

History of the Company H (Hewston Rifles), 1st Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1880-1907

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Commanding Officers

Name	Commission
Lyman P. Bush, Captain (Re-elected May 10, 1880)	<u>COMPANY H</u> April 22, 1872

Company H, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly Hewston Rifles)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files
 Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County
 Organized August 24, 1869
 Reorganized March 26, 1880*
 Mustered out June 29, 1895**
 Reconstituted December 9, 1895***
 Mustered into Federal Service May 6, 1898****
 Mustered out of Federal Service September 21, 1899†
 Reorganized as Company H, First Infantry Regiment Nov. 29, 1899††
 Mustered out January 8, 1907†††

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*Company H, formerly Hewston Rifles, organized August 24, 1869, reorganized and designated Company H, First Infantry Regiment, March 26, 1880.

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

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

***Company B and Company F, Third Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, consolidated and designated as Company H, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

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

****Company H 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.

††Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 79.

†††Company H disbanded and mustered out for inefficiency on January 8, 1907.

General and Special Orders and Circulars - 1907, General Order No. 1.

COMPANY H (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Hyman P. Bush, Captain (Re-elected May 10, 1880)	April 12, 1872	April 22, 1872*
Alfred W. Seley, First Lieut.	April 15, 1880	May 11, 1880
Hyman P. Bush, Captain (Re-elected April 18, 1882)	_____	_____
Joseph B. Smyth, First Lieut. (Resigned Oct. 8, 1883)	June 20, 1881	June 30, 1881
Hyman P. Bush, Captain (Re-elected April 21, 1884)	_____	_____
William H. Fraser, First Lieut.	April 21, 1884	May 27, 1884
Hyman P. Bush, Captain (Re-elected Mar. 12, 1888)	_____	_____
William H. Fraser, First Lieut. (Re-elected Mar. 12, 1888)	_____	_____
Hyman P. Bush, Captain (Re-elected Feb. 5, 1889)	_____	_____
William H. Fraser, First Lieut. (Re-elected Feb. 5, 1889)	_____	_____
Hyman P. Bush, Captain (Re-elected July 21, 1890)	_____	_____
William H. Fraser, First Lieut. (Re-elected July 21, 1890)	_____	_____
William H. Fraser, Captain	June 23, 1891	July 10, 1891
Edward G. Eisen, First Lieut.	June 23, 1891	July 10, 1891
Edward G. Eisen, Captain	April 26, 1892	May 17, 1892
Thomas A. Evans, First Lieut.	April 26, 1892	May 17, 1892
Edward G. Eisen, Captain (Re-elected June 5, 1894)	_____	_____
Thomas A. Evans, First Lieut. (Re-elected June 9, 1895)	_____	_____

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*Captain Hyman P. Bush retained his former commission and rank dates as of April 12 and 22, 1872, when he commanded the Hewston Rifles, Company H, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Frank W. Warren, Captain	Oct. 16, 1893*	Jan. 22, 1896
Bernard F. Judge, First Lieut. (Resigned July 31, 1897)	Aug. 24, 1896	Sept. 30, 1896
Frank W. Warren, Captain (Re-elected Mar. 23, 1898)		
Edwin F. Davis, First Lieut.	Aug. 18, 1897	Sept. 1, 1897
Francis Warren, Captain (Resigned Feb. 26, 1902)	Feb. 28, 1900	April 6, 1900
Louie F. Guedet, First Lieut.	May 10, 1900	June 28, 1900
Thomas W. Costello, Captain	Mar. 19, 1902	April 12, 1902
Francis J. Driscoll, First Lieut. (Resigned Aug. 3, 1903)	May 21, 1902	Aug. 22, 1902
Frank W. Warren, Captain	June 23, 1902	June 9, 1904
John L. Swift, First Lieut. (Resigned Mar. 13, 1905)	Oct. 21, 1903	Dec. 2, 1903
Eugene F. Peckham, Captain	Sept. 27, 1905	Nov. 1, 1905
Harry G. McKannay, First Lieut.	Sept. 27, 1905	Nov. 1, 1905

Activities:

When Samuel W. Backus was appointed to the office of Adjutant General of California in 1880, the anti-Chinese feeling was at its height. The unemployment problem added to the unrest and discontentment that had reached the point where threats of riot and mass movements for relief were freely made. This situation aroused the business men to action. They appointed a Safety Committee to raise money for arming and training a thousand men as a means of defense. To Adjutant General Backus goes the credit of influencing the Committee to use the money, which amounted to nearly \$40,000, to strengthen the National Guard and procure uniforms for the troops. The tension was considerably relieved when the anti-Chinese Exclusion Act was introduced

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*Captain Frank W. Warren retained his former rank date as of October 16, 1893, when he commanded Company F, Third Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

in Congress and passed in 1882. The National Guard not only profited to the extent of \$40,000 by the general unrest that existed at that time, but the importance of a well equipped guard was impressed upon the State Legislature, then in session. The lawmakers provided for a visit by the Senate and Assembly Committees on Military Affairs to San Francisco on an inspection tour of the San Francisco armories and troops. The report of the Committee to the Legislature stated that they found the armories and stores therein in good condition, the companies moderately recruited and fair attendance at drills. The report urged the early enactment of a law, providing for the centralization of all the San Francisco companies in one large armory, to be erected at an early date.

At that time the San Francisco companies were quartered in different parts of the city, and in case of an attempt at mob rule, the National Guard forces would be weakened by separation. Another recommendation was that the monthly allowance to each company be increased as the various units had been compelled to bear some heavy expenses for upkeep out of their private income.* As a result of the committee's recommendation a military bill was passed by the Legislature that increased the infantry companies' allowance about 50 per cent and provided \$400 per annum for uniforms. Since the new law fixed a certain amount that had to be paid to each company each year, and the Legislature's appropriation was not sufficient to meet the allowance of the then authorized companies in existence, it became necessary to reduce the number of units in the National Guard. Accordingly on April 28, 1881, General Order No. 7 was issued, requiring that all National Guard companies be rigidly inspected with a view of disbanding or consolidating six of the companies that proved to be the weakest at the inspection.** In the reorganization, Company H, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, which had formerly been known as the Hewston Rifles, First Infantry Regiment easily passed inspection, and with the increased allowance each month provided by the Legislature instituted a program that would increase their efficiency.

Company H as a unit of the First Infantry Regiment attended an encampment at Sacramento in 1880, in Santa Cruz in 1881 and San Jose the following year.*** It was seldom that a year went by

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*Adjutant General Report 1880, page 6.

**Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, page 78, General Order No. 7.

***Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, page 13.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

without the First Infantry Regiment having attended a Camp of Instruction. The high rating of the First Infantry was no doubt due in part to this practice.

In the year 1880 the marksmanship of Company H was the poorest in the First Infantry Regiment, the unit having made a score of 12.60 per cent.* In 1883 Company H was fourth highest in the regiment, with a score of 29 per cent and in 1886 had reached third highest with a percentage of 44 per cent.** In 1893 Company H was last in the scoring, having no First or Second Class and only seven Third Class marksmen.*** The reason for the poor showing could not be ascertained, unless it was caused by new recruits. That theory is borne out in the statement of Inspector John J. O'Connell, United States Army, in his report to Adjutant General C. C. Allen on September 16, 1891, when he said that the rank and file of the Second Brigade was composed of a large number of very young men, apparently minors, who were deficient in soldierly appearance and sadly in need of setting up drill.†

In 1885 Company H as a unit of the First Infantry Regiment took part in the first encampment that comprised the whole National Guard. The Encampment was held at Santa Cruz and the experience gained by the movement of a large number of troops under one command was very beneficial. The regiment received special praise while at camp.†† Company H with the First Infantry Regiment held their twelfth annual regimental encampment at Santa Rosa on July 20 to 28, 1889. The camp was ideally located in a grove of oaks, and was designated as "Camp Orton" in honor of the Adjutant General. The camp was attractively decorated with Chinese lanterns, buntings and flags. The question of decorations was the cause of considerable criticism. It was considered by

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- *Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, page 37.
- **Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, page 27.
- ***Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, page 85.
- †Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, page 166.
- ††Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, page 7.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

some as being unmilitary and tending to create an atmosphere of gaiety. Adjutant General Orton, however, championed the cause of an attractive camp, stating that he believed it no grave offense to beautify the camp grounds, and the more attractive the camp surroundings, the less likely the men would be to seek leaves and passes to town in the evenings. The First Infantry Regiment was highly commended for the experienced service they had attained in the twelve years of encampments, especially for camp duties and their thorough camp equipage.*

Company H with the First Infantry Regiment, played a prominent part in many of the historic celebrations held in the city of San Francisco. One of those occasions was the twentieth National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic held during the first week in August 1886. No city ever gave a more gracious and enthusiastic reception to the war scarred veterans, who had fought so valiantly to preserve the Union, than San Francisco. On August third approximately 400,000 people lined the streets and other points of vantage and cheered lustily the various detachments of the Grand Army of the Republic as they passed by. The First Division of the parade was led by the United States troops from the Presidio and local posts, and consisted of a battalion of artillery and a battalion of infantry, under command of Colonel W. R. Shafter, First United States Infantry.

Five regiments of the National Guard, which acted as escort to the Grand Army of the Republic followed the Regulars. The First Infantry Regiment, Colonel J. H. Dickinson commanding, had the right line of the Second Brigade. The troops were formed in double rank and in column marched in platoons of sixteen files front. The companies of the First Regiment were formed in the following order: Companies H, C, G, B, F, D and A. The regiment paraded about 350 men, and still maintained its reputation as a crack military organization. The Fifth Infantry, Colonel H. D. Ranlett commanding, followed the First Regiment. It paraded Companies C from Petaluma, D from San Rafael, A from Oakland, F from Oakland, B from San Jose and E from Santa Rosa. It numbered about 300 men. The Third Infantry Regiment in command of Colonel Boland was the next in column. It paraded eight companies and sixteen platoons, in double rank, and had

*Adjutant General Report 1890, pages 10, 11. page 14, column 4.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

about 375 men. Following the Third came the Second Artillery, in command of Colonel John T. Cutting. This Regiment always paraded with full ranks and on every parade made a splendid appearance. Following the Second Brigade came the four companies of the Third Brigade, Brigadier-General James A. Shephard commanding. These were the Stockton and Emmet Guard of Stockton, the Forsythe Guard of Fresno and the Modesto Guard from Modesto. The second section of the First Division consisted of two columns of carriages, which contained the distinguished guests of the G.A.R., of the Department of California, composed of Governor George Stoneman, General George B. Crosby, Colonel Perrie Kowen and Colonel G. G. Tyrrel.*

Another pleasant celebration was the occasion of the visit of Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States to San Francisco on April 25, 1891. The procession was formed and ready to move when the President's boat landed at the Ferry Building. Company H with the First Infantry Regiment made an excellent appearance in the parade, which was approved by the cheering throngs along the line of march.**

Still another celebration was the grand opening of the Midwinter Fair in San Francisco on January 27, 1894. The streets were thronged with people who were anxious to get a glimpse of one of the finest civic and military parades ever held in the city. Company H was one of the units that participated in the parade.*** The company also took part in the unveiling ceremony held in connection with the presentation of the Lick Monument to the City of San Francisco on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 1894.****

Not all of the parades participated in by Company H were celebrations, as many times the sad duty of escort at the funeral processions of distinguished personages was their lot. Three such services were held within four months in 1891. The first was that of King Kalakaua of the Hawaiian Islands, who had come to the United States seeking rest to restore his health. However,

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2. *San Francisco Chronicle, August 4, 1886, page 1, column 1-9.
3. **San Francisco Chronicle, April 26, 1891, page 11, column 1-7.
4. ***San Francisco Chronicle, January 28, 1894, page 1, column 1-7.
5. ****San Francisco Chronicle, November 29, 1894, page 14, column 4.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

the King died and on January 22, 1891, Company H and other units of the Second Brigade joined in a procession that escorted the royal remains from the Trinity Church to the Clay Street Wharf, where the body was placed aboard the United States Flagship "Charleston" for the return trip to the Islands.* The second funeral procession was that of Senator George Hearst on March 15, 1891. The funeral honors bestowed upon the Senator were unusual, nearly 2000 people participated. The Second Brigade to which Company H belonged paraded 1000 strong.** The third death was that of John F. Swift who died in Japan while stationed there in the United States diplomatic service as Foreign Minister. Again the remains of a distinguished personage rested within the walls of the Trinity Church. With the completion of the impressive church ceremony, the casket was placed upon a caisson and the procession, headed by the Second Brigade under command of General Dickinson, proceeded to the Masonic Cemetery. A final salute of fifteen shots fired by the artillery upon reaching the cemetery completed the honors bestowed upon the departed diplomat.***

A pleasing incident in the history of Company H was the reception for the First Infantry Regiment in Mechanics Pavilion in San Francisco on the evening of May 18, 1892. The program began with a concert by the First Infantry Band, after which the regiment was reviewed by Governor H. H. Markham. Among the evening's guests was the Governor and Staff, Major General Dimond and Staff, Brigadier-General Dickinson and Staff, Colonel MacDonald and Staff, Colonel Barry and Staff, Colonel Fairbanks and Staff, and General Ruger, United States Army and Staff. After the review, the regiment formed a single ranked hollow square about the entire hall facing towards the center. The Governor then descended from his seat of honor and with appropriate words presented the regiment with new regimental colors. The new colors were similar to the old ones, but were very elaborate. They consisted of a National Flag with the name of the regiment and the date of organization in gold letters on two of the white stripes; and a State Flag with the seal of the State and the word California, on a field of dark blue. The evenings entertainment was concluded with a program of dances.****

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- *San Francisco Chronicle, January 23, 1891, page 10, column 1-4.
- **San Francisco Chronicle, March 16, 1891, page 10, column 1-5.
- ***San Francisco Chronicle, May 11, 1891, page 10, column 1.
- ****San Francisco Chronicle, May 19, 1892, page 4, column 4.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The State Legislature at its 1894-1895 session trimmed the annual appropriation for the maintenance of the National Guard; and it soon became apparent that in order to maintain the then existing companies without disbanding or consolidating several companies, it would be necessary for the companies to accept less than the \$100 per month allowance for each unit. Several conferences were held by Governor James H. Budd and high officers in the National Guard, but no arrangement on financial allowances was reached. The failure of the regimental commanders to accept a cut in their allowances finally led to a sweeping reorganization of the National Guard. Four years previous to his election Governor Budd had served as Brigadier-General of the Third Brigade and, therefore, had a deep sympathy for the condition the different companies were in. The Governor's orders of December 7, 1895, provided for the disbanding of all regiments and the reorganizing of the troops into twelve battalions of four companies each. The battalion unit of four companies then corresponded to that of the Federal Troops. Thus the new reorganization placed the nine Colonels who refused to accept a 25 per cent cut in their fixed allowance of \$100 a month in the position of "waiting for orders". On December 9, 1895, another order was issued providing for the reorganizing of the National Guard into regiments. The First Regiment was to comprise twelve companies or three battalions of four companies each; the Second Regiment to consist of eight companies; the Fifth of eight companies, the Sixth eight; and the Seventh Infantry to be composed of twelve companies. Each regiment was ordered to elect new colonels to command their regiments.

Company H evidently failed to rate very high in the inspections of 1895. It was one of the companies that was selected by the Board of Location and Organization to be mustered out of the service on June 29, 1895. The vacancy caused by the mustering out of Company H was filled in the new reorganization plan of 1895 by the consolidation of Companies B and F, Third Infantry Regiment, and designated as Company H, Fifth Battalion. The Fifth Battalion was one of the three that were organized into the First Infantry Regiment.*

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*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 10, page 75; General Order No. 17, and 18, pages 86, and 88.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The newly organized Company H made a fairly good showing at target practice, several members having won Second Class medals and also a few of the Third Class. At the annual inspection and muster of Company H in 1896 the rating was only medium, but the poor showing was undoubtedly due to new officers and also the men were not used to drilling together.

Company H participated in several parades in 1896, one of which was at the funeral of Governor John E. Jones of Nevada, who had died in San Francisco on April 10, 1896. The procession was to escort the remains of the Governor from the undertaking parlors to the Ferry Building, where they were to be sent to Carson City.* Another was on June 21, 1896, when the funeral of Brigadier-General John McComb was held in San Francisco. The services were military in character and very impressive. General McComb had been Brigadier-General of the Second Brigade for several years, but at the time of his death was on the retired list.**

On June 18, 1896, a dispatch from New York stated that General W. H. Dimond, Commanding the Division of the National Guard of California, had died while there on business in connection with the National Guard. General Dimond had served as Captain and Assistant Adjutant General of the United States Volunteers in 1865. In the Hawaii Islands he had served as Captain of a Cavalry Company. On January 26, 1880, he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel and Aid-de-Camp on the Staff of Governor George C. Perkins. A year later on December fourteenth he was appointed Brigadier-General of the Second Brigade and continued to hold office in this capacity until February 7, 1887, when he was promoted to Major General, commanding the Division of the National Guard of California, which office he held until the time of his death.*** The funeral was impressive and was conducted with all the pomp and ceremony in keeping with the high rank he held.****

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

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

***Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 7, page 124.

****For additional information concerning the ceremony tendered General Dimond, refer to History of Company E, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

One of the gay celebrations in which Company H took part was held on May 14, 1901, when President William McKinley visited San Francisco. A combined military and civic parade was the leading feature of the reception. Also a very noisy and patriotic celebration was tendered President Theodore Roosevelt when he visited the city two years later. Another big military parade was held in his honor.*

On the evening of July 3, 1894, Company H was ordered to Sacramento to help maintain order and protect property during the strike of employees against the Railroads. Company H remained under arms in Sacramento until July twenty-fifth when they were ordered back to San Francisco and dismissed.**

Another period of active service by Company H was when on May 6, 1898, the unit was mustered into the United States Volunteers in the war with Spain. The First Infantry Regiment to which Company H was attached saw active service in the Philippine Islands participating in the capture of Manila. On March 1, 1899, Companies H, A, B and E were ordered to the Islands of Negros, where they saw service until July sixteenth, when they were ordered back to Manila. From there the regiment embarked and sailed for San Francisco. They arrived in the city on August 23, 1899, and went into camp at the Presidio. On September twenty-first Company H was mustered out of the United States service after having spent over sixteen months in active duty.*** On the evening of August 26, 1899, San Francisco celebrated the return of the First Regiment of California Volunteers with a civic and military parade that consisted of nearly 14,000 men and women, while untold thousands crowded the sidewalks to get a glimpse of the "Fighting" First Regiment.****

A real test of the efficiency and valor of the National Guard was presented when on April 18, 1906, an earthquake of unusual severity rocked San Francisco, Buildings by the hundreds collapsed or were badly damaged. Fires broke out almost simultaneously in a dozen places throughout the city, and to the amazement and chagrin of the firemen, nearly all of the water

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*For further details of the celebrations tendered the President of the United States, refer to Signal Corps, Second Brigade.

**For further details refer to the National Guard and the Railroad Strike of 1894. Adjutant General's Office.

***Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 4.

****For further details concerning reception of the First California Volunteers, refer to Company E, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

mains were broken and twisted by the earthquake, thus seriously interfering with the fighting of the fires. During the morning of the eighteenth when confusion and fear was rampant in the hearts of the refugees as they were compelled to stand helplessly by and see their earthly possessions go up in smoke, Company H with the First Infantry Regiment assembled at their Headquarters, and without waiting for orders from their superior officers, began to patrol the streets and assist whenever possible. Frequently some panic and grief stricken citizen would attempt to enter a forbidden ally or street to save some priceless possession from the fire, and only the point of a bayonet in front of him would stop his mad rush. Scores of lives undoubtedly were thus saved by the prompt action of the Guard. Brigadier-General John A. Koster, Commanding the Second Brigade, and Adjutant General J. B. Lauck were at Willets on the morning of April eighteenth, and did not reach San Francisco until 7:30 P.M. Great credit is due the officers and men of the units who realized the great emergency and promptly and efficiently met the situation. Company H remained on duty in San Francisco until May 31, 1906, at which time order was fairly well established and the unit was dismissed.*

History records many disappointments and fate plays many unwarranted tricks, as was illustrated in the untimely disbanding of the First Infantry Regiment. It is disappointing to realize that the oldest regiment in the State and one of the best, having an enviable record in the Railroad Strike, the war with Spain, the Earthquake and Fire in San Francisco, should be disbanded May 11, 1907.**

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*Adjutant General Report 1906, pages 7-12.

**First Infantry Regiment disbanded in accordance with General Order No. 10, issued May 1, 1907; General and Special Orders and Circulars - 1907.

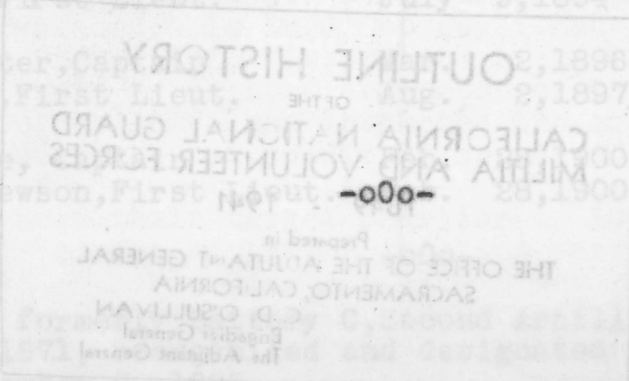
COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Company H apparently was tardy in recovering from the loss sustained in the earthquake and fire. Undoubtedly many old members moved from San Francisco, and new members in large numbers tended to reduce the general drill and efficiency of the company to the standing where it became necessary to muster the unit out of service on January 8, 1907.*

Redesignated April 19, 1901

Commanding Officers		
Name	Rank	Commission
Charles Boxton, Captain	June 27, 1892	
Herman Huber, First Lieut.	July 9, 1894	July 20, 1896
Bellhold Richter, Captain	1898	April 4, 1898
Otto P. Huber, First Lieut.	1897	Sept. 1, 1897
Frank K. Moore, Captain	1900	April 8, 1900
Henry G. Mathewson, First Lieut.	1900	April 8, 1900



* Company I, First Infantry Regiment, was redesignated and known as Company C, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, April 19, 1901. Adjutant General Report 1898-1900, General Order No. 27, 28, page 56, 58.

** Company I, as part of the First Infantry Regiment, was mustered into Federal Service May 6, 1900. Adjutant General Report 1898-1900, page 4.

*** Adjutant General Report 1898-1900, General Order No. 11, page 68.

† Company I as part of the First Infantry Regiment reentered the National Guard November 7, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1898-1900, page 79.

†† Company I, First Infantry Regiment was redesignated and known as Company C, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, April 19, 1901. Adjutant General Report 1898-1900, General Order No. 5, page 86.

* * Company H was mustered out in accordance with General Order No. 1, mustering out Companies A and H, First Infantry Regiment, on January 8, 1907; General and Special Orders and Circulars - 1907. respectively, when they were transferred to the Second Brigade.