

# **History of the Company K, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1895-1907**

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318  
1848

COMPANY K (Continued)

Company K, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly Battery E, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files, filed on December 7 and 9,  
Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County  
Organized July 16, 1882  
Reconstituted December 9, 1895 \*  
Mustered into Federal Service May 6, 1898 \*\*  
Mustered out of Federal Service September 21, 1899 \*\*\*  
Reorganized as Company K, First Infantry Regiment, Nov. 29, 1899. '  
Redesignated April 19, 1901. ''

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Thomas J. Cunningham, Captain	July 28, 1891 '''	Jan. 26, 1896
Edward D. Finley, First Lieut.	July 28, 1891 '''	Jan. 26, 1896

Thomas J. Cunningham, Captain  
(Reelected Aug. 3, 1897)  
Edward D. Finley, First Lieut.  
(Reelected Aug. 3, 1897)

Thomas J. Cunningham, Captain  
(Reelected June 14, 1900)  
Edward D. Finley, First Lieut.  
(Reelected June 14, 1900)

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\* Company K, formerly Battery E, organized July 16, 1882, was re-designated as Company K, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, December 9, 1895.  
Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.

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

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

' 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 79.

'' Company K, detached from First Infantry Regiment and redesignated Battery D, First Battalion Artillery.  
Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, General Order No. 5, page 66.

''' Captain Thomas J. Cunningham and Lieutenant Edward D. Finley, retained their former rank dates as of July 28, 1891, when they commanded Battery E, Second Artillery, Second Brigade.

COMPANY K (Continued)

Activities:

When the National Guard was reorganized on December 7 and 9, 1895, the First Infantry Regiment was organized as a twelve company regiment. Under the new arrangement the former Battery E, Second Artillery was redesignated as Company K, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade. \* The new reorganization was the result of a cut in the amount of money appropriated by the legislature by the legislature for the support of the National Guard during the years of 1895 and 1896. The lack of funds necessitated a reduction in the number of companies in the Guard from sixty-four companies to fifty-two. This was accomplished by consolidating the weakest units and by transferring one company to the Naval Reserve. The reorganization plan of four company battalions conformed to the United States Army formation. \*\*

On August 21, 1897, Company K, with the First Infantry Regiment, went into a nine day encampment at Ukiah. The camp was named MacDonal, and proved to be an ideal place for a military camp, with plenty of ground for field maneuvers. Small detachments, under command of non-commissioned officers, were sent out several miles from camp on reconnoitering expeditions with instructions to take notes of geographical observations and make maps of the surrounding country. Captain F. de L. Carrington, United States Army, who was instructing the regiment, was pleased with the notes of observations and maps which the expeditions had made, declaring that the experience thus obtained gave the non-commissioned officers an idea of their importance in times of war. \*\*\*

At the annual target practices in 1895, Company K had no First Class Marksmen. Eight members qualified for the medals of Second Class Marksmen, and twenty-two received the Third Class medals.

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

\*\* For additional information concerning the reorganization of the National Guard in 1895 refer to History of Company I, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

\*\*\* Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, pages 24, 25 and 26.

-2-

\* Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 14, pages 50, 51.  
\*\* Adjutant General Report, 1895-1896, page 160.  
\*\*\* Adjutant General Report, 1895-1896, page 190.

COMPANY K (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

In 1896 the showing was still worse, there being only eight Second, and eleven Third Class Marksmen. It is likely the poor showing was due to the new firing regulations that were adopted in that year, and the men's unfamiliarity with the numerous new requirements. These new regulations required target practice in January, May, September and October, and at ranges of two, three and five hundred yards, and included skirmish firing. It also provided for rifle practice in armories as frequently as other duties would allow. \* tents and all camp equipage is kept in excellent

condition and secure. Company appearance excellent. Major Charles Jansen, Inspector Second Brigade, stated in the following report concerning Company K, issued March 28, 1896.

"That the attendance of Company K was one hundred per cent at the mustering of the company for inspection; that he was pleased with the armory, its convenience and arrangements; that the State property received the best of care; that the Quartermaster Sergeant deserved special mention for the manner in which his department was managed as to neatness and accuracy; that the Record was in excellent shape; that there were no finances on hand; and that the formation was very good, the men steady in ranks and very attentive to duty, officers and non-commissioned officers well instructed, company drill, manual, appearance and platoon movements very good; and that the unit was well managed by Captain Cunningham, who was an excellent officer." \*\*

Another inspection report by Captain F. de L. Carrington, United States Infantry, who had instructions to make his inspection thorough in every particular, was made three months later, on July 15. The Captain was representing the Secretary of War, and in compliance with the wish of the Secretary he sought to encourage the feeling in the National Guard that the general government desired their welfare and improvement, and that a cordial relation should exist between the Regular Army and State Troops. In the report he related that his inspection showed a varied range in the difference in efficiency of the best and worst companies. In his rating of the forty-eight companies of the National Guard, Captain Carrington placed Company K as the third ranking unit of all the companies composing the Infantry regiments. \*\*\*

\*) For additional activities of First Infantry Regiment in the  
\* Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, General Order No. 14, pages 50, 51.  
\*\* Adjutant General Report, 1895-1896, page 160.  
\*\*\* Adjutant General Report, 1895-1896, page 190.

COMPANY K (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

On March 15, 1898, Major Charles Jansen, Inspector Second Brigade, made the following general report of his inspection of Company K:

"Quarters inspected in the afternoon, also property books. Orders properly filed, all in excellent condition. Quartermaster Service, room, clothing and ordnance store excellent; lockers excellent, arms excellent condition; also gun slings cleaned, storeroom in which contents and all camp equipage is kept in excellent condition and secure. Company appearance excellent; discipline excellent, manual and firing excellent, company and platoon movements excellent. Squad well handled, lieutenants and non-commissioned officers well instructed, emergency call cabinet-squad system same as last year kept up to date. Captain Cunningham has followed up the recommendation of last year's inspection report that company commanders should give close attention in the instruction to their unit in essentials, especially the firing. This company is one of the best in the Brigade, the personnel good, hardy and healthy. Eighteen men were discharged since last muster; no property lost--showing good discipline and management. One drum to be condemned. Company is well equipped excepting there are only seventeen overcoats for fifty-four men."

At the inspection the attendance averaged 96% or fifty-five present out of an enrollment of fifty-seven. \*

Three months later Company K, with the First United States Volunteer Regiment was on Board the transport "City of Pekin", crossing the Pacific Ocean to engage in war against Spain in the Philippine Islands. On April 23, 1898, President William McKinley issued a call for one hundred and twenty five thousand volunteers, for the war with Spain. Governor Henry T. Gage responded promptly by ordering the First Infantry Regiment into the United States Service. On May 6 the regiment was mustered in, and on May twenty-five embarked and sailed for the Philippines.\*\*

\* Adjutant General Report, 1898-1900, General Order No. 8, April 23, 1900, pages 79-80.

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\*\* For additional information concerning the ceremony and funeral

\* Inspection Report March 15, 1898, on file in Adjutant General's Office.

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

COMPANY K (Continued)

The regiment returned to San Francisco on August 3, 1899 and was mustered out of the Federal service on September 21, 1899, at the Presidio. During the absence of the National Guard from the State Service during the war, provision was made by the State Legislature to permit all members of the Guard to receive service credit as if they had remained in the State Service, providing they presented themselves to the State for entrance into the National Guard ranks again. The Commander-in-Chief was authorized to set the date under which the members could return. In the case of the First Infantry Regiment the date was set as November 30, 1899, and the Regiment, as a whole, reentered the service of the National Guard on November 29, 1899. Two members of Company K, Privates James J. Dewar and James P. Cassidy, died of disease in the Philippines. Colonel James F. Smith, Commander of the First Infantry during the war, did not reenter the State service with the regiment and was honorably discharged from the National Guard on May 6, 1898, which was the day he was mustered into the Federal service. Also Major Hugh T. Sime, Captains Theodore C. Rethers and A. P. O'Brien, assigned as Assistant Surgeons of Sanitary Corps, and Lieutenants Edwin F. Davis and Chas. J. Hogan were honorably discharged in May, 1898. \*

Frequently Company K was called upon to pay respects to the distinguished personages whose position in life entitled them to military honors at the time of their death. The first funeral procession participated in by Company K was that of Governor John E. Jones, Governor of Nevada, who had died while in San Francisco. The funeral was held on April 12, 1896. About three months later, on June eighteenth, General John McComb died at his home in Temescal, and Company K again rendered honor to the departed General at his funeral on June 21, 1896. Four days later the last rites for Major General W. H. Dimond were held. General Dimond died in New York City while on official business. The funeral for the General was one of San Francisco's largest and most impressive. At the cemetery Company K acted as special escort and at the conclusion of the ceremonies, fired the final salute over the grave. \*\*

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\* Adjutant General's Report, 1899-1900, General Order No. 3, April 23, 1900, pages 79-80. Refer to History of Company A, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

\*\* For additional information concerning the ceremony and funeral of General W. H. Dimond refer to History of Company A, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

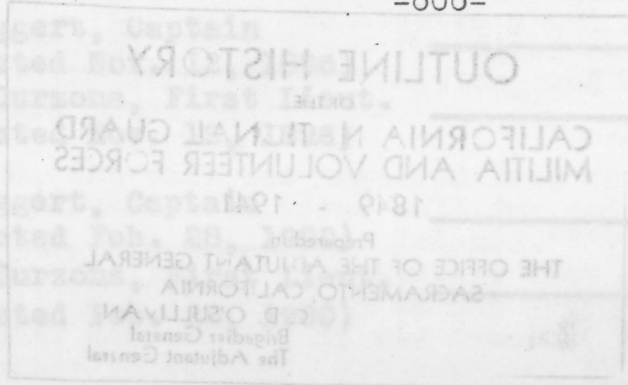
COMPANY K (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

When the Board of Location and Organization, at their meeting on April 18, 1901, decided to organize a four battery battalion of Coast Artillery, it was decided to select four companies of the Infantry Regiment for the organization. This decision required that the First Infantry Regiment be reorganized into an eight company regiment. Companies F, C, G and K were transferred to the new battalion. Company K, First Infantry Regiment, was redesignated as Battery D, First Battalion of Artillery, on April 19, 1901, and Company K ceased to exist. \*

	Rank	Commission
John F. Eggert, Captain	Oct. 18, 1894***	Jan. 22, 1896
Henry E. Cursons, First Lieut.	Oct. 18, 1894***	Jan. 22, 1896

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\* Adjutant General's Report 1901-1902, page 66.

- \*\*Company L as part of the First Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service May 4, 1898. Adjutant General Report 1898-1900, page 4.
- \*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1898-1900, General Order No. 11, page 68.
- Company L as part of the First Infantry Regiment, re-entered the National Guard November 19, 1898. Adjutant General Report 1898-1900, page 79.
- Company L was redesignated as Company F, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, April 19, 1901. Adjutant General Report 1901-1902; General Order No. 5, page 66.
- Captain John F. Eggert and First Lieutenant Henry E. Cursons retained their former ranking dates as of October 18, 1894, when they commanded Company F, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.