

History of the Company B (San Jose Zouaves), 5th Infantry Battalion, National Guard of California 1879-1885

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COMPANY B

Company B, Fifth Infantry Battalion, Second Brigade (formerly San Jose Zouaves)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files
Location: San Jose, Santa Clara County
Organized September 30, 1862
Reorganized December 30, 1879*
Reconstituted August 1, 1885**

Commending Officers

Table with 3 columns: Name, Rank, Commission. Rows include W. T. Adel, John Hartzoke, Chas. E. Bradley, Orvin Taber, Albert E. Whitton, and Edwin M. Hills.

*Company B, formerly San Jose Zouaves, designated Company B, Second Infantry Battalion, December 12, 1879. Eighteen days later, December 30, 1879, Company B, Second Infantry Battalion designated Company B, Fifth Infantry Battalion, Second Brigade. Adjutant General Report 1880, Special Orders Nos. 38, 40, page 72.

**Company B, Fifth Infantry Battalion designated Company B, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, August 1, 1885. Headquarter Papers, Second Brigade, Special Order No. 44, 1885.

***Captain W. T. Adel and first Lieutenant John Hartzoke retained their former commissions as of February 16, 1878 and May 26, 1877, respectively, when they commanded the San Jose Zouaves.

Activities:

Company B was formerly the San Jose Zouaves, organized September 30, 1862, and reorganized as a unit of the Second Infantry Battalion, December 12, 1879. However, a Special Order issued eighteen days later on December thirtieth, stated that the Second Battalion was designated the Fifth Infantry Battalion. Therefore, Company B was designated Company B, Fifth Infantry Battalion.*

On January 26, 1880, it was announced by S. W. Backus, Adjutant General, that the Fifth Infantry Battalion of which Company B was a part, showed the largest percentage of attendance at drills for the year 1880. As a reward they received a United States regulation silk flag with staff complete.** The two years following the unit's reorganization, was spent mainly in drills and inspections.

Adjutant General George B. Cosby gave the target practice report for September 1883 and Major William Simpson, Inspector of Rifle Practice gave it for September 1884. A comparison for the two years is as follows:

Year	Number present	Number absent	Percentage	Missing target
1883	37	29	45% fair	1
1884	30	32	21.80% very good	—

Aside from drills, inspections and target practice, the unit took part in the annual and special parades held each year on Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, July Fourth and Admission Day.

This practically concludes the activities of the unit, as the Battalion of which Company B was a part, was only in existence for approximately five years. Therefore, in accordance with Regimental Order No. 7, Company B, Fifth Infantry Battalion was redesignated Company B, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, August 1, 1885.***

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*Adjutant General Report 1880, Special Order No. 38, 40, page 72.

**Adjutant General Report 1880, General Order No. 4, page 60.
Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 1, page 75.

***Headquarter Papers, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, Regimental Order No. 7.