

History of the Company C, 2nd Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1895-1917

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COMPANY C

Company C, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade (formerly Companies C and H, Second Infantry, Fourth Brigade)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Nevada City Nevada County

Organized December 9, 1895*

Mustered out January 6, 1906**

Reorganized and mustered in January 6, 1906***

Mustered out May 10, 1907****

Reconstituted and stationed Fresno May 11, 1907+

Mustered into Federal Service June 27, 1915++

Mustered out of Federal Service November 15, 1916+++

Resumption of service in the National Guard 1916++++

Mustered into Federal Service April 3, 1917+++++

Redesignated September 24, 1917++++++

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Company C, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade was formed from the consolidation of Companies C of Nevada City, and H of Grass Valley, both in the Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade. On December 7, 1895, Companies C and H consolidated to form Company C, Eleventh Battalion. Two days later December 9, Company C, Eleventh Battalion was redesignated Company C, Second Infantry. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 17, 18, pages 87, 88.

**Adjutant General Report 1906, page 3.

***A new company mustered in and designated Company C, Second Infantry Regiment. Adjutant General Report 1906, page 3.

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

+Company C, formerly Company C, Sixth Infantry Regiment stationed at Fresno redesignated Company C, Second Infantry Regiment, May 11, 1907. Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 4.

++Company C as part of the Second Infantry Regiment mustered into the 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 C, as part of the Second Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service April 3, 1917. Outline History 184th Infantry Regiment C.N.G. page 2, File # 314.7 - Adjutant General Files.

+++++Company C, Second Infantry Regiment consolidated with Company K, Second Infantry Regiment and designated Company L, 159th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division, September 24, 1917. Adjutant General Report 1920-1926 page 25.

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COMPANY C (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
G. A. Nihell, Captain (reelected Dec. 27, 1893)	Nov. 30, 1887	Jan. 4, 1888*
Ralph P. Bowerman, First Lieut.	Aug. 18, 1894	Aug. 28, 1894*
G. A. Nihell, Captain (reelected Dec. 14, 1896)	_____	_____
Ralph P. Bowerman, First Lieut. (reelected Dec. 14, 1896)	_____	_____
G. A. Nihell, Captain (reelected Dec. 30, 1898) (retired Mar. 23, 1901)	_____	_____
Preston F. Simonds, First Lieut.	Dec. 30, 1898	Mar. 2, 1899
Preston F. Simonds, Captain (promoted to Major May 31, 1901)	Feb. 9, 1901	Mar. 23, 1901
B. A. Bost, First Lieut.	Feb. 9, 1901	Mar. 23, 1901
B. A. Bost, Captain	Oct. 28, 1901	Jan. 24, 1902
John P. Kilroy, First Lieut. (resigned July 7, 1902)	Oct. 28, 1901	Jan. 24, 1902
Charles Seffen, First Lieut.	Dec. 15, 1902	April 29, 1903
B. A. Bost, Captain (reelected Oct. 31, 1904)	_____	_____
Daniel A. Dailey, First Lieut.	May 1, 1905	May 20, 1905
Daniel A. Dailey, Captain	Jan. 6, 1906	Jan. 17, 1906
F. W. Waggoner, First Lieut.	Jan. 6, 1906	Jan. 17, 1906
O. W. Spears, Captain (resigned May 21, 1905)	Oct. 6, 1905	Jan. 3, 1906**
L. T. Stephenson, Captain	June 26, 1908	Aug. 20, 1908
E. C. Neal, First Lieut.	Oct. 6, 1905	Jan. 3, 1906**
L. T. Stephenson, Captain (reelected April 17, 1909)	_____	_____
E. C. Neal, First Lieut. (reelected April 17, 1909)	_____	_____

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*Captain Nihell and Lieutenant Bowerman retained their former commissions as of January 4, 1888, and August 28, 1894, when they commanded Company C, Second Infantry prior to the reorganization of the Second Infantry in 1895

**Captain Spears and Lieutenant Neal retained their former commissions as of January 3, 1906, when they command Company C, Sixth Infantry.

COMPANY C (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers (cont.)</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
L. T. Stephenson, Captain (reelected Oct. 20, 1913) (resigned Aug. 21, 1914)			
John J. Phillips, Captain	Sept. 11, 1914		Nov. 21, 1914
E. C. Neal, First Lieut. (reelected Oct. 20, 1913) (retired April 13, 1916)			
B. E. Tober, First Lieut.	May 5, 1916		June 15, 1916
Frank D. Hopkins, Captain	Mar. 26, 1917		Mar. 28, 1917
B. E. Tober, First Lieut.	Mar. 26, 1917		Mar. 28, 1917

Activities:

Company C, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, stationed in Nevada City, Nevada County was formerly Companies C of Nevada City and H of Grass Valley, both in the Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade. On December 7, 1895, General Order No. 17 was issued which consolidated Companies C and H, and redesignated them Company C, Eleventh Battalion. Two days later on December ninth, General Order No. 18 was issued which redesignated the Eleventh and Twelfth Battalions as the Second Infantry Regiment with Company C retaining the same letter.

Company C following the reorganization of 1895, attempted to become a proficient military company and a credit to the National Guard by attending many encampments. The first Camp of Instruction in which Company C participated was a brigade encampment held at Santa Cruz from August 15 to 22, 1897. In 1901 Company C together with the other units of the Second Infantry attended a divisional encampment of the entire 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 C attended the regimental encampments held at Santa Cruz, July 27 to August 2, 1902, and again at Santa Cruz, August 9 to 22, 1903.

Company C in 1904, attended the first joint Army and Militia encampment held at Atascadero, San Luis Obispo County from August thirteenth to twenty-sixth. The camp was under command of Major-General Arthur MacArthur, United States Army commanding the Pacific Division. Company C from July 5 to 20, 1907, participated in the Joint Army and Militia Coast Defense exercises held at Fort Miley. The following year, 1908, Company C participated in a Joint Army and Militia Camp of Instruction at Atascadero from October fourth to fifteenth. The last encampment Company C participated in was in the year 1912, when the National Guard and the regular Army held war maneuvers in the vicinity south of San Francisco, from August eleventh to twenty-first.

COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

In the annual target practice that was held each September as required by law, Company C was one of the leading companies in the State in the number of qualified marksmen. In 1896, Company C had only 20 Third-class marksmen, but in 1899, the unit scored a percentage of 23.58 per cent, which was the highest under the rules governing the contest for the Silhouette Target Firing Trophy. Company C was awarded the trophy, a silk flag, until after the skirmish firing for the year 1900. Although Company C failed to win any further awards they maintained a high number of qualified marksmen.

On April 21, 1898, the United States declared war with Spain, immediately the various regiments of the National Guard volunteered their services. For some unknown reason Company C was not mustered into Federal Service, but remained at Nevada City for duration of the war as a home guard company.

Following the Spanish-American War, Company C engaged in many varied social and civic activities. On July 5, 1899, Company C attended the Independence Day celebration held in Sacramento. The procession in the morning, headed by Grand Marshal H. I. Seymour, was impressive and attractive. One of the most striking features was Company C whose members had marched all the way down from Nevada City in the hot sun of the preceding days, to join in the demonstration. Men who thought nothing of walking seventy miles over hard roads showed a spirit which merited the frequent outbursts of applause that they awakened along the line.

Other military organizations in line were the Third Brigade Signal Corps, Troop B Cavalry, and Company G, Second Infantry. After they tramped the members of the Grand Army of the Republic, unsteady of limb some had grown with whitening heads, but not less buoyant in spirit than in the days when they marched behind music attuned to war. The afternoon fireworks proved quite an acceptable innovation. Thousands attended the open air concert and aerial fireworks display at Capitol Park. This last event closed what was to be the best Fourth of July celebration ever held in Sacramento.*

Again in 1901, Company C participated in an Independence Day celebration at Nevada City. There was considerable delay in getting the procession started. But the hundreds of people who thronged the streets were more than compensated for the hours wait, for they had the pleasure of viewing one of the finest

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*Sacramento Bee, July 5, 1899, page 5, column 1.

COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

parades ever presented in any of the smaller cities of California. The Nevada City Band, the members of which were neatly uniformed, led the parade, followed by Company C Nevada County's Veteran military company commanded by Major Simonds who rode in front of the soldiers. Alongside of him were Grand Chancellor L. S. Calkins of the Knights of Pythias, George A. Nihell, R. P. Bowerman and Ladis Walling, officers of Company C. The uniform rank in command of W. G. Richards appeared in their showy uniforms and made a showing.

One of the features of the first division was the turnout of the Redmen. There were about twenty members of the local lodge in line, and they were attired in all sorts of Indian costumes. Now and then they would let out a war whoop, and after looking at and listening to them for a little while one could easily picture the conditions that existed in America before the country was inhabited to any material extent by white men. Officers and singers of the day in neatly decorated carriages brought the first division to an end.*

Two months later on September ninth, Company C attended the Admission Day celebration given at Grass Valley. Company C and Company I of Grass Valley gave a battalion drill in the forenoon which was under the direction of Major Simonds. It was well executed and brought forth merited cheers. In the afternoon a sham battle took place in the field, two-thirds of Company I being intrenched while the remaining third and the whole of Company C were pitted against them. It was an exciting piece of work and many volleys were fired, the officers on the firing line directing the battle.**

On April 18, 1906, a severe earthquake occurred in San Francisco which laid most of the city in ruins. Company C was called out for emergency duty in Oakland, April twentieth remaining at Twentieth Street and Telegraph Avenue until April twenty-fourth when the unit was transferred to San Francisco. Company C did guard and patrol duty in San Francisco until May sixteenth, when they returned to Nevada City.

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*Grass Valley Morning Union, July 6, 1901, page 4, column 1.

**Grass Valley Morning Union and Herald, September 11, 1901, page 5, column 3.

COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Following the Earthquake Company C fell below the standard of efficiency that was required of all National Guard companies and as a result was mustered out of State service May 10, 1907. The following day May eleventh, Company C, Sixth Infantry stationed in Fresno was redesignated Company C, Second Infantry.

On April 13, 1909, Company C paraded in honor of rear-Admiral "Bob" Evans. The distinguished visitor was brought from his hotel to the Barton Opera House in state. The Spanish War Veterans of Fresno and Companies C and K, Second Infantry led by the Military Band escorted the Admiral to the hall where he was introduced to his hearers by Dr. Chester Rowell Mayor-elect of Fresno.*

On April 29, 1910, Company C participated in the Raisin Day Festival held in Fresno. At 8:30 A.M., the head of the procession moved from the starting point at K and Fresno Streets. The crowd saw pass first the police escort and then the marshal, Major Ed Jones riding with Chief Aide J. D. Morgan and Chief of the First Division W. F. Toomey. Then came Companies C and K, Second Infantry, the soldiers executing "squads left" and "squads right" with the precision of regular troops. The company officers were mounted. The parade proceeded up Fresno Street to H, to Mariposa, to I, to Fresno to J, to Mariposa to K to Fresno, to M, and countermarched to J Street.**

On May 31, 1915, Company C marched in the military funeral of W. E. Hopkins, a member of the company who was asphyxiated while working in a ditch for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company in Fresno. Headed by Company C and Company K the cortege left the Stephens and Bean Undertaking Establishment and proceeded to the St. James Pro-Cathedral where the services were conducted by Dean G. R. E. MacDonald. The body was cremated, and at the cemetery the firing squad of the National Guard companies fired a final salute in honor of the departed member.***

Company C participated in the Memorial Day exercises held in Fresno, May 30, 1915. Flags and bouquets were distributed on 176 graves of deceased members of the Atlanta Post No. 92 of the Grand Army. Then under the large flag mounted over the old plot, the beautiful ritualistic services were conducted by Commander W. Hardie of the Atlantic Post, with 150 veterans and members of auxiliary societies, in attendance. Mrs. Hattie Elwood, president of the Ladies Auxiliary, conducted a similar

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*Fresno Republican, April 13, 1909, page 10, column 1.

**Fresno Republican, May 1, 1910, page 1, column 4.

***Fresno Republican, May 31, 1915, page 10, column 4.

Activities: (continued)

service at the graves of the deceased members of that society. The formal service was concluded with the salute fired by the eight members of Companies C and K, Second Infantry. This feature was accompanied by the bugle taps from the buglers in the militia companies.*

Company C and K, Second Infantry held their annual Fourth of July dress parade and drill practice in Fresno, July 4, 1915, as an advance guard of the Commercial Club parade which had been arranged as a preliminary for festivities at Zapp's Park. The parade began at 1:00 P.M., from M and Fresno Streets. The officers in command were Major Will Kelly of the Second Battalion and Captains J.J. Phillips and Claude Fowler of Companies C and K.**

Company C as part of the Second Infantry was mustered into Federal Service June 27, 1916, for duty on the Mexican Border. On June thirtieth the Second Infantry left the mobilization at Sacramento for Nogales, Arizona arriving there July third. Company C did not engage in active service, doing only guard and patrol duty until October twenty-third, when they entrained for Los Angeles. Arriving in Los Angeles on October twenty-fifth, the Second Infantry established camp at Exposition Park where they remained until they were mustered out of Federal Service November 15, 1916.

A few months later Company C, as part of the Second Infantry Regiment was again called into Federal Service for duty during the World War. Company C was mustered in April 7, 1917, and ordered to guard duty until September 16, 1917 when the regiment was ordered to Camp Kearney, Calif. On September 24, Company C and Company K, Second Infantry Regiment was consolidated and designated Company L, 159th Infantry Regiment 40th Division.***
For further information concerning the activities of this unit, refer to History of Company L, 159th Infantry, 40th Division.

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*Fresno Republican, June 1, 1915, page 18, column 1.

**Fresno Republican, July 5, 1915, page 3, column 3.

***Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 30.