

History of the Company E (former Yuba Light Infantry), 2nd Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1893-1895

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Location: Sacramento, Sacramento County

Organized November 1, 1863

Reconstituted March 19, 1880*

Mustered out November 21, 1883**

Reorganized, mustered in and stationed Sacramento Nov. 26, 1883***

Reconstituted July 1, 1893+

Reconstituted December 9, 1895++

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Henry I. Seymour, Captain (reelected Oct. 12, 1893)	Oct. 12, 1887	Nov. 22, 1887+++
John D. Shoemaker, First Lieutenant	May 25, 1893	July 12, 1893
John D. Shoemaker, Captain	July 11, 1895	July 29, 1895
Harry M. Fields, First Lieutenant	July 11, 1895	Oct. 11, 1895

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*Company E, formerly Yuba Light Infantry, redesignated Battery E, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade, March 19, 1880.

Adjutant General Report 1880, General Order No. 19, page 76.

**Battery E, First Artillery Regiment mustered out November 21, 1883, in accordance with Special Order No. 76, issued November 9, 1883.

Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, page 97.

Muster out roll of Battery E, First Artillery Regiment. Adjutant General's Office.

***A new company organized in Sacramento and designated Battery E, First Artillery Regiment, November 26, 1883, in accordance with Special Order No. 76, paragraph 4, issued November 9, 1883.

Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, page 97.

Adjutant General Report 1890, page 54.

+Battery E, First Artillery Regiment redesignated Company E, Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade, July 1, 1893.

Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, General Order No. 7, page 97.

++Company E, Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade redesignated Company E, Eleventh Battalion, Third Brigade, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December 9, Company E, Eleventh Battalion redesignated Company E, Second Infantry, Third Brigade.

Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, 18, pages 87, 88.

+++Captain Seymour retained his former commission as of November 22, 1887, when he commanded Battery E, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, page 74.

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities:

Company E, Second Infantry Regiment was formerly Battery E, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade, and was organized November 26, 1883, filling a vacancy in the regiment caused by the mustering out of Company E, formerly the Yuba Light Infantry. After the transfer of the artillery to the infantry July 1, 1893, the unit made their first public appearance during the Fourth of July celebration. The company paraded on days required by law such as Washington's Birthday, Memorial and Admission Days, in addition to the Fourth of July. Funerals of military leaders and prominent citizens were also occasions for the unit to appear with well filled ranks to do honor to the deceased. During the year 1895 the demise of Lieutenant-Governor Spencer G. Millard and General John McComb, retired, were occasions when the company expressed its respect in the usual military fashion.

Besides the regulation drills and meetings held for the commissioned and non-commissioned officers, the members were required to attend target practice weekly. The wisdom of this rule will be readily seen from the results of the target practices on record for the two years 1893 and 1895. In the first year only two of the members were in the First-class having made over 90 per cent; Captain H. I. Seymour and two privates were in the Second-class. A vast improvement was noted in the 1895 practice when Captain Shoemaker, First Lieutenant H. M. Fields and eleven Privates made the First-class, while fifteen members made the Second-class.

The annual inspection and muster of Company E occurred March 14, 1894, with Major Frank D. Ryan as the Inspection Officer. Fifty of the fifty-five members were present, rating a percentage present of 90.90 for the unit. Major Ryan reported the discipline and military appearance good, while instruction and condition of arms and other property was fair. At the time of inspection the company possessed sixty stand of arms consisting of Springfield rifles and sixty uniforms. The company's financial affairs were in good order having a balance of \$641.00 on account at the time of inspection.

The principle event the corps participated in before the re-organization of the National Guard in 1895 was the active service the unit saw in the Railroad Strike of 1894. On July Fourth in compliance with orders from General Headquarters, Company E with other units of the Fourth Brigade were ordered to assemble at their armory in Sacramento for active duty. Colonel J. W. Guthrie, commander of the Second Infantry assumed command of Company E, together with A and G and held them in readiness for service at a moment's notice. An order was issued by W. H. Dimond for the

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

troops to march to the depot. The Fourth Brigade to which Company E was attached formed in a column on the right of the line, formed by Colonel J. J. Nunan and two companies from Stockton who had been assigned to that brigade. The entrance to the depot was blocked by an immense crowd, mostly curiosity seekers, who refused to give way in order that the troops might enter the depot. The hesitation and confusion at the depot resulted in turning the command of all the State troops over to United States Marshal B. Baldwin. All the commanding officers were to take orders from Marshal Baldwin only; and the Marshal's first order was that two details of troops and a battery be sent to guard the Yolo and American River bridges. Company E immediately reported to guard the Yolo Bridge and remained on duty at that point until the fifth of July.*

On the tenth, United States Marshal Baldwin instructed the troops to be held in readiness to act without further notice, for the purpose of keeping peace, protecting life and property, and also to aid and co-operate with the Regular troops on their arrival in Sacramento. The National Guard units were to be placed under orders of the commanding officers of the Regular troops. In accordance with these instructions Company E was ordered to guard the camp at the Capitol grounds under command of Colonel Guthrie, Second Infantry, Fourth Brigade.** On the fourteenth, fifteen men of Company E reported in heavy marching order to Marshal Baldwin at the depot to escort the 4 o'clock evening train leaving for Placerville. Again on the fifteenth, fifteen men of Company E, under command of a commissioned officer in heavy marching order, were called upon to perform escort duty on the train leaving for Red Bluff at 3 o'clock P. M. Lieutenant-Colonel George L. Derman of Company E who was in command of the group, and on his return from the trip reported having encountered no hostilities or demonstrations from the Strikers.*** On July eighteenth, Battery B which had been on

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*For further details concerning the activities of Company E during the Railroad Strike refer to National Guard and Railroad Strike, 1894. Adjutant General's Office.

**Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 235.

***Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 238.

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

guard duty forty-eight hours, was relieved by Company E. On July twenty-first and twenty-second, Lieutenant John D. Shoemaker of Company E commanded a detail of ten men which had reported, under heavy marching orders, for duty to guard the 10:50 P.M., Oregon train. However, when he reached the depot he was informed by Deputy United States Marshal Woodward that General Dickinson of the Second Brigade had ordered out a detail from his command to protect the Oregon train, and since one detail in the opinion of the deputy was sufficient he had ordered Lieutenant Shoemaker to return his men to camp. General T. W. Sheehan investigated the matter and it was learned that the deputy acted on instructions from the Railroad Company. However, Lieutenant Shoemaker of Company E and ten men reported to Marshal B. Baldwin at 10:50 P. M., on the twenty-second to protect the Oregon train. This duty was the last activity participated in during the strike, for on Monday the twenty-third all the troops in the Fourth Brigade were dismissed.*

The Railroad Strike was the last major activity that Company E participated in prior to the reorganization of the National Guard in 1895. On December seventh of that year the brigades were reduced to three, eliminating the Fourth Brigade to which Company E was attached. The Second Infantry was to be known as the Eleventh Battalion. Two days later General Order No. 18, authorized organizing the Eleventh and Twelfth Battalions into the Second Infantry, Third Brigade. Company E under this ruling thereafter was to be known as Company E, Second Infantry, Third Brigade.**

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*Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 241.

**Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.