

# **History of the Company F, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1895-1917**

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Company F, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade (formerly Battery F,  
First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Woodland, Yolo County

Organized March 5, 1881

Reconstituted July 1, 1893\*

Reconstituted December 9, 1895\*\*

Mustered out July 30, 1898\*\*\*

Reorganized and mustered in April 21, 1899\*\*\*\*

Mustered into Federal Service June 27, 1916+

Mustered out of Federal Service November 15, 1916++

Resumption of Service in the National Guard 1916+++

Redesignated and mustered into Federal Service Oct. 14, 1917++++

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\*Company F, formerly Battery F, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade redesignated Company F, Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade, July 1, 1893.  
Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, General Order No. 7, page 97.

\*\*Company F, Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade redesignated Company F, Eleventh Infantry Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December 9, Company F, Second Infantry Battalion redesignated Company F, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.  
Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, 18, pages 87, 88.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, General Order No. 4, page 119.

\*\*\*\*A new company organized in Woodland and designated Company F, Second Infantry, April 21, 1899.  
Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 8.

+Company F, as part of the Second Infantry Regiment 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 F, as part of the Second Infantry was called into Federal Service during the World War, March 26, 1917, and designated Company F, 180th Infantry, 40th Division, October 14, 1917.  
Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 30.

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Henry W. Prindle, Captain (cont. in office Dec. 9, 1895)	Sept. 16, 1895	Nov. 5, 1895*
John J. Ward, First Lieutenant (cont. in office Dec. 9, 1895)	Sept. 16, 1895	Nov. 5, 1895*
John J. Ward, Captain	Oct. 16, 1897	Dec. 21, 1897
George C. Peart, First Lieutenant	Oct. 16, 1897	Dec. 21, 1897
William H. Curson, Captain	Apr. 21, 1899	May 11, 1899
R. P. Wallace, First Lieutenant (resigned Aug. 31, 1900)	Apr. 21, 1899	May 11, 1899
William Rawson, First Lieutenant	Oct. 1, 1900	Dec. 22, 1900
William H. Curson, Captain (reelected Apr. 29, 1901)	_____	_____
William Rawson, First Lieutenant (reelected Oct. 4, 1902)	_____	_____
John Griffith Lee, Captain (reelected June 5, 1905)	May 18, 1903	June 18, 1903
E. G. Griffin, First Lieutenant (term expired 1907)	Oct. 24, 1904	Mar. 7, 1905
Carl Barton Nichols, First Lieut.	Mar. 25, 1907	Apr. 30, 1907
John Griffith Lee, Captain (reelected Apr. 19, 1909) (promoted to Major 1910)	_____	_____
C. W. Thomas, Jr., Captain (promoted Major 2nd Inf., Jan. 22, 1911)	May 2, 1910	June 6, 1910
Carl Barton Nichols, First Lieut. (reelected Apr. 19, 1909)	_____	_____
Carl Barton Nichols, Captain (retired Oct. 2, 1913)	Mar. 6, 1911	Mar. 31, 1911
Julius Kraft, Captain (resigned Feb. 14, 1916)	Oct. 20, 1913	Dec. 22, 1913
L. J. Caldwell, First Lieut. (promoted to Captain June 19, 1916)	May 15, 1911	June 10, 1911
L. J. Caldwell, Captain	June 12, 1916	June 23, 1916
R. J. Hill, First Lieutenant	June 12, 1916	June 23, 1916

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\*Captain Prindle and Lieutenant Ward retained their former commissions as of November 5, 1895, when they commanded Company F, Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade.

Activities:

Company F was organized at Woodland, in 1881 as Battery F, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade. On July 1, 1895, the company was redesignated Company F, Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade. Another change was made on December 9, 1895, when the Fourth Brigade became the Third Brigade. Company F retained its same letter designation, becoming Company F, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.

Aside from the regular routine of military requirements during the first year of service, Company F participated in many social and civic activities. The unit had been in existence under its new designation but a short time when the members were given an opportunity to show their efficiency in responding to a call to arms. A telegram was received by Captain H. Prindle in the late afternoon of March 4, 1896, indicating that officers would arrive at Woodland that evening for an inspection of the company. At eight o'clock P.M., the company was represented by sixty members assembled at the armory. The men were anxious for this inspection as they were prepared by having their arms and accoutrements in splendid condition and their armory in "apple-pie order." For some unknown reason, none of the inspection officers made their appearance at the armory. However, Captain Prindle put the troops through a brief inspection and short drill before dismissing them. This was a disappointment to the members of Company F, although they gained a knowledge as to just how quickly they could respond to a call to arms in time of war.\*

The members of Company F, as a unit also participated in the Memorial Day ceremonies held at Woodland during the same year. The procession to the cemetery was under the auspices of the Civil War Veterans and their auxiliary, of the Women's Relief Corps. Company F acted as escort, a compliment which the grizzled veterans profoundly appreciated. There was no music and the attendance of private citizens was larger than ever before, nevertheless the martial features predominated. Company F headed the procession and the young soldier boys turned out in full force and made a fine appearance. After reaching the city cemetery gates, the Grand Army of the Republic was assigned to the post of honor and marched through the open ranks of Company F and the school children. The scene was very impressive and the

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\*Woodland Democrat, March 6, 1896, page 3, volumn 6.

Activities: (continued)

effect was heightened by the spirited manner in which the school children rendered the national hymn, "America."

Upon the conclusion of a patriotic address by Reverend F. E. Hinckley, the formal ceremony of decorating the Grand Army of the Republic monument was witnessed. A detachment of Company F fired the customary three volleys above the graves in the Grand Army of the Republic plot and Chaplain Warren pronounced his benediction. The line of march was again taken up and the Grand Army of the Republic and Company F, returned to the Masonic Hall where an elegant lunch had been prepared and spread, under the direction of the Womens Relief Corps.\*

The third activity of the year, was the Fourth of July celebration held at Colusa. Company B, of Colusa, extended the invitation to Company F which they readily accepted. A group of members from Company D were also present, which gave quite a military air to the spectacular event. There were visiting crowds from Willows, Butte City, Princeton, Arbuckle, Sacramento and even Marysville. Colusa had guaranteed everyone a good time and left nothing undone to fulfill their agreement. The day was a continuous grand, glorious and patriotic celebration, from the time of the sunrise salute, until the ending of the grand ball at the Armory Hall. The members of Company F participated in the huge parade held during the afternoon, and were on hand to enjoy every part of the celebration, which was a grand success.\*\*

Company F also attended many encampments which helped the members in retaining their high standard of efficiency. The first one attended by the unit after the reorganization of 1895, was a brigade encampment held at Santa Cruz, from August 15 to 22, 1897. The troops gained a much needed knowledge of drills in battalion and regimental formation which proved to be of great benefit to them.

An encampment held at Atascadero from August 13 to 26, 1904, was outstanding to the members of Company F, as a part of the

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\*Woodland Democrat, June 1, 1896, page 3, column 5.

\*\*Colusa Sun, July 4, 1896, page 1, column 1.

## Activities: (continued)

Second Infantry Regiment. Aside from the regular drills and maneuvers held at previous encampments, the men participated in several types of war games. August fifteenth, was set aside for regimental drills. The affair was that of defense under attack, the enemy being imaginary. The maneuvers for August twentieth, was in the form of a problem. A battle was carried on between the Blue and Brown forces. Practically the entire Second Infantry was attached to the Blue forces, while the Brown force consisted of Company M, of the United States Cavalry and Troops A, B, C, and D, of the National Guard Cavalry. It was a great day for all concerned and as an example of technical skill in handling men, General McArthur, of the United States Army, was highly appraised.\*

Following is a list of the encampments Company F participated in prior to the World War in 1917:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Month</u>
1897	Santa Cruz	Aug. 15 - 22
1900	Marysville	Oct. 11 - 14
1901	Santa Cruz	June 14 - 23
1902	Napa	Aug. 2 - 8
1903	Santa Cruz	Aug. 9 - 22
1904	Atascadero	Aug. 13 - 26
1907	Fort Scott	July 5 - 20
1908	Atascadero	Oct. 4 - 15
1909	Vallejo	Oct. 10 - 22
1910	Atascadero	Oct. 3 - 12
1912	San Francisco	Aug. 11 - 21
1915	Fort Scott	Aug. 15 - 22

Target practice was another essential factor in the training of the National Guardsmen. For the year of 1897, Company F had among its members, one First Class, nine Second Class, and twenty-two Third Class marksmen. The unit retained this fair record of efficiency with but little variance through out the years it was in existence.

During October of 1903, Company F met with Companies E and G, of Sacramento, in a skirmish firing contest held near Elkhorn, on the Sacramento side of the river. Company F had but twenty-seven

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\*Sacramento Bee, August 20, 1904, page 5, column 2.

Activities: (continued)

men in line, while Company E had thirty-two and Company G, thirty men. Notwithstanding the handicap in numbers, Company F won by a good margin. Silhouette targets were used, which were iron forms in the figure of a man, covered with cloth and black paper. At a distance they were very realistic portrayals of human beings. Three scores of each company were taken; one while the men were lying down, one while kneeling and one while standing. The result of the skirmish was as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Lying down</u>	<u>Kneeling</u>	<u>Standing</u>
Company F	71	74	55
Company G	43	49	51
Company E	31	49	60

Company F, made 180 hits and scored 532 points  
Company G, " 143 " " " 413 "  
Company E, " 131 " " " 362 "

Troop B, of the cavalry and two members of the Third Brigade were also present and Troop B demonstrated the superiority of the Krag-Jorgenson carbines. At noon a splendid lunch was served. Members of Company F thoroughly enjoyed the day and were proud of their success.\*

A team of qualified troops were selected by Governor George Pardee during August of 1905, to compete in the National Rifle match, held at Sea Girt, New Jersey. Five of the eighteen troops that left for New Jersey, to represent the entire National Guard of California in the contest, were qualified from Company F. Captain John Lee was placed as team coach and together with Lieutenant E. G. Griffin, Sergeant G. R. Lovejoy, Sergeant H. P. Barnes and Sergeant C. H. Turner, represented Company F in the finals. The members of Company F made some outstanding scores. Lieutenant Griffin tied with Private C. G. Darling, of Company M, for high score while Captain Lee tied with Lieutenant H. O. Higgins, of Company M, for third place. Captain Lee scored highest on the rapid fire range and Lieutenant Griffin made the most points at skirmish firing.\*\*

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\*Woodland Democrat, October 26, 1903, page 1, column 4.

\*\*General and Special Orders and Circulars 1906, General Orders No. 12, 18.

Activities: (continued)

Again in 1911, Company F was arraigned as a shining example to the National Guardsman of California. In a competition of marksmanship held by the National Guard of California at Berkeley, Company F won the honor for best marksmanship. The unit was then given the opportunity of representing the Second Infantry Regiment in the final shoot of the leading companies of the State.\* Some fear was expressed by members of Company F at the final shoot on December third, at Berkeley, that the company would not do so well in the finals as in the preliminary shoot. There was however, no need for concern as Company F again carried off all honors. They made a gain of 156 points over their previous score, with Sergeant Lewis scoring the majority of points and Private Murphy making second place.\*\*

Company F participated in many Memorial and Independence Day celebrations and was selected as an escort to a number of military funerals. One of the most impressive funerals ever held at Woodland, was that of the former Captain John G. Lee, of Company F, who, prior to his death had attained the rank of Major. Major Lee was honored and loved by all who knew him and December 15, 1916, was a day of mourning for practically every inhabitant of Woodland. The highest National Guard officer in California, Acting Adjutant-General J. J. Borree, was one of the pallbearers. The others who assisted him were members of General Borree's staff, and included Major John Sherburn, Major J. Alexander and Captain J. S. Henderson; Captain L. J. Caldwell and Ex-Captain Carl B. Nichols, of Company F, also acted as an escort to the funeral car which was followed by a long train of vehicles and people who were walking. The imposing but intensely sad observance, closed with a farewell salute by a squad from Company F.\*\*\*

When the United States declared war with Spain on April 21, 1898, the National Guardsmen were among the first to volunteer their services. Company F was one of the early companies to report for duty. However, due to a dissatisfaction among the troops

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\*Berkeley Gazette, November 16, 1911

\*\*Sacramento Bee, December 4, 1911.

\*\*\*Woodland Democrat, December 15, 1916, page 1, column 1.



COMPANY F (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

in not being able to retain their present commanding officers, the company was never mustered into Federal service. The members reported at Camp Barrett, but upon learning that Captain J. J. Ward, of Company F, would not be accepted as their commander in the volunteers, they revolted. Apparently Captain Ward had neglected his military duties while in command of Company F, and was therefore not eligible for a commission in the volunteers. The members of Company F flatly refused to join under those circumstances and were consequently returned to Woodland.\* The entire company was mustered out of the National Guard on July 30, 1898.\*\*

The year following the conclusion of the Spanish-American War, a new Company F was organized at Woodland. This company was mustered into service on April 21, 1899, with Captain William H. Carson as commanding officer.\*\*\*

Company F was called into <sup>Active</sup> Federal service on April 20, 1906, for duty after the San Francisco Earthquake, which occurred on April eighteenth. The troops were stationed at the Ferry Building in order to clear the building and also the wharves of all people, as there was danger of fire sweeping the water front. Details of troops were also sent out to press men and teams into service for the purpose of transporting supplies to outlying districts. On April twenty-second, the company was ordered to patrol the streets in the Haight and Cole Street section. The unit also assisted in maintaining order and enforcing regulations. The camp was moved again on May seventh, to Cole and Rivola Streets, where the company performed guard and patrol duty until relieved from duty on May 19, 1906.

Company F, was again in 1916, called into Federal service for duty on the Mexican Border. The unit was mustered in on June 27, 1916,

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\*San Francisco Examiner, July 8, 1898, page 7, column 1.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, page 3. For additional information concerning Company F being mustered out of service, refer to History of the Eighth Infantry Regiment, California Volunteers.

\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 8.

Activities: (continued)

remaining on guard and patrol duty at Nogales, Arizona, until November 15, 1916.\*

When the United States entered the World War, Company F, as part of the Second Infantry Regiment was called into Federal service for duty on March 26, 1917, and designated Company F, 160th Infantry, October 14, 1917.\*\* For additional information concerning the activities of this unit, refer to History of Company F, 160th Infantry, 40th Division.

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\*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 17.

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