

# **History of the Company I, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Digitized by the History Office, Camp San Luis Obispo, 6 January 2015

Company I, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade  
Reference: Adjutant General's Files  
Location: Grass Valley, Nevada County

2174  
✓

Organized July 14, 1897.  
Mustered into Federal service July 7, 1898\*  
Mustered out of Federal service January 31, 1899\*\*  
Reorganized as Company I, Second Infantry June 30, 1899\*\*\*  
Mustered out August 29, 1904\*\*\*\*  
Reorganized, mustered in and stationed Vacaville Dec. 7, 1904\*\*\*\*\*  
Mustered out January 31, 1910\*\*\*\*\*  
Reorganized, mustered in and stationed Oroville June 30, 1910+  
Mustered 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 I 159th Infantry Regiment Sept. 24, 1917x

.oOo.

\*Company I redesignated Company I, Eighth Infantry Regiment and mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War, July 7, 1898.  
Adjutant General Report 1898-1898, page 8.

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

\*\*\*Company I, Eighth Infantry Regiment reentered the National Guard as Company I, Second Infantry Regiment, June 30, 1899.  
Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 64.

\*\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1905, page 3.

\*\*\*\*\*A new company organized in Vacaville and designated Company I, Second Infantry, Dec. 7, 1904.  
Adjutant General Report 1905, page 3.

\*\*\*\*\*General and Special Orders and Circulars 1910, General Order No. 3, par. 1.

\*A new Company organized in Oroville and designated Company I, Second Infantry, June 30, 1910. General and Special Orders and Circulars 1910, Special Order No. 6, par. 30.

\*\*Company I, as part of the Second Infantry 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, Gen. Order No. 34, p.150.

\*\*\*\*\*Company I, as part of the Second Infantry Regiment called into Federal Service during the World War, March 26, 1917.

Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 21.  
xCo. I, 2nd Inf. Reg. consolidated with Co. a, 2nd Inf. Reg. and designated Co. I, 159th Inf. Reg. Sept. 24, 1917. Adj. Gen. Report 1920-1926, p. 25.

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Peter T. Riley, Captain (discharged July 7, 1898)	July 14, 1897	Oct. 3, 1897
John R. Tyrrell, First Lieut.	July 14, 1897	Oct. 3, 1897
Fred M. Miller, Captain (resigned Feb. 7, 1902)	Aug. 10, 1899	Sept. 5, 1899
C. A. Witter, First Lieut. (resigned June 4, 1900)	Aug. 10, 1899	Sept. 5, 1899
John R. Tyrrell, First Lieut.	May 4, 1901	May 29, 1901
John R. Tyrrell, Captain	Feb. 27, 1902	May 31, 1902
W. H. Hall, First Lieut.	July 2, 1903	Aug. 25, 1903
E. B. McFarland, Captain (resigned Sept. 14, 1905)	Dec. 7, 1904	Jan. 13, 1905
Harry L. Condon, First Lieut.	Dec. 7, 1904	Jan. 13, 1905
H. L. Condon, Captain (resigned Dec. 6, 1907)	Oct. 2, 1905	Nov. 7, 1905
Fred M. Buck, First Lieut. (resigned Jan. 7, 1907)	Oct. 2, 1905	Nov. 7, 1905
W. W. Chandler, First Lieut.	Jan. 15, 1907	Mar. 26, 1907
W. W. Chandler, Captain	Jan. 7, 1908	Feb. 14, 1908
H. P. Palmer, First Lieut.	Jan. 7, 1908	Feb. 14, 1908
W. W. Chandler, Captain (reelected Apr. 19, 1909) (discharged June 24, 1910)	_____	_____
H. P. Palmer, First Lieut. (reelected Apr. 19, 1909)	_____	_____
James V. Parks, Captain (resigned July 27, 1911)	June 30, 1910	Aug. 5, 1910
D. C. McCallum, First Lieut. (resigned July 6, 1911)	June 30, 1910	Aug. 11, 1910
L. H. Heimbürger, Captain (resigned Aug. 19, 1913)	Aug. 14, 1911	Oct. 28, 1911
G. W. Aldrich, First Lieut. (resigned Aug. 19, 1913)	Aug. 14, 1911	Oct. 28, 1911
Earle Mills, Captain (resigned June 6, 1916)	Nov. 17, 1913	Jan. 14, 1914
J. C. Dooley, Captain	June 23, 1916	June 23, 1916
F. C. Tatu, First Lieut. (resigned Feb. 8, 1916)	Mar. 23, 1914	June 10, 1914
C. B. Griggs, First Lieut. (resigned Oct. 14, 1916)	May 22, 1916	June 5, 1916
Edward Irwin Cook, First Lieut.	Oct. 24, 1916	Oct. 24, 1916

COMPANY I (Continued)

Activities:

On July 14, 1897, a military company known and designated as Company I, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, under the command of Captain Peter T. Riley was organized in Grass Valley, Nevada County and mustered into the service of the State.

Company I in order to maintain a high average in military proficiency, attended many regimental and brigade encampments from the date of its organization until it entered the World War in 1917. The encampments attended are as follows:

<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
1907	Fort Miley	July 5 - 20
1908	Atascadero	Oct. 4 - 15
1912	San Francisco and vicinity	Aug. 11 - 21

On July 7, 1898, Company I was mustered into Federal service for duty during the Spanish-American War and redesignated Company I, Eighth Infantry Regiment. Company I remained at Camp Barrett, Oakland, until September 10, 1898, when it was transferred to Vancouver Barracks, Washington. Company I did not engage in active service, doing only guard and patrol duty at the barracks until it was mustered out of Federal service, January 31, 1899.

The State Legislature in 1899, enacted a law giving to the companies and members of the National Guard who were mustered into Federal service during the Spanish-American War, 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 back to duty in the Guard within 150 days after being mustered out of Federal service. Company I was redesignated Company I, Second Infantry and returned to duty in the National Guard, June 30, 1899.

During the latter part of 1900, the membership of Company I fell so low that Lieutenant-Colonel T. J. Hay, Acting Inspector of the Third Brigade, following his annual inspection on December first, recommended that the company be mustered out of service. Adjutant-General W. H. Seamans on December 27, 1900, issued

COMPANY I (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

General Order No. 11 which stated:

"Upon the recommendation of Lieutenant-Colonel T. J. Hay, Company I, Second Infantry, located at Grass Valley, Captain Fred M. Miller, commanding, is hereby disbanded in accordance with the provisions of Section 1938, political code, said company having fallen below a proper standard of efficiency."

This order was rescinded and no copies issued, when on April 4, 1901, Adjutant-General Seamans informed Brigadier-General M. W. Muller, commander of the Third Brigade, that he had received a communication from Colonel H. I. Seymour, commanding the Second Infantry, dated March 16, 1901, recommending that no action be taken on the report of Lieutenant-Colonel Hay, wherein he recommended that Company I be mustered out.

The recommendation of Colonel Seymour to allow Company I to remain in service was based upon the fact that twenty-two new members had been enlisted, which practically reorganized the company, and that Senator John R. Tyrrell had consented to take the captaincy of the company. Upon the statements made by Colonel Seymour, Company I was allowed to remain in the service of the State.

Company I, on September 10, 1901, participated in the Admission Day celebration held in Grass Valley. Company C of Nevada City, and Company I gave a battalion drill in the forenoon, under direction of Major Preston F. 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 entrenched, 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 July 9, 1904, Captain J. R. Tyrrell, of Company I, in a communication to Adjutant-General J. B. Lauck, stated that he believed the State should reap the highest possible benefits from the sum it expended annually upon the various military companies within its borders, and that it was the duty of every officer and man

.oOo.

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

Activities: (continued)

to make the company in their own locality a success. Captain Tyrrell also stated that the members of Company I did not take sufficient interest to attend the weekly drills and over half of the members had stated they would not go to camp unless placed under arrest and taken there. The support of Grass Valley was not extended to the military company, and the Captain found it next to impossible to obtain new recruits without recourse to promises and inducements contrary to the spirit of loyalty and patriotism. Captain Tyrrell had come to the conclusion that where conditions such as these existed, it was his duty as commanding officer, to report it to the Commander-in-Chief, together with his recommendation that the company be mustered out of service. Adjutant-General Lauck, acting upon the recommendation of Captain Tyrrell on August 29, 1904, issued General Order No. 12, which stated:

"Company I, Second Infantry, located at Grass Valley, having been brought to an inefficient and unsatisfactory condition by a prevailing spirit of indifference on the part of the enlisted men of said company, and who have manifested a disposition of insubordination and unwillingness to comply with lawful orders from superior headquarters, is hereby disbanded and mustered out of the service of the State."

The Board of Location and Organization of the National Guard of California, met in the office of Governor George C. Pardee, Commander-in-Chief, at eleven o'clock A.M., on November 10, 1904. Adjutant-General J. B. Lauck presented a petition for the organization of a militia company at Vacaville, Solano County. The Adjutant-General informed the Board that there was a vacancy in the Second Infantry caused by the muster-out of Company I at Grass Valley. The petition having been duly considered, it was ordered that the company at Vacaville be accepted as a company of infantry to be designated Company I, Second Infantry Regiment. Brigadier-General M. W. Muller, commander of the Third Brigade on November 24, 1904, appointed H. L. Condon, a citizen of Vacaville, to organize Company I, Second Infantry, and superintend the election of officers for the unit. On December 7, 1904, Company I was duly organized and mustered into the service of the State under the command of Captain E. E. McFarland.

On April 27, 1905, Company I attended the military funeral of Arthur L. Parke, who died from the ravages of quick consumption. At the organization of Company I, he was mustered into the service

Activities: (continued)

of the State, and a guard of honor attended the funeral and his squad paid him the last honors of a soldier, firing a volley over his last resting place.\*

On April 18, 1906, a severe earthquake occurred in San Francisco, which laid most of the city in ruins. On April twentieth, Company I was ordered to San Francisco for emergency duty. Company I was attached to the Second Provisional Brigade in San Francisco, and aided the civil authorities in maintaining law and order until May sixteenth, when the company returned to Vacaville.

On January 9, 1907, Company I participated in the inaugural parade for Governor James N. Gillett, in Sacramento. Shortly after eleven o'clock A.M., Governor George C. Pardee and Governor-elect J. N. Gillett were driven to the Golden Eagle Hotel. In the same vehicle with them was Assemblyman J. P. Transue, of Los Angeles, accompanying Governor Pardee and Senator Edward Wolfe, of San Francisco, who sat at the right hand of the new Governor. They were followed by a carriage in which were Lieutenant-Governor Alden Anderson and Lieutenant-Governor-elect W. R. Porter. They were met at the hotel by five companies of the Second Infantry and Troop B Cavalry, commanded by Colonel H. I. Seymour. A line of march was immediately formed with the Second Infantry Band leading. Behind them came the militia and cavalry. The carriage in which were the Governor and Governor-elect, followed. The next in line was that of the Lieutenant-Governor and Lieutenant-Governor-elect. The line of march was from the Golden Eagle Hotel, down K to Sixth to J Streets and thence along J to Second to K, to the Clunie Theater. Arriving there, the infantry was lined up at attention. The parade was stopped, the militia came to a salute of arms, and then the carriage bearing the new Governor of California was driven past them and up to the sidewalk in front of the theater. Governor-elect Gillett stepped out first and was closely followed by Governor Pardee. As the latter stepped to the walk, both were cheered. Without stopping, they passed through the entrance into the theater, where the inauguration was to take place.\*\*

.000.

\*Dixon Tribune, April 28, 1905, page 6, column 2.

\*\*Sacramento Bee, January 9, 1907, page 1, column 6.

Activities: (continued)

On September 8, 1907, Company I participated in the military parade in Sacramento which marked the closing of the National Irrigation Congress. It was shortly after 8:30 P.M., that the procession got under way from the corner of Sixteenth and J Streets. A platoon of police in full uniform led, and was closely followed by Grand Marshal F. A. Ruhstaller and his aides, John Sherburn and August Heibron. Colonel H. I. Seymour and Staff and military division escort, composed of the Second Infantry came next. Then followed the largest military display ever seen in Sacramento. It was made up of the Second Infantry Band, followed by Major John Zittinger and Staff, six companies of the Second Infantry and Troop B Cavalry.\*

Due to the inability of Vacaville to maintain the membership of Company I to the minimum required by law, on January 31, 1910, the company was mustered out of the service of the State. On June 30, 1910, a new military company in Oroville was organized and mustered into the service of the State as Company I, Second Infantry Regiment.

On the morning of March 26, 1912, Adjutant-General E. A. Forbes had Captain Leo Heiburger of Company I swear to six warrants for the arrest of as many members of Company I, for insubordination and failure to attend drills. The men taken into custody were Wilburn Jackson, Edwin Blackburn, C. Glover, Harry C. Sadowski, Alonzo F. Bell and Charles Siebe. While the warrants were being sworn out, Adjutant-General Forbes denounced Company I for its inefficiency. He declared that it was the only company out of forty in the State that was guilty of insubordination and where its members absolutely refused to obey the mandates of the officers. The General stated he was shocked and mortified when he saw a member of the company walk into the armory and throw his revolver with a curse, to the Captain. General Forbes declared he did not intend to stand for such unsoldierlike conduct and the warrants were then sworn to.

The Adjutant General stated that he intended to see that Company I either stayed up to the standard or that all were to be dishonorably discharged from the service. Some men had not

.000.

\*Sacramento Bee, September 9, 1907, page 3. column 3.



Activities: (continued)

shown up for drill but once during the year. The men all seemed to think the uniforms and paraphernalia belonged to them and did not return the equipment as they should. General Forbes declared the State had nearly \$2,000.00 worth of property in Oroville and that he was going to take care of it. He intended to keep a close watch on Company I and see that it lived up to the standard. In case of war, Company I would be disbanded almost immediately for a green man could be taught, but an intelligent impertinent one was hard to control.\*

It took but fifteen minutes on the morning of March 27, 1912, to dispose of the cases of the six members of Company I, charged with misdemeanor by not showing up for drills and disobeying the orders of the superior officers. The six men when brought into Judge Park's court, entered pleas of guilty. Judge Parks told them they possessed more than the average intelligence and should understand that when they take an obligation they should stand by it. He told them in the future to attend drills and do as they were instructed by their superior officers. The members of Company I were then discharged.\*\*

On August 5, 1913, 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 and two Industrial Workers of the World had been killed. The Constable of Wheatland township 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 were imminent.

Immediately upon receipt of this information, Governor Hiram W. Johnson ordered the companies of the Second Infantry to proceed to Wheatland at once to stop the rioting and restore order. Company I left Oroville by special train, joining the other companies of the Second Infantry in Wheatland on the morning of

.000.

\*Oroville Mercury, March 26, 1912.

\*\*Oroville Mercury, March 27, 1912.

August fourth. The rioters 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 searched for dynamite which was said 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 Yuba County jail. Company I and the other units of the Second remained on duty in Wheatland until August eighth, when they were ordered to return to their home stations.

There was a possibility that Company I for the second time in seven months would be called out for emergency duty, when in March of 1914, two thousand 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. Governor Johnson ordered Companies A, E, F, G, and I, Second Infantry, Troop B Cavalry and Battery C, First Battalion Field Artillery to Assemble in the State armory in Sacramento. These organizations fell under arms, ready to take action at a moment's notice. The civil authorities, however, by the free use of pick handles and other clubs, and those from the city's Fire Department, routed the invaders and made it unnecessary for the militia to intervene.

On June 27, 1916, Company I, as part of the Second Infantry was mustered into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican Border. The regiment left Sacramento for Nogales, Arizona, June thirtieth, arriving there July 3, 1916. Company I did not engage in active service doing only guard and patrol duty until October twenty-third, when the regiment returned to Los Angeles. Upon arrival in Los Angeles, the Second Infantry established camp at Exposition Park where they remained until mustered out of Federal Service, November 15, 1916.

Company I, as part of the Second Inf. Reg. was called into Federal service on Mar. 26, 1917, for duty during the World War.\* On Sept. 24, 1917, Co. I and A Second Inf. Reg. were consolidated and designated Co. I 159th Inf. Reg., 40th Division.\*\*

.oOo.

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

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 25.

Activities: (continued)

For additional information concerning this company's regimental activities, refer to the History of the 159th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division.

