

**History of the Company D (Franklin  
Light Infantry [Franklin Guard]),  
1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment,  
National Guard of California  
1880-1907**

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COMPANY D

Company D, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly Franklin Light Infantry (Franklin Guard))

Reference: Adjutant General's Files  
 Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County  
 Organized June 15, 1861  
 Reorganized March 26, 1880\*  
 Consolidated December 9, 1895\*\*  
 Reconstituted December 9, 1895\*\*\*  
 Mustered into Federal Service May 6, 1898\*\*\*\*  
 Mustered out of Federal Service September 21, 1899+  
 Reorganized as Company D, First Infantry November 29, 1899++  
 Consolidated and Redesignated May 10, 1907+++

Commanding Officers

Name	Rank	Commission
George D. Harvey, Captain	June 9, 1880	June 17, 1880
Vincent Kingwell, First Lieut.	June 11, 1879	July 25, 1879++++
George D. Harvey, Captain (Re-elected August 9, 1882)	_____	_____
Vincent Kingwell, First Lieut. (Re-elected Sept. 21, 1881)	_____	_____

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- \*Company D, formerly Franklin Light Infantry (Franklin Guard) organized June 15, 1861, reorganized and designated Company D, First Infantry Regiment, March 26, 1880. Adjutant General Report 1880, General Order No. 12, page 63.
- \*\*Companies D and B, First Infantry Regiment, consolidated and redesignated as Company B, First Infantry, Second Brigade, December 9, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.
- \*\*\*Company D, formerly Company C, Third Infantry Regiment, transferred to First Infantry Regiment and designated as Company D, First Infantry, December 9, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.
- \*\*\*\*Company D 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 D as part of the First Infantry Regiment, re-entered the National Guard of California, November 29, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 79.
- +++Companies D and F, First Infantry Regiment, consolidated and transferred to the Fifth Infantry and designated as Company M of the same, May 10, 1907. General and Special Orders and Circulars 1907, General Order No. 10.
- ++++Lieutenant Vincent Kingwell retained his former commission as of July 25, 1879, when he was First Lieutenant of Franklin Light Infantry, Company D, Second Brigade.

COMPANY D (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Vincent Kingwell, Captain	Oct. 29, 1884	Dec. 27, 1884
William T. Nelson, First Lieut.	Oct. 29, 1884	Jan. 26, 1885
Charles Jansen, Captain	Oct. 27, 1886	Nov. 16, 1886
Thomas C. Connell, First Lieut. (Resigned Oct. 4, 1887)	Jan. 19, 1887	Feb. 18, 1887
Frank M. Zeising, First Lieut.	Nov. 2, 1887	Nov. 22, 1887
Charles Jansen, Captain (Re-elected Nov. 7, 1888) (Re-elected Nov. 7, 1890)		
Edward A. Lindberg, First Lieut.	Nov. 6, 1889	Dec. 4, 1889
Charles Jansen, Captain (Re-elected Oct. 26, 1892)		
Eugene V. Sullivan, First Lieut.	April 30, 1892	
Arthur W. Baker, Captain (Resigned Jan. 25, 1895)	June 21, 1893	July 29, 1893
Frank P. Schafer, First Lieut.	Nov. 8, 1893	Nov. 29, 1893
Frank P. Schafer, Captain	Feb. 13, 1895	April 5, 1895
William Burdick, First Lieut.	Feb. 13, 1895	April 5, 1895
Robert A. Marshall, Captain	Mar. 14, 1887*	Jan. 22, 1896
Eugene V. Sullivan, First Lieut. (Re-elected June 12, 1896)		
Thomas J. McCreagh, Captain	April 30, 1897	May 24, 1897
Charles G. White, First Lieut.	Oct. 8, 1897	Nov. 22, 1897
Thomas J. McCreagh, Captain (Re-elected Feb. 28, 1900)		
Charles G. White, First Lieut. (Re-elected Feb. 28, 1900)		
Charles G. White, Captain (Resigned May 29, 1901)	July 10, 1900	Aug. 25, 1900
Gabriel Stephens, Jr., First Lieut.	July 10, 1900	Aug. 25, 1900
Henry G. Mathewson, Captain	July 5, 1901	Aug. 21, 1901
Reginald H. Kelley, First Lieut. (Resigned April 22, 1903)	Nov. 29, 1901	Jan. 24, 1902

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\*Captain Robert A. Marshall retained his former rank date as of March 14, 1887, when he commanded Company A, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

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COMPANY D (Continued)

<u>Commanding Officers (Continued)</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Henry G. Mathewson, Captain (Re-elected Aug. 25, 1903)		
Harry H. Varney, First Lieut.	Aug. 25, 1903	Sept. 28, 1903
Harry H. Varney, Captain	May 9, 1905	June 7, 1905
Edward B. Gould, First Lieut. (Resigned Mar. 29, 1906)	May 9, 1905	Oct. 2, 1905
William H. Talbot, First Lieut.	April 18, 1906	April 18, 1906

Activities:

Company D, First Infantry Regiment, was formerly the Franklin Light Infantry, Second Brigade. Under the general reorganization of the National Guard in 1880, the unit was designated and known, thereafter, as Company D, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade. The first important activity that Company D participated in after its reorganization, aside from military routine, was their participation in the parade of September 9, 1880, to commemorate the anniversary of California's Admission to the Union.\* On December thirty-first of the same year, Governor George C. Perkins, Commander-in-Chief, and Staff attended the review of the First Infantry Regiment, and presentation of colors by His Excellency during the evening.

This unit went into camp with the First Infantry Regiment, September 18 to 26, 1880, at Sacramento, in 1881 at Santa Cruz, and the following year at San Jose; Colonel J. H. Dickinson was commander on each occasion. A high standard of discipline was maintained at these encampments, and they proved a success. After the encampment at Sacramento in 1880, the train in which the First Infantry Regiment was returning to San Francisco ran into an open switch on the Oakland mole. Engineer William C. Browne by his presence of mind and heroic action in staying to his post of duty, saved the members of this regiment from a fearful death. The engine went through the wharf into the bay and when afterwards found, Browne was wedged at the hips under the reverse levers of the engine.

It was impossible to remove the body until divers were put to work. In accordance with Special Orders, the officers and men of the First Infantry Regiment assembled at Headquarters to take action in relation to the death of William Browne. Colonel Dickinson of the First Infantry Regiment presided and after calling the meeting to order, congratulated the men on their miraculous escape, and paid a glowing tribute to the memory of the departed engineer. He urged upon his hearers the fact that they could not too highly appreciate the example which had been laid before them, of true

\*San Francisco Examiner, September 28, 1880, page 3, column 5.

\*\*For further details concerning Target Practice of 1887, refer to History of Company D, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

\*Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 21, page 66.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

heroic valor and perfect subordination to duty's call. He further remarked that it was due to the good name of the regiment, that this opportunity of expressing their keen appreciation of the merits of the case should not be allowed to pass by without a fitting testimonial to the memory of the brave man who died at his post, sacrificing his life to avert a terrible catastrophe. A communication from Major General W.H.L. Barnes was read in which he congratulated them on their escape and in which he signified his willingness to head a subscription for the bereaved family with \$100.00. The reading of the letter was received with cheers and, thereafter, Company H, through Captain Bush, subscribed an additional \$100.00. The remaining companies took action in the same manner and were to report at their regular meetings and inform the Colonel in command of the regiment upon their actions on the following Thursday.\*

In 1883 it was considered among statesmen and soldiers alike that it was of vital importance to have a body of well equipped and disciplined soldiers ready at a moment's notice to meet a foreign attack, or protect life and property and uphold the law when threatened from within. This required a soldier to be well trained in drill marching and also to know how to handle a gun, if it became necessary. This necessitated practice, but from lack of funds, little was accomplished in rifle practice until 1887 when the State Legislature made an appropriation of \$3,500.00 for the thirty-ninth and fortieth fiscal years, to be paid to the Adjutant General and expended by him for the promotion of target practice. However, the amount appropriated was only half of that allowed by law. A portion of this allotment was expended for a State decoration to be given to the soldiers who reached a certain percentage, to denote the standing they had attained during that particular year in target practice, and in addition, valuable prizes were offered. Targets and ammunition were purchased to create an interest in the competitions and to promote efficiency in the use of the rifle. This aroused great interest among the men of the different companies and in September 1887, at the annual target practice, 688 badges were won.\*\*

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\*San Francisco Examiner, September 28, 1880, page 3, column 54.

\*\*For further details concerning the Target Practice of 1887, refer to History of Company B, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

COMPANY D. (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Along with the regular target practices, Company D joined the First Infantry Regiment in the Maze Trophy Shoot on December 4, 1892. They also took part in the shoot for the Tobin Trophy in this same year. And two years later the unit was encamped at Camp Dimond, Santa Cruz from June 16 to 24, 1894, and participated in the shoot for the Dimond Trophy.\*

An inspection of Company D in 1890 by Inspector Lieutenant-Colonel Woods, showed that arms and other property were found to be in fair order, the instruction was good, also the military appearance and discipline were good. However, the percentage in attendance was only fair. As time went by and more interest developed from competition with different companies, better care was taken of the arms, and property; appearance and discipline improved; also attendance showed an increase from 1890 to 75% to 96% in 1895.

Company D was well supplied with camp equipment, and the officers and men having had considerable experience, were quite well instructed in camp duties. Each year the unit managed to go on an encampment, even when encampments could not be held by other companies of the different regiments, for lack of funds from Headquarters. This corps by having their own equipment could encamp with very little expense. In 1883 this unit encamped for eight days at Santa Cruz and for the same length of time at Santa Rosa the following year. But the thrill came with the Camp of Instruction of the entire National Guard held at Santa Cruz, August 15 to 23, 1885. This encampment was called Camp Stoneman in honor of George Stoneman, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard of California.\*\*

During the period between 1886 to 1895 the company encamped as follows: At Santa Rosa in July 1886, the following year at Healdsburg and the next year at San Jose. In July 1889 the unit encamped at Camp Orton, Santa Rosa, which was located in a grove of oaks about one and one-half miles from the city. The camp was profusely decorated with Chinese lanterns and flags. There was considerable discussion as to the decoration of camps being unmilitary and having a tendency to make the camp a sort of picnic, but under sensible reasoning and sound judgment, it was decided that the camps be decorated and made pleasant for the men. It was found necessary to make camp as attractive as the

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\* California Infantry, First Regiment 1861, Company B "The City Guard", page 248. State Library.

\*\* For additional information concerning the Encampment at Camp Stoneman, 1885 refer to History of Company B, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

towns, otherwise the men would obtain passes and go to town without leave when off duty and spend their evenings out of camp. The commanding officer prescribed the kind of decorations and the amounts to be used, making them uniform throughout the camp. This was the twelfth annual encampment of this company with the First Infantry. In 1890, 1891 and 1892, the corps encamped at Santa Cruz. The unit took part in the Division Encampment, which was very satisfactory in every respect. Due to lack of funds no encampments were held in 1893. However, Company D having their own equipment enjoyed an encampment for eight days at Ukiah, August 5 to 13, of that year.

Company D participated in the customary annual parades and its special parades held each year on Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, July Fourth and Admission Day. The unit also took part in other special parades in honor of military and civilian dignitaries. When President Benjamin Harrison arrived in San Francisco on April 26, 1891, great excitement prevailed. When the President's boat docked at the Ferry Building and the Chief Executive came ashore, he was escorted by a platoon of the Veteran Guard, followed by Company D and 352 members of the First Infantry Regiment under command of Colonel William R. Sullivan, to the Mechanics Pavilion and then to his Headquarters at the Palace Hotel. The occasion was a splendid military parade, and all along the line of march from the Ferry Building to the Pavilion the President received an ovation. Flags were flying, rockets soaring, bombs bursting, people cheering, and the very air was laden with the essence of enthusiastic patriotism.\*

Company D was reviewed by King Kalakaua of Hawaii, December 12, 1890. During the next few months in 1891 the unit took part in three funeral processions, that of King Kalakaua of Hawaii, three months later they participated in the obsequies of United States Senator Hearst and was an escort to the remains of the United States Minister, John F. Swift in San Francisco, May eleventh, of this same year.\*\*

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\*San Francisco Chronicle, April 26, 1891, page 11, column 1-7.

\*\*For additional information concerning the ceremonies tendered King Kalakaua, December 12, 1890, refer to History of Company A, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

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COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

On May 18, 1893, Company D with the First Infantry paraded for the reception of a new set of colors. The following year the unit paraded at the Midwinter Fair in San Francisco. And in 1895 the company participated in the inaugural ceremonies of Governor Budd.

On July 3, 1894, Company D was called to Sacramento for active service during a nationwide strike against the railroads, lasting almost a month and affecting about three-fourths of the Nation. The unit arrived in Sacramento on July Fourth, and marched to the armory on Sixth and L Streets for breakfast, then they formed ranks and marched to the Southern Pacific Depot where the strikers were in possession. However, nothing in particular happened that day. The sun was very hot and the members of the different companies were tired from lack of sleep and thirst and many of them became exhausted. That night the unit was given quarters in the Agricultural Building and on July fifth they proceeded to the Capitol grounds and pitched camp where they remained. On the eleventh, acting under obedience to orders from General Sheehan, Company D proceeded to the city front, for the purpose of covering and assisting the landing of the United States troops. However, no resistance to their landing was offered. During the strike period company D performed their duties well, and about twenty-three days had passed when the unit was dismissed and returned to San Francisco.\*

A few months after returning from strike duty, Company D reorganized. This reorganization took place on December 9, 1895, upon the recommendation of the Board of Location and Organization. Companies D and B of the First Infantry were consolidated and designated as Company B, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade. However, the vacancy created by the consolidation of these companies were filled by the transfer of Company C of the Third Infantry to the First Infantry and redesignated as Company D. This unit was formerly the Wolfe Tone Guard, organized February 15, 1862.\*\*

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2\*For further details refer to the National Guard and the Railroad Strike of 1894. Adjutant General's Office. Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 245.

3\*\*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, and 18, pages 86, and 88.



COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, April 23, 1898, Company D was inspected by Charles Jansen, Major and Inspector of the Second Brigade, at Camp McDonald, Ukiah, August 21 to 29, 1897. The arms were in good order. The unit manifested a great interest in silhouette target practice. Drill and discipline was very good. Officers and men were very attentive to their duties.\*

During the years of 1895 and 1896 a departure from the old method of target practice was inaugurated. Instead of confining the shooting to 200 yard ranges, the distance was increased to 300 and 500 yards, also skirmish firing at silhouette targets was introduced with greatly increased results. During this time a set of bench-reloading tools, to reload their own ammunition, was furnished to the First Infantry Regiment. Company D having access to this equipment, saved from \$7.00 to \$8.00 per thousand shots on ammunition. This gave the men much more to expend in target practice, and become better acquainted with the rifle. In 1897, 688 men qualified for the State decoration. By 1895 such an interest in rifle practice developed that there were 1,827 members awarded badges. Much of the success obtained in this department was due to Colonel Park Henshaw, Inspector-General of rifle practice. The General had spent long service and particular attention to that of small arms firing.\*\*

Aside from the regular duties of Company D including encampments and parades, the unit took part in the gubernatorial ceremonies of Governor Budd in Sacramento, February 1895. Also a platoon of this corps watched over the remains of Governor John E. Jones of Nevada on April 13, 1896, while lying in state, and then took part in the funeral march which escorted the body to the Ferry Building on the journey to Carson City, Nevada, where final services were held.\*\*\* On June 22, 1896, Company D with the First Infantry marched under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Duboce in the funeral rites of Major General John McComb. They were accompanied by the Regimental Band, playing a funeral dirge, while muffled drums were sounded.\*\*\*

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\*Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, pages 25, 26.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, page 4.

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

3 \*\*\*San Francisco Examiner, June 22, 1896, page 8, column 1.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, April 23, 1898, a call was made by the United States President to the different States for enlisted men. Those who answered the call for California were almost entirely members of the National Guard. Men with families, or those whose families were dependent upon them for support were exempt from the call as there were plenty of single men to enter the volunteer service. Among the members of the guard who engaged in their first foreign war across the waters, was Company D, a unit of the First Infantry. They were mustered into the regular army and sailed from San Francisco on May 25, 1898, aboard the United States transport "City of Pekin" convoyed by the United States Flagship "Charleston." The corps met every requirement manfully, whether facing the bleak winds of the Presidio, performing the dull routine of garrison duty, or realizing the soldiers highest ambition by seeking glory at the cannon's mouth in far away Manila. The men in every sphere of duty, maintained the soldiers' reputation, the peer of any troops, second to none. Company D also took part in the campaign against the Filipinos, from February 5 to March 21, 1899. Thereafter, returning home to San Francisco on August twenty-third of the same year. They disembarked and encamped at the Presidio on August twenty-fifty, where Company D with the First Infantry Regiment was mustered out of the United States Service, September 21, 1899.\*

On returning to the United States, Company D of the First Infantry again resumed their duties with the National Guard of California, and for the next six years the activities of the company were few with little variation, consisting mainly of regular drills, encampments, annual target practices and parades of annual and special occasions. On May 30, 1901, Company D with the First Infantry Regiment was reviewed by President William McKinley of the United States on his arrival at San Francisco. Four months later on September nineteenth the unit took part in the funeral procession of this same President. Two years later the unit paraded in the reception of President Roosevelt in San Francisco. In 1904 and 1905 the activities of Company D pertained for the most part to drills, target practices, encampments and parades. Special emphasis was given to these events on Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, July Fourth and Admission Day in the month of September.

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4 \*Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, page 8.  
Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 4.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued), Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly 1888-1890)

Great excitement prevailed in San Francisco and Company D with the National Guard was called into active service during and after the fire caused by the terrible earthquake in that city on April 18, 1906. The people were in a frenzied and terrified mood, their homes were burning, buildings falling in all directions, some sinking in the earth; large water mains were breaking; even the streets in certain sections of the city were shifted in different directions, and many people were being killed. At an hour like this men were needed with training who could help in quelling a frenzied mob and direct in giving orders, also to help in caring for the homeless. The unit with the troops of the National Guard assisted the civil authorities, together with the regular troops, in preserving order in both the burned and unburned districts. This was the principal work done by Company D, they also performed notable relief work during this time and helped in the dynamiting of some buildings in a part of the city to head off the fire and keep it from spreading. This work was under the command of Lieutenant W. H. Talbot. On May 30, 1906, the unit paraded with the First Infantry Regiment and one day later they were relieved from duty.

Just a year after the unit was dismissed from service during the Earthquake, Company D was reorganized. This reorganization took place upon the recommendation of the Board of Location and Organization which recommended Company D consolidate with Company F, First Infantry and be transferred to the Fifth Infantry Regiment and designated as Company M of the Second Brigade. All officers of Company D ceased to be officers of the National Guard of California from and after May 11, 1907.\*

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\*General and Special Orders and Circulars - 1907, General Order No. 10.