

History of the 8th Infantry Battalion, Company B (Colusa Guard), National Guard of California 1890-1891

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COMPANY B

Company B, Eighth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade (formerly Colusa Guard)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files
 Location: Colusa, Colusa County
 Organized October 10, 1887
 Reconstituted February 15, 1890*
 Reconstituted October 31, 1891**

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Burr H. Mitchell, Captain	Oct. 10, 1887	Nov. 17, 1887
Frank Wilkins, First Lieut.	Oct. 10, 1887	Nov. 17, 1887
George Hamilton, Captain (Failed to qualify)	April 16, 1890	May 12, 1890
James R. Shelton, Captain	Aug. 12, 1890	Sept. 23, 1890
James R. Shelton, First Lieut. (Promoted to Captain)	April 16, 1890	May 12, 1890
Ross McAmis, First Lieut.	Aug. 12, 1890	Sept. 23, 1890

Activities:

Company B was organized on October 10, 1887, as the Colusa Guard, unattached, and on February 15, 1890, was attached to Eighth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade. The company maintained a good rating while in the service as an unattached company and retained the same standards throughout the life of the battalion. As an indication of the merits of the company which was obtained through the monthly drills, the following table is given:

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*Company B, formerly Colusa Guard, unattached, designated Company B, Eighth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade, February 15, 1890. Adjutant General Report 1890, page 4.

**Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, page 40. (The rank date of Colonel Park Henshaw, October 31, 1891, is to be used as the date Company B became attached to the Eighth Infantry Regiment.)

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

February 1890	Drills	5	Membership	58	Percentage	77.93
March	"	4	"	72	"	87.84
April	"	4	"	55	"	86.36
May	"	4	"	64	"	91.01
June	"	5	"	72	"	94.16
July	"	4	"	73	"	84.93

Although the numerical strength and efficiency ratings fluctuated, the average rating gave Company B a record to be proud of.

The first activity of importance that Company B participated in was a Camp of Instruction held at Chico during August of 1890.*

The members of Company B also participated in a preliminary target practice during August 1891. The highest score for Company B was held by Sergeant W. K. DeJarnatt, who qualified for the First-class medal. The Sergeant and nineteen men of Company B also qualified for the Third-class medal. The Sergeant also qualified for a Third-class medal in the final target practice held during September. The second encampment that Company B attended was the Camp of Instruction for 1891 at Santa Cruz, held jointly by the Eighth Infantry Battalion and Sixth Infantry Regiment. Company B encamped with the balance of the Sixth Infantry Battalion from July eighteenth to twenty-sixth. The inspection at this encampment was made by A. D. Cutler, Lieutenant-Colonel and Division Inspector. Colonel Cutler complimented the troops on the general condition of their camp. The grounds and company streets were well policed and the entire camp emphasized military character. The camp was also conspicuous for its compact practical appearance and absence of all save military decorations. This was the first time the two organizations had drilled together in brigade formation; the maneuvers not being as well performed as was anticipated. Company B had the highest percentage of attendance in the Eighth Battalion and tied with Company C at inspection of quarters. The

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*Chico Weekly Chronicle-Record, October 11, 1890, page 1, column 3. For additional information concerning the Encampment of 1890, refer to History of the Eighth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

following are the results of the inspection held by Lieutenant Cutler:

Present	Absent	Total	Per cent of attendance	Average Merit Inspection: Quarters
47	11	58	81.03	4. 4.60

Company B as a unit of the Eighth Infantry Battalion, maintained a good attendance record during the two years it was attached to the battalion.

A decided increase was noted in the attendance record of the company for the years of 1890 and 1891. At the annual muster and inspection held during September 1890, the attendance was 70 per cent, while that of March 1891 records 98.1 per cent.

The Eighth Infantry Battalion was raised to a regimental organization by the organization of Company F of Oroville. Company B, Eighth Infantry Battalion was redesignated October 31, 1891, as Company B, Eighth Infantry Regiment.*

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*General Orders, Series 1887-1895, General Order No. 17, page 128.