

History of the 1st Infantry Regiment, California Militia and National Guard of California 1861-1907

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FIRST INFANTRY REGIMENT

First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized May 8, 1861 #

Reorganized December 7, 1895*

Reorganized December 9, 1895**

Mustered into Federal Service May 6, 1895***

Mustered out of Federal Service September 21, 1899†

Reorganized as First Infantry Regiment November 29, 1899††

Mustered out May 11, 1907†††

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
John S. Ellis, Colonel	May 18, 1861	_____
John W. McKenzie, Lieut. Colonel	May 18, 1861	_____
Robert Pollock, Major	_____	_____
William C. Little, Adjutant	_____	_____
S. R. Gerry, Surgeon	_____	_____
Joseph Wood, Colonel (Resigned Oct. 1, 1866)	June 9, 1862	June 21, 1862
R. P. Lewis, Lieut. Colonel	Nov. 25, 1862	Dec. 15, 1862
Peter Lesser, Major (Resigned Mar. 23, 1864)	Nov. 25, 1862	Dec. 15, 1862
Edwin Lewis, First Lieut.	Jan. 1, 1863	April 27, 1863
Isaac Rowell, Surgeon Adjutant	Jan. 1, 1863	April 27, 1863

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*First Infantry Regiment reorganized into Fourth Battalion Infantry, December 7, 1895.

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

**First Infantry Regiment organized by Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Battalions being formed into the First Infantry Regiment.

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

***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, pages 68, 69.

††First Infantry Regiment re-entered the National Guard of California, November 29, 1899.

Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 79.

†††Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 3.

Special Order No. 3, May 8, 1861, Hq. Papers First Inf. Reg. A.G.O.

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Robert Simpson, Colonel (Resigned Mar. 1, 1868)	Oct. 5, 1866	Oct. 8, 1866
Thomas B. Ludlum, Lieut. Colonel (Re-elected Oct. 5, 1866)	July 21, 1864	Aug. 15, 1864
Edwin Lewis, Major (Resigned Sept. 20, 1866)	July 21, 1864	Aug. 15, 1864
Isaac Rowell, Surgeon	Oct. 18, 1864	Oct. 25, 1864
Thomas B. Ludlum, Colonel (Resigned Oct. 4, 1869)	Mar. 1, 1868	Mar. 21, 1868
William C. Little, Lieut. Colonel	Mar. 14, 1868	Mar. 21, 1868
Abram Moger, Major	Mar. 14, 1868	Mar. 21, 1868
John F. Bronson, Adjutant	Aug. 3, 1868	Oct. 15, 1868
Isaac Rowell, First Lieut. Surgeon		April 2, 1866
William H. L. Barnes, Colonel	Nov. 1, 1869	Nov. 21, 1869
George W. Granniss, Lieut. Colonel	Nov. 1, 1869	Nov. 21, 1869
John F. Bronson, Major	Nov. 19, 1869	Nov. 21, 1869
Aquila W. Hanna, First Lieut. (Resigned Oct. 6, 1871) Adjutant	Dec. 17, 1869	Dec. 28, 1869
James D. Whitney, First Lieut. Surgeon	Dec. 17, 1869	Dec. 28, 1869
William H. L. Barnes, Colonel (Re-elected Nov. 20, 1873) (Resigned Dec. 24, 1874)		
George W. Granniss, Lieut. (Re-elected Nov. 20, 1873) Colonel		
Oscar Woodhams, Major	Aug. 30, 1871	Aug. 31, 1871
Henry M. Kittle, First Lieut. (Resigned Mar. 27, 1873) Adjutant	Jan. 12, 1872	Jan. 17, 1872
Walter Turnbull, First Lieut. Adjutant	Mar. 28, 1873	April 11, 1873
George W. Granniss, Colonel (Resigned Oct. 15, 1877)	Feb. 27, 1875	Mar. 8, 1875
Oscar Woodhams, Lieut. Colonel	Feb. 27, 1875	Mar. 8, 1875
David Wilder, Major	Feb. 27, 1875	Mar. 8, 1875
James L. Field, First Lieut. Adjutant	Feb. 27, 1875	April 3, 1875
James D. Whitney, First Lieut. Surgeon	Mar. 27, 1875	April 3, 1875

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Oscar Woodhams, Colonel	Dec. 1, 1877	Dec. 6, 1877
David Wilder, Lieut. Colonel	Dec. 1, 1877	Dec. 6, 1877
James E. Hughes, Major	Dec. 1, 1877	Dec. 6, 1877
James L. Fields, First Lieut. Adjutant	Nov. 28, 1877	April 6, 1878
Henry Gibbons, Jr., First Lieut. Surgeon	Jan. 23, 1878	April 6, 1878
John H. Dickinson, Colonel	June 28, 1880	July 13, 1880
Walter Turnbull, Lieut. Colonel	Aug. 7, 1880	Sept. 1, 1880
George M. Gaylord, Major (Resigned Feb. 17, 1882)	Mar. 10, 1882	Mar. 25, 1882
Edward R. Swain, Captain Adjutant (Resigned April 16, 1883)	April 19, 1882	April 22, 1882
George Whitney Reed, Captain Adjutant	May 25, 1883	June 2, 1883
A. M. Wilder, Major Surgeon	April 11, 1880	Aug. 17, 1880
John H. Dickinson, Colonel (Re-elected June 30, 1884)		
Louis L. Bromwell, Lieut. Colonel (Resigned Mar. 27, 1885)	Mar. 10, 1883	Mar. 26, 1883
George M. Gaylord, Lieut. Colonel (Deceased April 30, 1885)	April 10, 1885	April 22, 1885
R. H. Orton, Lieut. Colonel	May 30, 1885	June 25, 1885
R. H. Orton, Major (Promoted to Lieut. Colonel May 30, 1885)	April 10, 1885	May 4, 1885
S. J. Taylor, Major	Sept. 21, 1885	Sept. 29, 1885
William P. Sullivan, Jr., Captain Adjutant	Aug. 7, 1885	Aug. 12, 1885
F. H. Terrill, Major Surgeon	May 21, 1886	June 4, 1886
John H. Dickinson, Colonel (Re-elected July 11, 1888) (Promoted to Brigadier-General Feb. 16, 1891)		
Samuel J. Taylor, Lieut. Colonel (Retired Sept. 27, 1890)	Jan. 11, 1888	Feb. 6, 1888
William P. Sullivan, Lieut. Colonel	Nov. 12, 1890	Dec. 19, 1890
William P. Sullivan, Major	Jan. 11, 1888	Feb. 25, 1888
Robert Wallace Burtis, Captain Adjutant	Sept. 21, 1889	Oct. 3, 1889
George M. Terrill, Major Surgeon	Feb. 4, 1888	Feb. 25, 1888

FIRST INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William P. Sullivan, Colonel (Retired May 28, 1895)	Mar. 27, 1891	April 18, 1891
Hyman P. Bush, Lieut. Colonel	Mar. 27, 1891	April 18, 1891
George R. Burdick, Major	Nov. 12, 1890	
Arthur H. Williams, Captain Adjutant	Dec. 31, 1891	Jan. 23, 1892
John Gallwey, Major Surgeon	May 23, 1891	June 10, 1891
Charles Jansen, Major	May 9, 1893	May 18, 1893
Hyman P. Bush, Colonel (Retired May 1, 1896)	May 14, 1895	May 24, 1895
George R. Burdick, Lieut. (Retired Sept. 1, 1895) Colonel	May 14, 1895	June 26, 1895
C. H. Crocker, Lieut. Colonel (Resigned Jan. 25, 1896)	Nov. 12, 1895	Dec. 6, 1895
Irving B. Cook, Major	May 14, 1895	June 26, 1895
James A. Margo, Captain Adjutant	May 27, 1895	June 26, 1895
William D. McCarthy, Major Surgeon	Dec. 20, 1887	Jan. 22, 1896
William MacDonald, Colonel (Retired Feb. 4, 1897)	May 23, 1889	Jan. 4, 1896
James F. Smith, Colonel	Mar. 11, 1897	April 3, 1897
C. H. Crocker, Lieut. Colonel (Resigned Jan. 25, 1896)		
Victor Duboce, Lieut. Colonel	Jan. 31, 1896	Mar. 3, 1896
Charles Boxtton, Major	Jan. 31, 1896	Feb. 14, 1896
Charles L. Tilden, Major	Jan. 31, 1896	Mar. 3, 1896
H. T. Sime, Major	April 30, 1896	May 11, 1896
Alfred J. Kelleher, Captain Adjutant	Dec. 1, 1891	Feb. 17, 1896
P. J. H. Farrell, Captain Surgeon	May 3, 1895	Jan. 3, 1896

In 1834 the First Infantry Regiment was organized in San Francisco, and was composed of the National Guards, San Francisco Blues, and the First Light Dragoons. The regiment was commanded by Major Joseph R. West. This organization rendered valuable service to the State during the Vigilante War in 1850, when Governor J. Neely Johnson issued a proclamation declaring the city of San Francisco to be in a "state of insurrection." While many members and a few officers refused to oppose the Vigilante forces after

FIRST INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Victor D. Duboce, Colonel (Deceased Aug. 15, 1900)	May 10, 1900	June 7, 1900
Thomas F. O'Neil, Colonel	Oct. 30, 1900	Dec. 22, 1900
Thomas F. O'Neil, Lieut. Colonel (Promoted to Colonel Oct. 30, 1900)	May 10, 1900	June 18, 1900
John F. Connelly, Lieut. Colonel	Oct. 30, 1900	Dec. 22, 1900
John F. Connelly, Major (Promoted to Lieut. Colonel Oct. 30, 1900)	May 10, 1900	June 18, 1900
William R. Robertson, Major	Oct. 30, 1900	Dec. 22, 1900
George Filmer, Major	May 10, 1900	June 18, 1900
Thomas J. McCreagh, Major	May 10, 1900	June 18, 1900
Frank W. Warren, Captain Adjutant	June 23, 1902	Sept. 19, 1902
Theodore Rether, Major Surgeon	June 8, 1900	Jan. 18, 1901
George Filmer, Colonel (Retired Jan. 23, 1906)	Nov. 22, 1904	Dec. 20, 1904
Walter N. Kelly, Colonel (Resigned Jan. 12, 1907)	Feb. 17, 1906	Feb. 28, 1906
Thomas J. McCreagh, Lieut. Colonel	Nov. 22, 1904	Feb. 14, 1905
John Franklin Eggert, Major (Resigned Jan. 12, 1907)	Nov. 22, 1904	Feb. 14, 1905
Walter N. Kelly, Major (Promoted Colonel Feb. 17, 1906)	Mar. 14, 1905	April 29, 1905
Henry G. Mathewson, Major	Feb. 17, 1906	Feb. 28, 1906
John W. West, Captain Adjutant	June 17, 1904	July 11, 1904

Activities:

In 1854 the First Battalion was organized in San Francisco, and was composed of the National Lancers, San Francisco Blues, and the First Light Dragoons. The battalion was commanded by Major Joseph R. West. This organization rendered valuable service to the State during the Vigilante trouble in 1856, when Governor J. Neely Johnson issued a proclamation declaring the city of San Francisco to be in a "state of insurrection." While many members and a few officers refused to oppose the Vigilante forces after

Activities: (Continued)

the first few days of trouble, their places were quickly filled up recruits who believed that the regular constituted authorities should be in charge of the prosecution and "cleanup" of the criminals who had become too numerous.*

Whether the First Infantry Battalion mentioned in the Adjutant General's Report of 1856⁷ is the same battalion that was organized in 1854 is not definitely shown by the records available in the Adjutant General's Office.** However, it will be noted that the San Francisco Blues was listed as a member in both battalions. The other companies in the 1857 list are the Marion Rifles, Continental Guards, and Wallace Guards. Major William Neely Johnson was then in command of the organization. It is believed that this Battalion was the one that on May 8, 1861, met in the Sheriff's office in San Francisco and by vote of their members decided to receive the National Guard and the California Rifles into membership, thereby, bringing their membership up to eight companies, the number necessary to form a regiment. Besides accepting the two militia companies to complete the organization of the new regiment, the organization decided on the details of their new uniforms. The coats, pants and caps were to be of woolen cloth, San Francisco manufactured, and of ^{dark} blue color. The coat was to be single breasted, with standing collar. The pantaloons made easy about legs, with a black stripe down each long seam. The cost of the new uniforms was to be met by the subscriptions of patriotic citizens.***

The table on the following page indicates the various changes in the designation of the companies in the First Infantry Regiment. Year dates opposite companies indicate the year of attachment to the regiment.

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*Adjutant General's Report 1856, page 8.

**Adjutant General Report 1857, Appendix page 11.

***San Francisco Bulletin, May 9, 1861, page 3, column 1.

FIRST INFANTRY REGIMENT (Cont.)

1861-1907

A	B	C	D	E	F
First California Guard <u>1861</u>	City Guard <u>1861</u>	National Guard <u>1861</u>	Black Hussars <u>1861</u>	California Fusileers <u>1861</u>	Light Guard <u>1861</u>
State Guard <u>1863</u>			San Francisco Guard <u>1863</u>	Ellsworth Rifles <u>1864</u>	Company E and Company F, First Infantry Regiment consolidated and became Company F <u>1885</u>
Oakland Guard <u>1869</u>			Franklin Light Infantry <u>1870</u>	Summer Light Guard <u>1866</u>	
Company H and Company C, 3rd Infantry Regiment consolidated and became Company A <u>1881</u>		Company I, First Infantry Regiment became Company C <u>1901</u>	Company C, 3rd Infantry Regiment redesignated Company D <u>1895</u>	Company E and A, 3rd Infantry Regiment became Company A <u>1895</u>	
Company A and Company E, 3rd Infantry Regiment consolidated and became Company A <u>1895</u>	Company B and Company D, First Infantry Regiment consolidated and became Company B <u>1895</u>				Battery D and Battery F, Second Artillery consolidated and became Company F <u>1895</u>

Note: The year dates in the table indicate the year the companies were attached to the First Infantry Regiment Second Brigade.

FIRST INFANTRY REGIMENT (Cont.)

1861-1907

G	H	I	K	L	M
California Rifles <u>1861</u>	French Guard <u>1861</u>	Summer Guard <u>1861</u>	Ellsworth Rifles <u>1861</u>	Sigel Rifles <u>1861</u>	
Ellis Guard <u>1863</u>	Sherman Guard <u>1864</u>		Cadet Company K <u>1886</u>		
Ellsworth Rifles <u>1866</u>	California Tigers <u>1866</u>	Battery C, 2nd Artillery Regiment became Company I	Battery E, 2nd Artillery Regiment became Company K <u>1895</u>	Company F, 1st Infantry Regiment became Company L <u>1895</u>	Battery G and Battery H, 2nd Artillery Regiment became Company M <u>1895</u>
Company B, 3rd Infantry Regiment became Company G <u>1882</u>	Hewston Rifles <u>1869</u>				
Company M, 1st Infantry became Company G <u>1901</u>	Company B and Company F, 3rd Infantry Regiment became Company H <u>1895</u>				

Note: The year dates in the table indicate the year the companies were attached to the First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

Activities: (Continued)

On May 18, 1861, the First Infantry Regiment, California Militia, held their first election. The eight companies composing the regiment were the First California Guard, California Fusileers, Black Hussars, California Rifles, City Guard, National Guard, Light Guard and the French Guard. The eight companies proceeded to elect a Colonel, and Captain John S. Ellis, commander of the First California Guard was chosen as the first Colonel of the new regiment. Major John W. McKenzie of the First Battalion was chosen as Lieutenant-Colonel, and Robert Pollock, late Captain of the National Guard was elected Major. Colonel Ellis was an old soldier in the State Militia, having spent eleven years in the service. The Colonel had three brothers in the Federal Army, and undoubtedly was hoping the new regiment would be mustered into the Federal service during the Civil War. He was an ardent believer in the cause of the Union. However, Colonel Ellis was promoted to Assistant Adjutant General in June 1862, and Lieutenant-Colonel John W. McKenzie and Major Robert Pollock entered the Federal Army soon after being elected to their respective officers in the First Infantry Regiment. Both officers reached the rank of Colonel while in the service of the California Volunteers during the War of Rebellion.

The First Infantry Regiment soon developed into a very efficient organization and was ready to render service to the State whenever needed. It is assumed that the first time the newly organized regiment was called to active duty was during the years of unrest and threatened turmoil created when Chinese coolie laborers were imported into the United States by the railroads, mine owners and large corporations. Although the First Infantry Regiment was called to their armories on several occasions and sometimes remained under arms for periods as high as ten days at a time, only once were they called upon to actually check lawlessness and restore order. On the evening of July 29, 1877, after ten days of disorderly conduct by labor agitators, the National Guard was ordered to take up strategic locations in the city. No disturbance occurred that evening as the appearance of the guardsmen had a quieting effect upon the anti-Chinese leaders. Only one evening was required by the soldiers to restore order, while the San Francisco Police for the nine preceding days had failed entirely to restore tranquility.

Activities: (Continued)

In a letter to Brigadier-General L. H. Foote, Adjutant General, dated June 18, 1873, Colonel W. H. L. Barnes reported that the First Infantry Regiment had received 500 Sharps new model breech-loading rifles with bayonets, belts, belt plates and cartridge boxes. The regiment had also been recently equipped with new uniforms, identical in every detail to the United States Army regulation. The Colonel also stated that during the coming year the regiment hoped to be able to secure all the necessary equipment for camping. The Colonel wanted instructions as to disposal of the State owned equipment, as they had no further use for any except the bayonet scabbards.*

With the receipt of new camp equipment, the regiment, thereafter, usually held at least one regimental encampment, frequently bearing all the expense as the State failed oftentimes to make appropriations for camps of instruction. In 1873 the regiment organized the First Infantry Band, consisting of twenty-five musicians and sixteen drummers, all uniformed according to United States Army regulations.

The First Infantry Regiment participated in a great many parades and drills on holidays and to receptions tendered to the distinguished visitors of the city.

On July 3, 1894, the organization was ordered to Sacramento to protect life and property during the Railroad Strike.** The First Infantry Regiment performed patrol and guard duty in Sacramento. On July eighteenth, Company A and Company B were ordered to Truckee for guard duty. The regiment was relieved from active service on July twenty-fourth when the Federal troops arrived and returning to San Francisco, were dismissed on July 25, 1894.

The reorganization plan of the National Guard in 1895, which increased the First Infantry to a twelve company regiment, resulted

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*Letter by Colonel W. H. L. Barnes to Brigadier-General L. H. Foote dated June 18, 1873, on file Adjutant General's Office.

**For further activities of the First Infantry Regiment during the Railroad Strike, refer to the National Guard and the Railroad Strike of 1894.
Adjutant General's Office.

Activities: (Continued)

in that organization obtaining their highest membership enlistment. Prior to the Spanish-American War, in 1896 the officers and men totaled 1,032. No authentic information is available to indicate when the membership of the First Infantry was at its lowest ebb.

The First Infantry Regiment settled down to the regular every day routine of National Guardsmen. Nearly four years elapsed before another call for assistance came. On April 23, 1898, President William McKinley called for volunteers when war was declared with Spain. Governor James H. Budd ordered the First Infantry Regiment into the Federal service on May 6, 1898, and the troops sailed for the Philippines on May twenty-fifth. The Regiment arrived at Cavite, Island of Luzon, June thirtieth. On July fifteenth, Camp Dewey was established at Tambo near Manila, and on July thirty-first and August first the regiment took part in the battle of the Malate trenches. On August thirteenth, the troops participated in the assault and capture of Manila. After the capture of Manila the regiment's activities consisted of guard and patrol duty at Manila, Paco, Malacanan, and Pandacan until the first of February 1899. February and March found the regiment fighting against the Filipinos.

On the first day of March, four companies of the First, Companies A, B, E and H, sailed to the Isle of Negros and on March twenty-first the remainder of the Regiment joined the four companies. The First Infantry Regiment remained at Negros until July sixteenth, where they were engaged in rounding up outlaw bands of natives and maintaining military law and order.* Colonel James F. Smith was commissioned Military Governor of the Isle of Negros, and did not return to the United States with the First Infantry Regiment. The regiment left the Isle of Negros July sixteenth for Manila arriving there on July eighteenth and then sailed on the transport "Sherman" for San Francisco, where they arrived August twenty-third. On August twenty-fifth the regiment disembarked and encamped at the Presidio in San Francisco, and was mustered out of the United States service on September 21, 1899, having spent over sixteen months in the service of their country. Thirty-seven members of the Regiment made the "Supreme Sacrifice" in the service, ten by gunfire, twenty-four of disease, two by accident and one drowned, while forty-eight were wounded.

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

Activities: (Continued)

On August 26, 1899, San Francisco tendered a reception to the returned "Fighting First Regiment" that was glorious indeed. It was estimated that nearly 14,000 men and women participated in the parade and reception. Civic, fraternal and military organizations of San Francisco and vicinity joined in making the affair a great success. The "Fighting First" was passing in their last review as a volunteer regiment, and its bright, brief record will be written on the pages of history in letters of gold. The men would soon be seeking the arts and trades of peace.*

When the National Guard units entered the United States Volunteers, they automatically ceased to be members of the State troops. As an inducement to encourage the men to return to the National Guard after the war, the State Legislature passed a law granting to all former members of the Guard who had entered the United States Volunteers, credit on their enlistment in the National Guard while in the Federal service. The law also required the Commander-in-Chief to designate the time that an organization would be permitted to re-enter the State organization.** Accordingly General Order No. 11 was issued and it required that the First Regiment report for re-entering the guard not later than November 30, 1899.*** On November 29, 1899, the twelve companies composing the regiment, reported to the National Guard and were recognized as units of the State Militia.****

The early part of the year 1904, found the First Regiment in a financial controversy, involving the regiment companies and headquarters. The difficulty was brought to a climax in Sep-

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*San Francisco Examiner, August 27, 1899, page 2, columns 1, 2.

**Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 11, pages 68, 69.

***Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 69, General Order No. 11.

****Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 3, page 79.

*San Francisco Chronicle, September 30, 1904, page 7, column 2.

Activities: (Continued)

tember when Robert A. Dean, agent for the owner of the Armory made the following complaint:

"We charge the First Regiment a lump sum of \$400 a month for the use of the armory and the officer's club-rooms in the annex. For nine months this has not been paid. Major Filmer, the armory treasurer, is not responsible for this, as he obtains the money from the company commanders and merely acts as the channel through which the money is passed to me for the rent. I know that he has done all he can to collect the money from the captains of the companies and the headquarters, but he is met with the answer that the State has been backward in paying the allowance to the companies. The demands for the allowance for the quarter ending June thirtieth, were held up and, of course, that money has not been paid. The whole system is wrong. Payments should be made direct from the State for rent, instead of in the present cumbersome method, which makes it necessary to go around and collect from a whole lot of different people."

Colonel Thomas J. O'Neil, commanding the First Regiment states that each company of the regiment receives \$100 a month from the State, out of which they are supposed to pay \$60 for rent, \$5.00 for the company clerk, \$5.00 for quartermaster Sergeant, \$5.00 for gas, and \$6.00 for the regimental quartermaster's fund. He claimed the headquarters fund payments were far delinquent, and it was on that account that he held up demands for the last quarter allowance from the State.* The financial mixup led to the appointment of a Board of Inquiry by Adjutant General J. B. Lauck to investigate the affairs of the regiment. On October twenty-fourth, the Board of Inquiry turned in their report. The report was not made public, but Brigadier-General R. H. Warfield stated that the investigation showed that there was nothing crooked about the regiment's finances, and whatever arrearages there were would be remedied when the State paid the allowances that were held up. There had been no extravagance

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*San Francisco Chronicle, September 20, 1904, page 7, column 3.

Activities: (Continued)

or questionable handling of funds by anyone. The Colonel merely had held up the companies' requisitions because they had not paid their monthly dues to the headquarters fund.*

Once again the First Infantry Regiment settled down to the citizen-soldier's life, yet always ready to be of service to their community, State, or Nation. Their real worth was again demonstrated by their acts of valor during the Earthquake and Fire in San Francisco in April 1906. According to the report of Brigadier-General John A. Koster, commanding the Second Brigade, to Adjutant General J. B. Lauck, the First Infantry Regiment established regimental headquarters on Duboce Avenue, between Market and Church Streets on the morning of the eighteenth. Although the regiment's officers were without orders from their superiors, they proceeded to restore order and give assistance whenever possible. The fact that most of the men in the First Infantry served in the Spanish-American War helped them in the emergency. They were well disciplined, and although property of many of them was at stake, nearly all responded to the call of duty. When chaos and fear reigned in the hearts of the citizens of San Francisco on that never to be forgotten morning of April 18, 1906, it is safe to assume that the sight of the former "Fighting First" brought hope and courage to the people as it pitched camp and proceeded to curb the criminally inclined, and to make a determined effort to save and conserve provisions and other necessities that were in the path of the fire. The work of the First Regiment was helping distribute food and raiment to the refugees for a few days, and then became one of patrol and guard duty.

The adverse criticism of the National Guard by most of the San Francisco press and a few disgruntled citizens was unwarranted. A few indiscreet acts by individual Guardsmen was no reason for indiscriminate abuse of the whole organization, especially when the conditions were taken into consideration, and also the splendid service rendered by the Guard at that time. Perhaps the harsh criticism of the National Guard, immediately after the Earthquake and Fire, accounts a great deal for the loss of interest in the companies of the First Regiment. The regiment that had faced the railroad strikers in 1894, faced the Spanish and Filipinos in 1898 and 1899 and rallied so splendidly to the cause of humanity and maintenance of law and order in 1906, was declared to be in-

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*San Francisco Chronicle, October 25, 1904, page 16, column 2.

Activities: (Continued)

efficient about a year later when it was inspected in April 1907 by Colonel Thomas Wilhelm, Assistant Inspection General, National Guard of California. His report showed only about a 50 per cent attendance at drills which was undoubtedly due to the fact that a number of members had changed their residences after the Earthquake. Following is the Headquarter's report of the First Infantry Regiment made by Colonel Wilhelm:

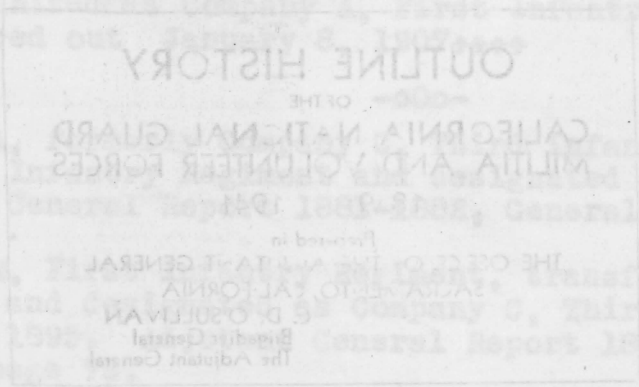
"This Regiment came home from the Philippines at the time of the Spanish War with a most excellent record, deservedly won on account of its meritorious service in defense of the nation. The regiment was one of the first to volunteer, and it continued in its distinguished work until the close of the war. At the time of the terrible Earthquake and Fire in San Francisco in April 1906 it speaks well for the organizations of this regiment that, notwithstanding the fact that their families were in dire distress and their business threatened with destruction, they hastened to report to their armory without waiting for call, this of their own volition, recognizing the fact that their services would be necessary to preserve order and render aid to their distressed fellow citizens. They shared their blankets and tentage with the homeless, their field ovens were put into service without delay, and bread was baked daily for the destitute. The armory and much of the equipment of the companies was destroyed by the great fire of April 1906, and the companies suffered great subsequent disadvantages, yet after all this past good and noble work it is hardly fair to the men, as soldiers, to offer this as an excuse for their failure to continue in their former excellent rating."

Undoubtedly a lack of appreciation on the part of the people for their sacrifices made, unjust criticism and ridicule by the press, combined with their personal property loss, accounts for lack of interest on the part of the First Infantry, and not the loss of armory and equipment. Most men would rather face a cannon than to have to stand against adverse public opinion, especially when it is unjust. This inspection conducted in April, resulted in

Activities: (Continued)

the mustering out of the First Infantry Regiment, May 11, 1907.*

Reconstituted and stationed at Duran July 23, 1895
Discontinued December 7, 1895
Reconstituted and stationed at San Francisco December 9, 1895
Entered into Federal Service May 6, 1898
Mustered out of Federal Service September 21, 1898
Reorganized as Company A, First Infantry Regiment Nov. 23, 1898
Mustered out of Federal Service



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*General and Special Orders and Circulars - 1907. General Order No. 10, page 2. Adjutant General's Office.