



CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

Camp Palouse, S. E. S. 2, Co. No. 1312 Moscow, Idaho

> LORIN H. McHENRY, Captain Air Res.

EUGENE H. SILVERSTONE First Lieutenant M. C. R. VOLNEY A. HOWARD
Second Lieutenant Cavalry Reserve

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Foreman
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Foreman
ROBERT ALDRIDGE
Foreman

CHARLES WHIFFIN
Foreman

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Foreman

ORVILLE SHIPMAN
Foreman

GEORGE WEAVER
Foreman
WALTER A. DONALDSON
Foreman
CHARLES O. WHEATON
Foreman

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Liotin H. McHanty, Capt. Hir Corps Res.

HISTORY OF C. C. C. COMPANY 1312

By FREDERICK PICKARD

The year 1929 was a memorable one to the United States when it brought the depression of which much has been written and more said. The continuation of this great repression of business conditions was responsible for the Presidential order establishing the famed Civilian Conservation Corps.

Fort George Meade, Maryland, was the enrolling point for many thousands of the nation's youth into the greatest peacetime army ever organized. From the mining districts of Pennsylvania came twenty-one ill-fed, poorly clad, undisciplined youths whose ambitions had been wrecked by the panic. These young men formed the nucleus of Co. 1312, a company that was destined to win honors for itself and for the C. C. C.

On the warm evening of May 2, 1933, Co. 1312 under the command of Capt. Floyd W. Feree, Infantry, U. S. A., boarded a train that would land it and ten other cadres of men in Idaho before they disembarked. These youngsters faced an uncertain future with mingled emotions of anticipation and regret.

The train arrived at Pocatella, Idaho, on the morning of May 24, and the release from the cramped confines somewhat raised the spirit of the boys who had gone through three days and nights of westward travel. The men worked with a will and established a temporary camp beside the railroad yards where they spent the night. Next day, the company was entrained for a trip to Mackay and then by truck to Challis. From Challis, they again moved via truck to their summer home, thirteen miles farther along the road into the stillness and lonliness of the forest. Under the leadership of their commander, they pitched camp and so was established Camp F-85.

The great net drew into association the men of farflung districts and brought to the camp some of the natives of the Idaho hills, increasing the roster of the company to 185 men. Capt. Edwin S. Segard was assigned to duty as camp surgeon and also acted in the same capacity for

Co. 1311. Second Lieut. C. A. Lichirie of the 5th Cav. became Executive Officer.

The work done by Co. 1312 included the construction of the Mill Creek, the Bear Valley and the White Valley roads, all with the necessary bridges. It assisted in the construction of a forestry warehouse at Challis, and a ranger station. Camp Challis bore the brunt of the attack at the Pat's Creek fire and performed its duty with a willingness and efficiency that far exceeded the expectations of the Forest Service officials. Through all the trials and tribulations of this early camp life, the company kept its head up and its smile working.

On October 21, the company began its trek into the Vancouver Barracks District and arrived there the following day. On the 26th Lieut. Gresham of the U. S. Navy assumed command relieving Capt. Ferree, and the company moved into Cougar. Here, discharges and transfers changed the one time Maryland company into a Washington company and the Westerners began the construction of the camp at Cougar. Ere they had completed the job, they were moved to Camp Rock Creek, their winter home, on November 31. At this point, Lt. Lichirie was transfered away from the company and succeeded by Lieut. Chas. H. Voeller.

Through the rain and snow, the company worked its way to the right of honor by the American Tree Association.

Christmas Day arrived and brought with it floods that handicapped the trucks that carried the men home during the holiday season. On December 27, Lt. Gresham was ordered to report to Vancouver Barracks for other duty and Lt. Voeller assumed command.

Through the months of January, February and March, the company worked in the forests building trails and other forest projects. Through rain, snow and fog with occasional bright sunny days they carried on, and through inspection after inspection, the company maintained a fine record for efficiency.

A break came on March 23, when a fire which had gained the upper hand was investigated. All crews of the Rock Creek camp were called into fire-fighting duty and soon, they subdued the enemy.

On March 27, Lt. V. A. Howard, 17th Cav. relieved Lt. Randall, on April 2, Capt. L. H. McHenry assumed command of the company relieving Lt. Voeller, and on April 28, Lt. E. H. Silverstone reported for duty as Camp Surgeon.

Rumors began going the rounds on May 7 that the company was to be moved and the next day, the rumors were confirmed when the company was ordered to Camp Palouse in Eastern Washington. Preparations were begun and the equipment loaded for the trip east of the Cascades. The company entrained at Cascade Locks, Oregon, on May 13 and arrived at Moscow, Idaho, the next morning. By truck, the men and baggage were conveyed to the campsite, three-fourths of a mile south of Moscow, and tents were erected for the temporary camp.

On May 18, ninety-three eastern Washington men were enrolled to replace the discharged and transfered men of Western Washington. Truck load after truck load of lumber was unloaded at the permanent campsite and a new type of work for C. C. C. began,—soil erosion control. Co.

1312 now enjoyed the distinction of being the first and only Soil Erosion Service company in the Northwest.

Rapidly, the construction of the permanent quarters of Co. 1312 was carried on by civilian carpenters and the camp laid out about a central rectangular court. Rain, heat and dust hampered the activities of the personnel but, under all, they carried on faithfully and cheerfully.

On June 20, the entire camp was moved from its tent camp to the permanent buildings and the task of beautifying the grounds was inaugurated. Through all the confusion, the field work was carried on in a manner to inspire the most critical. Following the establishment of the permant camp, the field work was speeded up and frequent inspections by various officials proved the value of the C. C. C. in the conservation of both public and private lands.

Co. 1312, C. C. C. faces the future as it has in the past—with willingness and honour, cheerfulness and good humor—with pride in its merit—and carries on—with the expectation of making its name more glorious and its record more glamorous. When tablets are placed in the Hall of Merit, the aim is that the niche of Co. 1312 be a golden one.





