

History of the Company B (Shields Guard), 3rd (Irish) Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1883-1895

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COMPANY B

Company B, Third Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly Shields Guard)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files
 Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County
 Organized January 3, 1862
 Reorganized April 18, 1883*
 Disbanded April 7, 1885**
 Reorganized and mustered in May 22, 1885***
 Consolidated and redesignated December 9, 1895****

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
H. P. Filgate, Captain	April 18, 1883	May 19, 1883
Lewis Shanahan, First Lieut. (Resigned July 16, 1883)	April 18, 1883	
Christopher McClunie, First Lieut.	May 27, 1884	July 8, 1884
Thomas Drady, Captain	May 22, 1885	June 8, 1885
Thomas J. Dillon, First Lieut.	May 22, 1885	July 30, 1885
Edward H. Kennedy, Captain	Mar. 15, 1888	April 11, 1888
James G. Burns, First Lieut.	Sept. 10, 1888	Oct. 16, 1888
Edward H. Kennedy, Captain (Re-elected Oct. 4, 1890)	_____	_____
James G. Burns, First Lieut. (Re-elected Oct. 4, 1890)	_____	_____

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- *Company B, formerly Shields Guard organized January 3, 1862, was mustered in and designated as Company B, Third Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, April 18, 1883.
Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, page 66, and 42.
- **Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, General Order No. 9, page 63.
- ***Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 33. General Order No. 10, page 112.
- ****Company B and Company F, Third Infantry, consolidated and redesignated Company H, First Infantry Regiment, December 9, 1895.
Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Edward H. Kennedy, Captain (Re-elected July 12, 1893)	_____	_____
Henry C. Middleton, First Lieut.	July 12, 1893	July 29, 1893
Edward H. Kennedy, Captain (Re-elected Oct. 12, 1895)	_____	_____
Henry C. Middleton, First Lieut. (Re-elected Oct. 12, 1895)	_____	_____

Activities:

When the Third Infantry Battalion was ordered to be mustered out of the National Guard on March 22, 1882, the action caused a great deal of ill-feeling on the part of the Third Infantry against the authorities. The existence of this animosity led to a decision by the regiment (the battalion was considered a regiment by its members) to continue as an independent organization. By the same order that mustered out the battalion, Company B, formerly the Shields Guard, was to be transferred to the First Infantry Regiment and designated Company G. On March 22, 1882, just a few days after the order was issued, Captain Filgate, acting as Major of the battalion, issued honorable discharges to nearly all the members of Company B. The captain also tendered his resignation. However, the military authorities ruled that the captain had exceeded his authority in issuing discharges to his men, as he was only an acting major, and therefore, could not dismiss the men without the approval of higher authorities. The ruling resulted in Company B entering the First Infantry Regiment, as Company G. Soon after entering the regiment most of the men asked to be honorably discharged, and since a volunteer soldier that was serving against his will would not make a good soldier, the men were discharged. New recruits took the place of those discharged and Captain Filgate was also permitted to resign. The captain and the men thus discharged reorganized an independent company and joined with the old independent Third Infantry Regiment as Company B, Shields Guard. The independent regiment continued as such until an order was issued on April 2, 1883, permitting the Regiment to be mustered in and redesignated as Third Infantry Regiment.* Company B, with Captain Filgate as captain, was mustered into the National Guard on April 18, 1883, and designated as Company B, Third Infantry Regiment.

Adjutant General Report 1883-1884 -o0o- page 99, 100.

*Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, General Order No. 16, page 66.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Company B placed ninth in the target practice of 1883, with a score of 45 per cent. Twenty-seven companies of the Second Brigade took part in the shoot. The score of 1883 was the only rifle practice record available of the old Company B, as the unit was disbanded on April 7, 1885, upon the recommendation of Colonel Robert Tobin and the approval of the Board of Location and Organization. The only encampment participated in by Company B before being mustered out was a regimental camp held at Monterey from August 28 to August 31, 1884.

A newly organized company, with Thomas F. Drady as Captain, and Thomas J. Dillon, First Lieutenant, was mustered in on May 22, 1885, and designated as Company B. There were sixty-six members sworn into the new company.

The new company developed into an extremely fine unit of the Third Infantry Regiment. The annual Muster Roll and Inspection Report for 1888 showed that the discipline, instruction, appearance and condition of arms and property were all "good." In 1890 the inspection showed the unit good in all but military appearance which was "excellent." In 1891 the company rated "good" in all respects, except arms and property which were only "fair." In 1892 the unit was good in every department. The year 1893 found a slight change, discipline was still "good," instruction good, military appearance was "very good," and arms and other property "fair." In 1894 the unit rated "very good" in everything except arms and other property, which was "fair."

Company B made an unusually fine record on the target range. In 1886 the new company made a score of 49 per cent, which was four points ahead of the score made by the old Company B in 1883. According to General Order No. 22 A, December 10, 1891, out of fifteen members of the Third Infantry that secured a rating of Second Class Marksmen in 1891, thirteen were members of Company B, one member from Regimental Staff and one from Company G, Third Infantry.* Company G and Company B, each had twenty Third Class Marksmen. The year 1893 was one of the best year's that Company B

History of the Third Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

For further details refer to National Guard and the Railroad Strike, Adjutant General's Report.

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*Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, pages 99, 100. General Orders No. 17, 18

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

had on the target range. They boasted of three First Class Marksmen, the only ones in the Third Regiment that year. Their score of seven Second Class Marksmen was the highest in the regiment, and they tied with Company D for Third Class honors each having seventeen.* Again in 1894 Company B had five First Class Marksmen out of the six in the Third Infantry. In the Second Class, Company B had twelve out of the Third Regiment's twenty marksmen, but Company D had twelve Third Class Marksmen to nine for Company B.**

Company B attended six encampments while in the Third Infantry. Three were regimental encampments, two were divisional and one a general encampment of the entire Second Brigade. Company B took part in a great many special parades and celebrations, aside from the regular drills and usual holiday parades.***

On July 3, 1894, Company B was ordered into active service and sent to Sacramento to preserve order and protect railroad property during the strike of railroad employees against the Pullman Car Company. The unit remained in Sacramento until July 25, 1894, when it was ordered home to San Francisco and dismissed.†

In 1895 when the National Guard was reorganized Company B and Company F, Third Infantry Regiment were consolidated and redesignated as Company H, First Infantry Regiment, December 9, 1895.††

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3 *Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, pages 105, 107, 118.

4 **Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, pages 37, 40, 48.

***For further information regarding special parades, refer to the History of the Third Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

† For further details refer to the National Guard and the Railroad Strike, Adjutant General's Office.

†† Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, pages 86, 88, General Orders No. 17, 18.