History of the Company E (former Yuba Light Infantry), 2nd Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1895-1917

This history was completed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in conjunction with the California National Guard and the California State Library.

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Beference: Adjutant General Files Location: Sacramento, Sacramento County. Organized November 1, 1863 Reconstituted March 19, 1880* Mustered out November 21, 1883** Reorganized, mustered in and Stationed in Sacramento, Nov. 23, 1883*** Reconstituted July 1, 1893****Reconstituted Dec. 9, 1895**** Mustered into Federal Service May 11, 1899***** Mustered out of Federal Service Dec. 15, 1898***** Reorganized as Company E, Second Infantry May 3, 1899. Mustered out December 11, 1911. Reorganized and mustered in January 16, 1912. 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 Service April 5, 1917. ******* Redesignated October 14, 1917****** Company E, formerly Yuba Light Inf. redesignated Battery E, First Artilery Reg., Fourth Brig. March 19, 1880. Adjutant General Report 1880, G. O. No. 19, page 76. **Battery E, First Artillery Reg., mustered out Nov. 21, 1883, in accordance with G. O. No. 76, Nov. 9, 1883. Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, p. 97. Mustered out Roll of Battery E, First Artillery, Adjutant General File. ***A new company organized in Sacramento and designated Battery E, First Artillery Reg., Nov. 26, 1883, in accordance with G. O. #76, Nov. 9, 1883. Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, p. 97. Adjt. Gen. Report 1890, p. 54. ****Battery E, First Artillery Reg. was redesignated Co. E, Second Infantry, Fourth Brigade, July 1, 1893. Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, G. O. No. 7, page 97. *****Company E, Second Inf. Reg. Fourth Brig. was redesignated Co. E, Eleventh Battalion, Dec. 7, 1895. Two days later Dec. 9, Co. E, 11th Battalion was redesignated Co. E Second Inf. Third Brigade. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, G. O. No. 17, 18, pages 87, 88. **** *Co. E, was redesignated Co. F, Sixth Inf. Reg. and mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American war, May 11, 1898. Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, page 8. ******Adjutant Jeneral Report 1899-1900, page 6. +Co. F, Sixth Inf. Reg. reentered the Nat. Guard as Co. E, Second Inf. Reg. May 3, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59. **Adjutant General Report 1910-1914, page 9. ***A new Co. organized, mustered in and designated Co. E, Second Inf. Jan. 16, 1912. Adjutant General Report 1910-1914, page 9. ****Co. E, as part of the Second Inf., 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. during the World War, April 5, 1917. Muster Roll Co. E, 2nd Inf. Reg. Adjutant General Files. 14; Isl7. Correspondence Historical Section, Army War College, Apr. 30, 40th Div. Oct. 1926. File 000.4. Adjutant General Office.

Commandi	ng Officers	
Name J. D. Shoemaker, Captain (reelected Sept. 16, 1897) (declined to qualify)	Rank July 11, 1895	Commission July 29, 1895*
Harry M. Fields, First Lieut. (resigned Apr. 5, 1897)	July 11, 1895	Oct. 11, 1895*
John F. Lucey, First Lieut.	July 8, 1897	Sept. 1, 1897
John F. Lucey, Captain John McMartin, First Lieut.	Dec. 17, 1897 Dec. 17, 1897	Jan. 19, 1898 Jan. 19, 1898
John McMartin, Captain (resigned May 13, 1901)	June 29, 1899	-Aug. 14, 1899
John F. Sherburn, First Lieut.	June 29, 1899	Aug. 14, 1899
John F. Sherburn, Captain (resigned Aug. 1, 1903)	June 6, 1901	Sept.14, 1901
Loyal C. Moore, First Lieut.	June 6, 1901	Sept.14, 1901
Loyal C. Moore, Captain Frank F. Cannon, First Lieut.	June 4, 1903 June 4, 1903	Aug. 1, 1903 Aug, 1, 1903
Frank F. Cannon, Captain William W. Martin, First Lieut. (resigned Oct. 16, 1906)	June 22, 1905 June 22, 1905	Aug. 12, 1905 Aug. 30, 1905
W. E. Templeman, First Lieut. Frank F. Cannon, Captain	Nov. 13, 1906	Jan. 3, 1907
(reelected Apr. 19, 1909) (promoted to Major, 2nd Inf.) D. E. Barney, Captain W. E. Templeman, First Lieut.	May 24, 1910	June 7, 1910
(resigned Oct. 27, 1909) A, M. Marks, First Lieut.	Nov. 23, 1909	Dec. 18, 1909
A. W. Lewis, Captain (resigned Oct. 8, 1912)	Jan 16, 1912	Jan. 30, 1912
Sidney H. Sayre, Captain Sidney H. Sayre, First Lieut. (promoted to Captain)	Oct. 28, 1912 Jan. 16, 1912	Dec. 9, 1912 Jan. 30, 1912
H. H. Brown, First Lieut.	Oct. 26, 1912	Dec. 19, 1912
H. H. Brown, Captain W. W. Wright, First Lieut.	Apr. 12, 1915 Apr. 12, 1915	May 4, 1915 May 10, 1915

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^{*}Captain Shoemaker and Lieutenant Fields, retained their former commissions as of July 29, and October 11, 1895, respectively, when they commanded Company E, Second Infantry, Fourth Brigade.

Activities:

Company E, Second Infantry, stationed at Sacramento, Sacramento County, was formerly Company E, Second Infantry, Fourth Brigade. The unit had originally been organized in Camptonville, Yuba County, November 7, 1863, known and designated as the Yuba Light Infantry. On March 19, 1880, the company was redesignated as Battery E, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade. On November 21, 1883, the company was mustered out of service, and five days later, a new Battery E was organized and stationed in Sacramento. Battery E, First Artillery Regiment was redesignated Company E, Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade on July 1, 1893. On December 7, 1895, General Order No. 17, was issued which redesignated Company E, Second Infantry, Fourth Brigade as Company E, of the Eleventh Battalion. Two days later, December ninth, General Order No. 18 was issued, which redesignated Company E, Eleventh Battalion as Company E, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.

Company E in order to maintain their high standard of military efficiency attended many encampments. The first Camp of Instruction which the company attended following the reorganization of 1895, was the Third Brigade encampment at Santa Cruz, from August 15 to 22, 1897. On June 17, 1900, Company E, together with Companies G and H, Second Infantry, and Troop B Cavalry held a Field Day at Placerville. The troops turned out well and performed their duties in a very enthusiastic manner. The Field Day was a success, and added much to the military knowledge and training of the soldiers.* The Second Infantry held an encampment at Marysville, from October 11 to 14, 1900. The companies were in camp for a period of three days only, but they learned more in that short time than in any previous six day encampment ever held.**

In 1901, Company E 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 E attended the Regimental Encampment of the Second Infantry at Santa Cruz, from July 27 to August 2, 1902, and again at Santa Cruz in 1903, from August ninth to twenty-second.

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*Sacramento Bee, June 18, 1900, page 2, column 3.

**Sacramento Bee, October 15, 1900, page 5, column 2.

Company E and G, Second Infantry held a two day encampment at Oak Park, Sacramento, from July 2 to 4, 1904. The start was made from the armory, the march being up Sixth Street to K, where four street cars were boarded. The men took their places on the cars, watched by a large crowd which had gathered. As soon as the start was made, the soldiers on the several cars vied with others in seeing who could make the most noise. All succeeded in making people along the streets turn, amazed to see what was coming. On the arrival of the cars at Oak Park, the men formed ranks after which they marched to the camp, the tents of which had already been raised, and the company streets laid off.

On the arrival of the troops at the camp, men from each company were detailed to bring straw from the Quartermaster's Department, to be used for bedding. The men filled their ticks and then made up their beds, after which a guard tent was erected and guards posted. The lines were open until lition P.M., after which time no one was allowed to enter or leave the camp. Such a thing as a guard line did not prevent some of the bolder spirits from coming in after midnight, and getting safely within their tents. Humning the guard line seemed to have a fascination for the militiamen, and even though they knew if they were caught they would have to spend some time in the guard house, they were prefectly willing to run all chances.

On the afternoon of July Fourth, a dress parade was held by all of the troops, Colonel H. I. Seymour, commander of the Second Infantry, reviewing them. The men made a very creditable appearance and earned the plaudits of the large crowd, which had gathered to witness the maneuvers. After the parade, the ceremony of guard mount was performed by a detail of thirty-two men, Lieutenant John Sherburn acting as Adjutant. After the ceremony, the detail was marched to the camp, where the guards were posted. Captain S. W. Kay was appointed Officer of the Day, First Lieutenant J. M. Milliken, Commander of the Guard and Lieutenant Martin, Officer of the Guard. Captain Frank Ruhstaller, of Company G, was the First Officer of the Day, preceding the assignment of Captain Kay to that duty. Comp was broken on the night of July Fourth, the soldiers returning to Sacramento. The men had thoroughly enjoyed themselves, the discipline not being too strict for pleasure, or too lax for order.*

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*Sacramento Bee, July 4, 1904, page 8, column 5.

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

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

In the compulsory target practice held each September, Company E maintained a steady average of thirty-two qualified marksuen, which was on a par with the other units in the National Guard.

On May 11, 1898, Company B was mustered into Federal service for duty during the Spanish-American War, and redesignated Company F, Sixth Infantry Regiment, California Volunteers. The company was stationed at the Presidio in San-Francisco until June tenth, when they went into camp at Santa Cruz, guarding the California Powder Works. The company did not engage in active service, doing only guard duty at Santa Cruz until September tenth, when the Sixth Infantry was concentrated at Fort Point. The Sixth Infantry Regiment was mustered out of Federal service, December 15, 1898.*

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 E as part of the Second Infantry, reentered the National Guard, May 3, 1899.**

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*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 5.6
**Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, pages 8, 59.

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

On June 14, 1903, Company E participated in the military exercises at Agricultural Park in Sacremento, for the benefit of the Father McKinnon Memorial Fund. It was proposed to erect in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, a monument to the late William Daniel McKinnon, Chaplain in the United States Army, who died in the Philippines of a disease contracted in the line of duty. This hero-priest first became a soldier at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, when he was commissioned by the Governor of California in 1895, as Chaplain of the First California Volunteer Infantry. When he died, he was Captain and Chaplain in the Regular Army.

Between 10,000 and 12,000 people assembled in the grand stand and on the paddock at Agricultural Park to witness the military exercises. The participants were intensely enthusiastic, and the hundreds of soldiers did their utmost to please the thousands of spectators. Every detail of the extensive program was carried out with precision and accuracy, reflecting credit upon Colonel H. I. Seymour, who was in command of the troops. There were seven military organizations on the field and they were divided into two battalions.

The first battalion was composed of Company G, Second Infantry, Captain John Zittinger, commanding; Company B, First Infantry, Captain Walter Kelly, commanding; and Company H, Second Infantry, Captain C. A. Swisler, commanding. Major W. W. Greer was the battalion commander. The second battalion was composed of Company E, Second Infantry, Captain John F. Sherburn, commanding; Troop B, Cavalry, First Lieutenant O. J. Boden, commanding; Third Brigade Signal Corps, First Lieutenant F. E. Russell, commanding; and the Second Infantry Sanitary Corps. Captain S. W. Kay was the battalion commander. Company E gave an exhibition bayonet exercise, under the direction of First Lieutenant L. C. Moore. The manner in which the soldiers handled their bayonetted rifles, demonstrated that they could make a gallant stand against a cavalry charge.

On April 18, 1906, a severe earthquake occurred in San Francisco, which laid most of the city in ruins. Company E was called out for emergency duty, April nineteenth and transferred to Cole and Raight Streets, San Francisco, where they did guard and patrol

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*Sacramento Bee, June 15, 1903, page 3, column 2.

Continued)

Activities: (continued)

duty until May seventh, when the unit was stationed at Cole and Rivola Streets. Company E remained in San Francisco until May nineteenth, when they were ordered to return to Sacramento.

Company E celebrated the fact that it had made third place in the recent brigade competition for efficiency by taking a nine mile tramp into the country on the afternoon of October 15, 1906. The men, accompanied by several members of the Hospital Corps and the following officers: Colonea A. W. Bradbury, Colonel H. I. Seymour, Major John Zittinger and Lieutenant John F. Sherburn left Sacramento, Saturday night and marched to a point above Bannon Slough, arriving there after taps were sounded and the tired boys sought their nights rest. Sunday was spent in feats of skill with the rifle, baseball, swimming, fishing and other sports. Late Sunday night, the company returned to Sacramento.*

On March 8, 1908, Company E marched in the funeral procession of Captain John J. Cooke, a veteran of the Spanish-American War. The funeral procession was led by the Third Infantry Band. Next came Troop B, acting as special escort. Following the hearse were Companies E and G, as mourners, under side arms only, as called for under the United States Army regulations. Directly back of the hearse, a saddled horse was led, the stirrups reversed. The interment was in St. Joseph cemetery. A wealth of floral offerings was placed upon the grave. Troop B fired a volley over the grave of the dead soldier.**

Company E, together with a squad of police, marched in Sacramento on the night of May 15, 1908, in an impromptu parade of welcome to the officers and men of the Fourth Torpedo Flotilla, of the United States Navy.***

Company E, on the night of January 25, 1909, was inspected at their armory by Colonel Thomas Wilhelm, of the War Department. Of the sixty-one members of the company, none were absent, a National Guard record. One member made a twelve hour trip from Woodland to attend the inspection, having to go around by the way of Stockton. He arrived just before midnight, in time to be

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**Sacramento Bee, October 15, 1906, page 11, column 5.

**Sacramento Bee, March 9, 1908, page 9, column 2.

***Sacramento Bee, May 16, 1908, page 1, column 3.

accounted present. Colonel Wilhelm was very much pleased with the showing of the company, and in a neat speech complimented the officers and men, claiming that it was one of the best companies in California.*

On March 9, 1909, Company E gave a social at the Old Pavillion in Sacramento. It was one of the most successful military socials given during the season. The hall was prettily decorated for the occasion, the National colors being used extensively. The program opened with remarks by Captain F. F. Cannon, followed by selections from an orchestra. Al. Morrell, with J. Pacco as accompanist, sang several selections as did Miss Hatch, a vocalist of San Jose. L. L. Lash played a piano solo, and H. S. Morrow pleased the gathering with a number of recitations. After the program had been completed, refreshments were served.**

In response to a telegram announcing that 600 Italian mill-hand strikers at 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 four companies of State Militia to proceed to the scene at once. Companies A, E, and G, Second Infantry and Troop B, left for McCloud in a special train at 6:30 on the night of June 2, 1909, under the command of Colonel H. I. Seymour. The soldiers had been under arms in their armories since June first, but it was thought they would not be needed until the urgent appeal came from Assistant Adjutant General A. W. Bradbury, who had been sent to McCloud by Governor Gillett to investigate.

General Bradbury stated in the 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 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.***

The companies upon their arrival at McCloud on June third, immediately proceeded to detrain, which operation was watched in

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*Sacramento Union, January 26, 1909, page 4, column 3.

**Sacramento Bee, March 10, 1909, page 14, column 4.

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

silence by the hundreds of strikers gathered about the depot and the hundreds more on the hills surrounding it. Colonel 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 Chico militiaman 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 soon in full operation. The movements of the guardamen 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.*

The militia companies remained in McCloud maintaining law and order until June eighth, when Sheriff Charles F. Howard notified Adjutant General J. B. Lauck that he would no longer need the militia, and that the soldiers would leave on a special train the following morning for their home stations. Many striking Italians had gone back to work and others were leaving on every train. The American employees of the company had returned to work with the assurance that no professional strike breakers would be imported.**

Company E on December 11, 1911, was mustered out of the service of the State. Inefficiency and failure to show signs of returning life or activity were the causes which led to the decision of Adjutant General E. A. Forbes to disband the company. Company E had been on the downward trend for many months. Its ranks were ragged and the result was that the organization could not reach the standard demanded by the United States War Department. Adjutant General Forbes had given the officers and men every opportunity to rejuvenate the organization, but instead of taking on new life, it went deeper into decay. In deciding to muster out the company, General Forbes issued the order against the first military organization to which he belonged. When nineteen years

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

**Courier Free Press, Redding, June 9, 1909, page 1, column 3.

old, he joined Company E and received his first military training in its ranks.* On January 16, 1912, Company E was reorganized and with a sufficient number of members was again mustered into the service of the State.

Company E 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. There, trains were taken for the State Fair grounds. The troops in the parade were commanded by Colonel Lon Bond. The first event of the afternoon was the centipede race, won by Company A. In the wall scaling contest, Company A again won first place by going over the wall in fifty-two seconds, followed by Company E in fifty-five seconds. Late in the 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 of the defensive were finally driven under the shelter of the guns and surrendered.**

Company E 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 that afternoon 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. Two Industrial Workers of the World had been killed, the Constable of Wheatland town—ship 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 bodies of the killed and wounded, and further bloodshed and rioting was imminent.

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*Sacramento Bee, December 6, 1911

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

Immediately upon the receipt of this information, the Governor ordered troops sent to Wheatland to stop the rioting and restore order. Company F, Second Infantry Regiment, of Woodland, was ordered to Sacramento to join Companies E and G, and Troop B, First Squadron of Cavalry, and to proceed to Wheatland. Companies A and I, Second Infantry were ordered to proceed by special train to Wheatland. Orders were carried out promptly and there was 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 search for dynamite, which was supposed 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 officers with their prisoners to the Yuha County jail. The National Guard remained in Wheatland until August eighth, when they returned to their home stations.

For the second time within seven months, Company E was called out for emergency duty against a group of Industrial Workers of the World radicals. Company E was under arms in March 1914, when a band of 2,000 Industrial Workers of the World camped in Sacramento. These people refused to obey any orders of the police and started a campaign of vagrancy and begging and finally became threatening. Companies A, E, F, G, and I, Second Infantry, Troop B, First Equadron of Cavalry, and Battery C, First Battalion, Field Artillery were ordered to assemble at the State Armory in Sacramento, ready to take action at a moment's notice. Fortunately, these troops were not called out 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.

While Companies E, G, and Troop B, were under arms in their armory for the Industrial Workers of the World disturbance of 1914, athletic sports, card games, impromptu musical programs, practical jokes, and the reading of magazines and papers were the pastimes that filled the days. Like one big happy family, the members of the two companies and the troop intermingled, playing games with pick-up teams, with players from every group participating. Strict military rule prevailed, the same as if the men were in the field during time of war. The regular calls were given, starting with the first call at 5:45 A.M., and reveille at six o'clock every morning. The call to quarters, and taps at ten o'clock every night, closed the day. At four-thirty o'clock in the afternoon, guards were thrown around the

armory and anybody leaving must have a pass from Major C.W. Thomas, who was in command.*

MPART B (Continued)

On June 27, 1918, Company E as part of the Second Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal service for duty on the Mexican Border. The company left Sacramento for Nogales, Arizona, June thirtieth, arriving there July third. Company E did not eng age in active service, doing only guard and patrol duty until October twenty-third, when they entrained for Los Angeles. Upon their arrival in Los Angeles, the Second Infantry established camp at Exposition Park, where they remained until the regiment was mustered out of Federal service, November 15, 1916.

Company E as part of the Second Infantry Regiment, was called into Federal Service on March 26, 1917, for duty during the World War.** Company E, Second Infantry Regiment redesignated, Company E, 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division October 14, 1917.***
For additional information concerning this company's regimental activities, refer to History of the 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division.

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*Sacramento Union, March 9, 1914, page 2, column 3.

**Adjutant Generals Report 1914-1920, page 21.

***Correspondence Historical Section, Army War College, April 30, 1926. File 000.4 Adjutant General Files.