingham, Ala.
133	"	Siegal, Charles	Birmingham, Ala.
134	"	Ray, Wheeler B.	Birmingham, Ala.
*135	"	Miller, William H.	Birmingham, Ala.
136	"	Mabry, Olly B.	Birmingham, Ala.
*137	"	Wright, Roy C.	Birmingham, Ala.
138	"	Pate, Amer N.	Ozark, Ala.
139	"	Tronton, Millard	Birmingham, Ala.
*140	"	Cox, Harvey H.	Birmingham, Ala.
*141	"	Rylant, J. P.	Birmingham, Ala.

Right section of the name list shown on the preceding page.

WWI-067

Capt. Mortimer H. Jordan, No. 37



OFFICERS—FOURTH ALABAMA INFANTRY

Captain Mortimer H. Jordan was the commanding officer of Company K, Fourth Alabama National Guard. He is No. 37 in the photograph: second row, fourth person counting in from the left, and wearing glasses. He was killed in France. The Mortimer Jordan High School is named for him.

The Mortimer Jordan family is an old one in Birmingham history. The old family home on Highland Avenue is now an historical site. His father [or grandfather ... has to be checked] was Dr. Mortimer H. Jordan, a prominent local physician. Dr. Jordan was a leader in fighting the Birmingham cholera epidemic of 1873, and was a founder of the Birmingham public health system. He is buried in the old Oak Hill Cemetery on the northern edge of downtown Birmingham.

When Dr. Jordan made his report in 1873 to the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington on the cholera epidemic he closed his report with a tribute to the heroic and self-sacrificing conduct of the "women of the town" who received neither pay nor thanks for nursing the sick and closing the eyes of the dead. Louise Wooster [Birmingham's famous madam, 1842-1913] had turned her own handsomely furnished bedroom into a sick room. In her "Autobiography of a Magdalen" she expressed her gratitude that she had been allowed to help.

Legend holds that she is the model for Belle Wading in Margaret Mitchell's "Gone With the Wind." Louise Wooster also is buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery.

ROSTER OFFICERS—FOURTH ALABAMA INFANTRY

1 Colonel -----William P. Screws
 2 Lieutenant Colonel --Walter E. Bare
 3 Major, 1st Battalion--John W. Carroll
 *4 Major, 2nd Battalion--Hartley A. Moon
 5 Major, 3rd Battalion--Dallas B. Smith
 6 Captain Adjutant ----Robert Joerg, Jr.
 7 1st Lt. Bat. Adjutant--1st Bat. Joseph M. Dickerson
 8 1st Lt. Bat. Adjutant--2nd Bat. Herbert B. May
 9 1st Lt. Bat. Adjutant--3rd Bat. William I. Cole
 10 1st Lt. Chaplain -----Emmett P. Smith

FIRST BATTALION

Company "A"

11 Captain -----Fletcher E. Haley
 12 1st Lieut. -----Edgar A. Collins
 13 2nd Lieut. -----Robert W. Smith

Company "B"

14 Captain -----Bryan Whitehurst
 15 1st Lieut. -----George A. Glenn
 16 2nd Lieut. -----Robert Espy

Company "C"

17 Captain -----Gardner Greene
 *18 1st Lieut. -----Hoyt A. Brown
 19 2nd Lieut. -----Stephen W. Harris

Company "D"

20 Captain -----Lacey Edmundson
 *21 1st Lieut. -----Bruce Q. Nabers
 22 2nd Lieut. -----Ernest E. Belf



SECOND BATTALION

Company "E"

23 Captain -----Everette Jackson
 24 1st Lieut. -----Raymond R. Brown
 25 2nd Lieut. (Vacant) --

Company "F"

*25 Captain -----Frederick L. Wyatt
 26 1st Lieut. -----Loui Greet
 27 2nd Lieut. -----James A. Webb

Company "G"

28 Captain -----Oscar C. Speight
 29 1st Lieut. -----Abner Flowers
 *30 2nd Lieut. -----Peyton V. Deese

Company "H"

*31 Captain -----Herman W. Thompson
 *32 1st Lieut. -----Thomas F. Joerg
 *33 2nd Lieut. -----George B. Mourning

THIRD BATTALION

Company "I"

34 Captain -----Robert A. Dobbins
 35 1st Lieut. -----John A. Powell
 *36 2nd Lieut. -----Henry L. Griggs

Company "K"

37 Captain -----Mortimer H. Jordan
 38 1st Lieut. -----Alan Smith
 39 2nd Lieut. -----Walter R. Lawson

*Not shown in illustration.

Company "L"

40 Captain -----Joe P. Esslinger
 41 1st Lieut. -----Joseph A. Davis
 42 2nd Lieut. -----Thomas H. Fallaw

Company "M"

43 Captain -----Ravee Norris
 44 1st Lieut. -----Otho W. Humphries
 45 2nd Lieut. -----James W. Driver

MACHINE GUN CO.

46 Captain -----Newman Smith
 47 1st Lieut. -----Julien M. Strassburger
 *48 2nd Lieut. -----Harry Porter
 49 2nd Lieut. -----Oscar Crenshaw

SUPPLY COMPANY.

*50 Captain -----John M. Smith
 51 2nd Lieut. -----George F. Spann

HEADQUARTERS CO.

Captain -----Robert Joerg, Jr. (Adit.)

ATTACHED MEDICAL

CORPS.

*53 Major -----John W. Watts, Surgeon
 54 Captain -----William W. Long, Asst. Sur.
 *55 Captain -----William M. Peters, Asst. Sur.
 *56 Captain -----Robert A. Burns, Asst. Surg.

ATTACHED DENTAL

CORPS.

57 1st Lieut. -----Malcolm G. Dabney

HISTORICAL SKETCH FOURTH ALABAMA INFANTRY



BUILT from the ground up since May, 1911, the Fourth Infantry National Guard of Alabama, now designated as the 167th U. S. Infantry, has only the foundation and groundwork of a history. The rest is yet to be created. Some of the companies and many of its officers and enlisted men had previous military experience; but, as a whole, the Fourth Alabama Infantry must be regarded as a new organization, with a clear page upon which to inscribe a future record.

Except that the regiment had attended the annual encampments, the companies and battalions, scattered over a wide area in northern and central Alabama, had seldom been brought together before the call issued by President Woodrow Wilson, June 18, 1916, for service on the Mexican border. Eight days after the proclamation of the President, the regiment was mobilized at Vandiver Park, Montgomery, with few of the organizations above peace strength, three officers and sixty-five enlisted men to each company.

So rapid was the work of recruiting and training, when the Alabama brigade entrained for the border, October 22, 1916, the Fourth Alabama Infantry companies were well above the minimum requirements of that time, machine gun company, sanitary company, headquarters company and band had been created, equipped and trained, and the regiment was in all essentials complete, despite the fact that many of the original members had been discharged because of dependent relatives, expiration of term of enlistment and for other reasons.



On October 28 the regiment reached its border headquarters at Nogales, Arizona, though two of the companies later were sent to Loecheil, Arizona, for guard duty. Then came the hike to Tucson and return, 124½ miles. The regiment left Camp Stephen Little, Nogales, Arizona, on November 21, hiked 18½ miles in heavy marching order the first day, arrived at Tucson November 24, and on the following day the command was reviewed by the brigade and regimental commanders. On November 26 the regiment left Tucson and returned by the same route, reaching camp Stephen Little November 29, after participating in a war problem with the Second Alabama Infantry on the last leg of the march.

In the Spring of 1917, when quiet had been restored in Northern Mexico and along the border, the Alabama Brigade was ordered to return to Alabama for demobilization and the Fourth Infantry left Nogales on March 16, arriving at Mobilization Camp, Montgomery, March 22. The muster out had been ordered and the men had begun preparation for their return to their homes.

War with the Imperial German government loomed dark on the horizon. Quickly following the declaration by President Woodrow Wilson that a state of war existed, the order of demobilization was suspended. The men that had returned to their homes were ordered back to their regiment. Congress declared war and the regiment remained in Federal service.

From April 7 to June 7 many of the companies of the Fourth Infantry were employed in guarding railroad property and other

public utilities throughout Alabama. When relieved from this duty the companies on guard hiked back to Montgomery from their respective stations. After the return from guard duty, the Fourth Alabama Infantry was ordered to recruit to full war strength, 150 men to the company, and went into training at Vandiver Park for foreign service. On August 5, 1917, the troops were drafted into the service of the United States.

By order of the war department published August 14, 1917, the Fourth Infantry, National Guard of Alabama, was designated as the 167th United States Infantry and was made a part of the 42nd Division, the composite national guard division, known as the "Rainbow Division," for earliest service in foreign fields. The same order required that the companies be increased in size from 150 to 250 enlisted men and from three to five officers each, making the total strength of the regiment 95 officers and 3605 enlisted men. This was accomplished by drawing selected men from the First Alabama Infantry, the Second Alabama Infantry and the First Alabama Cavalry.

Colonel William P. Screws, in command of the Fourth Infantry, became a second lieutenant in the 3d Alabama Infantry in 1898, during the Spanish-American war, and later became a first lieutenant



in the 29th U. S. Infantry. After several years of service in the Philippines and elsewhere he was mustered out of the service in 1901 and later was appointed as a second lieutenant in the regular army, assigned to the 19th Infantry. In a short time he was promoted to first lieutenant and later became captain. He became inspector-instructor in Alabama at about the time the Fourth Infantry was organized and was the senior mustering officer for Alabama troops when the regiment was mustered into the Federal service, shortly after which he was elected lieutenant-colonel of the regiment, the place he held until shortly after the return of the troops from the border, when he was elected colonel of the regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Walter E. Bare enlisted in the Alabama National Guard as a private in 1902 and has served continuously through all grades to that of lieutenant colonel.

Majors Hartley A. Moon, Dallas B. Smith and John W. Carroll are military men who obtained their commissions by earning them; in fact, the commanding officers of all organizations in the regiment are picked men, specially qualified for the work before them.

The organization, discipline and personnel of the regiment led to its selection as a unit of the Rainbow Division. The rest Alabama leaves, with all confidence, to the future.

Foreword:

This volume is dedicated to the Officers and Men of the Fourth Alabama Infantry, United States Army. The object of the compiler has been to furnish a pictorial and historical record of the Regiment which will be valuable not only for reference, but also as a memento of the organization. To that end no expense has been spared in the effort to present a work of credit to the subject with which it deals. ¶ Thanking Colonel William P. Screws, the Regimental Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Walter E. Bare, Majors Hartley A. Moon, Dallas B. Smith, John W. Carroll, Captain Robert Joerg, Jr., Regimental Adjutant, Regimental Sergeant-Major William B. Mitchell, and all organization Commanders and First Sergeants of the Regiment, without whose assistance the publication would have been impossible.

Guy F. Jennings

The handwritten entry in the original copy of this book refers to his older brother, William Andrew Thomas.

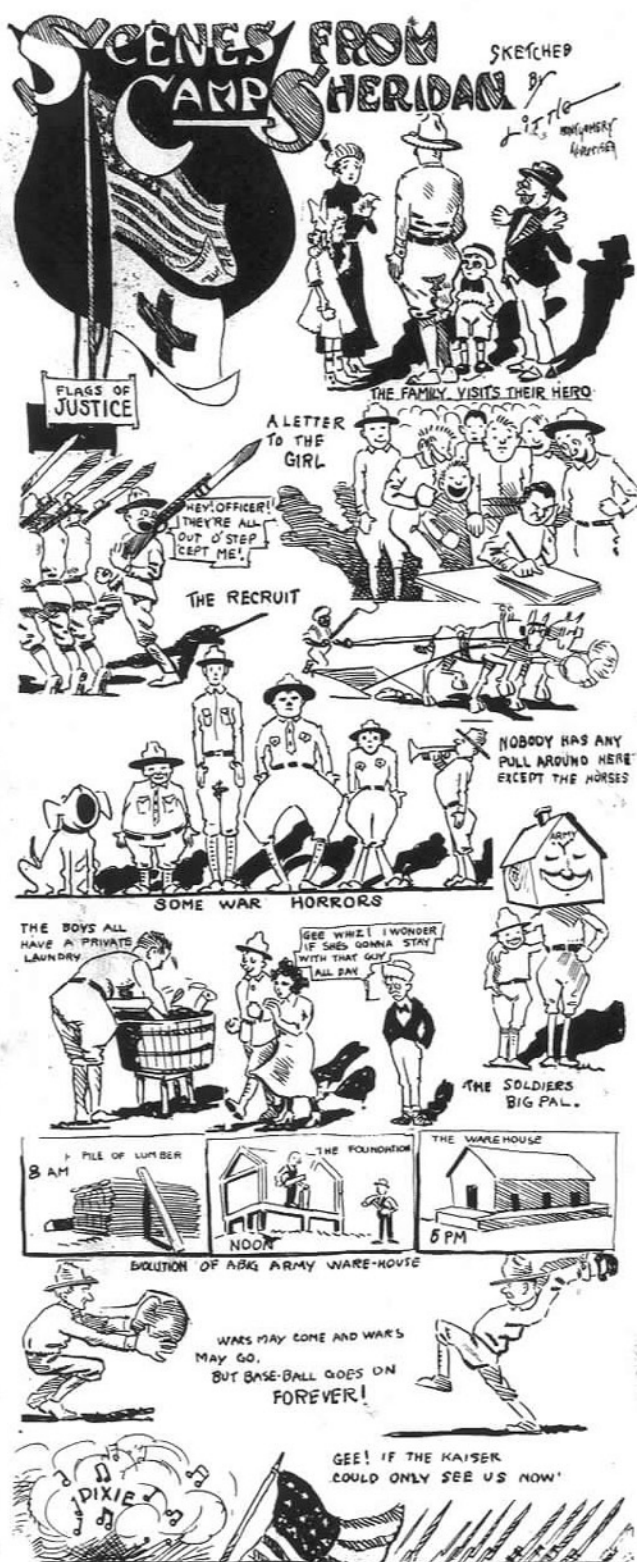
From Oscar B. Thomas

To

William A. Thomas

with best wishes for the future.

37



A final "humorous" page from the 1917 Remembrance Book of the Fourth Alabama Infantry.