

go at once to Augusta, call upon Governor Washburn and Adjutant-General Hodsdon, procure recruiting orders and papers, and the promise of commissions in the event a full company could be enlisted. This was the first move toward the formation of the 18th Maine Regiment, War of 1861-65. Action followed resolution. The start was made, the purposes of the journey fully accomplished, home reached, and the same office wide open as a recruiting headquarters in less than twenty-four hours from the time the resolve was taken, notwithstanding near one hundred miles of the distance had to be made with a team as transport. This was before the days of railroads "up-river," the eastern terminus of the Maine Central being then at Bangor.

Before leaving home the three referred to above agreed, and so informed Governor Washburn, as to the rank each should take in the event a full company should be raised. William C. Clark was to take the Captaincy, Charles W. Nute the first and Samuel E. Burnham, the second Lieutenancies. The Governor was pleased to express his approval of the mutual agreement as to rank, and took occasion to inform them that he should consolidate the 18th Maine Regiment at Bangor; that theirs was the first recruiting commission issued; that the first full company into camp of consolidation should be Co. A of the Regiment named, and that the Right of the Regiment "A" should be theirs if they thus earned it.

THEIR METHOD.

The first matter taken in hand was that of the thirteen non-commissioned officers. This was mutually and amicably agreed upon by and between the three and the thirteen, every one of whom later on received his warrant as per agreement and their names are borne on Company A's original roll as Sergeants and Corporals. The Sergeants and Corporals at once resolved themselves into a recruiting synod and mustered into it each and every new recruit, resulting in one hundred and one enlistments in twelve days.

Following is a list, with rank, of those who were mustered into Co. A from Lincoln:

Captain—William C. Clark.

First Lieutenant—Charles W. Nute.

Second Lieutenant—Samuel E. Burnham.

Sergeants—Charles Merrill, Prince A. Gatchell, Warren A. Huntress, Luther Clay.

Corporals—Frederick A. Edwards, David F. Averill, Joseph W. Knight, James Warren, M. Augustus Turner.

Musician—Charles F. Davis.

Wagoner—Benjamin Richardson.

Privates—Nathaniel Bodwell, Jr., Otis H. Bruce, Lyman H. Dolley, Oscar R. Fish, Thomas B. Gifford, Alvin W. Hurd, Aaron Kneeland, Thomas G. Libby, Edward C. Osborn, Jonathan G. Rideout, George C. Rounds, Samuel Thornton, George W. Tucker, James H. West, Adelbert Witham. The balance of the company, seventy-two in number, were from towns in the vicinity of Lincoln.

COMPANY A'S BULL RUN.

One day just before Co. A's men were to be examined by the Surgeon for muster-in, word came that Capt. Zemro A. Smith with a full company (C) was *en route* from Ellsworth to camp of consolidation, and was then at the Brewer end of the Bangor and Brewer bridge. Co. A under command of Major Charles Hamlin was detailed to meet Capt. Smith at the Bangor end of the bridge and escort him and company into camp. As this detail filed down Exchange Street, it was observed that upon either sidewalk were many young men abreast of and going the same way as the escort, each armed with a club having the appearance of a peeled sapling. These clubs were being put through all sorts of improvised manuals as suited the individual bearers of them. As the escort advanced, these White Club fellows grew more and more plenty and angry words began to be passed between them and the A boys. It seemed that during the few weeks the A boys had been in camp in town a feud

had grown up between them and the White Clubs, and that seemed to be an opportune occasion for the latter to get satisfaction or advantage wholesale, as not a man of A had for "arms" anything more than, perhaps, a jack-knife in his pocket. The order was given for every man to remain in the ranks and attend strictly to the business in hand, that of escort duty. The White Clubs soon observed this and became more and more aggressive.

By the time the escort halted near the bridge, the anger of the boys and their desire to protect themselves was at white heat, and they begged for permission to pitch in. They were told they should not as they had nothing whatever to defend themselves with and they would get so badly clubbed they would be in no condition for examination for muster-in, an event they daily expected, and might lose the Right of the Regiment, which all were very ambitious to get. Thereupon, the escorts restrained themselves. The White Clubs took advantage of this and charged and began to club the boys when the latter scattered, not, however, until a number of sore heads had been made upon both sides.

News of the attack upon the unarmed escort had been carried across the river to Capt. Smith, and all the available muskets in Brewer were loaded and put into the hands of his men for use in case of attack while passing through Bangor. No white clubs were seen by Smith's men. Bangor's City Marshal visited the camp later and told the A boys that, notwithstanding they were wholly unarmed, and were not allowed to fight, they left more sore heads than they took away.

FLANKING.

The Company A men regarded the right of the Regiment theirs under the promise of the Governor that the first company enlisted and in camp should have it. The theory held by others that there was no soldier, no company anyhow until, and when, and only when passed by the surgeon and mustered, didn't count with them; yet the ruling, if any

other company was allowed to be passed upon and mustered first might be against them. In order, therefore, to be wholly upon the safe side, it was insisted that the surgeon go to work upon them first, and a promise was obtained that he should, but, for some reason not explained other than by the logic of facts, that promise was ignored, and when the surgeon came into camp he was put upon the examination of another company. The A men kicked, which resulted in a further promise that the assistant surgeon, due to be on the ground the next morning, should surely take them in hand. The latter promise was kept, but the surgeon had a day's start of his assistant with, in the ordinary, every chance to pull his company through first. It was noted by the A men that at noon of the first day, the surgeon had made but little progress, that most of their enlistment papers were erroneous and had to be made and signed over; that a man stood by waiting while these papers were made in duplicate for him to sign, and after signing the surgeon stood idly by while the man disrobed, and after the examination he stood by again while the man dressed. In these ways an enormous amount of precious time was allowed to slip through the fingers of the surgeon's operation. The second day it was the same with the surgeon's work. Early on the morning of this second day the assistant surgeon, the late Jerome B. Elkins, who, some years before had practiced his profession in Lincoln, came upon the ground with orders to report to Capt. Clark for duty. Every arrangement to economize time had been made, all enlistment papers examined and errors corrected. A suite of three rooms had been improvised, using the two square tents of the commissioned officers, one for the men to strip in, one for the surgeon to do his work in, the third for the men to dress in. Everything went like clock-work. No time was lost. At nine in the morning the assistant surgeon hung up his hat; at ten he took off his coat; at eleven he removed his vest; at high twelve he did not go to refreshments, but instead, rolled up his sleeves and worked on and on until the last of

the hundred and one had been examined and mustered—until one hundred and one men had stepped out of the field of peaceful pursuits into that of battle “for three years or during the war,” and with many of them for life. When the last man was mustered the sun was well into the west. A visit to the company having a day’s start, disclosed the fact that a good-sized squad remained there to pass the surgeon. Thus the Lincoln men and their comrades saved to themselves the Right of the Regiment and became Company A, while the other company became F, taking second place on the right.

A SURPRISE

Some time before the 18th Maine left for the front, Capt. William C. Clark, Co. A, received a very pleasant and much appreciated surprise from his up-river friends. By their design he was called away for a while on some plausible pretext, when Orderly Charles Merrill formed the company in line on its grounds. This done and the Captain brought back to his position in the Company, Mr. George H. Haynes of Winn, stepped out and in a brief, timely speech, presented to the Captain a fine regulation sword and belt. This kind memento is yet retained by him and is highly prized.

“YOU THOUSAND OF MEN”

Addressed to the Eighteenth Maine Regiment on its departure for the seat of War, 1862.

By DAVID BARKER

Say, where are you going, you thousand of men?
Now one thing is certain,
That never, ah never
This side the deep river,
This side the dark curtain
Just flung out to screen us,
Which drops down between us

And those who've passed over
That cold, stormy river,
No, never again
Shall this crowd ever meet you,
Shall this throng ever greet you
In a bodily form,
With your hearts beating warm—
You thousand of men.

But, thank the Great Giver,
Though crossing that river
Your barks may be shattered,
Your Outer Garbs tattered—
Thank God that again
From the mount you inherit
You may come back in spirit
All you who pass over
That cold, stormy river—
You may come back to meet us,
You may come back to greet us,
With your hearts beating warm
In a blessedder form—
You thousand of men.

With the clearest of vision
I have witnessed the yearning
Of the troops now returning
From the land so Elysian;
Of the troops who passed over
That cold, stormy river,
'Mid the roar and the rattle
Of a nation in battle—
So quickly again
From the mount you inherit,
You must come back to meet us,
You must come back to greet us,
You must come back in spirit

With your hearts beating warm
In a blissfuller form,
All you who pass over
That cold, stormy river—
From you thousand of men.

The following history of the "thousand of men" in service was printed in the Bangor Daily News, 6 Sept. 1898, on the eve of the reunion of the survivors:

Without any disparagement of the many thousands of noble men who have served in the Maine commands, there never left Maine for service at the front a finer looking, more stalwart body of men than the Eighteenth Volunteers, known to fame as the "Maine Lumbermen's Regiment," the survivors of which will hold their reunion in Skowhegan on Wednesday next.

The men for the most part were large, robust-looking, some of them middle-aged, and nearly all lumbermen, enlisted from Bangor and vicinity. One of its staff officers was a son of the then Vice-President Hannibal Hamlin—Major Charles Hamlin of Orland. Its colonel was Daniel Chaplin of Bangor, by birth a Bridgton man, grandson of a Massachusetts Revolutionary soldier, and as brave an officer as ever drew a sword, who, after leading one of the most memorable charges in the annals of war, fell by the bullet of a sharpshooter.

The field, staff and line of the Eighteenth Maine Regiment—afterwards the First Maine Heavy Artillery—when it left Maine for Washington was as follows:

THE ROSTER OF OFFICERS

Colonel—Daniel Chaplin of Bangor.
Lieut. Colonel—Thomas H. Talbot of Portland.
Major—Charles Hamlin of Orland.
Adjutant—Russell B. Shepherd of Bangor.

Quartermaster—Horace Pitcher of Bangor.

Surgeon—Rotheus E. Paine of Hampden.

Assistant Surgeons—Jerome B. Elkins of Ashland, Albert R. Lincoln of Dennysville.

Chaplain—Henry E. Leonard of Waterville.

Captains—William C. Clark of Lincoln, Co. A; Samuel W. Daggett of Bangor, Co. B; Zimro A. Smith of Ellsworth, Co. C; Christopher V. Crossman of Bangor, Co. D; Whiting S. Clark of Sangerville, Co. E; Lorenzo Hinckley of Hampden, Co. F; Samuel A. Colby of Bucksport, Co. G; Harrison G. Smith of Columbia, Co. H; John W. Atwell of Orono, Co. I; George W. Sabine of Eastport, Co. K.

All of the foregoing were transferred to the First Maine Heavy Artillery and there were then added to the roster Captain William T. Parker of Ellsworth, Co. L, and Captain Ezekiel R. Mayo of Hampden, Co. M.

On Aug. 21, 1862, the newly-organized Eighteenth was mustered into the United States service for three years; and on the 24th it left, in twenty cars, for Washington, a thousand strong.

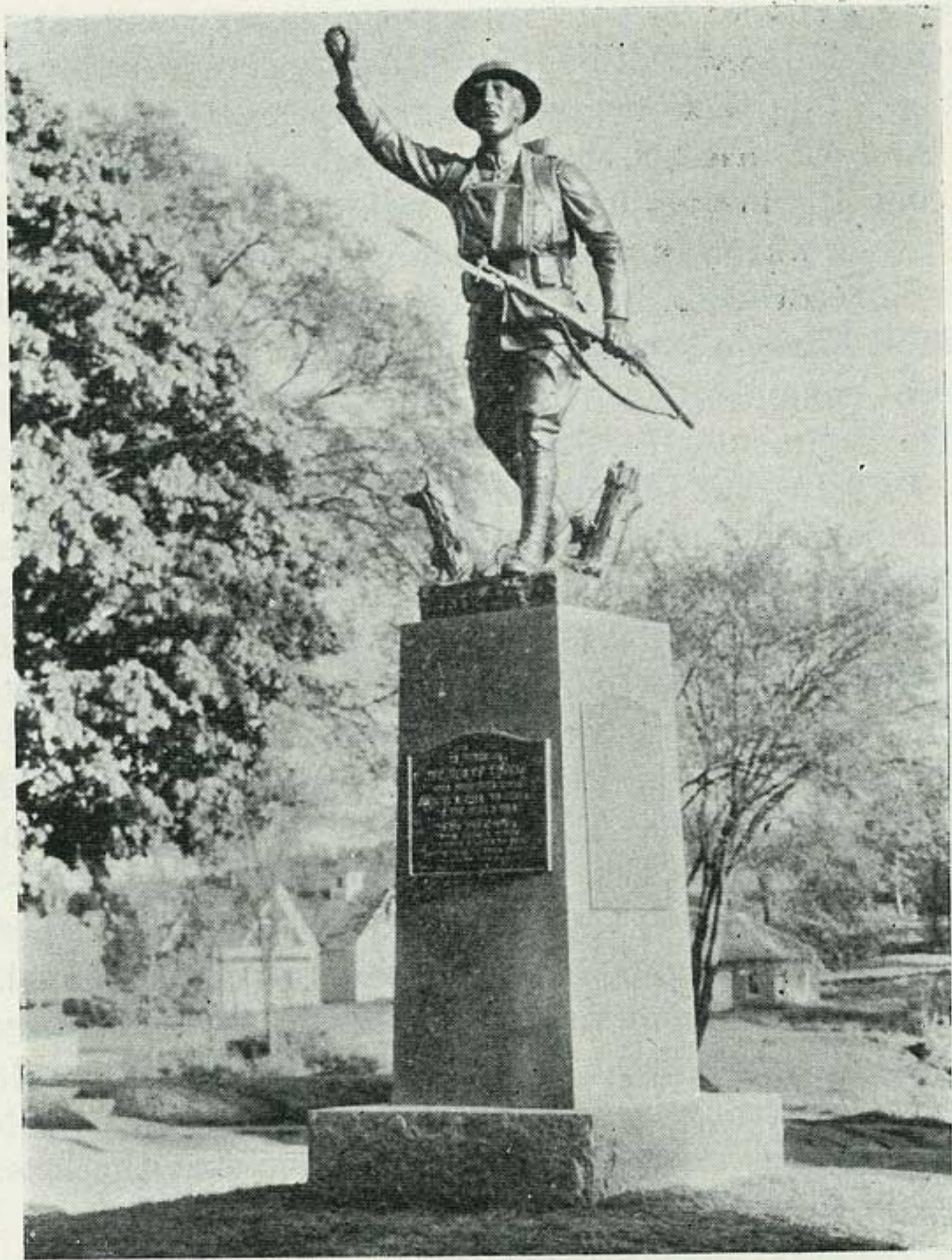
The regiment, upon its arrival at Washington, was stationed about three miles from Georgetown, its headquarters at Fort Sumner. There it remained until May 15, 1864. Besides being effectively drilled, it cleared more than 3,500 acres of forest, to give the artillery a longer range, in which work the stalwart down-east lumbermen were adepts. Meanwhile its name was changed to First Maine Heavy Artillery, and its membership increased by recruits to 1,824, Companies L and M being added, each of the twelve companies composed of 152 officers and men.

During the twenty-one months of its stay near Washington the regiment was without any special history, but after that it made history fast. Within one month after leaving Fort Sumner, the larger part of its officers and men had been killed, and its living and dead had won a fame as immortal as that of the heroes of Thermopylae or Balaklava. In one action alone, that at O'Hare's house, near Petersburg,

June 18, 1864, of its survivors of the engagements at Spottsylvania, Milford Station, North Anna, Hanover Town, Tolopotomy, Cold Harbor and Petersburg, June 16 and 17, not less than 549 went down in killed and wounded, a loss of 66 per cent, the largest loss in a single action of any regiment in all that war. In fact, through all the wars of history there is recorded only a very few instances, in regular battle, of so heavy a loss in a single charge in proportion to the number engaged.

The regiment's first baptism of fire was at Spottsylvania, May 19. In that one battle 152 were killed, 231 wounded and 2 taken prisoners. The heaviest company loss was that of Company E—24 killed, 41 wounded and 1 taken prisoner, a total of 66. In its nineteen subsequent engagements—Milford Station, North Anna, Hanover Town, Tolopotomy, Cold Harbor, Petersburg (three actions), Jerusalem, Plank Road, Deep Bottom, Picket-line Skirmish, Squirrel Level Road, Welden Raid, Goyden Road, Fort Hell, Hutchin's Run, Near Five Forks, Sailor's Creek, Farmville—from June, 1864, to Apr. 7, 1865, its losses swelled the number to a "grand" and sad total, 1,298, of whom 423 were killed, 810 wounded and 65 taken prisoners. Besides which, in the entire period of service, 241 died of disease, 64 deserted, and 87 were not accounted for. Total, 365. Add the two totals and the figures show the inexorable fact that the losses of the regiment aggregated 1,663.

In the fatal charge of the afternoon of June 18, in which the Maine Heavies won immortality, their task was to carry Colquitt's Salient 500 yards distant, on an open plain. The movement was ordered by Gen. Birney, in temporary command of Hancock's Corps, and against the earnest protest of Gen. Mott of the Third Division. In that charge Col. Chaplin commanded the brigade; but when he gave the command: "Charge bayonet, double-quick march," his beloved regiment alone advanced, to fall like leaves under a hailstorm. Within ten minutes only a broken remnant came back, leaving two-thirds of the regiment wounded and dead on the field.



WORLD WAR MEMORIAL

—ERECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF LINCOLN, MAINE—

“To the dead a tribute,
To the living a memory,
To posterity a token of devotion to the Flag of their
Country.”