

History of the Company M, 2nd Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1895-1917

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Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Sanford, Kings County.

Organization March 14, 1900

Reconstituted May 11, 1907**

Mustered into Federal Service June 27, 1916***

Mustered out of Federal service November 15, 1916****

Resumption of service in National Guard 1916+

Mustered into Federal Service April 9, 1917++

NAME	COMMANDING OFFICERS		COMMISSION
	RANK		
Paul M. Norboe, Captain (retired Aug. 13, 1907)	Mar.	7, 1906	June 14, 1906++
Wm. N. Vallandigham, Captain (resigned Jan. 9, 1908)	Oct.	7, 1907	Nov. 18, 1907
M. M. Heath, Captain (reelected Apr. 19, 1909)	Jan.	29, 1908	Mar. 16, 1906
Wm. N. Vallandigham, 1st Lieut. (promoted Captain Oct. 9, 1907)	Feb.	13, 1907	Apr. 19, 1907
B. M. Heath, 1st Lieut. (promoted Capt. Jan. 29, 1908)	Oct.	9, 1907	Nov. 18, 1907
P. C. Nyswanger, 1st Lieut. (elected Apr. 19, 1909) (resigned Dec. 8, 1909)	Jan.	29, 1908	Mar. 16, 1909
Harry W. Holman, 1st Lieut. (resigned Jan. 18, 1913)	Jan.	28, 1910	Mar. 30, 1910

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* On May 11, 1907, Company M was assigned to the Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, formerly Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.

Company M, formerly Company I, Sixth Infantry Regiment, redesignated Company M, Second Infantry Regiment, May 11, 1907. Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 4.

***Company M, 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, General Order No. 34, page 150.

++Company M, as part of the Second Infantry Regiment was called into Federal Service for duty during the World War April 9, 1917. Muster Roll Company M, Second Infantry Regiment, C, N, G, April, 1917. Adjutant General Files.

(On October 31, 1917, Company M was broken up and apportioned among Companies E, F, G, and H, 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division)

Correspondence Historical Section, Army War College, April 30, 1926. File 000.4. Adjutant General's Office.

+++Captain Norboe and Lieutenant Vallandigham retained their former Commission as of June 14, 1906 and April 19, 1907, respectively, when they commanded Company I, Sixth Infantry Regiment, 1907.

COMPANY M (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
B. M. Heath, Captain (reelected Oct. 20, 1913) (resigned Apr. 13, 1916)		
W. M. McNamara, Captain	May 3, 1916	May 27, 1916
Harry W. Eby, First Lieut. (resigned Jan. 7, 1915)	Feb. 5, 1913	Mar. 19, 1913
George A. Beck, First Lieut.	Jan. 27, 1915	Feb. 19, 1915

Activities:

Company M was organized at Hanford, March 14, 1900, as Company I, Sixth Infantry Regiment. On May 11, 1907, the Sixth Infantry Regiment was disbanded and Company I redesignated Company M, Second Infantry Regiment. One of the first activities Company M participated in was the Memorial Day services held at Grangeville and Hanford on May 30, 1907. The troops assisted the various patriotic organizations in distributing flowers to the many graves of soldiers and citizens in both cemeteries. Company M and a group of citizens, first proceeded to the Grangeville cemetery where appropriate services were held. After a short speech by Reverend Taylor, of Grangeville, the Grand Army of the Republic ritual was carried out and the usual decoration of graves followed. The firing squad from Company M fired a farewell salute.

During the afternoon a procession was formed at the Masonic Temple in Hanford, consisting of the Grand Army of the Republic, Women's Relief Corps, thirty members of Company M, under command of Second Lieutenant Clyde Nyswanger and a large group of citizens. The procession then moved to Hanford cemetery and held services similar to the one held at Grangeville.*

While attending a regular meeting on the evening of July 3, 1907, the members of Company M were pleasantly surprised by each receiving a complete new uniform. These uniforms which were of khaki and made in regulation style, were neat fitting. They were distributed by Lieutenant Vallandigham of Company M. Second Lieutenant B. W. Heath continued the Thursday night meeting with the work of stacking arms and platoon drills. The drilling was kept

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*Hanford Sentinel, June 6, 1907, page 8.

COMPANY M (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

up until a late hour as it was their last regular meeting prior to the yearly encampment.*

Just two days later, July fifth, the company went to Fort Miley to participate in the Joint Army and Militia Coast defense exercises. The Fort was located near San Francisco and well adopted for extended maneuvers. Company M acted as an artillery support to Companies C and H, also of the Second Infantry, and gained considerable knowledge as to their duties. The work of the troops was reported as very gratifying on account of the exceptional eagerness exhibited by officers and men in learning the methods of the Regulars. This encampment was one of many that Company M took an active part in. During the years when appropriations were not sufficient for brigade or regimental encampments, the troops arranged for one-night marches where they could hold target practice the following day.

The following list comprises the number of regular encampments Company M participated in prior to entering the World War in 1917:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MONTH</u>
1907	Fort Miley	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

The annual inspection of Company M for the year of 1909, was held on February tenth. The men were prepared to show the inspection officers just how much they knew about army tactics, and made a splendid showing. Colonel Thomas Wilhlem, Major G. L. Holton and Lieutenant H. H. Delamater, conducted the inspection; Major Holton taking the boys through the drill, touching on nearly every phase of drill work. A number of visitors occupied the gallery and watched the proceedings with interest.

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*Hanford Sentinel, July 4, 1907, page 6, column 1.

COMPANY M (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Captain B. M. Heath, of the local company, expressed himself as well pleased with the inspection and stated that each year the drills were becoming harder and more complicated. Some of the maneuvers the troops went through, would, he said, two years ago, have been a complete puzzle to members of the organization.*

The members of Company M participated in many social and civic entertainments and were in great demand whenever Hanford or any of the surrounding towns held a celebration. The Independence Day celebration held at Lemoore during 1908, was long remembered by the unit. The Company accepted an invitation to participate in the parade and upon reaching Lemoore, it seemed as if the major portion of Kings County were assembled there. People came from all the surrounding country to enjoy the hospitality extended them from the citizens of Lemoore.

The parade started at ten o'clock, marching through the principle streets of the city, which were found to be well graded and oiled. This improvement of the streets called forth the much favorable comment from those who had not recently visited Lemoore. Passing in review of the thousands of spectators, the procession moved in the following order: Grand Marshal and aides, King's County Band of twenty pieces, McPherson Post, Grand Army of the Republic; Company M represented by thirty-four men; "Spirit of '76" Drum Corps, which consisted of Charles and William Brown and A. Hoover; Grand Army of the Republic in carriages; drill team of Willow Camp No. 163; and a large number of beautifully decorated floats.

After the parade, the crowd was entertained by literary exercises at the City Park. The day was fully enjoyed by all as every moment was given to some sort of entertainment. During the afternoon, a free barbecue was given in one of the warehouses east of the Southern Pacific depot. This was followed by a grand display of fireworks in the evening and concluding the celebration of the day, there was a grand ball at the opera house and also one at Belknapp's Hall.**

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*Hanford Sentinel, May 28, 1908, page 6, column 3.

**Hanford Sentinel, July 9, 1908, page 1, column 4.

COMPANY M (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

The regular meeting of Company M held November 17, 1909, was an enthusiastic one, with a good attendance and a drill in which the members took part with zest. To the equipment of the company had been added two maps, one of the United States and one of California, sent by Congressman J. C. Needham. The maps were the same as those used by the United States Army, and were greatly appreciated by the members of the unit.

A social club was also formed at the meeting and called the "Company M Social Club." The officers elected were as follows: President, Private Sweeney; Vice-President, Private Tognorio; Secretary, Corporal Goodwin; Treasurer, Sergeant Holman. All the members of the company were members of the club, although the commissioned officers were barred from holding an office in the social club. The first function under the auspices of the newly formed club was a dance given in conjunction with the Hanford band at the Armory Hall.*

During January of the following year, 1910, an auxiliary to Company M was formed and given the name of "Nurse Corps." Those elected to office were: Principle Nurse, Mrs. Nellie Holman; First Assistant Principle Nurse, Mabel Goodwin; Nurse Secretary, Iris Smith; Nurse Treasurer, Creta Boyd; Nurse Lecturer, Hope McCord. The Nurse Secretary was to act as Chaplain of the auxiliary. This group of officers, together with those of the Company M Social Club, planned many affairs in behalf of Company M.

A "house warming" was given on March 16, 1910, in the newly furnished club rooms in connection with the company's tenth Anniversary which was March fourteenth. The club rooms were completely furnished with mission furniture and new carpets, and were also papered and painted. Companies C and K, of Fresno, were guests of Company M, who together enjoyed the social evening with many of Hanford's citizens. The new appointments made in the company were, Allen Hagler, as Quartermaster Sergeant and B. E. Spradin, as First Sergeant.** The evening was then brought to a close with the serving of sandwiches and punch.

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*Hanford Sentinel, November 25, 1909, page 2, column 2.

**Hanford Sentinel, March 24, 1910, page 3, column 5.

Activities: (continued)

Aside from the social activities of Company M, the members of the unit were interested in the annual target shoots. The first shoot the company participated in was held during the year of 1908. The results were that fifteen men qualified for medals, three of which were for "Distinguished Marksman," one issued to Captain Heath, for "First Class Rifleman," and eleven to other members for "Rifleman," standing.

Private B. Duffield, of Company M was one of the fifteen highest scoring National Guardsmen in California for the year of 1908. He was sent to Camp Perry, Ohio, on the expert rifle team for that year. The company's rating at the rifle shoot for the following year fell short of 1908, as there were but eleven men who qualified. A decided lack of interest was shown as in 1910, there were no qualifications. A gradual increase was noted in the years that followed and during the Annual Shoot of 1916, there were twenty-three members of Company M who qualified.

When the President issued a call on June 18, 1916, for troops to aid in the Mexican Border trouble, Company M answered readily. The company was mustered into Federal service on June twenty-seventh, at Sacramento. Two days later, they entrained for Nogales, Arizona, where they remained on guard and patrol duty until November 15, 1915.* This was the last major activity of company M, prior to being mustered into Federal service for duty in the World War.

Company M, as part of the Second Infantry Regiment was called into Federal service on March 26, 1917.** On October 31, 1917, Company M was broken up and the men apportioned among companies E, F, G and H, 160th Infantry Regiment.*** For additional information concerning the activities of this unit, refer to History of the 160th Infantry, 40th Division.

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*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 17.

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

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