

History of the 6th Infantry Regiment, Company I, National Guard of California 1900-1907

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COMPANY I

Company I, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade
 Reference: Adjutant General's Files
 Location: Hanford, Kings County
 Organized March 14, 1900
 Redesignated May 11, 1907*

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Paul M. Norboe, Captain	Mar. 14, 1900	April 6, 1900
William Van Buckner, First Lieut.	Mar. 14, 1900	April 6, 1900
Paul M. Norboe, Captain (Re-elected Mar. 19, 1902)	_____	_____
William Van Buckner, First Lieut. (Re-elected Mar. 19, 1902)	_____	_____
Earle Cladden Ayers, Captain	Jan. 27, 1904	Mar. 21, 1904
Owen Henry Wynne, First Lieut.	Jan. 27, 1904	April 19, 1904
Paul M. Norboe, Captain	Mar. 7, 1906	June 14, 1906
Owen Henry Wynne, First Lieut. (Re-elected Mar. 7, 1906) (Resigned Dec. 3, 1906)	_____	_____
William N. Vallandigham, First Lieut.	Feb. 13, 1907	April 19, 1907

Activities:

The citizens of Hanford were authorized to organize a company of infantry by the Board of Location and Organization. Therefore, Company I was organized on March 14, 1900, the last company to be attached to the Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade prior to the disbandment of the regiment.** Major P. M. Norboe, Engineer Officer of the Third Brigade, resigned from his command in order to organize Company I. He was then elected Captain of the newly organized unit, holding that rank during the life of the company except for a two year period from 1904 to 1906.

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*Company I, Sixth Infantry Regiment redesignated Company M, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, May 11, 1907. Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 4.

**Adjutant General Report 1900, Special Order No. 1, Par. 21, page 97.

activities: (Continued)

During the year of 1899, Captain Norboe was selected as one of the several engineers in the National Guard to inspect a proposed camp site at Santa Cruz. This city offered to the State of California a plot of ground consisting of 130 acres which in 1900, was accepted as a permanent site for encampments. Company I held its first encampment on the newly acquired site from June 14 to 23, 1901. This encampment was operated on an entirely different basis than previous ones, and Company I, being a comparatively new unit was thoroughly drilled in the more modern methods. During the encampment, the Third Brigade was sent out for a practice march, accompanied by a troop of cavalry, a detachment of the Signal Corps, and a detachment of the Sanitary Corps. The members of Company I were not exempt in any way from participating in the brigade maneuvers, as this was their first real test for efficiency. They too were required on this march to carry their rations, blankets, and equipment as only two wagons were allowed each brigade, and were used for transporting supplies only. Each command remained out one night, camping at a distance of from seven to ten miles from the main camp. The troops engaged in such maneuvers as the General-in-command directed, in both going from and returning to camp. The members of Company I gained many benefits from those marches, giving the officers and men an idea of the moving and handling of a large body of troops and also in caring for their equipment in the field.* This severe training gave Company I a good start in what was expected of the Guardsmen.

The general efficiency of the unit for the first year in service was 92 per cent, which showed a true spirit of military determination on the part of the members of the unit. A great deal of credit was also given Captain Norboe for his untiring efforts in bringing his company's rating to this high degree of efficiency.

The next encampment of importance was held during August 1905, at Camp Atascadero in San Luis Obispo. All drills and maneuvers were held jointly with troops of the United States Army, in order to acquaint the National Guard with the routine of the Regular Army. Company I, as part of the Sixth Infantry was highly accredited with ability to conquer, after considering the fact the maneuvers were entirely new to the majority of the troops.

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*Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, page 119.

Activities: (Continued)

The military training that the company received at encampments proved very essential as in April of 1906, Company I was called into active service due to the Earthquake and Fire in San Francisco. The unit was ordered to leave for the stricken city on the twentieth of April. They reported to General J. A. Koster, commanding the Second Brigade in heavy marching order and equipped with ten days rations. Their assignment to duty tested the efficiency of the members of Company I. The men spent long hours on guard duty, fighting fires and assisted in prohibiting foraging. The company remained on duty in San Francisco until the nineteenth of May. Adjutant General Lauck felt that San Francisco would have been in a deplorable condition had not the guards so readily and ably assisted in maintaining order.*

The members of Company I maintained their high rating of efficiency throughout the life of the unit, as they earnestly carried out their military requirements. The weekly drills were held regularly in the company armory at Hanford. The captain of the company inspected the arms, clothing and equipment each month and made a report of the same. The reports for 1905, show these articles were all in good condition. On April sixteenth of that year Company I marched three miles out of town on a practice march and skirmish drill. There was little activity in the company aside from the regular military routine of company drills and parades, owing to the short length of time the company was in existence.

The Sixth Regiment of Infantry was disbanded on May 11, 1907, in tardy compliance with provisions of the "Dick" Militia Law. This law required that the National Guard conform to that of the regular army, requiring regiments to be composed of twelve companies, each in three battalions. There were three companies mustered out of service which brought the strength below the requirements of the law. Although the regiment was disbanded in 1907, Company I remained in National Guard service and was redesignated as Company M, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.**

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*Adjutant General Report 1906, page 13.

**Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 4.