

History of the 6th Infantry Battalion, Company B (Emmet Guard), National Guard of California 1885-1888

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Company B, Sixth Infantry Battalion, Third Brigade (formerly Emmet Guard, unattached Third Brigade)

Reference: Adjutant General Files
Location: Stockton, San Joaquin County
Organized May 21, 1884
Reconstituted July 22, 1885*
Reconstituted February 21, 1888**

| <u>Commanding Officers</u> | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <u>Name</u> | <u>Rank</u> | <u>Commission</u> |
| J. J. Numan, Captain | May 21, 1884 | June 26, 1884 |
| Edward Byrnes, First Lieut. | Feb. 15, 1888 | Mar. 23, 1888 |

○Activities:

Company B prior to the organization of the Sixth Battalion in 1885 was known as the Emmet Guard, unattached. The recommendation by the Board of Location and Organization that the Emmet Guard, Stockton, and Forsyth Guards be formed into a Battalion was approved by a General Order issued from the Adjutant General's Office July 22, 1885.

The first activity of Company B was the participation in the General Encampment of the National Guard in 1885. The camp was called Camp Stoneman in honor of Governor Stoneman, who was credited with having used his influence advantageously for the National Guard's welfare in connection with securing the appropriation from the Legislature for the General Encampment. Major Royal T. Frank, commander of the First

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*The Emmet Guard, Third Brigade was attached to the Sixth Infantry Battalion and designated Company B, July 22, 1885, by General Order No. 18.
Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, page 70.

**The Sixth Infantry Battalion was elevated to the Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, February 21, 1888, and Company B was designated Company B, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade. Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Artillery, United States Army, was appointed by the War Department to visit and inspect the camp. Company B, as part of the Provisional Regiment had forty-two men in camp which was seven more than the number allowed by the Legislature. The Provisional Regiment was comprised of six companies commanded by Captain Eugene Lehe of Company A. These seven additional members attended the camp at their own expense or that of the company, as the limited appropriation only provided for a maximum of thirty-five men to each unit. The Camp of Instruction proved a week of profitable experience for Company B and a notable improvement was evident in the drill and military bearing of the men by the end of the week.*

The Company carried on its rolls seventy-eight members from February to July 1886, which was the greatest numerical strength the unit experienced during its existence in the Sixth Infantry Battalion. The lowest level reached was in August of the same year when the number was reduced to sixty. The unit always averaged a good attendance at drills and the returns for August 1886 credit Company B with 78 per cent attendance rating, the highest rating attained by a National Guard company during that month.

Company B participated in the parades required by law during the year. The most outstanding parade was during the encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1886. The Company together with the other units of the Sixth Infantry Battalion, paraded as escort to Commander-in-Chief Burdette and the Grand Army of the Republic, followed by the Regulars. The encampment was held in San Francisco.

A requisition of arms was received in February 1888 from the Federal Government for the use of the National Guard. The purpose of the new arms was to equip the units who had recently become attached to the service. This arrangement would also affect re-adjustment of the arms in possession of the different companies. The Sixth Infantry Battalion received as their allotment, fifty new rifles and 132 old ones under this ruling. Com-

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*Further details of encampment at Camp Stoneman, refer to History of Company A, Sixth Infantry Battalion, Third Brigade.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

pany B had on hand fifty-nine old rifles at the time, nine of these were returned, leaving a balance of fifty to which amount ten new rifles were added. Company B had a membership of sixty-four when the arms were distributed.

By an act of the Legislature in 1887, the National Guard was increased from forty to fifty companies. The Third Brigade was to have two of the new units which together with the four companies already in the Battalion would be the minimum number of companies for a Regiment.* A meeting of the staff and line officers of the Sixth Infantry Battalion was held when it was decided to elevate the battalion to a Regiment. The new Regiment was to comprise the following companies; A and B of Stockton, C and F of Fresno, D of Modesto and E of Visalia. Lieutenant Colonel Eugene Lehe of Stockton was unanimously elected Colonel.** The organization of the Sixth Infantry Regiment was authorized by Special Order No. 6, which took effect February 21, 1888. Company B was redesignated Company B, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.***

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*San Francisco Call, December 20, 1887, page 3, column 1.

**San Francisco Call, February 24, 1888, page 3, column 4.

***Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.