

History of the 6th Infantry Regiment, Company E, National Guard of California 1888-1907

This history was completed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in conjunction with the California National Guard and the California State Library.

Digitized by the History Office, Camp San Luis Obispo, 23 January 2015

Original document on file at the California State Library

COMPANY E

Company E, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade (Formerly Company E, Sixth Infantry Battalion, Third Brigade)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Visalia, Tulare County

Organized December 9, 1887

Reconstituted February 21, 1888*

Reconstituted December 9, 1895**

Mustered into Federal Service May 11, 1898***

Mustered out of Federal Service December 15, 1898+

Reorganized as Company E, Sixth Infantry Regiment May 1, 1899++

Redesignated May 11, 1907+++

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Lloyd V. Nauscawer, Captain (Resigned Nov. 1, 1890)	Dec. 9, 1887	Jan. 4, 1888
M. J. Byrnes, First Lieut.	Dec. 9, 1887	Jan. 4, 1888
M. J. Byrnes, Captain	Nov. 14, 1890	Nov. 25, 1890
G. W. Stewart, First Lieut.	Nov. 14, 1890	Nov. 25, 1890
M. J. Byrnes, Captain (Re-elected Dec. 16, 1892)	_____	_____
G. W. Stewart, First Lieut. (Re-elected Dec. 16, 1892)	_____	_____

-oOo-

*Company E, formerly Company E, Sixth Infantry Battalion, Third Brigade designated Company E, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, February 21, 1888.
Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.

**Company E, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade redesignated Company E, Ninth Infantry Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December 9, Company E, Ninth Infantry Battalion redesignated Company E, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.
Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 87, 88.

***Company E as part of the Sixth Infantry Regiment mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War, May 11, 1898.
Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, page 8.

◆Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.

◆◆Company E as part of the Sixth Infantry Regiment, re-entered the National Guard, May 1, 1899.
Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59.

◆◆◆Company E, Sixth Infantry Regiment redesignated Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, May 11, 1907.
Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 4.

2524

COMPANY E (Continued)

<u>Commanding Officers (Continued)</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
M. J. Byrnes, Captain (Re-elected Dec. 4, 1894)		
G. W. Stewart, First Lieut. (Re-elected Dec. 4, 1894)		
F. W. Ward, Captain	Mar. 24, 1896	April 16, 1896
N. W. Kibler, First Lieut.	Oct. 22, 1895	Nov. 21, 1895
G. W. Stewart, Captain	Mar. 29, 1898	April 30, 1898
G. L. Adams, First Lieut.	Nov. 9, 1897	Dec. 7, 1897
G. W. Stewart, Captain (Re-elected May 17, 1900)		
F. W. Mixer, First Lieut.	Dec. 5, 1899	May 2, 1900
F. W. Mixer, Captain	Sept. 24, 1901	Oct. 19, 1901
F. F. Barton, First Lieut.	Sept. 24, 1901	Oct. 19, 1901
M. J. Byrnes, Captain	Nov. 14, 1890	Dec. 31, 1902
C. M. Hamrick, First Lieut. (Resigned Jan. 17, 1904)	Feb. 11, 1902	Mar. 15, 1902
Raymond H. Deming, First Lieut.	Mar. 8, 1904	April 2, 1904
Raymond H. Deming, Captain	Dec. 13, 1904	Mar. 23, 1905
C. F. Benn, First Lieut. (Resigned Oct. 19, 1905)	Dec. 13, 1904	Mar. 23, 1905
A. B. Shippey, First Lieut.	Nov. 14, 1905	Jan. 15, 1906

Activities:

Company E was a new company located at Visalia, having been mustered into the National Guard as Company E, Sixth Infantry Battalion, December 9, 1887. On February 21, 1888, when the battalion was elevated to a regiment the unit was redesignated Company E, Sixth Infantry Regiment. During the organization of the National Guard in 1895, there was no material change in the Sixth Infantry Regiment. On December seventh the regiment was reduced to two battalions, and Company E became Company E, Tenth Battalion. Two days later, the regiment was again reverted to its full strength and the unit was redesignated Company E, Sixth Infantry Battalion, Third Brigade.

The first inspection July 12, 1888, indicated the company had a membership of sixty-nine, having gained two new members during the six month period. The unit was rated with excellent discipline, good military appearance and instruction, as well as the arms and State property being in fair condition. During this period the unit drilled thirty-four times, with an average present of forty-seven members attending. This record indicated that the company

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

would be one of the top-notch units in the service.

Company E attended the annual encampments and progressed rapidly in military efficiency. One of the early encampments attended was held at Santa Cruz, July 1890, and designated as Camp Allen in honor of C. C. Allen, the Adjutant General of the State. Twenty-nine of the fifty-six members were present, making an average attendance of 51.79 per cent. At the inspection held on July twenty-fourth, the closing day of the Camp of Instruction, Company E had an average merit of 4.00, which was a "good" rating according to the scale used by the inspectors.* The Sixth Infantry Regiment had for its Adjutant, a retired army officer, who was an efficient and diligent teacher in military routine. Company E benefited from his extensive experience and made rapid advance in drills, guard duty, and military etiquette.** That the company continued to gain in military efficiency is apparent from the Annual Inspection Report of March 1894 just prior to the unit's participation in the Railroad Strike. Major L. F. Winchell, Inspector of the Third Brigade, credited the company with the members, numbering fifty, present and an average merit of 6.00, which was an "excellent" rating.***

Company E, together with the other units of the Sixth Infantry Regiment, attended the regimental encampment, at Stockton, June sixteenth to twenty-fourth, a fact which later caused the difficulty in assembling the members for duty in the Railroad Strike. Orders were issued from Headquarters to Lieutenant-Colonel S. S. Wright to prepare the companies of the Sixth Infantry Regiment, with the exception of Company A and Company B in Stockton, for active duty. One of the first difficulties encountered was that many of the men had gone from the encampment to different parts of the State. Another difficulty encountered was the complete stoppage of railroad traffic which made rapid transportation out of the question, a shortage of ammunition and the difficulty in making distribution of the supply on hand also caused grave concern. Part of the allotment of Company E had to be transported under guard by wagon from Fresno, a distance of forty-five miles, as no ammunition could be procured at Visalia. The difficulty was encountered in securing the regulation food for field service. On July twelfth, Company E was ordered to report at Sumner, Kern County, in heavy marching order and equipped with forty

-000-

*The figures of average merit were as follows: 1 bad; 2 poor; 3 fair; 4 good; 5 very good; and 6 excellent.

Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 150.

**Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, pages 158, 167.

***Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 185.

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

rounds of ball cartridges and five days rations per man. Company E joined Company F and Company G at Goshen, at eight-fifty P.M. and the commands reached Sumner at six-thirty A.M. on the thirteenth, where they took immediate possession of the depot. The company's activities up to the twenty-fifth, consisted chiefly of guarding railroad trains, roundhouse, depot, and the Kern River Bridge. On July twenty-fifth, Captain M. J. Byrnes of Company E, was put in command of a provisional company, organized at Sumner, of volunteers from the different units in the field consisting of seventy men. This company remained on duty at Sumner until July thirtieth, on which date the squads, including one from Company E, were dismissed and proceeded to their respective armories.* Brigadier-General M. W. Muller, Commander of the Third Brigade, credited the companies of the brigade with excellent behavior and stated that a high order of discipline was maintained throughout the term of service.

Following the Railroad Strike, the National Guard was completely reorganized and in compliance with the new military routine, Company E submitted to a most rigid inspection in the early part of March 1896. On March sixth, the companies of the Sixth Infantry regiment were ordered out on an emergency call as a test for efficiency. Orders for the call were issued by Brigadier-General Muller, from headquarters at Fresno at three o'clock, for the units to be in their armories by eight P.M. Company E, under command of Captain M. J. Byrnes, reported in field dress, consisting of light marching uniform with blankets slung over the shoulder and canteen and haversack being by the side. The men were formed in double rank, roll was called by First Lieutenant G. W. Stewart, after which Captain Byrnes gave the command to make ready for inspection. Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Currier, Division Inspector was the inspection and mustering officer. Company E, with fifty-eight of the sixty-three members present, had a percentage present of 92% and the average merit was 4.40 which was better than "good" rating.**

On April 23, 1898, the President issued a call for troops in connection with the Spanish-American War. Company E was mustered into Federal Service May 11, 1898, and was stationed at Fort Point. Although the company was mustered out December fifteenth and did not go to the Philippines, the unit was considered one of the best companies in the Regiment. Company E, in accordance with the Legislative Act of March 21, 1899,

.oOo.

*Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 275.

**Stockton Evening Mail, March 6, 1896, page 1, column 3.

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

re-entered the National Guard service May first of that year. The date of the Company's re-entrance into the service was a short period before the expiration date, entitling the unit to the military allowance from the State.*

A short time before the unit was called into Federal Service the annual inspection and muster was held April 22, 1898, and Inspector T. J. Hay made the following report:

"The personnel of the company was excellent. The men were from a particularly prosperous and intelligent community. The ranks of the company were composed of miners and men who owned farms and orchards, which made them hardy and thoroughly accustomed to outdoor life. The uniforms were well cared for, although practically worn out, and the inspector recommended new ones. The company was excellent in movements by fours in full company, and the squad and extended order movements were excellent. However, the platoon movements were only fair, which was easily explained by the fact that almost 50 per cent of the men had served less than one year in the unit.

Company E rented their armory which was of brick structure, consisting of five rooms, at a cost of \$50.00 per month. The Quartermaster Sergeant acted as armorer. Drills and assemblages were held weekly. Each drill commenced with setting up exercises and was composed of movements in close and extended orders and platoon squad and company formations. Bayonet exercises, firing exercises and manual of arms received the proper amount of attention. The drills lasted not more than one and one-half hours. The finances of the company were in good condition, a balance of \$287.82 being on deposit in the bank of Visalia, March 31, 1898.

As the National Guard became more closely allied to the Federal Army, more importance was attached to marksmanship. Company E had from the beginning of its existence shown great interest in the act of target shooting and aside from attending the practices required by law, held company shoots each week. By diligent practice the corps developed and sustained a reputation as a crack shooting organization. In April 1901 the same firing regulations for small arms that governed the United States Army were adopted by the National Guard. Two of Company E's members, First Lieutenant F. W. Mixer and Corporal P. B. Beville qualified as

-000-

*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 6, page 59.

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

distinguished marksmen in the practice of 1900 and were, therefore, eligible to take part in the State championship contest sponsored in Sacramento, September 7, 1901. Springfield rifles, caliber 45, were to be used in the contest and the ammunition was furnished by the State Transportation, and subsistence up to the amount of \$2.00 to non-residents was furnished by the State to the competitors while in Sacramento. The Inspector General of target practice supervised the competition which was governed by the rules prescribed in the recently adopted "Firing Regulations" for small arms.*

The "Dick" Militia Law which became effective January 21, 1903, replaced the old law which had been in existence for over a hundred years. The object of the new act was to pattern in accordance with and to bring the standard of the militia of all the States and territories up to that of the regular army, as to organization, armament and discipline. Authority was also given to the War Department, to furnish each State with the necessary equipment without cost. However, State organizations, in order to share in the pecuniary advantages of the law, had to be inspected annually by an officer of the regular army. One of the first changes in connection was the exchange of the Springfield rifles, caliber 45, for the United States Magazine rifle, caliber 30. The National Guard was also required to participate in joint maneuvers with the United States troops at Atascadero, San Luis Obispo County, California, from August 12 to 27, 1904.** Colonel R. R. Whitmore, Commander of the Sixth Infantry, stated in connection with the encampment, that more was learned of the conditions of actual warfare by the officers and men of the Guard during the two weeks of encampment than at all the State camps he had attended since 1887.

Company E was called into service during the Earthquake in San Francisco in 1906, and rendered splendid aid to the stricken people in the area. After the Earthquake, Company E participated only in company routine, but maintained an active and enviable record as a company of the National Guard. While three of the

-oOo-

*Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, General Order No. 12, page 82.

**For additional information concerning the Encampment at Atascadero, refer to History of Company A, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

companies of the Sixth Infantry Regiment were mustered out for inefficiency in May 1907, Company E was transferred to the Second Infantry. The Sixth Infantry Regiment was disbanded May 11, 1907, in tardy compliance with the "Dick" Militia Law. The Law required that the National Guard conform to that of the army and regiments were to be composed of twelve companies each, in three battalions. Due to the inefficiency of the Sixth Infantry Regiment, it was one of the two regiments disbanded. The remaining companies, of which Company E was one, were transferred to the Second Infantry Regiment. Company E was redesignated Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.*

OUTLINE HISTORY

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD
MILITIA AND VOLUNTEER FORCES

THE OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
SARASOTA, FLORIDA
B. B. BULLOCK
-000-

Company E, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, was mustered out for inefficiency in May 1907, and transferred to the Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, on May 11, 1907. It was redesignated Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, on May 11, 1907.

Company E, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, was mustered out for inefficiency in May 1907, and transferred to the Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, on May 11, 1907. It was redesignated Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, on May 11, 1907.

Company E, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, was mustered out for inefficiency in May 1907, and transferred to the Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, on May 11, 1907. It was redesignated Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, on May 11, 1907.

Company E, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, was mustered out for inefficiency in May 1907, and transferred to the Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, on May 11, 1907. It was redesignated Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, on May 11, 1907.

Company E, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, was mustered out for inefficiency in May 1907, and transferred to the Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, on May 11, 1907. It was redesignated Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, on May 11, 1907.

Company E, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, was mustered out for inefficiency in May 1907, and transferred to the Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, on May 11, 1907. It was redesignated Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, on May 11, 1907.

*Daily Visalia Delta, May 4, 1907, page 1, column 1.

Company E, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, was mustered out for inefficiency in May 1907, and transferred to the Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, on May 11, 1907. It was redesignated Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, on May 11, 1907.