

THE BATTALION

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EDITORIAL STAFF—FIELD ARTILLERY EDITION.

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A. AND M.'S NEW PEP.

In a way Battery "A" might be called a "Fish" organization—being an entirely new organization and largely composed of Freshmen. During our stay at A. and M. since last September, we have all heard much of the "old pep." Many of the upper-classmen, on returning from the army have said, "she isn't the same school—everything is dead—the Freshmen haven't any school spirit", but, we want to defy these charges. It is true that the "old-time" hazing has disappeared; and it is also true that this one thing keeps many of the "old men" from feeling "perfectly at home"—but there is just as much "pep" just as much life, and every bit as much school spirit as there ever was. Now, "there's a reason" why these men don't see it—they are in the Infantry or Signal Corps.

During the latter part of March it was announced that an Artillery unit would be organized. The men were invited to join; those wishing to do so being told to put in application. Practically every man applying was admitted—those applying first being given first choice. The men chose the Artillery, the Artillery didn't choose the men; and in making the choice the men showed that they all had splendid judgment. Now, in this group was gathered the cream of A. and M.—the men with the "pep"; the men who will support the school anywhere, anytime; the men who are not afraid of work; the men who mean business; and the men who have furnished A. and M. with a "new pep."

Some of you throw a slur at this remark; many of you are burning with envy. From the very first our men have shown that they'll "work." On April first, the Artillery unit was organized as Battery "A". Since that time we have set the pace for the whole corps. Every man was intensely interested in his new work—there were "no slackers." The "Bat" contest was announced and we went into win—and did win. The Longhorn contest was well under way, and the staff was "afraid" to even give us a chance "as a battery,"

counting point on a percentage basis. Our guns haven't come—so, we "hit for the wood pile," laid out positions for our guns, and went to work in "Artillery" drills. Now, we are ready to do "real work" when the pieces get here—we have no "preliminaries" to bother us. We are to be armed with rifles until our guns arrive, and now we can "out-drill" any Infantry Company on the campus at their own game—Company "H" included. Our Battery Commandiers detail has been organized and by June we will promise that our detail of nineteen men can beat either company of the Signal Corps at their own job. We are specialists in "our" branch of the service—and the organization where every man is "on the job" is the Artillery.

Then comes athletic support—we're right there! We can "out-yell", or "out-sing" any organization on the campus. We "turn out" when anything is going on at Kyle Field. If you don't believe it—look around for the red hat cords. Yes! they're mighty thick—and remember that we only have one-eighth of the school wearing those cords. You bet! We're "Johnny on the spot" everytime.

There are some people who live in the past—and I have often heard that this is a sign of "old age." From this, we must have some grand fathers in our midst. But there is one splendid consolation—having young people, full of life and vigor around helps the "aged." Now, that we have a "real live" Artillery unit here, we are expecting some of our decrepit friends to wake up and live in the future once more—living with the "new A. and M. pep" that is going to "do things" and look to a "greater A. and M." If you don't believe we've got a "new pep"—just watch 'em!

Some notion of the extent of the training of Artillery Reserve Officers may be gained by scanning the following summary of "What Every Field Artillery Officer Should Know."

Below is stated what constitutes proficiency in each subject:

- 1. Dismounted Drill:** Officer must be able to drill and instruct a gun squad, platoon or battery, dismounted marching; must be able to instruct in inspection, muster, guard mounting, and in the duties of the different members of the guard.
- 2. Gun Drill:** Must be able to perform the duties of every member in a gun squad; must be word-perfect in the sequence of commands; must have a thorough knowledge of the sights, quadrant and fuse setter of the field gun, and the methods of testing and adjusting these instruments, and must be a good layer with the different instruments.
- 3. Visual Signalling:** Must be capable of receiving and sending messages by International Morse Code at the rate of at least six words a minute.
- 4. Cordage:** Must have a good knowledge of all knots, lashings and splices in general use in the artillery, and their application to military needs. (Engineers' Field Manual).
- 5. Physical Training:** Must be capable of supervising instruction in this subject and of commanding units while giving instruction personally; must be able to detect faults of position and correct them, and know whether instruction being given by non-commissioned officers is along correct lines.
- 6. Property:** Must be thoroughly conversant with the equipment used by officers and enlisted men of his regiment, and must understand

of cleaning, repairing, preserving, and accounting for the same.

7. Materiel: Must be able to mount and assemble all parts of the 3-inch gun, breech mechanism and carriage, and have detailed knowledge of the care, cleaning and preservation of materiel.

8. Firing Data: Must be able to calculate quickly the firing data for any assumed target and aiming point, using rough methods available in the absence of the B. C. telescope.

9. Indoor Firing: Must have a thorough knowledge of the principles and adjustment of fire and the various methods of applying them; must be able to adjust the sheaf in black-board firing.

10. Topography, Maps and "Plan Directeur": Must be able to make a rough panoramic sketch of locality, including targets located therein. Must have a thorough knowledge of map reading and the use of the compass and the metric scale; must be able to determine a point on the map by co-ordinates and intersection and resection, and be able to solve problems on the map involving the location of batteries, aiming points, observation stations, targets, etc., and must understand the construction and use of the "Plan Directeur"; the use of datum and registration points; in addition, all duties of the orienting officer.

11. Organization, Etc.: Must understand the organization of the different arms, up to the regiment.

12. Instruments: Must be able to use the battery commander's instruments, including the range finder, B. C. telescope and aiming circle; be able to adjust them to determine the firing data with facility and accuracy by means of their use.

13. Flank Observation: Must be able to adjust fire from advance and flank or lateral observation stations.

14. Harness Fitting and Draft: Must be able to adjust the harness, especially collars and breeching; must understand the principles of traction and the useful and harmful components of line traction, the causes of saddle and harness sores, and the means of avoiding and curing the same.

15. Telephone: Must have a practical knowledge of the principles, construction and operation of telephones, telephone lines; must be able to test telephone faults and line trouble, make repairs; must have a detailed knowledge of the receiver, transmitter, circuits and care of the telephone.

16. Range Tables, "Corrections of the Moment," including: Determination of wind, drift and atmospheric corrections, corrections for muzzle velocity, temperature of powder, variation in weight of projectile, and, in general, complete use of range tables.

17. Ballistics, Gunnery, Etc.: Must understand powders, quick and slow; kinds of projectiles and fuses and their action and effects; probabilities of fire and their application; the laws of dispersion and their application to fire; trajectories, the trajectory in vacuo, resistance to air, effect of gravity, application to problems of defilade, and angle of site, direct and curved fire.

18. Stable Management: Must understand theoretically the duties of stable management, and practically so far as facilities permit; must know the principles of hygiene and food for horses, how to keep horses in condition, to restore condition of debilitated horses, the prevention and cure of parasitic diseases and precaution to prevent their spread, the treatment of accident

and simple injury, care of the feet and training of the horses for draft and riding.

19. Executive Officer: Must be able to perform properly and fully all the duties of executive officer in the firing battery.

20. Equitation: Must be capable of riding sufficiently well to command a mounted organization, to give instruction in riding, to correct obvious faults in position, and to control the horse at all gaits with ease.

21. Driving Drill: Must be capable of driving in any position in a gun team and have a thorough knowledge of arm signals.

22. Reconnaissance and Occupation of Position: Must understand the general requirements of an artillery position and the application to specific missions of the battery; must be able to select positions, act as reconnaissance officer, locate the various echelons of a battery, locate observation posts of a battery command and posts of forward and flank observers; must be able to establish communication between all parts, provide for the security and cover of materiel, ammunition and personnel, and be able to prepare for battery movements from a position.

23. Camouflage: Must have a practical knowledge of how to conceal batteries and how to construct protection from hostile fire; must understand the use of camouflage emplacements, ammunition pockets, dugouts for personnel and telephone stations, construction of observation stations, and so on.

24. Estraining: Must know the method of loading and unloading horses, materiel and men; arrangements during the journey, feeding, watering and messing en route; guards, and general care of horses and men.

25. Sub-Caliber Practice: Must be able to conduct sub-caliber practice and be able to use and explain the various mechanisms of fire.

26. Smoke Bomb Practice: Must be able to conduct smoke bomb practice, both at the firing point and at the target.

27. Anti-Gas: Must understand the care, fitting and use of helmets, respirators, breathing exercises, and must be able to give commands and orders while wearing the mask.

28. First Aid to Injured and Personal Hygiene: Must be thoroughly familiar with these and must be able to give instruction therein.

29. Code, and method of communication with aircraft.

30. Miniature Range: Must be familiar with conduct of fire on miniature range, with special reference to flank observation of fire.

31. Firing: Must be able to conduct the actual firing of a battery against various targets, such as guns, wire entanglements, communication trenches, headquarters establishments, and machine-gun emplacements, and must be able to shift the sheaf quickly from one target to another; must understand how to make barrage tables and maps; must be able to select projectiles and fuses according to the target, and be able to adjust fire from advance and flank observation stations; must be able to adjust a single gun on a target, making all the necessary corrections for temperature of air and powder, wind and barometric pressure, and, in general, conduct of fire for accuracy.

32. Pistol Practice: Must understand the care, action and use of the automatic pistol, and must fire the prescribed courses and be capable of instructing enlisted men.

33. Night Movements: Must be