

11-4-1917

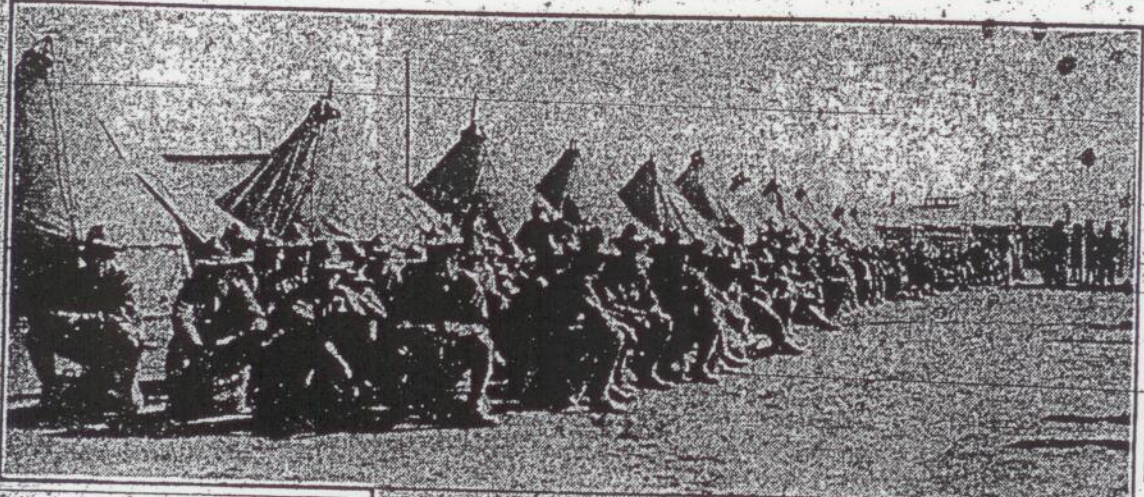
Drafted Indians From Oklahoma Who Have Been Transferred to the 142nd Infantry

Ingredients were exhibited and were awarded by the business. That all might determine the emergency bread is palatable, wiches were served. During hundreds of persons visited the at the city hall and war br now a part of the menu in the of bankers, lawyers, doctors an mess men.

Mrs. Jessie E. Watkins, em home demonstration agent of thi ly, assumed active supervision bread contest and was assisted b George Caldwell and Mrs. Goodwin, county chairman of th conservation movement, and otl

Of sufficient importance wa event considered by Mrs. Dais zier, district demonstration age western Oklahoma, that she dire county agents to meet here th might see the practical results c contests.

WAGONS AS TRADE PRIZ
 Wetumka Merchants Building U
 cial Shopping Days.
WETUMKA, OKla., Nov. 3.
 cial.)—As a means of builfing town's special trade day, the



OKLAHOMA INDIANS TO FORM COMPANY

Only Unit in United States Army To Be Purely "Red" Blood.

CAMP BOWIE, FORT WORTH, Tex., Nov. 3.—(Special.)—The only purely Indian company in the armies of the United States is to be organized in the 142nd infantry of the Seventy-first infantry brigade at Camp Bowie.

The commander of the American aborigine organization will be **Captain Walter Veach of Durant, Okla.**, and now the commanding officer of company E, 142nd infantry. Captain Veach is an Indian and when he left Durant, together with the First Oklahoma infantry at Fort Sill last spring, he took with him a company that was made up for the most part of members of the Choctaw tribe.

This was old company H of the First Oklahoma and was combined with company L, another organization made up for the most part of Indians, to make the new company E of the 142nd infantry.

Fill Up With Drafted Indians.
 At the present time company E has seventy-two Indians in it of various tribes from over the state of Oklahoma. In the other companies of the regiment also are several Indians, among them Cherokees, Chickasaws, Osages, Pawnees, Kiowas, Comanches, Creeks and others.

Besides these there are the 200 or more Indians that came to the regiment through the draft the first of the



These are the drafted Indians from Oklahoma who have just been transferred from Camp Travis to Camp Bowie where they are being assigned to companies made up of Oklahomans. The two views show them waiting patiently on company street, until Bowie officers assign them to quarters for their first night in the regular service.

week. All of these will be transferred to the company and the Caucasians who now constitute a part of the company will be transferred to the other companies in the command.

Under the present organization there are 250 men to each infantry company in the United States Army; so there will be more than enough redmen to form the company.

Only One of the Kind.
 As far as can be ascertained there is not another purely Indian company in the army, especially one commanded by an Indian. **Captain Veach is a member of the Choctaw tribe and is a well-**

known citizen of the state. His lieutenants in the company are First Lieut. Highlan Mitchell of Durant, First Lieut. Ben H. Chastaine of Tulsa, Second Lieutenant Edmorids of Antlers and Second Lieut. Elijah W. Horner of Durant.

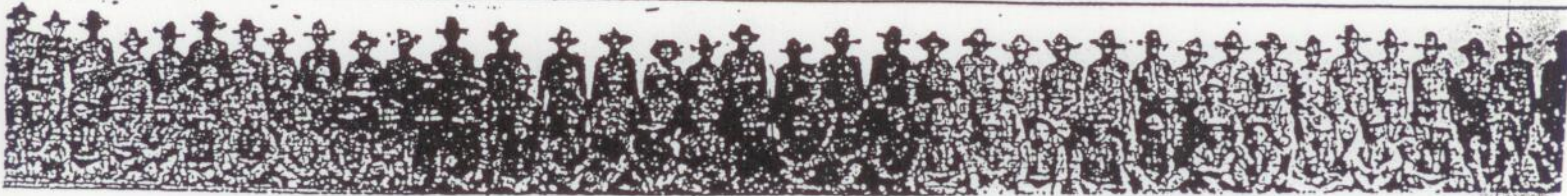
WAR BREAD POPULAR.

Clinton Demonstration Encourages Economy.
CLINTON, Okla., Nov. 3.—(Special.) A special feature of the observance of food conservation week was a bread contest arranged by the local committee. Many breads made of substitute

Wednesday of each month, the Wetumka commercial club has raised \$600 to be spent for prizes given to farmers at the December event. Five farm wagons will be the list of December premiums.

Other evidences of Wetumka's progressiveness are the fact that the town closed every Tuesday week to promote road building, the fact that the town closed all day last spring while citizens to the cemetery and beautified the place, and the fact that Wetumka raised \$250 per capita for the Cross.

Members of Fifteen Tribes Form Only Purely Indian Company in the United States



ONLY UNIT OF KIND IN UNITED STATES ARMY

They're Rapidly Learning White Man's Methods of Fighting.

CAMP BOWIE, FORT WORTH, Texas, Nov. 17.—(Special).—Indians from fifteen tribes in the state of Oklahoma, make up the personnel of the most unique infantry company of the United States army. These are the men of E company, 142nd infantry, at Camp Bowie, and form the only exclusively Indian organization in the military service of the country.

As soldiers the men of this organization already are beginning to attract attention and long before they could be given the title of soldiers they attracted notice wherever they went on account of their ancestry and their swarthy skin.

Learn Modern Warfare Quickly

Officers of the camp are watching the development of the Indian company with the keenest interest to ascertain to what extent the men can master the fine points of discipline, the theory of fighting in trenches and the other points of the modern war game. Up to the present time the Oklahoma tribesmen have shown an aptitude at picking up the necessary knowledge of close order drill that is surprising.

One of the greatest problems facing the officers of the company is the instruction of a few men who cannot speak or understand English. The first task to be carried out in this direction is the establishment of a school at night by which these men may learn to write their names as well as carry on a conversation in English.

Eyes Take Place of English

In many cases where the new soldiers have a scant knowledge of English they are making their eyes do the work of their ears. To a remarkable extent they are picking up the fine points of the foot drill by observation alone. They may not understand the words of the instructor but if he illustrates the movement they do not have to be told twice.

Following is a list of the Indians in the company arranged according to the tribes from which they come:

Choctaws Head the List

Choctaw tribe—First Sergeant Columbus E. Veach; Corporal Oso Nelson, Corporal Oscar T. Loman, Corporal Leo M. Thomas, Cook Charley Jackson, Mechanic Allington T. Nelson, Privates Jesse J. Atkinson, Nicholas E. Brown, Eastman Hoparkentubbee, Grant Johnico, Morris Jones, Oscar R. McClure, Vance Moore, Leo B. Nelson, Jacob Walley, Chester A. Ainsworth, Sidney Amehatubbee, Kullistota, Anna, John W. Battiest, Stacy Bohan-

FIFTEEN TRIBES REPRESENTED IN INDIAN COMPANY

(Continued From Page 1.)
(This Section)

ly Y. Melley, Alex McCoy, Sam McCoy, Silas G. McGee, Edgar McGee, Jackson J. McKinney, Henry Newson, Hodges T. Peter, Thornton J. Porter, Rufus T. Risner, John Rasha, Amos Simon, Robert Sockey, Cleveland Sockey, Robert Taylor, Ellis Thompson, Daniel Terrell, Wilson Thomas, Jefferson Thompson, Adolphus S. Tubby, Peter Wall, Arch Wallace, John Wallace, Curleo White, Eli Williams, Cabin Wilson and Willie Wilson.

Many Cherokees

Cherokee Tribe—Privates John Lucas, George Adair, Joseph L. Bark, Sam Beaver, James Beaver, Gee D. Butler, Jesse H. Carey, William Chum-Wallooky, James Chisholm, Alexander R. Chuculate, James C. Cochran, Willie Cochran, Joseph Crittenden, John F. Davis, Jack Davis, Boot Dillis, John Doublehead, Lerow Downing, George Eagle, Fred E. Felling, Maynard Farr, Jesse Rixon, James Fogg, Martin Foreman, Newton M. Foster, Anderson Gonzalis, Napoleon Grayson, James Grigaby, John B. Gritts, Burney Gritts, Jack Hair, William N. Johnson, Richard Keener, George Keys, Louis Kingfisher, Samson Leach, Tom Leach, Lubbin Ilopotubbee, Benjamin Littlejohn, Henry Locuse, George E. Mandlifer, Henry C. Martin, Frank Miller, Thomas Muskrat, John H. McCracken, Dave McPherson, George O'Field, Alfred H. Potts, Floyd L. Pride, Wylie Proctor, Jess Rogers, William Runway, Emmett Ryan, Jess Scraper, Walter Scuggins, Richard Sellers, David Shell, Charles T. Silk, Juney Smith, Stoke Smith, Robert Spade, John C. Triplett, Gid Vann, Richard Waters, Chewey Wait, Isaac Wayne, Sunday White and Frank Yount.

Osage Tribe—George Bacon-Rind, Charley Choteau, William McKinley, Neal C. Panther, Oakly A. Pappan, James Watsina and Joseph Watson.

Greek Tribe—John Berryhill, Moses Biddcreek, Tiger McIntosh, Silas Scott, Ben Simmons, Jimmie Sullivan and Thompson Solomon.

Chickasaws Are Third

Chickasaw Tribe—Abel B. Brown, Cubby Colbert, Humphry Colbert, Buster Davis, Perry P. Duckworth, Thomas Hatcher, Johnson Jimmie, Simeon James, Felix James, Watson John, Edmond Lewis, Dotson Litley, Pete Maytubby, Joe Perry and Intolubby H. Underwood.

Shawnee Tribe—Sam Daugherty and Charles T. Baker.

One "Irish Chief"

The last named is by no means the least known or the least important in the new organization. Everybody in the division wants him and everybody has tried to get him, but he gets along best in the Indian outfit with Captain Veach. As chief of the Irish tribe, Corporal Sullivan takes upon himself the right to be the official shamrock bearer of the division and to pass on the rights of all others to pay allegiance to the shamrock crew. The Irish chieftain can do practically anything and do it well. Just at present he has been transferred to the headquarters of Brigadier General Roy Hoffman but declares he would rather be back with the company and may get transferred back, if he has to get drunk to do it.

Some Indians Well Educated

Among the members of the company are men of excellent education. Numbers of them have been in school at Carlisle several years while others have been at Haskell and other military schools over the country. Some of them are excellent penmen and a few are able to handle typewriters in the most approved fashion.

Captain Veach, commander of the company, has been in the military service of his state and nation since August, 1908. At that time he enlisted in Company H of the old First Oklahoma Infantry with home rendezvous at Durant, Okla. After about a year of service he became first lieutenant of his company and by steady efforts won the rank of captain.

His company's commander obtained the foundation for his military career in the Indian schools and in his new company he has found several men who attended the same institution where he rounded his early education.

Colonial History Ends With Death Of Walter Veach

Death Thursday of Walter Veach marked the final page of a colorful history of a Choctaw tribal leader who once clashed with Mexican bandit Pancho Villa, organized an Indian company in WW I, and clung steadfastly to his Republican beliefs in the heart of Little Dixie.

Funeral services for Veach were held here this afternoon. He had lived all of his 82 years in the same community where he was born in territorial days on the outskirts of Durant. Before statehood, he was one of the youngest members ever to serve in the Choctaw legislature. Chief Harry J.W. Pelvin believes "it is altogether possible that his death marked the passing of the last surviving member of that historical assemblage."

"His great interest in Indian affairs never waned as the years came and went. This abiding interest kept him alert and in search of the answers to many of the Indian problems that continue to plague and confound the U.S. government today."

Veach was a charter member of the Inter-tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes and held membership in this organization for many years as an elected delegate of the Choctaws. He possessed a keen knowledge of Indian affairs and was an assiduous student of the Indian's nature of which he was a true representative: quiet, retiring and modest. . . ."

Veach soon after statehood, helped organize Company H, First Infantry — Durant's first National Guard unit — and served as its commander.

Under his command, Company H put down the Crazy Snake uprising near Henryetta, in the old Creek nation, and later was detailed to patrol the border between the United States and Mexico. During the seven months of 1915-17 the Guardsmen were there, Veach often recalled with pride, the company had a major hand in stopping the Pancho Villa invader of Texas.

Later in 1917 the company merged with the Texas 38th division and was sent to Europe. It was during this tour that Capt. Veach was told to organize an all-Indian company composed of members of a 11 Indian tribes in Oklahoma.

Walter Veach's daughter
is:

Jeanette Veach Brinkerhoff
Box 1486
Durant, OK 74702

(405) 924-4394

This clipping was in the
"Durant Daily Democrat"
October 17 or 18, 1966

A headstone in
Highland Cemetery repeats
much of the information
in this memorial,
assuming the fact that
Veach was a Choctaw
Code-talker.