

History of the Company B, 2nd Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1893-1895

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COMPANY B

Company B, Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade
 Reference: Adjutant General's Files
 Location: Vallejo, Solano County
 Organized June 10, 1893*
 Mustered out June 29, 1895**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers</u>		<u>Commission</u>
	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Rank</u>	
Frank O'Grady, Captain	June 10, 1893	June 10, 1893	July 28, 1893
Henry D. Lazelle, First Lieut.	June 10, 1893	June 10, 1893	July 28, 1893

Activities:

Company B, Second Infantry Regiment was organized June 10, 1893, at Vallejo, and was attached to the Second Infantry July first of that year. The Captain, Frank O'Grady, had formerly been the commanding officer of the Vallejo Rifles and had proved a very capable leader.

Fifty-eight were present for the annual muster and inspection March 17, 1894. The company was given a rating of .823 per cent or a 4.8 average merit which indicated the company's good standing. The following standard was used by the inspection officers to determine the organizations rating: Excellent, 5; very good, 5; good, 4; fair, 3; poor, 2; bad, 1.*** The members appeared for inspection in the new fatigue uniforms and with the exception of the leggins which were too large, the uniforms were a good fit and the men presented a creditable military appearance. The unit possessed a fine armory and had quarters suitable for the safe keeping and preservation of the arms and equipment. Company B, as one of the new companies, had for the past year been operating on half allowance and it was only by assessments and private subscriptions that sufficient funds had been raised to purchase the uniforms and other necessary equipment. Drills were held weekly and a meeting once a month for advice and instruction of commissioned and non-commissioned officers.****

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*Sacramento Bee, June 12, 1893, page 4, column 2.

**Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 10, Par. 6, page 75.

***Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 180.

****Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 186.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

There was insufficient funds for encampments during the years 1893 and 1894. However, on the recommendation of Adjutant General C. C. Allen instruction in guard duty, outpost and picket duty, extended order and squad leading, fire discipline, bayonet exercise and military gymnastics were taught in the armory. The advisability of this course was to save the short time of the future encampments for a higher plane of instruction in battle formations.*

Company B, commanded by Captain O'Grady was ordered on July 3, 1894, to join the San Francisco troops at Vallejo Junction and proceed to Sacramento to assist in quelling the Railroad Strike, then in full sway. However, before the unit left Vallejo an order was issued by Major General Dimond revoking the previously issued order. The company remained in readiness for another call which came July fifteenth ordering the corps to report immediately to Lieutenant-Colonel Geary, commander of the Second Artillery in Oakland. Major Douglas of the Fourth Brigade Staff went to Oakland and made arrangements for the unit's comfort and subsistence. Company B remained on duty in Oakland until the twenty-third when the company was ordered to Woodland in anticipation of trouble at that point from the Railroad Strikers. However, on the twenty-fifth the services of Company B were no longer required and they returned to Vallejo.**

The activities of the National Guard during the Railroad Strike showed the necessity of a complete reorganization of the entire service. The number of brigades were to be reduced and the troops grouped according to the geographical necessities of the State. The new method was to decrease the general and staff officers and increase the efficiency of the companies. The units were required to submit to the most rigid inspection and those falling below a certain standard were to be disbanded.***

Company B was ordered mustered out June 29, 1895, in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Location and Organization. The unit was one of the companies mustered out of the service in order that the maximum of sixty-nine companies allowed by the State Legislature would not be exceeded.****

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*Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 10.

**Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, pages 232, 234.

***Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 310.

****Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 10, Par. 6, page 75.