

History of the Company B (Colusa Guard), 2nd Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1895-1917

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Company B, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade (formerly Colusa Guard)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Colusa, Colusa County

Organized October 10, 1887

Reconstituted February 15, 1890*

Reconstituted October 31, 1891**

Reconstituted December 9, 1895***

Mustered into Federal Service July 6, 1898****

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

Reorganized as Company B, Second Infantry Reg. June 14, 1899†

Mustered out September 24, 1910††

Reorganized, mustered in and stationed Willows March 5, 1911†††

Mustered out June 20, 1916††††

Reorganized, mustered in and stationed Richmond June 24, 1916†††††

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*Company B, formerly Colusa Guard, unattached, redesignated Co. B, Eighth Inf. Battalion, Fifth Brigade, Feb. 15, 1890.
Adjutant General Report 1890, page 56.

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

***Co. 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, G. O. No. 17, 18, pages 87, 88.

****Co. B redesignated Co. K, Eighth Inf. Reg., and mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War, July 6, 1898. Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, page 8.

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

†Co. K, Eighth Inf. Reg. re-entered the National Guard as Co. B, Second Inf. Reg., June 14, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 64.

††Adjutant General Report 1910-1914, page 9.

†††A new Company organized in Willows and designated Company B, Second Inf., March 5, 1911. Adjutant General Report 1910-1914, page 9.

††††General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, G.O, No. 20, page 130.

†††††A new Company organized in Richmond and designated Company B, Second Inf., June 24, 1916. General and Special Orders and Bulletins, 1916, page 132. General Order No. 21.

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REGISTRATION: CORPORA CORPORA CO
Reference: VARIOUS DOCUMENTS
CORPORA B' SECOND INFANTRY REGIMENT (LAWRENCE CORPORA B' FILE)

COMPANY B (continued)

Mustered into Federal Service June 27, 1916*
Mustered out of Federal Service November 15, 1916**
Resumption of Service in the National Guard 1916***
Mustered in Federal Service April 3, 1917****
Redesignated September 24, 1917*****

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*Company B as part of the Second Infantry was 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 B, as part of the Second Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War April 3, 1917. Outline History 184th Infantry Regiment, C.N.G. File # 314.7. Adjutant General Files.

*****Company B, Second Infantry Regiment redesignated Company K, 159th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division September 24, 1917. Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 22.

СОБЫТИЯ В (События в)

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Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Howard Ford, Captain (Elected July 18, 1895)		
Frank L. Pirkey, First Lieut.	Feb. 23, 1894	Mar. 22, 1894*
Thomas Rutledge, First Lieut.	Apr. 25, 1896	June 23, 1896*
Howard Ford, Captain (Re-elected June 3, 1897) (Term expired)		
Ernest Weyand, Captain (Resigned Dec. 7, 1900)	July 15, 1899	Aug. 14, 1899
Thomas Rutledge, First Lieut. (Re-elected April 21, 1898)		
Thomas Rutledge, Captain	Apr. 26, 1901	May 29, 1901
James H. Porter, First Lieut.	Apr. 26, 1901	May 31, 1901
Thomas Rutledge, Captain (Re-elected April 17, 1903) (Retired Aug. 2, 1904)		
James H. Porter, Captain (Resigned May 6, 1905)	July 16, 1904	Aug. 5, 1904
Thomas Rutledge, Captain (Retired Nov. 20, 1907)	Apr. 26, 1901	July 1, 1905
James Porter, First Lieut. (Re-elected April 17, 1903) (Promoted to Captain July 16, 1904)		
H. G. Smith, First Lieut.	July 16, 1904	Aug. 5, 1904
Byron De La Beckwith, Captain	Dec. 5, 1907	Jan. 4, 1908
H. G. Smith, First Lieut.	Nov. 15, 1906	Jan. 2, 1907
Byron De La Beckwith, Captain (Re-elected July 1, 1909)		
H. G. Smith, First Lieut. (Re-elected July 1, 1909) (Discharged March 3, 1911)		
D. I. McCahill, Captain (Resigned May 19, 1913)	Mar. 5, 1911	Mar. 31, 1911
H. F. Cauthard, First Lieut. (Resigned Nov. 11, 1911)	Mar. 5, 1911	Apr. 8, 1911
L. C. Stiles, First Lieut.	Dec. 11, 1911	Jan. 27, 1912
L. C. Stiles, Captain (Resigned Dec. 31, 1914)	June 9, 1913	July 3, 1913
H. S. Tolen, First Lieut. (Resigned Dec. 12, 1914)	June 9, 1913	July 3, 1913
Brutus Ceasar Walton, Captain	Jan. 18, 1915	Mar. 3, 1915
James Boyd, First Lieut	Jan. 18, 1915	Mar. 3, 1915

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*Captain Howard Ford and Lieutenant Frank Pirkey retained their former commissions as of July 18, 1895 and March 22, 1894, when they commanded Company B, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Ernest G. Griffin, Captain	June 24, 1916	June 26, 1916
W. A. Vickory, First Lieut.	June 24, 1916	June 26, 1916

Activities:

Company B, Second Infantry Regiment was organized October 10, 1887, as the Colusa Guard. During 1890 the unit became attached to the Eighth Infantry Battalion as Company B and retained that designation until October 31, 1891, when the battalion became the Eighth Infantry Regiment. Company B remained a part of the Eighth Regiment until December 9, 1895, when the Eighth Infantry was redesignated as the Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade. The company retained its same letter designation, though several changes were made in its organization.

The fact that Company B remained in the service for a number of years after the Dick Militia Law went into effect, showed that the unit withstood the rigid military requirements of the regular army. However, due to a gradual lack of interest shown by many of the older members, the company's efficiency rating began to lower. Company B was on the verge of being mustered out of service due to inefficiency for a number of months prior to May 4, 1909, when a group of prominent citizens petitioned Governor James Gillett, and asked that the company be allowed to remain in Colusa.

A resolution was also adopted on the same date by Colusa Parlor No. 69, Native Sons of the Golden West, to assist the company in securing young men to fill its ranks and asked that the Adjutant General defer the contemplated action of mustering out the company for at least six months. This favor was asked in order to give Company B an opportunity to make a better showing in efficiency. Despite these efforts of the citizens to retain their local unit of militia, Company B was mustered out on September 24, 1910, for inefficiency.*

The following year, however, an entirely new company was organized and stationed at Willows, with Captain D. I. McCahill as commanding officer. The newly organized Company B was mustered into the service of the National Guard March 5, 1911.

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*Adjutant General Report 1910-1914, page 9.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

A recurrence of practically the same circumstances appeared during the year of 1916. Company B was again mustered out of the service on June twentieth of that year for having fallen below the United States War Department standard of efficiency.* A new company was again recruited just four days later and stationed at Richmond with Captain Ernest Griffin in command.**

The members of Company B having had previous service were expected to be prepared to meet all military requirements of the California National Guard. The first opportunity the company was given to prove their efficiency was on March 6, 1896. At 3:50 in the afternoon a telegram was received by Captain Howard Ford from headquarters in Sacramento. This dispatch contained regimental order No. 1 commanding Company B to assemble at eight P.M., sharp in fatigue uniform ready for marching orders. Some of the gallant company were far away but they made haste to fly to arms, and at roll call all were present except two and if they had been given another hour, would have been on time. Attorney Milton Shepardson was at Willows, H. and T. Harlan were at a ranch beyond the Mountain House twenty-eight miles away, C. B. Gray was at Sutter City, C. R. Randle was at Colusa Junction, R. S. Powell was at the Tennant ranch, Frank Gould at Grimes, and O. Eichel was at Williams, but they all got there. There were seventy-two members in the company.

The excitement in the town of Colusa was intense for a short while, not knowing what was on hand. It proved to be an emergency call, a muster and an inspection, which greatly pleased the soldiers. They proved how quickly they could be ready and off to the wars. Dr. Gray delivered an address complimentary to the company and after spending a pleasant evening at the Armory they retired to dream of Spain, Africa and Venezuela.***

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*General and Special Orders and Bulletins - 1916, page 130.

**General and Special Orders and Bulletins - 1916, page 132.

***The Colusa Sun, March 7, 1896, page 8, column 3.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The first encampment the unit participated in under its new designation was a brigade encampment held at Santa Cruz in 1897. The troops were encamped from August fifteenth to twenty-second at a site designated as Camp Budd. Although this camp site was conveniently located within a short distance from the beach and the Sea Beach Hotel at Santa Cruz, it was not considered a good site for an encampment. The space allotted for this purpose was far too small to accommodate brigade formations. Therefore, Company B participated in the field maneuvers in battalion and company formation only, but from day to day during the encampment a decided improvement was noted in these drills.

Company B and several other companies of the Eighth Infantry Regiment had the distinction of conducting their own messes. The troops purchased the foods and prepared their meals, which caused considerable rivalry among the different companies as to which should produce the best results. Diversions such as this kept the routine camp life from becoming monotonous. Major Frank Rice, Inspector of the Third Brigade regarded this as one of the hardest working camps that had been held since 1890. The idle moments were few if any, and the instruction gained undoubtedly proved of great benefit to the commander. Company B as part of the Third Brigade, had every reason to be proud of its record.

The members of Company B had been home from the encampment but a few days when the town of Colusa became a scene of great disturbance. Miss Florine Poirier, a prominent young lady of the town had been murdered by Pedro Vinaly, a Mexican. The citizens of Colusa threatened to break the jail and lynch the murderer, which caused Sheriff Jones to ask for protection from the National Guard. Company B could not render assistance in this time of need as their guns had been shipped by freight from the encampment site at Santa Cruz and had not yet reached Colusa. The company was, however, held in readiness and was joined by a detachment from Marysville. The threatening mob, however, began to realize that through the enforcement of the law, a just punishment would be meted the offender, and it was not necessary to call on the militia for assistance in maintain-

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

ing order.*

This unit being regarded as an extremely well drilled group of soldiers was selected on October 17, 1900, to escort the various companies of the Second Infantry to the encampment held at Marysville.**

A drill contest for the members of Company B was held during the latter part of November 1901 in the armory hall at Colusa. When the company assembled for drill at eight o'clock the hall was packed with spectators to witness the drill and awarding of the handsome gold medal to the best drilled member. The citizens of Colusa were proud of their local company's efficiency and personnel and the commanding officers were proud of their achievements in having such a company. After a spirited contest and a hard drill the judges were called upon to give their decision. Major Frank Pirkey of the Third Brigade staff and Lieutenant J. H. Porter of Company B were the judges who announced the winner as being Corporal Louis Sutton. The medal was presented to Corporal Sutton by Major J. B. Moore an ex-Confederate veteran.

After the drill ceremonies, Company B and their invited guests retired to the social hall where refreshments were served and a social evening was enjoyed. In closing the evening of songs and speeches, an address of welcome was given by Amos World, to the assembled group. The responsive speech was given by A. J. Hankins of the Grand Army of the Republic and followed by Major Moore of the Confederate Veterans. The evening was one of pleasure and profit to those present and many kind words were spoken of Company B.***

Company B participated in many encampments prior to 1916 when the company went into Federal Service during the World War. These

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*The Colusa Sun, August 28, 1897, page 7, column 1.

**The Colusa Sun, October 17, 1900, page 1, column 4.

***The Colusa Sun, December 3, 1901, page 1, column 6.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

encampments were held as follows:

1901 at Santa Cruz	June 14 - June 23
1902 at Santa Cruz	July 22 - Aug. 2
1903 at Santa Cruz	Aug. 9 - Aug. 22
1904 at Camp Atascadero	Aug. 12 - Aug. 27
1905 at Camp Atascadero	Aug. 12 - Aug. 25
1907 at San Francisco	July 4 - July 20
1908 at Camp Atascadero	Oct. 4 - Oct. 15
1912 at San Francisco	Aug. 11 - Aug. 21
1915 at Fort Scott	Aug. 15 - Aug. 22

The Dick Militia Law of January 21, 1903, was one of the most important Congressional enactments in the history of the National Guard of California. The act was to harmonize the militia of all the States and Territories with the United States Army, as to organization, armament and discipline. The United States War Department was given authority to furnish each State with necessary equipment without cost to the State.

The National Guard of California began at once to prepare for the change. One of the first corrections was the discarding of the old Springfield 45 caliber rifle for the United States Magazine rifle of 30 caliber. The following year, 1904, was the first encampment held under the auspices of the United States Army. The yearly progress made by the National Guard in war maneuvers and extended drill was very outstanding. The encampment of 1912 shows Company B with the Second Infantry Regiment as having taken advantage of all available opportunities and made a remarkable showing in the joint maneuvers held at San Francisco.

The National Guardsmen were always considered to be good war soldiers as well as peace-time soldiers, and were, therefore, one of the first to be ordered into active service during the Spanish-American War. When President McKinley issued his call for troops on April 23, 1898, Company B as part of the Second Infantry Regiment responded immediately and was mustered into the California Volunteers as Company K, Eighth Infantry Regiment, July 7, 1898. Although these troops did not see active service in the Philippines, they were actively engaged in guard and garrison duty. However, the majority of these troops were greatly disappointed in not being sent to the Islands as that was one of the main reasons for volunteering so readily. Company B was stationed at Camp Barrett, under command of Colonel Park Henshaw, until September 10, 1898. They were then transferred to the Presidio at San Francisco, where

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

the unit remained until mustered out of Federal Service, February 6, 1899.*

The second major activity in which Company B was called to participate in was the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of April 18, 1906. The unit received orders on April twentieth to hold themselves in readiness for call at a moment's notice. Several days later the troops were in San Francisco doing patrol duty and protecting the homeless and destitute. These people were preyed upon by "ghouls," who, by the hundreds, watched their chance to rob the dead as well as the living. Company B was on a noble errand and every man of the grand old Colusa Guard fulfilled his duties to the letter, regardless of what they were. The men were on duty for thirty days when the order was received for them to return home with a possibility the company would be subject to call again in about three weeks. The stricken city was evidently well protected by more localized units, as Company B was not recalled to the area visited by the catastrophe.

Again in 1916, Company B as part of the Second Infantry Regiment was called into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican Border. They entered the service of the United States, June tenth and arrived at Nogales, Arizona, July third, where they remained on guard and patrol duty until October 23, 1916. The company was then stationed at Exposition Park in Los Angeles until November 15, 1916, at which time the troops were mustered out of service and returned to their home stations.

The activities of Company B did not always pertain to military duties during time of war, riots or disasters. Their presence was constantly in demand for parades, holiday festivities, and social functions of various types. While the company was attending an encampment at Santa Cruz during August 1903, they were invited to participate in a spectacular Grand Army of the Republic parade. This pleased the members of Company B as they were always eager to display their military skill.

On the night of July 3, 1906, an event which had been anticipated for sixteen years was brought to realization. Company B dedicated the Armory Hall at Colusa, which was to be used by their company as a drill hall. This was an outstanding occasion, not to be easily forgotten. Among the participants were soldiers of the Republic brave and true and volunteers fresh from the service,

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*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.

Activities: (Continued)

in a noble but unwarlike cause, yet ready for their country's call. Attired in blue uniforms which were their regulation dress, the troops anticipated a pleasant evening at their first ball.

The hall was decorated with their accoutrements of war and the colors of the Republic. Around the great hall, with its eighteen windows and six doors, the bayoneted muskets were placed like pictures on the walls, while across the entire width in front of the music stand the canteens were festooned, fastened together by their straps. The army belts were wreathed along the eastern wall and the drapery was of rich heavy material. A great bell of red, white and blue, hung from the center of the ventilator, and an immense electric light blub served as a clapper. There were four pillars in the armory, each being adorned with some of the things pertaining to the avocations of a soldier.

At the appointed time the grand march was formed under the direction of J. Grover. The column led by Mrs. Charles Young, was a beautiful sight as they passed around and beneath the bright light. The dancing continued until the hour of midnight, when the soldiers and maidens, followed in the wake of their elders, and left the fine old hall with the memories of a grand dedication.*

Aside from being a group of well drilled and disciplined soldiers, the members of Company B held many high ratings in marksmanship. Target practice was an essential factor in their military requirements. For the year of 1896, there were forty-four medals for marksmanship issued to members of Company B. There were four First Class medals, five Second Class and thirty-five Third Class which was 83 per cent of the membership of the unit.

During the year of 1899, the company made an outstanding record for itself. Company B produced eight First Class marksman who made a total of 1,588 points or nearly 23 per cent of the points scored by the men qualifying for distinguished marksmanship for that respective year.** The following year, 1900 was also a glorious year for Company B as 20 per cent of all the First Class marksman in the State came from this unit.*** The company

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*The Colusa Sun, July 3, 1906, page 2, column 4.

**Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 86.

***Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, page 82.

COMPANY B (Continued)

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Activities: (continued)

maintained its high standard of marksmanship throughout the years it was in existence.

When the United States entered into the World War, during 1917, Company B, as part of the Second Infantry Regiment, was called into Federal Service on March 26, 1917. Company B, was designated Company K, 159th Infantry, April 13, 1917.* For further information concerning the activities of this unit refer to History of Company K, 159th Infantry, 40th Division.

MILITIA AND VOLUNTEER FORCES
1899 - 1941
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*Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 31.