

**History of the Company B (City Guard),
1st Infantry Regiment,
National Guard of California
1881-1907**

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COMPANY B

Company B, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly City Guard)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized March 31, 1854

Reorganized March 26, 1880*

Reorganized and consolidated December 9, 1895**

Mustered into Federal Service May 6, 1898***

Mustered out of Federal Service September 21, 1899****

Reorganized as Company B, First Infantry Regiment Nov. 29, 1899*****

Mustered out May 10, 1907 *****

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* Company B, formerly City Guard, organized March 31, 1854, re-organized and designated Company B, First Infantry Regiment, March 26, 1880.

Adjutant General Report 1880, General Order No. 12, page 63, par.2.

** Companies B and D, First Infantry Regiment, consolidated and designated as Company B, First Infantry Regiment, December 9, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.

*** Company B, as part of the 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, Page 68.

***** Company B as part of the First Infantry Regiment reentered the National Guard November 29, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 79.

***** Company B, was mustered out in accordance with General Orders No. 10, disbanding the First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade General and Special Orders and Circulars - 1907.

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Edwin F. Selleck, Captain	July 26, 1880	Aug. 11, 1880
James C. B. Hebbard, First Lieut. (Resigned June 13, 1881)	July 26, 1880	Aug. 11, 1880
Samuel J. Taylor, Captain	Mar. 2, 1882	Mar. 11, 1882
August F. Plate, First Lieut. (Resigned June 13, 1883)	Mar. 2, 1882	Mar. 17, 1882
Francis J. Krempfle, First Lieut. (Resigned Aug. 20, 1884)	Dec. 12, 1883	Jan. 2, 1884
George R. Burdick, Captain	Oct. 22, 1885	Nov. 9, 1885
Frank J. Warren, First Lieut.	May 28, 1885	July 20, 1885
George R. Burdick, Captain (Reelected Nov. 10, 1887)	May 23, 1887	June 7, 1887
Irvin B. Cook, First Lieut. (Resigned Aug. 31, 1887)	May 19, 1887	Aug. 12, 1887
George R. Burdick, Captain (Reelected Oct. 28, 1889) (Promoted to Major Nov. 12, 1890)	Sept. 24, 1889	Nov. 15, 1889
Irvin B. Cook, First Lieut. (Reelected Oct. 28, 1889)	Jan. 10, 1891	Feb. 9, 1891
Charles J. Wesson, First Lieut. (Resigned Oct. 12, 1891)	Jan. 12, 1891	Mar. 17, 1891
Irvin B. Cook, Captain (Reelected Mar. 6, 1893)		
Edward C. Lunquist, First Lieut.	April 25, 1892	May 17, 1892
George Filmer, Captain	Aug. 12, 1895	Oct. 11, 1895
Benjamin B. Sturdivant, First Lieut.	Aug. 12, 1895	Oct. 11, 1895
George Filmer, Captain (Reelected Nov. 15, 1897)		
Benjamin B. Sturdivant, First Lieut. (Reelected Nov. 15, 1897)		

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
George Filmer, Captain (Reelected Feb. 28, 1900)		
Benjamin B. Sturdivant, First Lieut. (Reelected Feb. 28, 1900)		
Benjamin B. Sturdivant, Captain (Resigned July 10, 1902)	July 10, 1900	Aug. 25, 1900
Albert F. Ramm, First Lieut. (Resigned Oct. 23, 1901)	July 10, 1900	Aug. 25, 1900
Walter N. Kelly, First Lieut.	Nov. 18, 1901	Jan. 24, 1902
Walter N. Kelly, Captain	Aug. 18, 1902	Oct. 7, 1902
John E. O'Keefe, First Lieut.	Aug. 18, 1902	Oct. 30, 1902
Alexander McCulloch, First Lieut.	Nov. 14, 1904	May 10, 1905
Alexander McCulloch, Captain,	May 22, 1905	June 7, 1905
Sam P. Russell, First Lieut. (Resigned Aug. 31, 1906)	May 22, 1905	Aug. 12, 1905
Richard E. Mittelstaedt, First Lieut.	Sept. 24, 1906	Nov. 15, 1906

Activities:

Company B of the First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, was formerly the City Guard, Company B, organized March 31, 1854. Under the general reorganization of the National Guard in 1880 the name City Guard was dropped and thereafter the unit was known and designated by letter only.

About a year later, on Memorial Day, May 30, 1881, Company B, as a unit of the First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, together with the Grand Army of the Republic, participated in a parade in which they were reviewed by George C. Perkins, Governor, and Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard of California. Also, on September 26, 1881, the unit joined in the memorial services of the President of the United States, James A. Garfield.

Company B, with the First Infantry Regiment, encamped for eight days in September 1882 at San Jose, and a year later, at Santa Cruz, under command of Colonel J. H. Dickinson. These encampments were well conducted. The unit was well acquainted with the different camp duties, having been in camp annually for many years. They took part in sentry duty, guard mounting, dress parades and drills. The corps owned their own mess kits and each bore the expense of the entire encampment. August 15 to 23, 1895, was the first time an order was issued for the entire National Guard to hold an encampment at Santa Cruz.

Activities: (Continued)

The camp was located along the base of a high range of wooded hills, and the ample grounds about afforded plenty of space for battalion and brigade evolutions. It was designated Camp Stoneman, in honor of George Stoneman, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard. During this encampment the unit took part in battalion skirmishes and brigade drills, battalion and brigade dress parades, sentry duty and guard mountings, all of which were performed in a most creditable manner. The company also took part in a sham battle during this encampment which was reviewed by thousands of spectators from the amphitheatre of hills that overlooked the scene. It appeared to be an actual skirmish or battle, due to the fine behavior of the men, and the different companies being well officered. The camp was a great success according to the report of Royal T. Frank, Major of the First Artillery. *

This unit was inspected by William R. Shafter, Colonel of the First Infantry Regiment, who found that fifty per cent of the arms were totally unfit for service, due to long and constant use. The uniforms worn by the men were purchased by private funds, as the clothing furnished by the State had long since worn out. The physical condition of the members was good, and their conduct excellent. In fact, Company B won the Dimond Trophy presented to them by Major General W. H. Dimond for holding the highest record among seven companies for a week in discipline, promptness in military duties, general appearance and a week end drill. This trophy was won at Camp Dimond which was held from June 16 to 24, 1894, at Santa Cruz in honor of the Major General. **

In order for a soldier to render himself efficient in actual service, he had to be able to handle his rifle properly, know its capacity, and fire it accurately. Therefore, annual target practices were held each year. But, due to a lack of funds, the members were only allowed to fire five to ten shots and those absent were not given a chance to fire at all. In 1885 the State Legislature passed a law to the effect that \$3500.00 be paid each year for the expenditure of target practice. Unfortunately, nothing was accomplished along this line until 1887, when the State Legislature made an appropriation of \$3500.00 to be paid to the Adjutant General and to be expended by him for the promotion of target practice for the thirty-ninth and fortieth fiscal years; this was just half the amount allowed by law. A portion of this amount was devoted to the purchase of a State decoration to be awarded to those making a certain percentage in target practice, which the law required to be held each year in the month of September. This decoration was adopted, having for design a bear's head in the center, and a suitable inscription around the margin, and on the back were to be attached, gold, silver,

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* Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, pages 7, 127

** California Infantry, First Regiment, 1861, Company B "The City Guard", Page 208, State Library.

Activities: (Continued)

or bronze bars with the year and the words "sharpshooter" engraved on a gold bar to those averaging ninety per cent, "Riflemen" engraved on a silver bar awarded to the members averaging eighty per cent and "marksman" engraved on a bronze bar awarded to those averaging at least fifty per cent and less than eighty per cent. The idea encouraged target practice until 688 members qualified for badges in 1887. * At this same rifle practice Company B held the highest percentage in firing, and also received several of the badges awarded, which was to denote the standing the soldier had attained during that particular year. All during its years in the service Company B took an active part in rifle practice; in fact, they set the pace in the matter of shooting rifle matches with teams composed of fifty men to a company. By mingling the better riflemen with the poorer ones at these large team rifle matches, such an interest developed that some of the poorest riflemen became the best shots of the company. The unit also won several prizes in competitive rifle matches. On March 11, 1893, in San Francisco, at the Midwinter Fair, the corps entered a team in a rifle match, the fee being \$25.00 for entrance. Ten men of each team, and each man was allowed to fire ten shots at the target. Here Company B won third prize. Again on May 6, 1894, they were victorious in a match with the famous Carson City Guard of Nevada, winning by ten points.

Perhaps among the three largest rifle matches ever staged in the United States or elsewhere, was one at Shell Mound Park, Rifle Range, Alameda County, May 5, 1895. Here the unit was victorious over Company D of the Fifth Infantry by fifty-three points. **

During the next six months the unit took part in two funeral processions. They acted as guard of honor to the remains of King Kalakaua of Hawaii, on January 22, 1891. A few weeks previous the company had been reviewed by that King. The corps also took part in the funeral rites of Senator George Hearst in the same year.

In July 1894 Company B was called to Sacramento for active service to aid in that vicinity in controlling a nation-wide railroad strike which affected three-fourths of the United States. The unit camped at the State Fair Grounds and when the ranks were formed for duty, Company B was in the front line. They were so well instructed in the plans they had laid for the rapid massing of the men that it was like pressing a button and the machinery started to work.

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* Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, page 8

Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 14

** California Infantry, First Regiment, 1861, Company B, "The City Guard", pages 261, and 262. State Library.

This corps was chosen among others to search the city for any, and all, arms and armed strikers, and to prosecute the same and seize all such arms, or weapons, which the strikers might have. The unit did excellent work and was later sent to Truckee to help in controlling the strike in that vicinity. After approximately twenty-three days of service in the strike areas, the troops were dismissed and returned to their homes. *

A few months after returning from strike duty, Company B was reorganized. This reorganization took place on December 9, 1895, upon the recommendation of the Board of Location and Organization. Therefore, Companies B and D of the First Infantry Regiment were consolidated and designated as Company B, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade. **

For three years, from 1895 to 1898, the activities Company B engaged in pertained for the most part to weekly drills, annual target practices, encampments and parades. Special emphasis was given to these events on Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, July Fourth and Admission Day. The unit also joined in escort to the Grand Army of the Republic in the decoration of the graves of its deceased members.

On July 6, 1898, numbered among the deceased members of Company B was Corporal L. R. Townsend, who had the distinction of holding the longest, continuous membership in the National Guard of this State. He served forty-four years, and was a charter member of Company B, having enlisted May 31, 1854, and was an active and honored member, until his death. ***

With the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, each State was called upon for enlisted men, and the majority of the men to enlist for service for the State of California were members of the National Guard. Company B, as a unit of the First Infantry regiment, was mustered into the regular army at San Francisco May 6, 1898, under the President's call for volunteers. The regiment went into camp 1,032 strong at the Presidio May 7. They were under the command of Colonel James F. Smith and sailed from San Francisco on the United States transport "City of Pekin", May 25, convoyed by the United States Flagship "Charlestown". This transport carried the first troops to ever leave the mainland to engage in war in a foreign country. They arrived at Cavite, Island of Luzon, June 30, and disembarked July 3. They established Camp Dewey at Tambo, near Manila July 15, and Company B, with the First Infantry Regiment, took part in the battle of Malate Trenches on July 31 and August 1, 1898.

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2 * California Infantry, First Regiment 1861, Company B, "The City Guard", page 17, State Library.
3 ** Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, page 86, 88
4 *** Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 53.

Activities: (Continued)

Also in the assault and capture of Manila August 13, 1898. Company B took part in the campaign against the Filipinos in the Philippine Insurrection from February 5 to March 21, 1899. A battalion of the First Infantry Regiment, Companies A, B, E and H, sailed for the Island of Negros, March 1, and were afterward joined by the remaining companies of the regiment at that place. On the 16th of July the regiment embarked from the Island of Negros, and on July 27, 1899, left the Philippines on the Transport "Sherman" on their return home by way of Nagasaki and Yokohama, reaching San Francisco August 23, 1899. They disembarked and encamped at the Presidio August 25, where the regiment was mustered out of the United States Service September 21, 1899. * During this war Company B lost five men in action, four dying of disease, and one dying from wounds received while in action.

On returning to the United States Company B again resumed its duties with the National Guard, and for the next six years the activities of this unit were of routine nature, consisting of regular drills, annual target practices, encampments and parades on annual and special occasions. On May 30, 1901, Company B, with the First Infantry, was received by President William McKinley of the United States, on his arrival at San Francisco. The corps encamped with the regiment during the Camp of Instruction held at Napa for one week in May 1903, and again at Larkspur for one month, where they went into drills in close and extended order. The unit participated in two practice marches. One from Coloma to the beach and back to Ocean View, South San Francisco, and another into the Berkeley foothills, practicing extended order movements and advance and rear guard drills. In 1904 and 1905 the company's activities were few, except for the usual parades on National holidays, and the regular drills and encampments.

Company B, with the National Guard, was called to render their services during and after the fire caused by the earthquake, April 18, 1906, in San Francisco. The principal work performed by the troops of this unit was to assist the civil authorities with the regular troops in preserving order in both the burned and unburned districts. A great deal of notable relief work was done during this time by Company B. The unit, under the command of Lieutenant W. H. Talbot, helped in the dynamiting of some of the buildings in order to head the fire off, and keep

* Adjutant General Report 1906 -oOo- 3, 10.

** Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, pages 3, 4, 5.

* Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 4.

Activities: (Continued)

it from spreading to other parts of the city. This corps rendered splendid service at Lafayette Park from May 18 to June 1, 1906, and on Memorial Day, 1906, they joined in a parade. On May 31, 1906 the company was relieved from active duty. *

This practically concludes the activities of Company B, First Infantry Regiment, aside from the regular duties, and a company rifle shoot on November 30, 1906. With the enactment of the Dick Militia Bill of January 21, 1903, by the Congress of the United States, a higher standard of efficiency was demanded of the National Guard, as the Federal Government was increasing the yearly appropriations for that organization. A number of the companies in the State Militia, as a consequence, were not able to meet the stringent requirements imposed by the Government, and the entire First Infantry Regiment was disbanded from the State service, and Company B, as a unit of the First Infantry, was unable to meet the additional requirements, and was consequently, disbanded for inefficiency on May 10, 1907, by Major W. H. Humphreys, Judge Advocate, Second Brigade. **

C. D. O'SULLIVAN
Adjutant General
The Adjutant General

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*Company C, formerly ... August 21, 1898, re-organized and designated Company C, First Infantry Regiment, March 28, 1900. Adjutant General Report 1898, General Order No. 14, page 35.

**Company C, First Infantry Regiment was redesignated Company C, First Infantry Regiment on December 5, 1905. Adjutant General Report 1905-1906, page 24.

***Company C as part of ... Regiment was mustered into Federal Service ... April 5, 1898. Adjutant General Report 1898, page 35.

****Company C as part of ... Regiment re-entered the National Guard of ... September 29, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 79.

*****Company C detached from First Infantry Regiment and redesignated Battery C, First Battalion ... April 19, 1901.

2 * Adjutant General Report 1906, pages 8, 10.

** Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, pages 3, 4, 5.