

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

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Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Redding, Shasta County

Organized December 19, 1889

Reconstituted October 31, 1891\*

Reconstituted December 9, 1895\*\*

Mustered into Federal Service July 8, 1898\*\*\*

Mustered into Federal Service February 26, 1899\*\*\*\*

Mustered out July 5, 1899\*\*\*\*\*

Reorganized, mustered in and stationed Placerville Oct. 16, 1899†

Mustered out May 10, 1907††

Reorganized, mustered in and stationed Napa May 11, 1907†††

Mustered out June 28, 1913††††

Reorganized, mustered in and stationed Tulare June 28, 1913†††††

Mustered out April 15, 1916††††††

Reconstituted and stationed Red Bluff April 15, 1916†

Mustered into Federal Service June 27, 1916††

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

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

Called into Federal Service March 26, 1917†††††

Redesignated Company H, 160th Infantry Regiment Oct. 14, 1917††††††

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\*Company H, formerly Company E, Eighth Infantry Battalion redesignated Company E, Eighth Infantry Regiment, October 31, 1891. Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, General Order No. 17, page 88 (provides for organization of Eighth Infantry Regiment.) Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, page 40, (The rank date of Colonel Park Henshaw, Oct. 31, 1891, is to be used as the date of reorganization of Company E, Eighth Infantry Regiment.

\*\*Company E, Eighth Infantry Reg. redesignated Company H, Twelfth Infantry Battalion, Dec. 7, 1895. Two days later, Dec. 9, Company H, Twelfth Infantry Battalion redesignated Company H, Second Infantry Reg., Third Brigade. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896 General Orders No. 17, 18, page 87, 88.

\*\*\*Company H redesignated Company H, Eighth Infantry Regiment and mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War July 8, 1898. Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, page 8.

\*\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.

\*\*\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 7, par. 5, page 64.

†A new company Organized in Placerville and designated Company H, Second Infantry, Oct. 16, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 8.

††A djutant General Report 1907-1908, page 3.

†††A new Company organized at Napa and designated Company H, Second Infantry May 11, 1907. General and Special Orders and Circulars 1907, G. O. No. 10.

††††Adjutant General Report 1910-1914, page 9.

†††††A new company organized at Tulare and designated Company H, Second Infantry, June 28, 1913. General and Special Orders and Circulars 1913, General Order No. 11.

††††††General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, G. O. No. 10, paragraph 1.

†Company H, formerly First Separate Company, Second Brigade organized Feb. 3, (per General Order No. 2, 1916) at Red Bluff was designated Company H, Second Infantry, Apr. 15, 1916.

General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, General Order No. 10

††Company H, as part of the Second Infantry Reg. was mustered into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican Border, June 27, 1916. Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, p 17.

†††Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 17.

††††General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, G. O. No. 34, page 150.

†††††Company H, as part of the Second Infantry Regiment was called into Federal Service during the World War March 26, 1917. Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 22.

††††††Company H, Second Infantry Regiment redesignated Company H 160th Infantry Regiment Oct. 14, 1917. Correspondence, Historical Section, Army War College, April 30, 1926.

File 000.4, Adjutant General's Office.

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COMPANY H (continued)

Reconstituted and Stationed Red Bluff April 15, 1916\*  
Mustered into Federal Service June 27, 1916\*\*  
Mustered out of Federal Service November 15, 1916\*\*\*  
Resumption of service in the National Guard 1916\*\*\*\*  
Called into Federal Service March 26, 1917\*\*\*\*\*  
Redesignated October 14, 1917\*\*\*\*\*

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\*Company H, formerly First Separate Company, Second Brigade organized Feb. 3, (per General Order No. 2, 1916) at Red Bluff was designated Company H, Second Infantry, April 15, 1916.  
General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, General Order No. 10.

\*\*Company H, as part of the Second Infantry Regiment 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.

\*\*\*\*General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, G. O. No. 34, page 150.

\*\*\*\*\*Company H, as part of the Second Infantry Regiment was called into Federal Service during the World War and attached to the 160th Infantry, 40th Division, March 26, 1917.  
Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 22.

\*\*\*\*\*Company H, Second Infantry Regiment redesignated Company H, 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division, October 14, 1917.  
Correspondence Historical Section, Army War College, April 30, 1926.  
File 000.4. Adjutant General's Office.

COMPANY H

<u>Commanding Officers</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>		<u>Commission</u>
Thomas B. Dozier, Captain	Dec. 18, 1891		Jan. 25, 1896*
Albert M. Irwin, First Lieut.	Dec. 18, 1891		Jan. 25, 1896*
Wm. E. Smith, Captain	Dec. 17, 1897		Jan. 27, 1898
J. E. Estep, First Lieut.	Dec. 17, 1897		Jan. 27, 1898
C. A. Swisler, Captain	Oct. 16, 1899		Nov. 6, 1899
Horace H. Walling, First Lieut. (Resigned Feb. 28, 1901)	Oct. 16, 1899		Nov. 6, 1899
C. A. Swisler, Captain (Re-elected Oct. 26, 1901)			
Max Mierson, First Lieut.	Apr. 10, 1901		May 23, 1901
C. A. Swisler, Captain (Re-elected Nov. 21, 1903)			
Max Mierson, First Lieut. (Continued in office) (Resigned Mar. 10, 1905)			
T. F. Smith, First Lieut.	Apr. 26, 1905		May 13, 1905
T. F. Smith, Captain	July 12, 1905		Aug. 12, 1905
John Copland, First Lieut. (Resigned Feb. 1, 1907)	July 12, 1905		Aug. 12, 1905
W. C. Burgess, First Lieut.	Feb. 27, 1907		Apr. 16, 1907
G. C. Gardner, Captain (Transferred from Co. H, 5th Inf. 1907) (Resigned Mar. 11, 1908)	Mar. 25, 1905		Apr. 26, 1905**
Percy King, Captain	Aug. 17, 1908		Sept. 24, 1908
Chester C. Treadway, First (Transferred from Lieut. Co. H, 5th Inf. 1907) (Resigned Jan. 17, 1908)	Mar. 25, 1905		Apr. 26, 1905**
W. T. Rutherford, First Lieut.	Aug. 17, 1908		Sept. 24, 1908
Percy King, Captain	Apr. 17, 1908		Apr. 19, 1909
W. T. Rutherford, First Lieut.	Aug. 17, 1908		Apr. 19, 1909

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\*Captain Dozier and Lieutenant Irwin, retained their former Commissions as of December 18, 1891, when they commanded Company E, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade.

\*\*Captain Gardner and Lieutenant Treadway retained their former commissions as of March 25, 1905, when they commanded Company H, Fifth Infantry Regiment.



COMPANY H (Continued)

<u>Commanding Officers</u> (continued)		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Harvey D. Wheeler, Captain (Resigned Jan. 16, 1915)	June 28, 1913	July 3, 1913
Fernand Detoy, First Lieut. (Resigned Jan. 16, 1915)	June 28, 1913	July 3, 1913
D. M. Crow, Captain (Resigned Feb. 2, 1916)	Jan. 26, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915
S. W. Witcher, Captain	Feb. 15, 1916	Mar. 7, 1916
John Noyes, First Lieut. (Resigned Sept. 2, 1915)	Jan. 26, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915
S. W. Witcher, First Lieut. (Promoted to Capt., Feb. 15, 1916)	Jan. 5, 1916	Jan. 24, 1916
Leo A. McCoy, Captain (Transferred from 1st Separate Co., Apr. 15, 1916)	Feb. 3, 1916	Feb. 19, 1916*
M. O. Ballard, First Lieut. (Transferred from 1st Separate Co., Apr. 15, 1916)	Feb. 8, 1916	Feb. 19, 1916*

Activities:

Company H was organized at Redding, December 19, 1889, as Company E, Eighth Infantry Battalion. When the battalion became a regiment October 31, 1891, Company E was redesignated Company E, Eighth Infantry Regiment. The unit retained that designation until December 9, 1895, when it was redesignated Company H, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.\*\*

One of the first activities Company H participated in after its redesignation was a regimental encampment held at Santa Cruz from August 15, to 22, 1897. This camp, according to Major Frank Rice, United States Army, was one of the hardest working camps held by the National Guard since 1890. With few exceptions, every officer and man from the Brigadier-General down to the private in the ranks, was hard at work from reveille to retreat.

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\*Captain McCoy and Lieutenant Ballard retained their former commissions as of February 3, 1916, and February 8, 1916, respectively, when they commanded the First Separate Company of Infantry at Red Bluff.

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

Activities: (continued)

Many beneficial results were noted from the continual drill and maneuvering, and at the close of the encampment, Company H, as part of the Second Infantry was highly commented upon in performing their military duties so well.\* Company H participated in many such encampments. The one held during 1910 was acclaimed as being excellent in all maneuvers.

Company H, as a unit of the Second Infantry Regiment together with many other organizations of the National Guard, encamped at Atascadero on October 3, 1910, for an encampment of ten days. The instruction was thorough and included close order drill, shelter tent drill, extended order drill, picking up indistinct targets and estimating their distance. The men were also coached in advance guard outpost, a night bivouac, during which the men individually cooked one meal each; night alarms, patrolling and digging trenches were also a part of the program.

Regular Army officers were detailed as instructors and inspectors, and gave valuable advice to the National Guardsmen. October eleventh was set aside for a bivouac between the "Reds and Blues." The two forces represented rival armies which after spending a night in action, subjected to a chill, drizzling rain, the infantry and cavalry fought a battle that deserved honorable mention.\*\* The following list indicates the number of encampments Company H participated in prior to being mustered into the World War in 1917:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MONTH</u>
1897	Santa Cruz	Aug. 15 - 22
1900	Marysville	Oct. 12 - 27
1901	Santa Cruz	June 14 - 23
1902	Santa Cruz	July 27 - Aug. 2
1903	Santa Cruz	Aug. 9 - 22
1904	Atascadero	Aug. 13 - Aug. 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

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\*Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, pages 28-40.

\*\*Sacramento Union, October 12, 1910, page 10, column 5.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Target practice was another essential factor in the military requirements of the National Guard of California. During the year of 1896, changes were made governing target practice which proved much more satisfactory than the previous methods. Aside from each regiment being newly supplied with a full set of silhouettes for field work, they were also supplied with a set of bench reloading tools. These tools enabled the troops to reload their own ammunition at a cost of from \$11.00 to \$12.00 per 1,000, thereby saving about \$7.00 or \$8.00 per 1,000 on ammunition, giving them that much more to expend in target practice.

The members of Company H showed a gradual gain in the numbers of men qualifying for medals. During the year of 1903, the number of men had increased from a small group to that of thirty-four. These men received medals in revolver practice, advancing Company H to the second highest company in the Second Infantry Regiment in that particular type of shooting. Throughout the life of Company H, it held a fair rating among the other companies of the regiment.

When the United States declared war with Spain on April 21, 1898, practically every National Guardsman in California was eager to volunteer his services. Company H was admitted to the volunteer service on July 8, 1898. Although the troops were not sent to the Philippine Islands, they were put on guard and patrol duty at Camp Barrett, Oakland, until September 13, 1898. The unit was then sent to Vancouver, Washington, where it remained until February 6, 1899. The company was on that date mustered out of Federal service and the troops returned to their home stations.

Company H did not report back for duty in the National Guard within the specified time, 150 days after mustering out of the Federal service, and was therefore mustered out of service on July 5, 1899.\* A few months later however, a new company H was formed at Placerville and mustered in October 16, 1899.

This change was but one of many that caused the name of Company H to become identified with several sections of the State. The company at Placerville was in existence until May 10, 1907, when a lack of interest caused the company to be mustered out for

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\*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 7, par. 5, page 64.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

inefficiency. The following day Company H was reorganized and stationed at Napa where it remained until April 14, 1913. Two months later, June 28, 1913, Company H was reorganized at Tulare where it remained intact for a period of three years. The last location for the unit prior to the World War was at Red Bluff, being organized and mustered in there on April 15, 1916.

Company H, as part of the Second Infantry Regiment was called into active service, April 20, 1906, following the San Francisco Earthquake which occurred on April eighteenth. The troops remained on duty in and near the stricken city several weeks. They were relieved from duty on May 19, 1906, and were highly complimented by Adjutant-General J. B. Lauck in having performed their duties in perfect military manner.

On October 21, 1911, Company H participated in one of Sacramento's most elaborate celebrations, known as, "The Greater Sacramento Annexation Celebration." Never in the history of the city had there been such a wonderful offering for the public as was shown in the industrial parade. Company H, with the other units of the Second Infantry Regiment, led the first division of the huge parade which was long remembered by all who witnessed it.

Aside from the military section of the parade, one of the main features was a section of about thirty automobiles containing "boosters" from the lower river district of Sacramento County. The boosters carried banners advocating a state highway via the Sacramento River route to San Francisco. This showing was followed by ripples of applause and the parade for the afternoon was of benefit to the Sacramentans who did not realize the extent of the manufacturing industry there.\*

Company H, while stationed at Tulare, was invited to attend many of the city's social and civic functions. This unit having been recently organized made a splendid showing in drills with their new uniforms, and gave the citizens every reason to display the unit to the public. The first opportunity came when Company H was invited to attend a competitive drill to be held at the Tulare Prosperity Carnival on September 23, 1913. The spectators

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\*The Sacramento Union, October 22, 1911, page 25, column 1.



## Activities: (continued)

who went prepared to giggle and sneer at faults, were instead compelled to pay tribute to effective work and ensemble that would have done credit to bodies established months instead of weeks. Company H was awarded the Cup which was presented by Captain T. H. Thompson, who complimented the members on their efficiency. In view of the few weeks the company had practiced and the few drills they held, the unit made a striking appearance in their new uniforms.\*

The following month, Company H was invited to Hanford for an equipment race which was held during the King County Fair on October 11, 1913. The event consisted of maneuvers that called for rapid work in removing and donning clothing and military equipment at set places. The race was followed by an inspection which was to ascertain if the participants slighted their work. Tulare, however, won by a wide margin and in addition to the handsome silver cup, Company H received the compliments of the officers judging the contest.\*\*

After the unit's reorganization on April 15, 1916, at Red Bluff, the citizens displayed a feeling of being proud in having a military organization for their city. Company H had been organized but a few days when they made their initial public appearance at a special Easter service in the Christian Church. Forty-four members marched in formation from the armory to the church, where they were joined by members of the Grand Army of the Republic, who sat with the company during the services. In the absence of Captain L. A. McCoy, the company was commanded by Lieutenant M. Ballard. The church was splendidly decorated for the services and the troops were dressed befitting the occasion. They not only wore their new uniforms but also had olive drab gloves to match the uniforms. The gloves were supplied by some friend who was enthusiastic over Company H. Special numbers by the chorus choir and orchestra were features of the morning. William Hensley, a member of the Christian Church for eighty-two years, who celebrated his one hundredth birthday the day before, led the congregation in prayer. The message of the pastor, Reverend Shirley R. Shaw, was a combined reference to the Easter story and the spirit of true soldiery.\*\*\*

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\*Tulare Daily Advance, September 24, 1913, page 1, column 5.

\*\*Tulare Daily Advance, October 12, 1913, page 1, column 1.

\*\*\*Red Bluff News, April 21, 1916, page 1, column 5.  
Red Bluff News, April 28, 1916, page 4, column 4.

Activities: (continued)

The second public appearance of the newly organized company was when the unit participated in a May Day celebration. One of the largest crowds ever gathered together in Red Bluff, enjoyed the festivity which was under the auspices of the volunteer firemen of that city. The program was carried out exactly as had been announced and when the street dance ended at an early hour of the morning, confetti was piled inches deep all over the sidewalks of the business district. The opening feature of the celebration was the grand parade. In addition to the various fraternal orders that participated, the entire enrollment of the Red Bluff Grammar Schools marched in a body, led by their band. Each grade wore a distinguished color which gave them a splendid appearance.

The military section which was composed of the members of Company H, deserves honorable mention. They were attired in their service uniforms and carried light marching equipment. As a result of the grand showing made by the company, a huge silk flag was presented them by C. K. King, president of the Chamber of Commerce and owner of Red Bluff's big department store. Mr. King's action in this matter was highly satisfactory to Captain L. A. McCoy, as it showed beyond all question of doubt that the Red Bluff merchants were in favor of the military organization.\*

Just two weeks later, about forty members of the company enjoyed an overnight encampment at their rifle range on Blue Tent Creek. The unit marched out on Saturday night, leaving about 7:15 P.M., and were refreshed by a steaming hot cup of coffee served by the company cook, Arthur Martin and his assistant, M. W. McDowell. A guard was put out and most of the company spent the night attempting to break through the guard lines without being challenged. As a result, the Guard made so much noise challenging, that the others could not sleep and daylight found most of the men out of their blankets. They were all up in time for mess call which approved to be about the most acceptable of all the noises made around camp.

The men were taught how to pitch tents, guard mount, and other maneuvers and shot ten rounds apiece at the 200 yard range. They returned to Red Bluff about five P.M., Sunday, feeling that the

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\*Red Bluff News, May 5, 1916, page 3, columns 3-5.

Activities: (continued)

success of the trip was due largely to the ability of cooks, Martin and McDowell.\*

Company H was called into Federal service for duty at the Mexican Border on June 27, 1916. Prior to being called to the Mexican Border, every member of Company H was inoculated with 750,000,000 germs of anti-typhoid bacteria. These troops received a great deal of credit as not one of them fainted while standing in line waiting their turn, as did many of the troops in other companies. The value of the vaccine even to individuals in private life could not be over estimated in keeping them out of danger of the dreaded disease. This held more significance to the soldiers as they were centered in camps where sanitary conditions were hard to deal with. Although individual treatment was costly, every member of the National Guard of California received the treatment which took about twenty days, being given at proper intervals. Dr. F. L. Doane, the company surgeon, administered the "dope" for Company H and was ably assisted by Hospital Sergeant Selzer and Nurse Will Norvell.\*\* The troops were sent to Nogales, Arizona, where they remained on guard and patrol duty until November 15, 1916. This was the last major activity the unit participated in until the call came for troops in the World War.

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

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\*Red Bluff News, May 26, 1916, page 7, column 1.

\*\*Red Bluff News, June 16, 1916, page 7, column 2.

\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 21.

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