

History of the 10th Infantry Battalion, National Guard of California 1890-1895

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TENTH INFANTRY BATTALION

Tenth Infantry Battalion, Sixth Brigade
 Reference: Adjutant General's Files
 Location: Eureka, Humboldt County
 Organized May 13, 1890
 Mustered out June 29, 1895*

<u>Commanding Officers</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>		<u>Commission</u>
J. D. Chamberlain, Major	May	13, 1890	June 14, 1890
Walter Bonner, Captain Adjutant	June	23, 1890	June 28, 1890
George D. Marvin, Major Surgeon	June	23, 1890	June 28, 1890
John L. Crichton, Major (Retired Aug. 16, 1895)	May	8, 1893	May 18, 1893
John Donnelly, Captain Adjutant	Aug.	17, 1893	Sept. 23, 1893
George D. Marvin, Major Surgeon			

Activities:

On May 13, 1890, a new battalion of two companies was organized in the Sixth Brigade and designated the Tenth Infantry Battalion with headquarters at Eureka, Humboldt County. Prior to that time from 1866 to 1879, the Sixth Brigade had no organized companies, the brigade consisting only of the Brigadier-General and his staff officers. On March 15, 1879, a military unit known as the Eureka Guard, was organized and attached to the brigade as an unattached company of the National Guard. On May 13, 1890, when the Tenth Infantry Battalion was organized, the Eureka Guard was designated Company A. A military company that had been organized in Arcata, Humboldt County on December 21, 1889, was designated as Company B. Major J. H. Chamberlain, staff officer of the Sixth Brigade, was placed in command of the battalion, and by his untiring efforts the Tenth Infantry became one of the most efficient organizations in the State.

*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, page 3.

TENTH INFANTRY BATTALION (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

There were not many changes in the battalion organization as the following table indicates.

COMPANIES COMPOSING THE TENTH INFANTRY BATTALION, SIXTH BRIGADE1890-1895

A	B
Company A (formerly Eureka Guard) <u>1890</u>	Company B <u>1890</u>
<p>Note: The year dates in the table indicate the year the companies were attached to the Tenth Infantry Battalion, Sixth Brigade.</p>	

The Tenth Infantry Battalion attended the encampments held at Santa Cruz from July 5 to 11, 1891, and again in 1892, from August 6 to 14. Fifty per cent of the members of the battalion attended, and by their strict attention to drills and formations were considered to be one of the finest organizations in camp.*

On January 26, 1892, the Tenth Infantry Battalion marched in the funeral procession of John Vance, Humboldt County's most prominent citizen and for many years the Mayor of Eureka. At 1:00 P.M., the Tenth Infantry Battalion with its staff officers, and band

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*For additional information concerning the Encampments held at Santa Cruz 1891-1892, refer to History of Company A, Tenth Infantry Battalion, Sixth Brigade.

TENTH INFANTRY BATTALION (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

approached and formed lines in front of the Pioneer Hall. All the members wore crape on their arms as a sign of mourning. The remains were borne down to the waiting hearse and when the cortege moved the Tenth Infantry Band was in the lead, playing a funeral march. Behind them came the Tenth Infantry Battalion under the command of acting Major John L. Crichton.*

There is no record concerning the activities of this organization, other than the usual battalion drills, until 1895. On March twenty-sixth of that year, the State Legislature enacted a law that reduced the number of companies of the National Guard to a maximum of sixty-nine. Acting upon the recommendation of the Board of Location and Organization, General Order No. 10 was issued which mustered Company B, Tenth Infantry out of service, and the Tenth Infantry Battalion was automatically disbanded June 29, 1895.** Company A remained an unattached company of the Sixth Brigade until the following month when General Order No. 11 was issued July twenty-third of that year, transferring the company to the First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade. The unit retained its designation as Company A.*** The Tenth Infantry Battalion was in existence in the Sixth Brigade for a period of five years, and was considered to be one of the National Guard's most efficient organizations. The disbandment of the Tenth Infantry was for financial reasons, a desire on the part of the State Legislature to reduce expenses.

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*Humboldt Weekly Standard, January 28, 1892, page 2, column 4.

**Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 10, page 75.

***Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 11, page 76.