

at this time were: J. L. Doggett, major; H. R. Payne, captain, Company A; A. G. Hartridge, captain, Company B; C. W. Tucker, captain, Company C; B. F. McGraw, captain, Company D. The muster roll comprised 468 officers and men.

*The personnel of the battalion, both in officers and enlisted men, changed considerably during the course of the war. It was composed mostly of men who had had military training before, either in the Spanish-American war or at military colleges, but who for one reason or another were exempt from service in the present war. Many of them volunteered later and were accepted.

The home guards quickly became a well-drilled, effective military force. In the beginning there was some difficulty in establishing its status in regard to furnishing it with equipment and supplies, but the Legislature in 1917 legalized the organization and placed it on a military basis, subject to the call of the County of Duval. The Guards were armed with Krags and Springfield rifles; they wore the regulation uniform—khaki, and service hat. The battalion was twice called out to meet emergencies.

In October, 1917, Governor Catts, taking notice of rumors that violence was contemplated against officials of a defunct Live Oak bank who were to be tried in Madison, ordered a company of the Duval County Home Guards to Madison, as a protection for the court and the defendants during the trial. Being a County organization, the question arose as to whether service outside the County was legal; it was settled by a call upon the battalion for volunteers for this special duty, and enough men responded to make up two provisional companies, aggregating 12 officers and 137 men. The commanding officers were: J. L. Doggett, major; A. G. Hartridge, captain, Prov. Co. F; C. W. Tucker, captain, Prov. Co. G. On Sunday night, October 7, 1917, this force left Jacksonville for Madison by special train, the defendants in the case being aboard, while the trial judge was picked up en route. Arriving at Madison, it was a novel sight for a judge of the court and the defendants in a civil suit, to be marched through the streets, closely guarded by two companies of militia with fixed bayonets, like prisoners of war. The "Battle of Madison" was a bloodless one, for the violence did not materialize.