

History of the Company A (McMahon Guard), 1st Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1881-1907

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COMPANY A

Company A, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly McMahon Guard)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized December 28, 1859

Reorganized August 10, 1881*

Redesignated July 23, 1895**

Reconstituted and Stationed at Eureka July 23, 1895***

Discontinued December 7, 1895****

Reconstituted and Stationed at San Francisco December 9, 1895*****

Mustered into Federal Service May 6, 1898+

Mustered out of Federal Service September 21, 1899++

Reorganized as Company A, First Infantry Regiment Nov. 26, 1899+++

Mustered out January 8, 1907++++

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*Company A, formerly Company C, Third Infantry Battalion, transferred to First Infantry Regiment and designated Company A, August 10, 1881. Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 15, page 84.

**Company A, First Infantry Regiment, transferred to Third Infantry Regiment and designated as Company C, Third Infantry Regiment on July 23, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 11, page 76.

***Company A, formerly Company A, unattached, Eureka, attached to First Infantry Regiment and designated as Company A, First Infantry Regiment, July 23, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 11, page 76, paragraph 2 (A).

****Company A, First Infantry Regiment, discontinued as Infantry and enrolled as Fifth Division, Naval Battalion, December 7, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1895, General Order No. 17, page 87.

*****Company A, formerly Company E, and Company A, Third Infantry Regiment, consolidated and attached to Fifth Battalion as Company A, December 7, 1895. Fifth Battalion became part of First Infantry Regiment, December 9, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 86, and 88.

+Company A as part of First Infantry Regiment, was mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War, May 6, 1898. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 4.

++Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 11, pages 68, 69.

+++Company A as part of the First Infantry Regiment re-entered the National Guard as Company A, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade November 29, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 79.

++++Company A, First Infantry Regiment, disbanded and mustered out of service on January 8, 1907, having fallen below the standard of efficiency. General and Special Orders and Circulars - 1907.

General Order No. 1.

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
J. H. McMenomy, Captain	Mar. 11, 1873*	July 14, 1881
William P. Sullivan, First Lieut.	Aug. 29, 1881	Sept. 21, 1881
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J. H. McMenomy, Captain (Re-elected Mar. 12, 1883)		
William P. Sullivan, First Lieut. (Re-elected Oct. 15, 1883)		
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J. H. McMenomy, Captain (Re-elected Mar. 16, 1885)		
R. A. Marshall, First Lieut.	Sept. 14, 1885	Sept. 29, 1885
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R. A. Marshall, Captain	Mar. 14, 1887	April 6, 1887
George A. Rice, First Lieut.	Mar. 14, 1887	April 6, 1887
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R. A. Marshall, Captain (Re-elected Mar. 15, 1889)		
Joseph T. O'Brien, First Lieut.	Mar. 15, 1889	April 9, 1889
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R. A. Marshall, Captain (Re-elected Mar. 17, 1891)		
Joseph T. O'Brien, First Lieut. (Re-elected Mar. 1891) (Resigned Mar. 13, 1892)		
Eugene V. Sullivan, First Lieut.	April 30, 1892	June 13, 1892
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R. A. Marshall, Captain (Re-elected Mar. 20, 1893)		
Eugene V. Sullivan, First Lieut. (Re-elected Mar. 20, 1893)		
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Daniel J. Foley, Captain (Re-elected July 22, 1895)	May 17, 1893**	
Charles V. Otto, First Lieut. (Re-elected July 22, 1895)	May 17, 1893**	
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John F. Connolly, Captain	Aug. 30, 1894	Jan. 22, 1896
George T. Ballinger, First Lieut.	Jan. 31, 1895	Jan. 22, 1896
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John F. Connolly, Captain (Re-elected Nov. 19, 1896)		
George T. Ballinger, First Lieut. (Re-elected Mar. 18, 1897)		

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*Captain J. H. McMenomy retained his former rank date of March 11, 1873, when he commanded the McMahan Grenadiers.

**Captain Daniel J. Foley and Lieutenant Charles V. Otto, retained their former rank as of May 17, 1893, when they commanded Company A, Tenth Infantry Regiment, Sixth Brigade.

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
John F. Connolly, Captain (Re-elected Feb. 28, 1900)	_____	_____
George T. Ballinger, First Lieut. (Re-elected Feb. 28, 1900)	_____	_____
George T. Ballinger, Captain	July 10, 1900	July 25, 1900
Joseph A. Brown, First Lieut.	July 10, 1900	Dec. 22, 1900
George T. Ballinger, Captain (Re-elected Nov. 13, 1902) (Re-elected Oct. 6, 1904)	_____	_____
Frederic Bertrand, First Lieut.	Nov. 13, 1902	Dec. 31, 1902
George T. Ballinger, Captain (Re-elected May 18, 1905)	_____	_____
A. R. Dunnigan, First Lieut. (Resigned Nov. 15, 1905)	May 18, 1905	Aug. 12, 1905

Activities:

Company A, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade was formerly known as the McMahon Guard which was organized December 28, 1859. On March 4, 1881, a military law was passed by the Legislature to standardize the membership requirements of the companies of the National Guard, and in this general reorganization the McMahon Guard was redesignated as Company A, First Infantry Regiment.

On July 23, 1895, Company A was transferred to the Third Infantry Regiment, and Company A, unattached, Eureka was attached to the First Infantry Regiment and designated Company A, First Infantry Regiment. About five months later, December 7, 1895, Company A was discontinued as an infantry company and enrolled as a division in the Naval Battalion. In the reorganization of the National Guard, December 7, 1895, Company A and Company E, Third Infantry Regiment were consolidated and designated Company A, Fifth Battalion. Two days later the Fifth Battalion became a part of the First Infantry Regiment, thereby, causing Company A to be known as Company A, First Infantry Regiment.*

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*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, page 27.

A general Encampment of the National Guard is indispensably necessary for military development and advancement. In Camps of Instruction the men are brought together in large bodies and are habituated in all the varied duties of the camp and field. The men were encamped in tents, and were required to perform sentry duty, guard mounting, dress parade, and were daily instructed in the drill. In a very short time they became familiar with the routine duties of the profession of arms, and were in readiness when the exigency arrived, to put into practice the teachings of the camp and garrison. Through such measures it is possible to have an army of citizen-soldiers ready, even while quietly engaged in the peaceful pursuits of life, to spring to arms at a short notice. It is in the cities and large towns that the military organization is most needed. The National Guard is an auxiliary force to the police, and by its presence good order is maintained, and lawlessness prevented, thereby, securing for the citizen his vested rights and privileges.

Company A encamped for eight days at Santa Cruz, California, in September 1883 under command of Colonel J. H. Dickinson. The company owned its own mess kits, and a commissary provided their own subsistence. This method was decidedly less expensive than the caterer system, and was recommended for general use. A second encampment at Santa Cruz was held August 15 to 23, and was one in which the entire National Guard participated. Company A as a unit of the First Infantry was present. During the year 1888 there were but two encampments held, and both regimental. The First Infantry Regiment of which Company A was attached, encamped at San Jose, California from July 22 to 29, 1888. The Camp was designated "Camp Firrell", in honor of Major Frances H. Firrell, Surgeon of the regiment, who died in the month of January preceding the encampment. There was an average attendance during the eight days of 278 men.

In the year 1889, every organization of the Guard went to an encampment. Company A encamped at Santa Rosa from July 20 to 28, 1889. The camp was designated "Camp Orton", and was located in a beautiful grove of oaks about one and one-half miles from the city. The camp was profusely decorated with Chinese lanterns and flags. The question of decorating camps of the National Guard was discussed considerably, as being unmilitary, and as having a tendency to make a camp a sort of picnic and, therefore, interfering with the proper performance of military duties. It was not considered by Richard H. Orton, Adjutant General, that the decoration of camps or the effort to make them beautiful and attractive was a grave offense against camp etiquette if not

carried to excess. It was customary to locate the Guard camps near cities or towns, and it was considered if the camps were not made as attractive for the men as the town, then the larger number of men would endeavor to obtain passes or would go without leave, and spend their evenings, when off duty, out of camp; while on the other hand, it was found that if camps were made bright and attractive during evenings, the men would prefer to remain in them. Therefore, it was permissible to decorate National Guard camps as long as they did not interfere with duty, or the importing and receiving the instruction for which they were primarily established. The use of decorations were, however, regulated by the commanding officer, who prescribed the kind and amount to be used, making them uniform throughout the camp. This encampment at Santa Rosa was the twelfth one which Company A attended. The entire regiment was well fitted out with camp equipage, and the officers having had considerable experience were well able to instruct the men attending concerning regular camp duties.

Company A went into encampment at Camp McDonald, Ukiah, August 21, 1897, and remained there until August 29 of the same year. This camp was ideal from a sanitary view-point. The quarters in the camp in general were well policed, tents were ventilated, neat and orderly. The mess tables, cook house and kitchen were well kept; all foods were fresh and of the best quality obtainable, and the men were well satisfied with their meals. However, the space was limited for carrying on all minor and major tactics as programmed; yet in spite of these disadvantages all maneuvers and drills were splendidly carried out under the supervision of Captain F. de L. Carrington, United States Army. Officers and men responded to duty cheerfully; discipline was excellent; the proper courtesy between officers and men was properly exchanged; and guard mount, reviews and dress parades were well executed. At roll call men were promptly on time, armed and equipped for practice and exercises. At this encampment a ten minute drill in the manual of arms followed roll call. The encampment was regimental in character and great interest was shown in silhouette target practice. At this Camp of Instruction there were no tent decorations; no disorder or drunkenness; and in general the behavior of the men in and out of camp was excellent.*

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*Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, pages 24, 25.

Another encampment that Company A attended was held at Santa Cruz in June 1901. This was the first time for many years that the entire National Guard was assembled. The camp was under the command of Major General John H. Dickinson. The attendance was good, being much larger than was anticipated. Consequently, the expense for transportation and subsistence exceeded the estimates, and as a result a deficiency of \$4,310.76 in the encampment fund for that year was incurred. However, all claims were settled with the exception of the one against transportation.* The following year, as customary, Company A went into an encampment from August 2 to 8 at Napa, following the same routine procedure, including target practice, inspection and other maneuvers that were expected of the National Guard. The unit encamped at Santa Rosa the next year. Owing to the limited appropriations for encampments for 1904, various organizations were assembled separately for discipline and drill at points convenient to their home stations.

To render a soldier efficient in actual service it was essential he should be able to handle his rifle properly, know its capacity, and be able to fire it accurately. To attain precision in firing at objects in the field constant practice was essential. It was necessary first to know measured distances, and then know distances determined by the eye. In order to have the riflemen do more rifle practice, medals were offered for the best shots, and as a result Company A developed a number of good marksmen and won many awards.** The General Staff of the California National Guard realizing the value of target practice made great efforts to create an interest among the soldiers in this direction. [Valuable prizes were offered which induced more practice, and as a result some of the best marksmen and rifle shots in America were developed. Previous to 1884, funds for rifle practice were limited from five to ten rounds of ammunition per rifleman during annual target practice.

In 1885 the Legislature passed a law providing \$3,500 for the use of the Adjutant General each year to be expended for rifle practice, but the State Government neglected to appropriate the necessary funds. Therefore, the Act was useless until sufficient money was available. In 1887 the Legislature provided \$3,500 for a period of two years to be used for target practice, but this amount was only half of what the law allowed, although the amount appropriated was enough to give the National Guard a fairly good beginning.

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*Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, page 8.

**Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, pages 8,9.

Company A participated in an annual target practice which was held September 10, 1883, when the highest average was made by P. Casey, a member of the unit, with a score of thirty-eight points. The company as a whole made an average of forty-one per cent and also was one of the few companies that did not miss the target marks.*

Company A held their annual target practice at Healdsburg, California, from August 6 to 10, 1887. The State at that time only allowed five rounds of ammunition annually per rifleman for target practice, Company A had facilities for private practice, and they availed themselves of every opportunity to take advantage of the same. At the annual target practice Company A had the following report:**

Men qualified to shoot	61
Actual number men shooting	36
Rifleman qualified	1
Marksmen qualified	15
Total number qualified	16
Highest possible score	3,050
Points made	680
Percentage made	22.29%

A previous law had been passed by the Legislature which required all officers and enlisted men to fire ten shots each year in the months of June and September. Immediately a greater interest was shown, and by 1891 the efficiency had increased ten per cent.***

In the 1894 annual target practice Company A won three medals for the high score of ninety-two, and for the Second Class score won four medals with the score of eighty. The medals won by the corps were silver with silver top-box. These medals were superior in every respect to the former ones and greater interest was shown by the efforts to secure them. Company A participated in annual target practice for the year of 1895, and won one medal for Second Class score.

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*Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, pages 33, 34, 35.

**Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 238.

***Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, page 6.

One of the routine practices of the National Guard was annual inspections. These were held in order to determine the condition of arms and additional equipment, and if such equipment was found to be inferior the same was sent in to various armories and replaced. Company A was inspected annually from 1881 to 1895, and this company always maintained a good record in efficiency and appearance. On July 28, 1886, the company was inspected and all equipment was found to be in excellent condition. The corps was again inspected at the annual encampment at Healdsburg, July 2 to 10, 1887, by William R. Shafter, Colonel of the First Infantry. Tents and clothing consisting of several kinds of material, with the exception of a very limited amount belonging to the State were owned privately by the company. While this equipment would answer the purpose for what it was intended, it would not do for actual service. Springfield rifles model 1873 were used for practice, and at least fifty per cent of these rifles were unfit for actual service.*

Company A was inspected March 1891 and 1892 by Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. Cutler, Division Inspector. On March 1, 1892, a special Board of Survey was ordered to inspect each regiment's arms and give the names of parts necessary to put the rifles in good condition, returning all unfit parts to the State Armory, in addition to equipment of no further use. This survey made it possible to know the number of rifles and other ordnance supplies in the hands of the troops of the State. The adoption of this new system of percentage by the commanding officers, resulted in inspections being conducted more satisfactorily as it was known at all times the condition of all arms. The purpose of this exchange was to keep all equipment in serviceable condition.** In the inspection of June 1895 Company A was found to be in excellent condition, due to the fact that all arms and uniforms had been replaced by the United States Government. Annual inspections were also made to determine whether officers and enlisted men were well disciplined soldiers, or simply uniformed amateurs.

Company A participated in various parades in honor of the citizens of San Francisco, and also on National and International occasions, doing honors to the living notables and also to the deceased. When Senator George Hearst passed away on March 15, 1891, leading the funeral procession was Company A and other attachments of the National Guard of California, an honor rarely bestowed upon a citizen of San Francisco. Following Company A was the Knight

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*Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 15, and Gen. Order No. 1, page 223.

**Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, page 5.

Templar's organization, acting as pallbearers for the great statesman. Company A as part of the Second Brigade including 1,000 men under command of Brigadier-General John H. Dickinson, made an excellent appearance. The casket was borne by six young men of the Infantry and as the coffin was being carried out of the Church the bugles sounded and the word of command "Present Arms" was promptly responded to by the troops. The men carried their burden gently forward and deposited it in the waiting hearse, and then three of the soldiers took up positions on each side of the vehicle. Company A along with all other local companies paraded with full ranks. The unit in bestowing honors upon the late Senator received a great deal of praise for their numerical strength and their soldierly appearance.

For the second time during the year of 1891, Company A was called upon to honor a prominent citizen, John F. Swift, Foreign Minister to Japan, who died in the Orient. The Minister's body was returned to San Francisco for burial on board the steamer "Baltic", arriving in the city on May seventh. An impressive service for the late minister was held in Trinity Church and all the officers of the Nation, State and City were present. When the sad procession left the Church and made its way to the cemetery, it was preceded by Company A as part of the Second Brigade, under command of General Dickinson. As the troops reached the cemetery the boom of a cannon echoed across the desolate field of the dead. The Minister was honored by fifteen guns from the foot of Lone Mountain. Company A swung in line facing the cemetery as the double row of carriages followed by the caisson filed past. Arms were presented and the last dirge sounded.*

For the third time in 1891 Company A was called upon to participate in a funeral procession honoring King Kalakaua, Monarch of the territory of Hawaii who died in San Francisco. Company A along with other troops led the funeral procession, and was followed by the Knight Templar organization, who acted as pallbearers to the Monarch. The funeral services were held at Trinity Church with all honors, and smid every tribute of respect that could be paid by any Nation, State or City. The Royal remains were transferred to the Flagship "Charleston" to be returned to Hawaii for the final rites. The "Charleston" which brought the Monarch to this

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*San Francisco Chronicle, May 11, 1891, page 10, column 1.

country to find rest, pleasure and restored health, was returning to the Islands with the Monarch's remains, bringing sorrow to the Hawaiian Kingdom.

The arrival of President Benjamin Harrison in San Francisco on April 28, 1891, was commemorated with great enthusiasm and excitement. The President was greeted by Company A and other National Guard units, which were formed in parade formation ready to move when the President's boat arrived at the Ferry Building.*

Company A was not only active in parades, encampments, and target practice, but was also called upon to serve their country in a military capacity when life and property were endangered, and law and order to be maintained. Often times the entire National Guard was called out to maintain the required protection. The Railroad Strike which was nationwide in scope created unrest among the citizens of the country, and in order to protect life and property the National Guard was called out. Later on the United States Government troops were ordered to assist in any emergency that might arise between the railroads and the railway employees. In accordance with the request of Barry Baldwin, United States Marshall, Governor Markham issued orders to Major General Dimond of San Francisco, to proceed to Sacramento with troops to protect life and property that might be endangered because of the Railroad Strike. General Dimond left San Francisco on the evening of July third, with seven companies of the First Infantry of which Company A was attached. They arrived in Sacramento on the morning of July Fourth, and immediately upon arrival the troops marched to the armory for breakfast. Due to an insufficient quantity of food, some of the companies were compelled to forego their morning meal.** Company A remained in Sacramento, but took no active part in the strike until July eighteenth and on that date the unit was ordered to Truckee, to guard and protect life and property, remaining there until July twenty-fourth, at which time they were ordered back to Sacramento. On the following day the entire First Infantry Regiment returned to San Francisco and was dismissed from active service.***

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2. **For additional information concerning the ceremony tendered President Benjamin Harrison, refer to History of Company D, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

3. **Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, pages 215, 216.

4. ***Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, pages 227, 246.

The purpose of an inspection was to determine the merit of discipline, instruction, appearance and condition of property. Inspections took place at different intervals usually at target practice or encampments. All commands of the Second Brigade were mustered and inspected by Brigadier-General A. W. Barrett between the dates of March 24 and April 8, 1892, and Company A received a fairly good rating at this inspection. The attendance at roll call was good, their being eighty-nine on roll, and eighty-six present, and three absent, making a percentage of ninety-six. Captain J. F. Connolly was the commanding officer at this time. At this inspection held in the regimental armory, State property was found in excellent condition, records good, although the company had no finances they met regularly for their drills. Due, however, to the lack of money only part of the men appeared for inspection and muster in uniforms and caps. The commanding officer was very efficient in performing his duties.*

On April 23, 1898, President William McKinley issued a call for volunteers for the war with Spain. Company A as a unit of the First Infantry Regiment of the National Guard was one of the first companies to be mustered into the service. The unit was mustered into the United States Army on May sixth of that year and on May twenty-fifth embarked on the United States transport "City of Peking" which was conveyed by the flagship "Charleston". The company returned to San Francisco on the "Sherman", August 23, 1899, and was mustered out of service at the Presidio on September twenty-first of the same year.**

Company A after spending sixteen months in service during the Spanish-American War, returned to San Francisco and was again mustered into the First Infantry Regiment. The unit found themselves with worn out and obsolete equipment which had accumulated in the years passed. On January 29, 1900, Boards of Survey and Inspection of each brigade were appointed to inspect and pass upon the loss of property, and to eliminate and destroy all material belonging to the State that had become unserviceable, worn out, dangerous and unfit for further use. An authorization from the Chief Ordinance, United States Army, dated May 19, 1900,

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*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, pages 156, 157, and 158.

**For additional activities of the First Infantry Regiment in the Spanish-American War, refer to the History of Company C, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

ordered all stores shipped to Sacramento, inventoried and then shipped to the United States Arsenal at Benicia, and credited to the State. This inspection which was much needed left Company A with only such arms and uniforms that would be of service for future purposes. It therefore, became necessary for the State Legislature to devise ways and means to re-uniform and re-equip the company after returning for duty to the State of California. A bill was passed by the Legislature appropriating \$50,000 for uniforms and quartermaster stores, and under this appropriation and as provided by law, a uniform board was appointed by His Excellency, Governor Henry T. Gage, July 5, 1899. The board was composed of Major General John H. Dickinson, Colonel A. D. Cutler, retired, and Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Giesling, Assistant Adjutant General, Second Brigade, and it was up to these men to purchase the necessary uniforms and other supplies. As a consequence Company A was equipped with new uniforms and with the most modern Springfield rifles, caliber forty-five, also tentage, blankets and modern field ranges, which equipment was the best ever placed in the hands of the Guard.*

Annual inspections were made each year after 1900 until 1907 of Company A by an Inspector of the United States Army. As reported by the officer the general equipment of the unit always was found in good condition and well kept, and the discipline of the men excellent.

Target practice was for the purpose of assisting soldiers in developing into good marksmen, to handle guns properly, and in general to keep and assist in making a more efficient servant of the National Guard and the United States Army. During the year 1896 Company A participated in the Annual Target practice and although a new system of practice had been inaugurated, this company maintained a very good average. Instead of confining the shooting to 200 yard ranges the distance was increased to 300 and 500 yards, also skirmish firing at silhouette targets had been introduced with greatly increased practical results. The cost of reloading the ammunition was materially reduced by the installation of bench-reloading tools, and as a result the

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2 *Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, pages 11, 12.

guardsmen were able to reload their own ammunition at a cost of from \$11.00 to \$12.00 per thousand, thereby, saving about \$7.00 or \$8.00 per thousand on ammunition. This gave the men more money to expend in target practice.* Target practice was continued annually by Company A with an excellent average until the company was mustered out of the service on January 7, 1907.

It was the custom of the Second Brigade, of which Company A was a unit, to parade in honor of distinguished guests and at all events of importance. On June 24, 1896, Company A led the funeral procession for the last rites of the late Major General W. H. Dimond. One of the sad bereavements which had befallen the National Guard as well as the people of the State of California was the loss of the Division Commander. In him was lost a true, brave, patriotic officer and a warm friend of the National Guard, and one to which service both as a soldier and as a citizen, the people of California may point with pride. The First Infantry Regiment Band under the leadership of Casasa, played for the military escort. Company A paraded in full dress uniform with a complete regiment of over 1,000 strong, comprising the main body of the troops, Lieutenant-Colonel Duboce commanding. The officers wore the badge of mourning. The men in Company A wore in place of the simple regulation blue caps a blue helmet with eagles of gold on the front.

At the head of the great military procession rode Brigadier-General R. H. Warfield on a black horse. When the head of the line reached the Laurel Hill Cemetery gates, the military escort came to a halt. As the caisson approached the center of the troops, Company K of the First Infantry Regiment with Thomas Cunningham commanding officer fell out of line and joined the cortege, taking the head position as special escort and firing squad. The final funeral dirge was played as the cortege passed the line of the military escort, and the salute of drums were sounded as the caisson passed the drum corps. When the last of the procession had gone into the cemetery the military escort was dismissed.

While Doctor McKenzie read the Grand Ritual a melancholy bell tolled. The great guns, being fired from Fort Point located at the entrance of Golden Gate boomed and reverberated from the hills. The sun, which had shown on brass buttons and shining helmets a few minutes before, was shrouded with a drifting

*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, page 7.

mantle of fog. As the last mournful military tribute was being paid, drums rolled and bugles sounded taps. Far away a wandering gleam of sunlight fell on the two golden crosses of St. Dominic's pointing upward with truthful fingers. The guns over a mile away boomed sullenly. In the deep background of sound was the flash and shrill clatter of volleys of combined musketry fired above the grave of the great soldier who was dead. There were three volleys fired, then the soldiers marched away, the tomb was sealed, and the crowd melted slowly. The flower covered grave was left with but a few devoted attendants and friends.*

Company A participated in the funeral procession of Governor John E. Jones of the State of Nevada. While the services were being conducted, the principal part of the military escort with General R. H. Warfield in command arrived. Company A with other companies of the First Infantry Regiment were arranged on the west side of Van Ness Avenue and its line extended over two blocks. This unit with various other companies of the First Infantry led the procession from the funeral parlors down Market Street to the Ferry Building where the late Governor's remains were shipped to Carson City, Nevada, for its last rites and tribute.**

The body of Father William D. McKinnon, Chaplain of the First Infantry Regiment, California Volunteers, who died in the Philippine Islands, was shipped back to his native land, on the United States Army Transport "Sheridan", and was received at the Folsom Street Wharf by Company A and other contingents of the regiment. Father McKinnon joined the First Infantry Regiment of the California Volunteers, embarking and sailing to the Philippines and serving there with the troops until the mustering out of the regiment, then joining the Third Cavalry. He did much to further the cause of education in the Philippines and was an earnest worker for the welfare of the troops. Father McKinnon sacrificed his life while toiling among the soldiers and died in Manila in 1902.*** Company A was one of many units of the First Infantry Regiment that participated in honor of the Chaplain. The caisson stood near the transport as the casket was lowered over the "Sheridan's" side. Members of the company

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*San Francisco Chronicle, June 25, 1896, page 16, column 1-6.

**San Francisco Chronicle, April 13, 1896, page 9, column 6.

***San Francisco Examiner, November 1, 1902, page 2, column 1.

were standing with bowed heads on both sides of the caisson. Headed by the regimental band, the funeral cortege moved off to the music of the funeral dirge. Thousands of people lined East Street, and heads were bared as the procession passed. The soldiers marched out Market Street on Van Ness and thence to the Undertaking Parlors. The First Infantry Regiment was represented by Colonel Thomas O'Neil and Staff. The body was taken from the parlors to the armory of First Infantry and there laid in state till the time for the funeral. The funeral cortege left the armory and proceeded to St. Dominic's Church where the last rites were held*. The members of Company A were in undress uniforms with side arms, under command of Colonel Thomas F. O'Neil and Adjutant General Frank W. Warren. The church was crowded to the doors and the eulogy was delivered by Father Brant, who paid tribute to the excellent qualities of the dead priest. After the ceremonies the remains were taken to the Holy Cross Cemetery for interment.*

Company A on May 14, 1901, paraded in honor of President William McKinley in San Francisco. An unusually large crowd of people had gathered to see and hear the President speak.*** In 1903 on May thirteenth and fourteenth, citizens of San Francisco held a wonderful reception for President Theodore Roosevelt during the Chief Executive's stay in that city. Company A participated in all parades and other activities given in honor of the President.***

The Earthquake of April 18, 1906, which affected certain portions of the State, and more particularly the city of San Francisco, was the direct cause of calling the State troops into active service. Company A on April eighteenth was on patrol duty in the stricken city, and while their own business, homes and families were threatened with destruction, the men reported of their own free will for service, realizing that they were needed to assist in preserving law and order and rendering aid to the homeless. Company A was very active and rendered excellent service during the fire. Their duties consisted of patrol duty, caring for the homeless and sick, and also helping to feed the many citizens that were cold and hungry. The conduct of Company A while performing the duty that devolved upon them in connection with the disaster was exemplary. Considering the conditions which existed in San Francisco, and the destruction of several police stations and the City Hall, the Police force was for a while somewhat disorganized and the situation would have been

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*San Francisco Examiner, November 3, 1902, page 2, column 5.

**San Francisco Examiner, November 6, 1902, page 9, column 6, column 1.

***San Francisco Examiner, May 15, 1901, pages 1-3.

****San Francisco Chronicle, May 13, 1903, pages 1-3, column 1-7.

Activities: (Continued)

deplorable had it not been for the timely assistance of the National Guard and the troops of the Regular Army. Although Company A was doing all that was possible for the unfortunate, they were subjected to a great deal of abuse from some of the very people that they were helping. Under the provocations to which the company was subjected, the unit performed their duties with commendable patience and in a soldierly manner.*

With the passage of the Dick Militia Bill on January 21, 1903, by the Congress of the United States a higher standard of efficiency was demanded of the National Guard, and as the Federal Government was increasing the yearly appropriations for that organization, a number of companies in the State Militia as a consequence were not able to meet the stringent requirements imposed by the Government. Company A was not able to meet these requirements, and although the unit had seen active service in the Spanish-American War, and had fulfilled its duty splendidly to the citizens of the State of California, the company was mustered out of service on January 8, 1907.

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*Adjutant General Report 1906, pages 6, 7.