

# **History of the Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1895-1917**

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COMPANY A

Company A, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade (formerly Companies A and F, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Chico, Butte County

Organized December 9, 1895\*

Mustered into Federal Service July 7, 1898\*\*

Mustered out of Federal Service February 6, 1899\*\*\*

Reorganized as Company A, Second Infantry Reg., May 4, 1899\*\*\*\*

Mustered into Federal Service June 27, 1916†

Mustered out of Federal Service November 15, 1916††

Resumption of Service in the National Guard 1916†††

Mustered into Federal April 3, 1917††††

Redesignated September 24, 1917†††††

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\*Company A, Second Infantry was formed from the consolidation of Companies A and F, Eighth Infantry. On December 7, 1895. Companies A and F consolidated to form Company A, Twelfth Battalion, Two Days later December 9, Company A, Twelfth Battalion redesignated Company A, Second Infantry.  
Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, 18, p. 87, 8

\*\*Company A redesignated Company A, Eighth Infantry Regiment, and mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War, July 7, 1898.  
Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.

\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.

\*\*\*\*Company A, Eighth Infantry Regiment, re-entered the National Guard as Company A, Second Infantry Regiment. May 4, 1899.  
Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59.

†Company A as part of the Second Infantry, mustered into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican Border, June 27, 1916.  
Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 17.

††Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 17.

†††General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, General Order No. 34, page 150.

††††Company A, Second Infantry Regiment mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War April 3, 1917. Brief History 184th Infantry Regiment C.N.G. File 314.7. Adjutant General Files.

†††††Company A, Second Infantry Regiment consolidated with Company I, Second Infantry Regiment and designated Company I, 159th Infantry Regiment, September 24, 1917.  
Adjutant General Report 1920-1926 - page 25.

COMPANY A (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Charles Small, Captain (resigned Sept. 21, 1896)	Nov. 6, 1895*	Jan. 22, 1896
John Cahill, Captain	Nov. 25, 1896	Dec. 21, 1896
Laurence Jackson, First Lieut. (reelected Mar. 24, 1897)	Mar. 20, 1895*	Jan. 22, 1896
Lon Bond, Captain	June 17, 1899	July 10, 1899
Lawrence Lockerman, First Lieut. (resigned Dec. 23, 1899)	June 17, 1899	July 10, 1899
William White, First Lieut.	Jan. 20, 1900	Feb. 1, 1900
Lon Bond, Captain (reelected May 29, 1901)	_____	_____
William White, First Lieut. (reelected Jan. 15, 1902)	_____	_____
William White, Captain	June 22, 1903	Aug. 1, 1903
J. G. Garthaffner, First Lieut.	June 22, 1903	Aug. 1, 1903
William White, Captain (reelected June 21, 1905)	_____	_____
J. B. Garthaffner, First Lieut. (reelected June 21, 1905) (retired Aug. 15, 1908)	_____	_____
H. R. Downing, First Lieut.	July 8, 1908	Aug. 17, 1908
William White, Captain (reelected Apr. 17, 1909) (promoted to Major, Aug. 12, 1910)	_____	_____
Rudolf Rieger, Captain (reelected Oct. 20, 1913) (promoted to Major June 26, 1916)	Mar. 23, 1910	Apr. 30, 1910
H. R. Downing, First Lieut. (reelected Apr. 17, 1909) (promoted to First Lieut., 2nd Inf., staff, Apr. 8, 1911)	_____	_____
Homer J. Downing, First Lieut. (resigned Oct. 24, 1912)	May 31, 1911	July 14, 1911
Earl L. Turner, First Lieut.	Nov. 13, 1912	Dec. 26, 1912
Earl L. Turner, Captain	June 26, 1916	June 26, 1916
Earle R. Bevins, First Lieut.	June 26, 1916	June 26, 1916

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\*Captain Small and Lieutenant Jackson retained their rank dates as of November 6, 1895 and March 20, 1895, respectively, when they commanded Company A, Eighth Infantry Regiment.

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Company A, Second Infantry Regiment stationed at Chico, Butte County, was formed from the consolidation of Companies A and F, of the Eighth Infantry Regiment. On December 7, 1895, General Order No. 17, was issued which consolidated Companies A and F, and redesignated them as Company A, Twelfth Battalion. Two days later, December ninth, General Order No. 18, was issued which redesignated the Eleventh and Twelfth Battalions of the Third Brigade as the Second Infantry Regiment, with Company A retaining the same designating letter.

Company A attended the encampment of the Third Brigade at Santa Cruz, from August 15 to 22, 1897. The location of the camp was within the corporate limits of the city, and except as to the accompanying social advantages and the proximity of the encampment to the ocean beach, was anything but satisfactory. The requirements of the new drill regulations and the rapid increase in the effective range of modern artillery and infantry fire, rendered absolutely necessary for purpose of instruction, that the territory to be embraced within the zone of operation of a force as large as that of a brigade should be, at least, in extent from four to five miles square. Otherwise, the impressions conveyed to the troops in the school of war would prove to a large extent, misleading. The lack of these facilities was one of the greatest defects of the encampment. The field was limited in every particular. While there was sufficient room, with careful management on the part of the Colonels in command for the evolutions of one regiment of infantry in close order, there was no available space beyond this, and whenever two or more organizations larger than a company were brought upon the space allotted for drill purposes, the necessity for more room became at once apparent.\*

On July 7, 1898, Company A was mustered into Federal service for duty during the Spanish-American War and redesignated Company A, Eighth Infantry. Company A did guard duty at Camp Barrett, Oakland, under command of Colonel Park Henshaw until September 10, 1898, when it took station at Benicia Barracks. Company A did not engage in active service, doing only guard duty until February 6, 1899, when they were mustered out of Federal service.\*\*

\*Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, page 28.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

The State Legislature in 1899, passed a law giving to the companies and members of the National Guard who were mustered into Federal service and subsequently discharged therefrom, the privilege of reporting back and returning to duty in the National Guard with full credit for continuous service. The Legislature stipulated, however, that the companies must report for duty in the National Guard within 150 days after being mustered out of Federal service. Company A as part of the Second Infantry, reentered the National Guard, May 4, 1899.\*

On April 12, 1900, Company A marched in the funeral procession of General John Bidwell at Chico. The funeral ceremonies were attended by the largest assemblage of people ever brought together in Chico to tender tribute to a deceased friend and neighbor. The formation of the funeral procession was in charge of Captain Lon Bond. Neubarth's Band, the services of which had been volunteered, led the cortege and played a funeral march on the way to the cemetery. Company A attended in uniform, and was followed by the City Trustees, county officers and representatives. Then came the Chico Fire Department members, all of the companies being represented by members. The services at the grave were brief and simple, the service of the church being carried out.\*\*

The annual observance of Memorial Day took place in Chico, May 31, 1900. The procession was formed on Broadway, near Third Street, and marched direct to the cemetery gate where the formal exercises were to take place. The Eighth Regimental Band, which each year volunteered its services for this occasion, furnished appropriate music during the march and also at the cemetery. Company A acted as escort to the Grand Army of the Republic. All the fire companies were represented in the procession. At the close of the address, the firing squad of Company A, fired the salute over the unassigned grave, and the crowd then proceeded to the cemetery to decorate the graves.\*\*\*

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\*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, pages 8, 59.

\*\*The Chico Record, April 13, 1900, page 3, column 3.

\*\*\*The Chico Record, June 1, 1900, page 4, column 1.

The Chico Record, July 6, 1900, page 1, column 1.

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Company A participated in the Independence Day at Chico, July 5, 1900, which was the most successful and largely attended celebration held in Chico. The parade added to the reputation of the town for providing entertainment on the days set apart for public gatherings and commemorations. The parade was headed by the Eighth Regimental Band of sixteen pieces. The members were attired in attractive white duck uniforms with white yachting caps and presented a fine appearance. Following the band, came Company D, of Marysville, with over fifty men in line. Immediately following, came Company A with a splendid representation, considering the fact that many of its members were in line with other organizations, was followed by a team of four horses drawing the twelve pounder brass cannon belonging to the Second Regiment. These, with the officers of the day, City Trustees and Board of Education in carriages, completed the first division.

The closing feature of the day was the attack on the emigrant train by Indians and the sham battle between them and Company A. This occurred at the head of Broadway on the Bidwell grounds and commenced shortly after seven o'clock P.M. A company of emigrants was represented to be camped for the night, when a party of Indians were seen approaching from the banks of the creek to the north. The Indians were the "real thing," being from the rancheria and attired in war paint and feathers. They entered into the sport with zest and certainly deserved much praise for the interest they manifested. The Indians attacked the emigrants, who returned their fire, but were finally forced to retreat leaving one dead. This dead man (a dummy) the Indians secured and placed upon a pole and executed a realistic war dance about it. While thus engaged, the emigrants returned leading a company of soldiers. Firing grew hot between them, but the soldiers advanced slowly, driving the Indians out through the field. This feature was well planned and executed and was witnessed by an enormous crowd.

The band concert that evening was one of the most pleasing features of all the proceedings. Hundreds of visitors thronged the city's beautiful park which was made more beautiful than ever by many colored incandescent lights, strung from corner to corner. The Eighth Regiment Band played music until a late hour while people strolled at ease through the walks or were seated on the grass beneath the trees.\*

\*The Chico Record, July 6, 1900, page 1, column 1.

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Although Company A participated in many varied social activities, they did not neglect their military duties. In 1901, they attended the Division Encampment of the National Guard at Santa Cruz, from June fourteenth to twenty-third. Owing to the limited appropriation for encampment purposes during 1902 and 1903, the various organizations of the National Guard were assembled separately for discipline and drill at points convenient to their home stations. Company A attended the Regimental Encampment of the Second Infantry at Santa Cruz, from July 27 to August 2, 1902. And again at Santa Cruz from August 9 to 22, 1903.

Under Section 15 of the "Dick" Militia Law, arrangements were made in 1904, for the participation of the National Guard in joint maneuvers with the United States troops. Company A attended the encampment which was held at Atascadero, San Luis Obispo County, from August 13 to 26, 1904. The Camp of Instruction was under the direct supervision of Major-General Arthur MacArthur, United States Army, commanding the Pacific Division. In 1907, Company A attended the joint army and militia, Coast Defense Exercises, held at Fort Winfield Scott from July fifth to twentieth. In 1908, Company A again attended an encampment at Atascadero with the United States troops, from October fourth to fifteenth. The next encampment in which Company A participated was the Joint Army and National Guard war maneuvers held in the territory south of San Francisco, from August 11 to 21, 1912.

Company A was also proficient in the use of the rifle. At the annual target practice held each September as required by law, the unit was always among the first five companies in the State in the number of qualified marksmen.

On April 18, 1906, there occurred in San Francisco, a severe earthquake that laid most of the city in ruins. Company A was called out for emergency duty on April twentieth and ordered to report to Colonel H. I. Seymour in Sacramento. Company A then proceeded with the Second Infantry to Hobart Street and Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, remaining there doing guard and patrol duty until April twenty-fourth. The company was then ordered to Jefferson Square, San Francisco, where it was stationed the remainder of the month of April, doing guard duty. On May second, Company A was ordered to Duboce Park, San Francisco, where the unit reported to Colonel W. N. Kelly, and on May ninth, the company reported to Lieutenant Colonel A. E. Forbes at Seventeenth and Cole Streets, where they did guard and patrol duty until May nineteenth, when the company returned to Chico.

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

On February 21, 1908, the officers and men of Company A were hosts at the company's thirty-third annual ball held in Armory Hall. Those attending the party were amply repaid for doing so, for none of the thirty-two preceding parties surpassed it in the good music afforded and the pleasant time enjoyed. Interesting innovations of the evening were a drill by the company and an exhibition of "first aid to the wounded" by a hospital squad, the method of caring for the wounded on the battle field was demonstrated.\*

On June 2, 1909, in response to a telegram announcing that 600 Italian mill hands and strikers, of the McCloud River Lumber Company, had broken into the Light and Power Plant and forced the firemen and engineers to quit work, Governor Gillett ordered Company A and three other companies of the Second Infantry, to proceed to the scene at once. The soldiers had been under arms in their armories since June first, but it was thought they would not be needed until an urgent appeal came from Assistant Adjutant General A. W. Bradbury, who had been sent to McCloud by Governor Gillett to investigate the disturbance caused by the strikers. General Bradbury stated in his telegram that the strikers went in a body to the machine shops, car barns and power houses, and compelled the firemen to leave. The town was then without fire protection or lights, and the inhabitants and \$2,000,000 worth of property was at the mercy of the strikers who seemed beyond the control of their leaders.\*\*

Companies A, E, and G, Second Infantry and Troop B, arrived in McCloud on June third, where they immediately proceeded to de-train, which operation was watched in silence by the hundreds of strikers gathered about the depot with hundreds more on the hills surrounding it. Colonel H. I. Seymour ordered his men to press back the crowd so that the companies could form into a column and it was while this was being done that an Italian named Tallerico, who was slow in moving back from the line of march, was jabbed in the back by a member of Company A and received quite a gash from the bayonet point. The soldiers were taken to a large open space near the big sawmill where tents were quickly erected and the regular routine of camp life was

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\*Chico Record, February 22, 1908, page 4, column 4.

\*\*Courier Free Press, Redding, June 3, 1909, page 1, columns 3, 4.



COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

soon in full operation. The movements of the Guardsmen were closely watched by many of the strikers, but no overt acts were attempted.

That night the streets were patrolled by the soldiers and every person was closely scrutinized and questioned regarding his business abroad after nightfall. Adjutant General J. B. Lauck at once established a censorship over all messages which were sent out over the wire, but this was speedily taken off upon the protests of the newspaper correspondents. The General explained the reason for the censorship, by declaring that an erroneous report to the effect that the town was under martial law had been sent out and he wished to prevent such misstatements. The town was not as yet under martial law and would not be unless Sheriff Charles F. Howard declared his inability to control the situation and request General Lauck to take charge. The soldiers were merely there according to the Sheriff to assist him and his deputies in maintaining order and preserving the peace.\*

By June eighth, many of the Italian strikers had drawn their money from the company's bank and left the camp. A very few intended to remain at the old wage schedule. Two hundred and ninety men owning cabins were paid for their labor on the buildings, and a committee was appointed to appraise their value. President Queale, of the McCloud River Lumber Company, said that the cabins would be torn down as the company did not intend to employ Italians again.\*\* On the night of June eighth, Sheriff Howard notified General Lauck that he would no longer need the soldiers, and the following morning Company A returned to Chico.

Company A on July 4, 1912, participated in the Independence Day celebration held in Sacramento. The line of march was through K Street to Second to K to Eighth Street, where trains were taken for the State Fair grounds. The troops in the parade were commanded by Colonel Lon Bond, commanding the Second Infantry. Promptly at two P.M., the exercises started at Agricultural Park, with Adjutant General E. A. Forbes and Captain S. L. Fuqua, of the United States Army, as interested spectators in the reviewing

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\*Courier Press Press, Redding, June 4, 1909, page 1, column 5.

\*\*Courier Press Press, Redding, June 8, 1909, page 1, column 3.

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

stand. In the late afternoon, a sham battle was fought with more than 450 troops engaged; the battle plan was carried out as conceived by Captain A. W. Lewis, of Company E. Part of the army lay entrenched across the center of the track oval, and the other part sought to drive the men from their position. The Artillery played its music of thunder and added to the sharp rattle of rifle fire. The troops on the defensive were finally driven under the shelter of the guns and surrendered, leaving their dead and dying upon the field. The first event of the afternoon was the centipede race won by Company A. A wall scaling contest was held with the men of Company A, again winning first honors, going over the wall according to the rules agreed upon in the fast time of fifty-two seconds unarmed, and sixty-one seconds with rifles.\*

Company A was called out for emergency duty on August 3, 1913, when the Superior Judge of Yuba County, wired the Governor that serious rioting had taken place in the hop fields near the town of Wheatland. The Sheriff had been seriously and supposedly mortally wounded, and the District Attorney and under-Sheriff of Yuba County, had been killed. The Constable of Wheatland township, had been shot through the arm and several others wounded in a fight between the Industrial Workers of the World hop pickers and the peace officers of Yuba County. The Industrial Workers of the World retained the ground and kept in their possession the bodies of the killed and wounded. Further bloodshed and rioting was expected momentarily.

Immediately upon receipt of this information, Governor H. W. Johnson ordered Companies A, E, F, G, and I to Wheatland to help stop the rioting and restore order. Orders were carried out promptly and there were approximately 200 militiamen at Wheatland by daylight, August fourth. The rioter's camp was estimated to contain 2,000 people. The militia promptly surrounded the camp and assisted the peace officers in serving warrants upon the leaders and those rioters charged with crime. Part of the camp was searched for dynamite which was to be in possession of the rioters. The rioters commenced to leave after the militia had been in Wheatland a short time and within twenty-four hours most of them were gone. A detail of militia escorted the peace

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\*Sacramento Union, July 5, 1912, page 1, column 3.

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

officers with their prisoners to the Yuba County jail. On August eighth, orders were issued for the troops to leave Wheatland, and the following day Company A returned to Chico.

Again in March of 1914, Company A was called out for emergency duty. A large band of Industrial Workers of the World, styling themselves as Kelly's Army, and another band of Industrial Workers of the World traveling with them, invaded Sacramento and established a camp near the Southern Pacific depot. These people refused to obey any orders of the police, and started a campaign of vagrancy and begging and finally became threatening. They threatened to scatter over the town and commit various crimes if they were not fed by the citizens and given transportation to Ogden, Utah. The peace authorities ordered them out of town, but they refused to go and relations became quite strained.

There were about 2,000 of these Industrial Workers of the World vagrants. They were trained into companies in military order, and in such numbers that the city authorities appealed to the Governor for help. Companies A, E, F, G, and I, of the Second Infantry, were ordered to assemble at the State armory in Sacramento. These organizations fell in under arms, ready to take action at a moment's notice. Fortunately, these companies did not have to be used as the civil authorities by the free use of pick handles and other clubs and the hose from the city's fire department, routed the invaders and made it unnecessary for the militia to intervene. The troops were retained at the armory from six to ten days, until the civil authorities were satisfied that there was apparently no cause to fear further trouble.

On June 27, 1916, Company A as part of the Second Infantry was mustered into Federal service in response to the President's call for California troops for duty on the Mexican Border. On June thirtieth, Company A entrained at Sacramento for Nogales, Arizona, arriving there July third. Company A did not engage in active service, but did only guard and patrol duty along the border until October twenty-third, when they entrained for Los Angeles. Company A remained at Exposition Park in Los Angeles, until November 15, 1916, when they were mustered out of Federal service.

On March 26, 1917, Company A as part of the <sup>SECOND</sup> 160th Infantry was called into Federal Service for duty during the World War. Company A did guard duty in California until September, when the

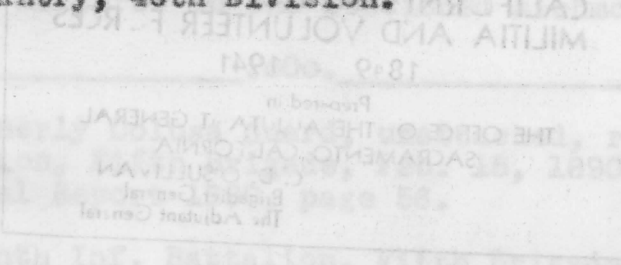
Company B, Second Infantry Regiment (formerly Colusa Guard)  
**COMPANY A (Continued)**

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Reference: Adjutant General Report  
Location: Colusa, Colusa County  
Organized October 10, 1897  
Reconstituted February 15, 1898  
Reconstituted October 31, 1911

**Activities: (continued)**

Second Infantry Regiment concentrated at Camp Kearney, Linda Vista. Company A, Second Infantry Regiment and Company I, Second Infantry Regiment consolidated September 24, and redesignated Company I, 159th Infantry Regiment\*. For Additional information concerning this unit, refer to History of Company I, 159th Infantry, 40th Division.



Company B, Eighth Inf. Reg., Fifth Brigade redesignated Co. B, Tenth Inf. Reg., Fifth Brigade, Oct. 31, 1891. Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, U. S. No. 17, p. 88 (provides for organization of the Fifth Inf. Reg.). Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, p. 40. (The date of Col. Park Henshaw, Oct. 31, 1891, is to be used as the date of organization of Co. B, Eighth Infantry Regiment.)

Company B, Eighth Inf. Reg., Fifth Brigade redesignated Co. B, Twelfth Inf. Battalion, Dec. 7, 1895. Two days later, Dec. 9, Co. B, Twelfth Battalion redesignated Co. B, Second Inf. Reg., Third Brigade. Adjutant Gen. Report 1895-1896, U. S. No. 17, 18, pages 87, 88.

Company B redesignated Co. K, Eighth Inf. Reg., and mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War, July 6, 1898. Adjutant General Report 1898-1899, page 8.

\*Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 31.

Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 8.

Co. K, Eighth Inf. Reg. re-entered the National Guard as Co. B, Second Inf. Reg., June 14, 1903. Adjutant General Report 1903-1904, page 64.

Adjutant General Report 1910-1911, page 9.

Company organized in Willows and designated Company B, Second Inf. Reg., March 6, 1911. Adjutant General Report 1910-1911, page 9.

Company B and Company C, Second Inf. Reg., 40th Division, U.S. No. 93, page 150.

Company B, Second Inf. Reg., 40th Division, U.S. No. 93, page 150.