

History of the Company C (Hancock Rifles), 3rd (Irish) Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1883-1895

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COMPANY C

Company C, Third Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly
Hancock Rifles, Independent Military Company)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Oakland, Alameda County

Organized April 18, 1883*

Consolidated, redesignated and stationed San Francisco
 September 26, 1891**

Mustered out June 29, 1895***

Reconstituted July 23, 1895†

Redesignated December 9, 1895††

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Henry Levy, Captain	April 18, 1883	May 19, 1883
Martin Ryan, First Lieut.	April 18, 1883	May 19, 1883
Henry Levy, Captain (Re-elected April 21, 1885)	_____	_____
Martin Ryan, First Lieut. (Re-elected April 21, 1885)	_____	_____
Henry Levy, Captain (Re-elected May 24, 1887)	_____	_____
Martin Ryan, First Lieut. (Re-elected May 24, 1887)	_____	_____

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*Hancock Rifles, independent company, mustered into the Third Infantry Regiment and designated Company C, April 18, 1883.
 Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, page 66, and 42.

**Company C and Company H consolidated and designated Company C, Third Infantry Regiment, September 26, 1891.
 Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, page 88.

***Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 10, Par. 6, page 75.

†Company C, formerly Company A, First Infantry Regiment transferred to Third Infantry Regiment and designated Company C, Third Infantry Regiment.
 Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, page 76.

††Company C, Third Infantry was redesignated Company D, Fifth Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December 9, Company D, Fifth Battalion designated Company D, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.
 Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.

COMPANY C (Continued)

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Henry Levy, Captain (Re-elected June 18, 1889) (Retired 1891)		
Martin Ryan, First Lieut. (Re-elected June 18, 1889) (Retired 1891)		
Samuel J. Ruddell, Captain	Oct. 12, 1891	Oct. 21, 1891
John Kerwin, First Lieut.	Oct. 12, 1891	Oct. 21, 1891
August L. Ott, Captain	May 24, 1895	June 26, 1895
Arthur J. Barlow, First Lieut.	May 24, 1895	June 26, 1895

Activities:

Company C was organized shortly after the election of General Stoneman to the governorship of California in the fall of 1882; Many of the members of the new company were former members of the Hancock Fire Brigade, a political organization that was organized for gubernatorial election campaign purposes. After election the men decided to form a military organization and retain the name Hancock, hence the title Hancock Rifles. Henry Levy was elected Captain and Martin Ryan, First Lieutenant. Captain Levy was an experienced officer in the National Guard, having been Captain of the Oakland Guard in 1881. It was claimed that one evening while the unit was drilling, Adjutant General Cosby and Major-General Turnbull, National Guard of California, unexpectedly visited the company, and after watching for a while General Cosby intimated that should the Hancock Rifles apply for admission into the National Guard the unit would receive favorable consideration.* The incident resulted in an application being filed and the eventual mustering into the National Guard of the Hancock Rifles as Company C, Third Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, April 18, 1883. From a muster roll of Company C in 1885 the following remarks about the property of the company are taken:**

"This company possesses besides uniforms and equipments an immense amount of furniture, carpets, desks, lockers, gunracks, etc., having a complete and handsomely furnished armory and owning everything in it. Everything is kept in order and the armory and surroundings are a credit to the State. They also own some very fine trophies won at shooting, which are also in the armory."

The rifles and bayonets were the only equipment belonging to the State.

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*History of Alameda County, by M. W. Wood, 1883, page 759.

**Muster Roll and Inspection Report by Lieutenant-Colonel Truman H. Allen, Inspector, National Guard of California. Adjutant General's Office.

Activities: (Continued)

Henry Levy, Captain of Company C, was formerly Captain of the Oakland Guard in 1881, and proved to be a very fine officer for the company. In reading the annual muster rolls and reports it was noted that the discipline, instruction, military appearance, was always rated as good; very good or excellent; and condition of arms and property was always good.

Although Company C as an independent unit possessed a number of trophies for target practice, the corps was only the second best in the Third Regiment and frequently were third or fourth on the list. Company C attended five encampments while attached to the Third Infantry Regiment. The first was at Monterey in 1884, and the second and third were held in Healdsburg in 1886 and 1887, respectively, the fourth at Santa Cruz in 1891, and a divisional encampment also held at Santa Cruz the following year.

Besides regular drills and inspection parades, Company C participated in a great many special parades on holidays; attended receptions in honor of distinguished visitors; and many times acted as escort in military funerals for those whose position and rank entitled them to such honors.

On July 3, 1894, Company C was ordered to proceed to Sacramento and assist in restoring law and order during the Railroad Strike. The unit remained in Sacramento until July twenty-fifth, when they were ordered home to San Francisco and dismissed.*

Company C under-went a number of changes while a unit in the Third Infantry Regiment. The first was on September 26, 1891, when Company C and Company H were consolidated and designated as Company C and the unit stationed in San Francisco. The next change occurred on June 29, 1895, when the unit was mustered out of the National Guard. Nearly a month later Company A, First Infantry Regiment was transferred to the Third Infantry Regiment and designated Company C. Five months later when the National Guard was reorganized, Company C was back in the First Infantry Regiment. This change came about when it was decided to organize the National Guard into battalions, resulting in a complete re-vamping of the organization. Former batteries and companies were consolidated and shifted into battalions of four infantry companies, with a major as the commanding officer. The change

*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.

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*For further details refer to National Guard and the Railroad Strike, 1894.
Adjutant General's Office.

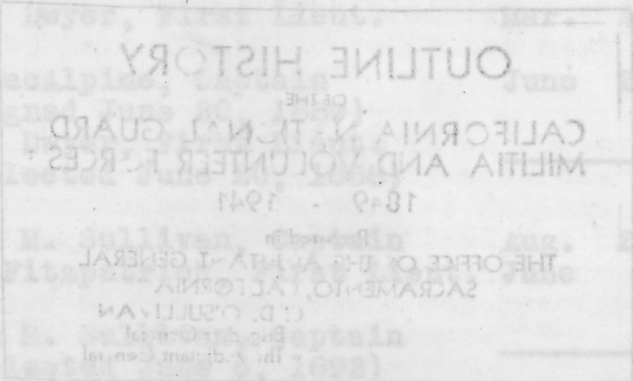
COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

to battalion formation conformed to the Federal Military law. The battalions were organized on December 7, 1895, and two days later the Fifth Battalion to which Company C had been attached as Company D, was made one of the three battalions that formed the First Infantry Regiment. Therefore Company C, Third Infantry Regiment was redesignated Company D, First Infantry Regiment on December 9, 1895.*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
J. C. O'Connor, Captain	April 18, 1883	May 19, 1883
Thomas J. Lynch, First Lieut.	Oct. 3, 1883	Dec. 3, 1883
J. C. O'Connor, Captain (Re-elected June 17, 1883)		
John J. Meyer, First Lieut.	April 13, 1883	April 13, 1883
A. C. ...	July 14, 1883	July 14, 1883
William M. Sullivan, Captain (Re-elected May 16, 1894) (Retired May 24, 1895)		
Edward Fitzpatrick, First Lieut. (Re-elected Feb. 10, 1894)		



*Company D, formerly Montgomery Guard, organized December 1859, was reorganized and designated Company E, Fifth Battalion, December 7, 1895. April 18, 1883, in accordance with General Order No. 16 issued April 8, 1883.

*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 86, 88. redesignated Company E, Fifth Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later December 9, 1895, Company E, Fifth Battalion was designated Company D, First Infantry Regiment. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.