

HISTORY OF THE WOODBURN NATIONAL GUARD UNITS AND ARMORIES



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Woodburn Armory, 2013

Prepared for:

**OREGON MILITARY DEPARTMENT
1776 Militia Way SE
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1. Regional History

Although the town of Woodburn was not established until 1871, the region in which Woodburn is located (northern Marion County) has a long military heritage. Woodburn is located 8 miles south of Champoeg where, in May 1843, settlers created Oregon's first government and adopted its first militia law. They also created its first military organization, choosing John A. Howard as major and William McCarty, Charles R. McKay (Tualatin Valley) and Sidney Smith (Chehalem Valley) as captains. These officers were instructed to enlist men and form companies of mounted riflemen. Information on any ensuing action has not been found.

The Ahantchuyuk band of Kalapuya were the original inhabitants of this Pudding River region. They lived in semi-permanent villages along the Pudding and Willamette Rivers, leading a relatively peaceful life of hunting, gathering and fishing. They fought when necessary for protection (e.g., against Molalla incursion from the east) and were the area's original citizen-warriors.

Sea-going merchants visited the Oregon coast in the late 1700s and fur trappers entered this area during the early 1800s. They introduced new forms of commerce, but they also introduced new diseases. By the 1830s malaria, smallpox, influenza and measles had wiped out 75 to 90 percent of the native populations in the Willamette Valley. When settlers began arriving in the 1840s, this region was essentially de-populated.

Cayuse War, 1847-1848. On 8 December 1847 the Oregon provisional legislature, meeting at Oregon City, received news of the killing of 13 missionaries and settlers at the Whitman Mission on the Walla Walla River. Although this mission was over 200 miles east, most of the Willamette Valley settlers had passed through the Walla Walla Valley on their trip to Oregon and the Whitman Mission had become an important way station for these travelers.

The provisional legislature authorized raising a company, then a regiment of mounted volunteers to proceed to the Walla Walla Valley, restore peace, and capture persons responsible for the murders. The 4th and 6th Companies (later Companies C and E), commanded by Captains H. J. G. Maxon and L. N. English Sr., were organized in the Champoeg and nearby French Prairie area.

The Oregon Regiment of Riflemen arrived at Wascopam (now The Dalles) late in January. In mid-February the regiment marched west, preceded by a three-member peace commission. The regiment battled Cayuse warriors at Sand Hollow (in what is now Morrow County) and arrived in the Walla Walla Valley at the end of the month. The peace commission met with leaders of other Indian bands along the route and kept them from joining the combatants. After several months of inconclusive campaigning and negotiating, the regiment returned to the Willamette Valley and received its discharge on 5 July 1848. When regimental commander Col. Cornelius Gilliam was accidentally killed on the return trip, Capt. Maxon became replacement commander.

Oregon Territory. In late 1848 the federal government brought Oregon in as a United States territory. In July 1854 the Oregon Legislative Assembly put together a new militia organization, at least on paper. In July Company D of the 9th Company District was constituted in Champoeg as part of the 1st Regimental District of the Territory of Oregon. James Costelo was appointed company commander.

Rogue Wars, 1853-1856 and Yakima War, 1855-1856. Volunteer units were organized in Oregon to support federal troops in these wars. Although volunteers from the Champoeg-Pudding Valley region served, no records were found of specific units being organized in this area.

Statehood. Oregon became the 33rd state in the Union on 14 February 1859, with its capitol located in Salem. The 1859 state constitution included Article X defining a state militia, a definition that remains in effect to the present.

Civil War, 1861-1865. With the outbreak of the Civil War in April 1861 regular army troops in the Northwest withdrew east and President Lincoln called for volunteers to protect the Oregon country. The First Oregon Volunteer Cavalry Regiment mustered in late 1861 and the First Oregon Volunteer Infantry Regiment started mustering in late 1864.

In late 1861 Marion County volunteers helped form Company B, First Oregon Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, under the command of Capt. E. J. Harding. This company served from January 1861 until mustered out in June 1866. The company served in southwest Idaho Territory and southeast Oregon.

In December 1864 Marion County volunteers helped form Company C, First Oregon Volunteer Infantry Regiment, under the command of Capt. Clark P. Crandall. The company served at Fort Vancouver and at Fort Steilacoom in Washington Territory. It mustered out in October 1865.

Oregon Militia. During the Civil War period the state of Oregon created its first organized and trained militia units and provided them with uniforms, arms and camp drill pay. In 1863 Company A (Marion Rifles) and Company B (Salem Light Battery), 2nd Regiment, 2nd Brigade were organized in Salem. In 1870 the Oregon legislature weakened the state's militia law and stopped funding the office of Adjutant General. Some units continued as uniformed drill organizations without state support, but many eventually ceased to exist or became organizations only on paper. Company A (Marion Rifles) persisted on record until 1870.

Oregon National Guard. In 1885 Oregon adopted a new militia law establishing a state and federally supported Oregon National Guard.

2. Woodburn Unit History

Company H, Second Regiment was organized 20 November 1895 as Woodburn's first National Guard unit. Capt. John M. Poorman commander.

The Philippines, 1898-1899. In anticipation of war with Spain, on 25 April 1898 the president of the United States informed the governor that Oregon was to furnish one regiment of infantry. On 7 May 1898 Oregon National Guard units began mustering for federal service in the declared war with Spain. In order to do this the infantry organizations of the state consolidated into 12 companies of 81 men each as the Second Regiment, Oregon U.S. Volunteer Infantry. Company H of Woodburn consolidated with Company E of Hubbard to form Company M, Capt. Poorman commanding (Figure 1).

The Oregon regiment mustered in at Portland, entrained to San Francisco, and sailed for The Philippines on 25 May. The regiment landed at Manila Bay on 1-2 July and

occupied the city of Manila. The war with Spain came to an end on 16 August. Then in February 1899 Philippine insurgents attacked U.S. troops and the Second Oregon actively campaigned for four months until sent home and mustered out of federal service on 7 August 1899. The unit from Woodburn earned campaign participation credits for War With Spain (Manila campaign) and Philippine Insurrection (Manila, Maloloa and San Isidro campaigns).

The Woodburn unit reorganized 21 March 1900 as Separate Company D and was then redesignated on 3 May 1900 as Company D, Fourth Infantry Regiment. The unit was again redesignated on 15 July 1903 as Company I, Third Infantry Regiment.

Mexican Border Duty, 1916. In June 1916 Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa crossed the border and raided Columbus, New Mexico. President Wilson ordered a general call-up of National Guard units from across the country. Oregon's Third Infantry Regiment, including Company I from Woodburn, mustered in on 19 June and headed for the border. They trained and patrolled on the southern California border for the rest of the summer, returning home and mustering out at Camp Clackamas (now Camp Withycombe) on 25 September 1916. See Figure 5.

World War 1, 1917-1918. When the troops arrived home from the Mexican Border war was already raging in Europe. On 25 March 1917 President Wilson called most of the National Guard into federal service. Oregon's Third Regiment, including Company I from Woodburn, mobilized at home stations overnight – the first regiment in the country to be ready.

After mobilization the army reorganized and redesignated many National Guard units. Most of Oregon's Third Regiment troops became members of the 162nd Infantry Regiment of the new 41st "Sunset" Division (see Figures 6 and 7). Most of the 41st, including Woodburn's Company I, served as a replacement and training division in Europe. The war came to an end on 11 November 1918 and the 41st Division demobilized on 1 March 1919 at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Post World War 1. Soon after World War 1 the 41st Division was designated as the National Guard division encompassing Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. On 19 May 1921 Howitzer Company, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Division was reconstituted as Woodburn's Oregon National Guard unit (see Figure 8). On 1 October 1939 the Woodburn unit reorganized as Anti-Tank Platoon, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Division, Oregon National Guard.

World War 2, 1941-1945. In September 1940 President Roosevelt called most of the National Guard units of the Pacific Northwest into Federal service for one year, including the 41st Division and its Woodburn unit. In September 1941 Congress extended this service and on 8 December 1941 the United States entered World War 2. On 14 February 1942 the Anti-Tank Platoon from Woodburn reorganized as an Anti-Tank Company and served as such throughout the rest of the war.

The 41st Infantry Division trained in Australia and campaigned in the Southwest Pacific Theater. After Japan surrendered in August 1945, the division served four months of occupation duty in the Kure-Hiroshima area of Japan. The 41st Infantry Division and all its units were inactivated at Kure, Japan on 31 December 1945. The unit from Woodburn earned campaign participation credits for Papua, New Guinea, Luzon and Southern Philippines.

Oregon State Guard units were organized throughout the state to take over Oregon National Guard functions and armories during the war. Woodburn and Ashland were the only two armory locations without an Oregon State Guard unit.

Oregon Army National Guard. Soon after the end of World War 2 Oregon started reorganizing its National Guard and the 41st Infantry Division became the National Guard division of Oregon and Washington. On 3 July 1947 Anti-Tank Company, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Division was reconstituted in Woodburn. On 1 November 1948 this unit was reorganized as Tank Company, 186th Infantry Regiment (see Figure 9). In 1959 it became Troop B, 162nd Combat Arms Regiment, then Troop B, 1st Reconnaissance Squadron, 82nd Armor Regiment. In 1965 it became Troop E, 82nd Cavalry, then Troop E, 116th Cavalry Brigade in 1989, then back to Troop E, 82nd Cavalry in 1995. Then it again became Troop B, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry for a few years.

A separate unit was also located in Woodburn from 1995 until 2011: Detachment 1, Troop G, 82nd Cavalry, which became Detachment 1, Company B, 3d Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment.

The Woodburn unit is now Company B (Rifle), 3rd Squadron, 116th Armored Cavalry regiment. It has been recently equipped with the M2A3 Bradley tracked armored personnel carrier, one of the first National Guard units to be issued this up-to-date combat vehicle.

3. Woodburn Armory History

Pre-1912. Before a state armory was constructed, the Woodburn unit probably leased an armory space (see Figure 2). The 1897 Report of the Adjutant General contains this comment about the Woodburn unit: “The armory of the company is commodious, but is not provided with lockers, or the proper conveniences for privacy in changing uniforms. Such provisions can be made, and should be attended to.”

The 1912 armory. In 1912 a state-built armory was completed in Woodburn. Total cost was \$24,608 (\$10,764 state, \$8,285 county, \$1,000 city and \$4,558 private). The 100 by 119 foot two story building was constructed of brick trimmed in stucco. It was part of a seven armory construction project. According to the 1911-1912 Report of the Adjutant General, “These armories have proved to be a very great help in the maintenance of the Guard. They afford comfortable quarters for the men, a decent place of resort in the hours of leisure and afford much better protection of State and United States property than has heretofore been obtained.”

The armory dedication ceremony was held 11 May 2012, presided over by former unit commander and current state Adjutant General William E. Finzer. A contemporary news report¹ described the armory as having a 60 by 90 foot drill hall (with 100 incandescent lamps and a balcony for spectators), a basement with a heating plant and kitchen, a quartermaster’s storeroom, gymnasium, shower baths and toilets. This report lists these other features:

¹ The Sunday Oregonian, Portland, 12 May 1912 (Figure 3)

First floor – Company officers’ quarters, first-sergeant’s room, non-commissioned officers’ and privates’ rooms, quartermaster sergeant’s room, armorer’s room and equipment room.

Second floor – Staff officers’ room, a Grand Army of the Republic room, a reading room, and a spacious clubroom fitted with billiard, pool and card tables.

“A fine display of deer heads adorns the walls, all being mementoes of hunting expeditions in which the company members have engaged.”

The Woodburn City Hall is currently located on the site of the 1912 armory – 270 Montgomery Street in the city center area. See Figure 12.

The 1957 armory. Federal and state funds were allocated for a new armory, the city provided a site in northeast Woodburn, bids were opened in December 1956, and construction began in February 1957. This, Woodburn’s current armory, was completed in September 1957 at a cost of \$137,483 (\$96,675.56 federal, \$40,808.56 state). It was built as a 15,923 square feet, single story one-unit “K-style”² armory, featuring a drill floor roof with glue-lam barrel arch beams. Architect was John E. Jensen of Portland. See Figures 10, 11, 12 and cover photo.

The armory underwent a minor remodel in 2011. This included installing some new windows, asbestos abatement, new office floors, repainting the exterior and a new roof over the former indoor rifle range area.

² A National Guard Bureau design type.

Table 1. Woodburn National Guard Commanders and Units. Active duty service in **bold print**.

DATE	COMMANDER	ACTION	UNIT
20 Nov 1895	Capt. John M. Poorman	Organized at Woodburn	Company H, 2nd Regiment, Oregon National Guard
15 May 1898	Capt. John M. Poorman	Company H consolidated with Hubbard Company E, 2nd Regiment; redesignated and mobilized at Portland for federal service	Company M, 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry
20 Jun 1898 – 14 Jun 1899	Capt. John M. Poorman	War With Spain and Philippine Insurrection, Guam and The Philippines	Company M, 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry
7 Aug 1899	Capt. John M. Poorman	Mustered out of federal service at San Francisco, California	Company M, 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry
21 Mar 1900	Capt. William E. Finzer	Reconstituted at Woodburn	Separate Company D, Oregon National Guard
3 May 1900	Capt. William E. Finzer	Reorganized and redesignated	Company D, 4th Infantry Regiment, Oregon National Guard
15 Jul 1903 – 28 Apr 1906	Capt. Ogilvie D. Henderson	Reorganized and redesignated	Company I, 3rd Infantry Regiment, Oregon National Guard
May 1906	Capt. Frank W. Settlemeier	Elected commander	Company I, 3rd Infantry Regiment, Oregon National Guard
26 Jul 1910	Capt. Eugene Moshberger	Elected commander	Company I, 3rd Infantry Regiment, Oregon National Guard
Nov 1915	Capt. Grover Todd	Elected commander	Company I, 3rd Infantry Regiment, Oregon National Guard
19 Jun 1916	Capt. Grover Todd	Mustered into federal service at Portland for Mexican Border duty	Company I, 3rd Infantry Regiment, Oregon National Guard
30 Jun – 2 Sep 1916	Capt. Grover Todd	Mexican Border duty, southern California	Company I, 3rd Infantry Regiment, Oregon National Guard
25 Sep 1916	Capt. Grover Todd	Mustered out of federal service at Camp Clackamas, Oregon	Company I, 3rd Infantry Regiment, Oregon National Guard

History of the Woodburn National Guard Units and Armories

DATE	COMMANDER	ACTION	UNIT
25 Mar 1917	Capt. Grover Todd	Called into federal service and mobilized at home station	Company I, 3rd Infantry Regiment, Oregon National Guard
5 Aug 1917	Capt. Grover Todd	Drafted into federal service at Camp Withycombe, Oregon	Company I, 3rd Infantry Regiment, Oregon National Guard
2 Oct 1917	Capt. Grover Todd	Reorganized and redesignated at Camp Greene, North Carolina	Company I, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Division
Dec 1917 – 8 Feb 1919	Capt. Grover Todd	World War 1 service in France	Company I, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Division
1 Mar 1919	Capt. Grover Todd	Mustered out of federal service at Camp Dix, New Jersey	Company I, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Division
19 May 1921	1st Lt. Corry B. Richards	Reconstituted and federally recognized at Woodburn	Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Division, Oregon National Guard
29 Nov 1921	1st Lt. Clyde E. Whitman	Elected commander	Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Division, Oregon National Guard
21 Dec 1922	1st Lt. Oliver S. Olson	Elected commander	Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Division, Oregon National Guard
30 Jul 1923	Capt. Oliver S. Olson	Reorganized and redesignated	Howitzer Company, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Division, Oregon National Guard
27 Dec 1930	Capt. Elburn T. Sims	Elected commander	Howitzer Company, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Division, Oregon National Guard (See Note A)
1 Oct 1939	1st Lt. Everett J. Hughes	Reorganized and redesignated	Anti-Tank Platoon, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Division, Oregon National Guard (See Note B)
16 Sep 1940	1st Lt. Everett J. Hughes	Inducted into federal service at Portland, Oregon	Anti-Tank Platoon, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Division, Oregon National Guard
14 Feb 1942	***	Reorganized and redesignated at Ft. Lewis, Washington	Anti-Tank Company, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Division

History of the Woodburn National Guard Units and Armories

DATE	COMMANDER	ACTION	UNIT
May 1942 – Dec 1945	***	Overseas service in the Southwest Pacific Theater and Occupation of Japan	Anti-Tank Company, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Division
31 Dec 1945	***	Inactivated at Kure, Japan	Anti-Tank Company, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Division
3 Jul 1947	Capt. James J. Anderson	Reconstituted and federally recognized at Woodburn	Anti-Tank Company, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Division (Part), Oregon Army National Guard
1 Nov 1948	Capt. James J. Anderson	Reorganized and redesignated	Tank Company, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Division (Part), Oregon Army National Guard
1 Apr 1959	***	Converted, reorganized and redesignated	Troop B, 162nd Combat Arms Regiment 41st Infantry Division (Part), Oregon Army National Guard
15 May 1959	***	Redesignated	Troop B, 1st Reconnaissance Squadron, 82nd Armor Regiment, 41st Infantry Division (Part), Oregon Army National Guard
1 Mar 1963	***	Reorganized and redesignated	Troop B, 1st Squadron, 82d Cavalry Regiment, 41st Infantry Division (Part), Oregon Army National Guard
15 Nov 1965	***	Reorganized, redesignated and assigned	Troop E, 82d Cavalry Regiment, 41st Separate Infantry Brigade, Oregon Army National Guard
1 Mar 1968	***	Reorganized	Troop E, 82d Cavalry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade (Separate), Oregon Army National Guard
1 Sep 1989	***	Reorganized, redesignated and assigned	Troop E, 116th Cavalry Brigade, Oregon Army National Guard
1 Oct 1995	***	Reorganized and redesignated	Troop E, 82nd Cavalry, and Detachment 1, Troop G, 82nd Cavalry, Oregon Army National Guard

History of the Woodburn National Guard Units and Armories

DATE	COMMANDER	ACTION	UNIT
***	***	Reorganized and redesignated	Troop B, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, and Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade, Oregon Army National Guard
2009	Maj. Michael Burghardt Capt. Brandon Ditto		Troop B, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, and Detachment 1, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade, Oregon Army National Guard
Sep 2010	Capt. James J. Rejznek	Troop B, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment relocated from Woodburn to Redmond; Company B, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade relocated from Redmond to Woodburn and consolidated with Detachment 1	Company B (Rifle), 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade, Oregon Army National Guard
1 Dec 2011	Capt. Ronald C. Clement	Appointed commander	Company B (Rifle), 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade, Oregon Army National Guard

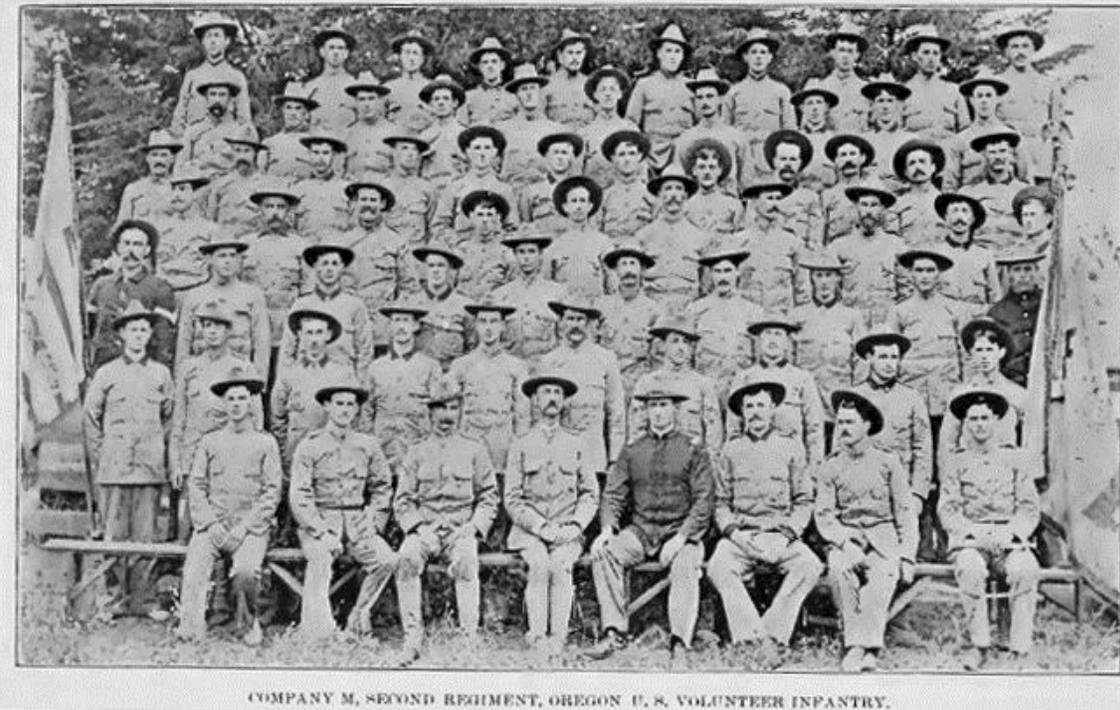
*** Information not readily available

Note A: From 26 Dec 1930 to 16 Sep 1940 Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry, commanded by Maj. Oliver S. Olson, was located at Woodburn.

Note B: From 14 Jun to 16 Sep 1940 Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, was located at Woodburn.

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Gantenbein. 1902

Figure 1. Company M in 1899 after completion of duty in The Philippines. Company M was formed in May 1898 by consolidating Woodburn's Company H with Hubbard's Company E. Capt. John M. Poorman, commander (front row, fourth from left) was pre-war commander of the Woodburn unit.

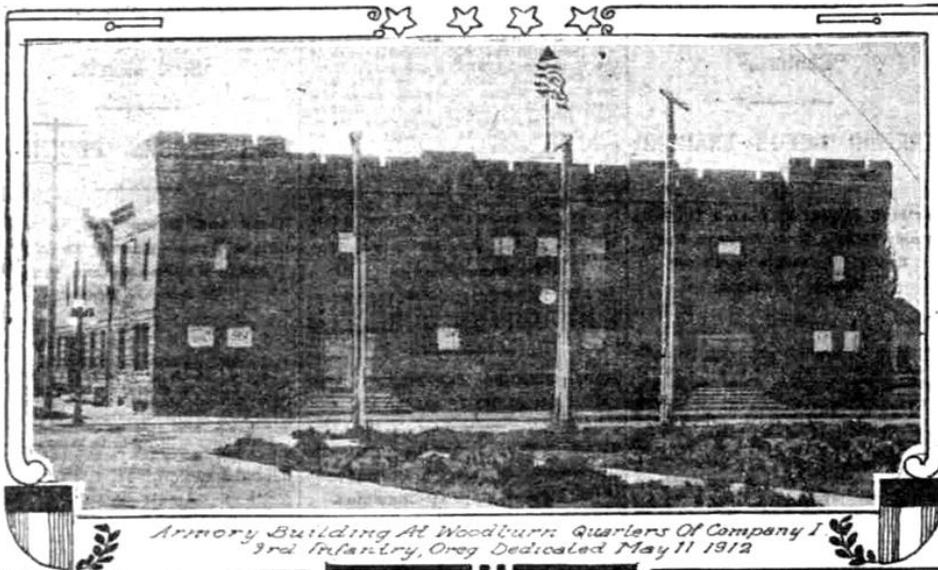


The Morning Oregonian, 30 April 1906

Figure 2. "Funeral services for Captain O. D. Henderson at the armory in Woodburn." Capt. Henderson commanded Woodburn's Company I from 15 July 1903 until he and county sheriff J. S. Shaver were shot 28 April 1906 by outlaw Frank Smith. The building pictured was perhaps the first of Woodburn's National Guard armories.

HANDSOME NEW ARMORY DEDICATED AT WOODBURN WITH GREAT POMP

Oregon State Military Board Officially at Services, Which Mark Culmination of Honors Enjoyed by Third Infantry—Many Notable Officials of State Present—Governor West Gives Address.



Armory Building At Woodburn: Quarters Of Company I
3rd Infantry, Oreg Dedicated May 11 1912



Adjutant General
W.E. Finzer



Colonel Poorman



Major F.W. Settlemeier
Inspector General
4th Capt Co I



Capt. Eugene Moshberger
Company I
Present Colonel Co I



Lieut. Grover Todd
Co I



2nd Lieut.
P.A. Luostoy, Cal.

Figure 3.
Dedication of a
new Woodburn
armory,
11 May 1912.

Officers
pictured
included five
former, present
and future
Woodburn unit
commanders:

Adjutant
General
William E.
Finzer,
commanded
unit 1900-
1903;

Col. John M.
Poorman, first
commander,
1895-1899;

Maj. Frank W.
Settlemeier,
commanded
unit 1906-
1910;

Capt. Eugene
Moshberger,
commanded
unit 1910-
1915;

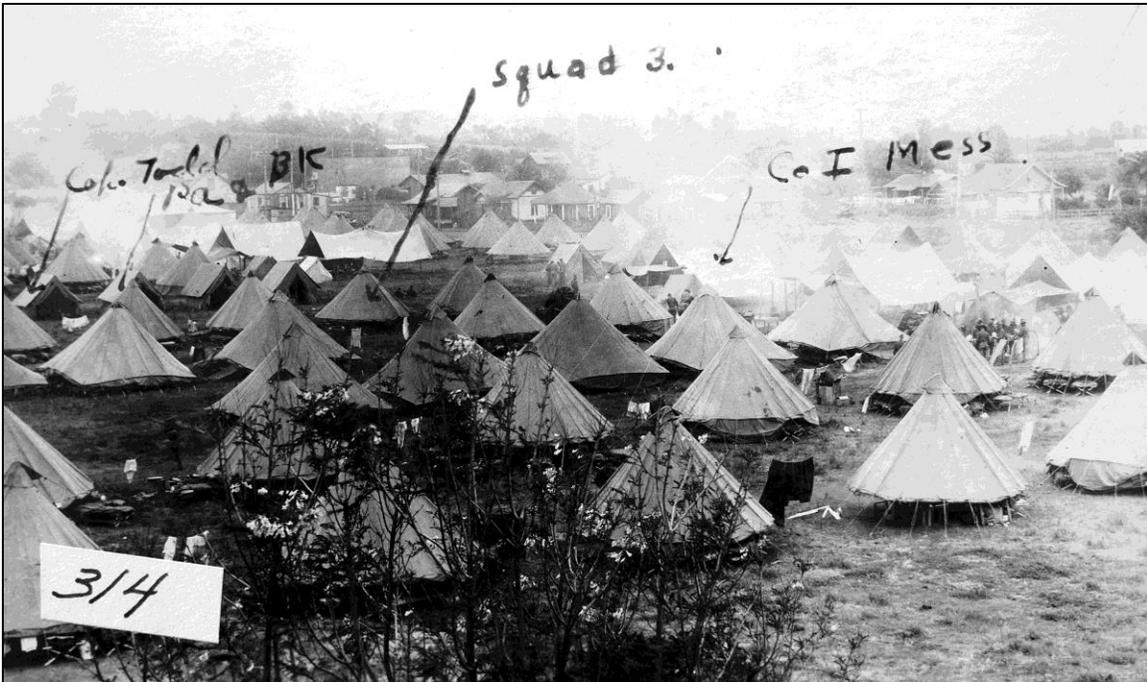
Lieut. Grover
Todd,
commanded
unit 1916-1919

The Sunday Oregonian,
12 May 1912



Woodburn Museum photo 91-184

Figure 4. “Old armory photo, 1st and Cleveland, early with woodpile”



Woodburn Museum postcard 314

Figure 5. Mexican Border duty camp, Palm City, California, June 1916



Figure 6. Woodburn unit at Camp Greene, North Carolina
Company I, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 16 October 1917.

Silverton Country Historical
Society and Museum

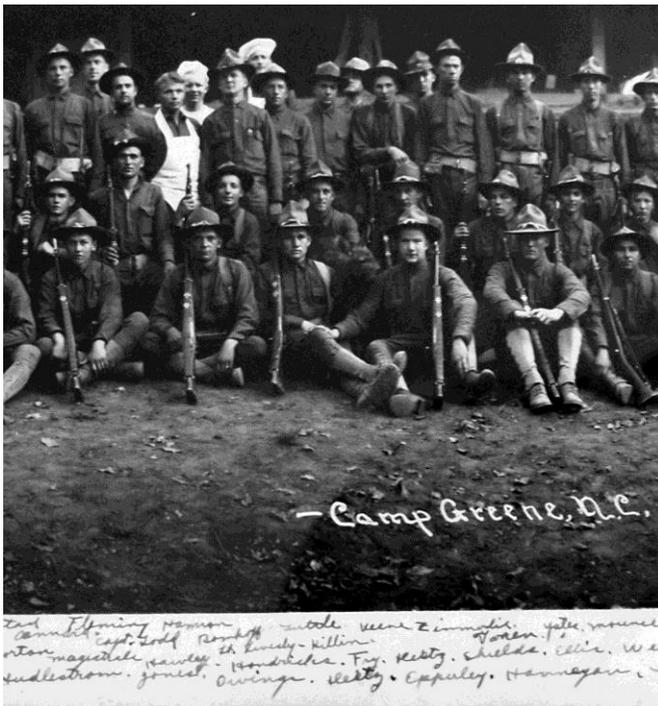


Figure 7. Center segment of above photograph.



ELBURN T. SIMS
Captain, Howitzer Company

Historical Annual, National Guard of the State of Oregon, 1939

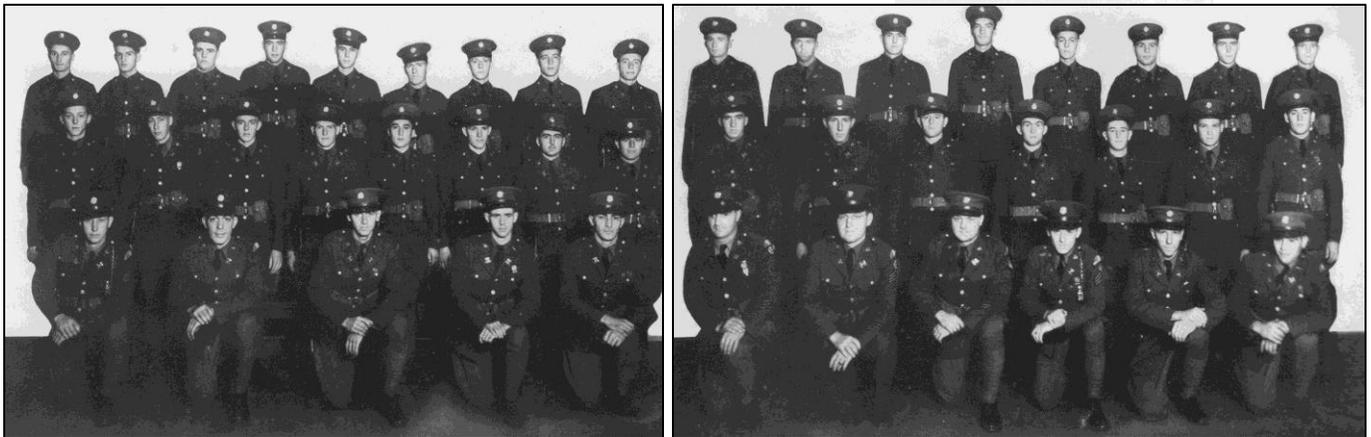


Figure 8. Howitzer Company, 186th Infantry – Woodburn unit in 1938.

Woodburn Museum



Figure 9. "Taken at Ft. Lewis, WA 186 Tank Co. N.G. Woodburn, OR" (ca. 1950)

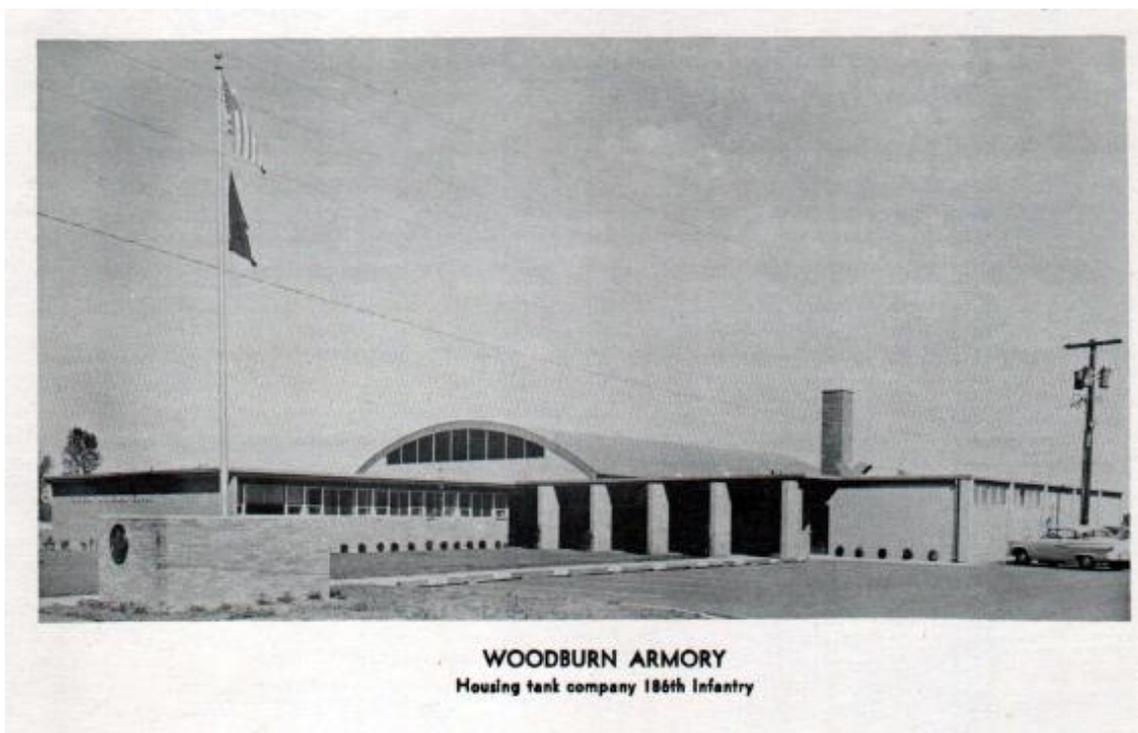


Figure 10. Woodburn armory upon completion in 1957.

Biennial Report of the Military Department, 1956-58



Figure 11.
Current armory's
drill floor.

P8166161wwa



Google Earth

Figure 12. Woodburn National Guard armory locations, 1912 and 1957 (current) armories