

History of the Company I (San Francisco Fusileers), 1st Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1880-1907

This history was completed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in conjunction with the California National Guard and the California State Library.

Digitized by the History Office, Camp San Luis Obispo, 6 January 2015

317
1894

COMPANY I (Continued)

Company I, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly San Francisco
 Reference: Adjutant General's Files Fusileers)
 Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County, 1871, and was
 Organized November 27, 1871
 Reconstituted December 9, 1895 *
 Mustered into Federal Service May 6, 1898 **
 Mustered out of Federal Service September 21, 1899 ***
 Reorganized as Company I, First Infantry Regiment Nov. 29, 1899 '
 Redesignated April 19, 1901 ''

Commanding Officers		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Charles Boxtton, Captain	June 27, 1892 '''	
Herman Huber, First Lieut.	July 9, 1894 '''	July 20, 1896
Reinhold Richter, Captain	Mar. 2, 1896	April 4, 1896
Otto F. Huber, First Lieut.	Aug. 2, 1897	Sept. 1, 1897
Frank K. Moore, Captain	Feb. 28, 1900	April 6, 1900
Henry G. Mathewson, First Lieut.	Feb. 28, 1900	April 6, 1900

-oOo-

* Company I, formerly Battery C, Second Artillery Regiment organized November 27, 1871, reorganized and designated Company I, First Infantry Regiment, December 9, 1895.
 Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.

** Company I, as part of the First Infantry Regiment, was mustered into Federal Service May 6, 1898.
 Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 4.

*** Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 11, page 68.

' Company I as part of the First Infantry Regiment reentered the National Guard November 29, 1899.
 Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, 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 1901-1902, General Order No. 5, page 66

''' Captain Charles Boxtton and First Lieutenant Herman Huber retained their former ranking dates as of June 27, 1892, and July 9, 1894, respectively, when they commanded Battery C, Second Artillery, Second Brigade.

Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 18, page 88.
 *** Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, pages 6, 190, 191.
 Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, page 7.
 Adjutant General Report 1896-1899, page 25.

COMPANY I (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Battery C, Second Artillery, Second Brigade, was formerly the San Francisco Fusileers, organized November 27, 1871, and was redesignated as Company I, Sixth Battalion, on December 7, 1895. * Two days later, on December 9, 1895, the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Battalions organized into one regiment to be known as the First Infantry, and Battery C was redesignated as Company I of the newly organized regiment. **

One of the requirements of the National Guard was the annual inspections which were held between January first, and June thirtieth, of each year. These inspections were necessary to determine the advancement of a company, and the condition of arms and equipment. If such equipment was found to be inferior, it was sent in to various armories and replaced. In 1896 Company I had a thorough inspection. It was made by the Division Inspector, Lieutenant Colonel J. C. Currier and Captain F. de L. Carrington of the First Infantry Regiment, United States Army, who inspected the entire guard of the State. The drills, discipline and soldierly appearance were good. ***

The unit also held their target practice in 1896 and 1897. New rules and regulations governing target practice were prepared by the Inspector General of Rifle Practice, and other competent officers. Under the revised regulations the members of the Guard were better satisfied, and the interest increased in target practice which, in turn, greatly increased the guardsmen's marksmanship. The company was supplied with a full set of silhouettes for field work and a set of bench reloading tools, whereby the members could reload their own ammunition at a cost of from \$11.00 to \$12.00 per thousand. This meant a saving of \$7.00 to \$8.00 per thousand shots, on reloads, which gave the men that much more to expend on target practice. †

In 1897 the unit went into an encampment at Ukiah from August twenty-first to twenty-ninth. It was designated Camp McDonald. The camp was ideal from a sanitary standpoint. However, the space was limited for carrying on all 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 officers and men responded to duty cheerfully; discipline was excellent; guard mount, reviews and dress parades were well executed. The quarters in the camp were neat, orderly and well policed. In general the behaviour of the men in and out of camp was excellent. ††

* Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, page 4. -oOo-

* Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 17, page 86.

** Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 18, page 88.

*** Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, pages 6, 190, 191.

† Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, page 7.

†† Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, page 25.

COMPANY I (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

On April 21, 1898, the war with Spain was declared, and on the same date President William McKinley issued a call for volunteers. Almost the entire number that answered the call for California were members of the National Guard. As a result of this call Company I, as a unit of the First Infantry Regiment, was mustered into the United States Army on May 6, 1898. The company went into camp at the Presidio in San Francisco one thousand strong. On May seventh, the regiment embarked with the first expedition to the Philippines, under command of Colonel James F. Smith, sailing from San Francisco on the United States transport "City of Pekin". This was the advance guard of the first army to sail from American shores to engage in a foreign war.

Company I, as part of the First Infantry Regiment, arrived at Cavite, on the Island of Luzon, June 30, 1898. The troops disembarked on July 3 and established Camp Dewey at Tambo, near Manila, on July 15. Company I took part in the Battle of Malate Trenches July 31 to August 1, 1898. In this encounter Captain Reinhold Richter, commanding Company I, was mortally wounded on August 1 and died August 4, 1898. The unit also engaged in the assault and capture of Manila, August 13 of the same year. The men performed guard and patrol duty in camp at Manila and at Paco, Malacanan, and again at Pandacan, from the fall of Manila to February 1, 1899. The corps took part in the campaign against the Filipinos, from February 5 to March 21, 1899. A battalion of the First Infantry comprised of Companies A, B, E and H, embarked for the Island of Negros March 1, 1899, and were afterwards joined by the remaining companies of the regiment there.

On July 16, 1899, the entire regiment embarked from the Island of Negros on the transport "S herman" enroute for home. They arrived in San Francisco on August 23, 1899, and two days later encamped at the Presidio. On September 21, 1899, the regiment was mustered out of the United States Army, after a period of sixteen months of active service. The total number of volunteers entering the United States service from California during the war with Spain was 5,771 officers and men. Thousands of others offered their services through the National Guard, demonstrating in this practical way the patriotism of the entire State of California. *

-oOo-

* Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 4.

COMPANY I (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

In recognition of the patriotism and sacrifices made by the members of the Guard of California who volunteered and entered the service of the United States during the Spanish American War, the Legislature passed a law giving to the companies and members of the National Guard (discharged therefrom) the privilege of reporting back and returning to duty in the Guard, with full credit for continuous service from the time they were mustered into the United States service until they reported back for Guard duty. However, the men were ordered to report within 150 days after being mustered out of the Federal Service. * Therefore, Company I, in its entirety, together with the First Infantry, was remustered into the service of the National Guard. The service of the First Infantry during the Spanish American War was recognized a second time when General Order No. 3, paragraph 8, was issued April 23, 1900, stating that service records in which organizations of the National Guard had borne a meritorious part, would be engraved upon silver rings, fastened on the pikes or lances of the colors, standard or guidon. The rings were to be one inch wide and placed one inch apart, commencing one inch from the spear head. Company I, as a unit of the First Infantry Regiment, having served the longest term of any regiment in the United States service, received five rings inscribed as follows:

- "Spanish-American War 1898"
- "Malate Trenches July 31 and August 1, 1898"
- "Manila August 13, 1898"
- "Filipino Insurrection February 5 to Mar. 21, 1899"
- "Island of Negros March 23 to July 4, 1899"

One year later, in 1901, the Board of Location and Organization of the National Guard reduced the First Infantry from twelve companies to an eight company regiment. Four units, Companies C, F, G and K, respectively, were released from the First Infantry and were transferred to a newly organized Artillery Regiment. The vacancy, occurring when Company C was transferred, was re-designated as Company C April 19, 1901.

*** Adjutant General Report, 1899-1900, General Order No. 11, page 68.

-oOo-

† Company K, as part of the First Infantry Regiment, reentered the National Guard of California on November 29, 1899.

* Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 17.

†† Company K, detached from First Infantry Regiment and redesignated Battery D, First Battalion Artillery -4-

Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 5, page 66.

††† Captain Thomas J. Cunningham and Lieutenant Edward D. Finley, retained their former rank as of July 23, 1891, when they commanded Battery E, Second Artillery, Second Brigade.