

History of the 8th Infantry Battalion, Company C, National Guard of California 1889-1891

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, 24 January 2015

Original document on file at the California State Library

COMPANY C

Company C, Eighth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Marysville, Yuba County

Organized December 19, 1889*

Reconstituted October 31, 1891**

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
George B. Baldwin, Captain	Dec. 19, 1889	Jan. 7, 1890
John F. Lyden, First Lieut.	Dec. 19, 1889	Jan. 7, 1890

Activities:

The citizens of Marysville had filed a petition, asking that a military company be formed in their community. The Board of Location and Organization recommended that the petition be granted and accordingly General Order No. 17 was issued organizing and mustering in a militia company at Marysville, December 19, 1889. The unit was designated Company C, Eighth Infantry Battalion, although the organization of the battalion was not completed until the officers were elected February 15, 1890. Major H. T. Batchelder presided at the organization and the election of officers.*** The elected officers successfully passed the required examinations and received their commissions January 7, 1890. A short period after organization, the company received their quota of arms, eighteen new rifles and forty-two old ones.

-oOo-

*Company C organized December 19, 1889, to be attached to the Eighth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade formed February 15, 1890. General Orders, Series 1887-1895, General Order No. 22, page 84.

**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 C became attached to the Eighth Infantry Regiment.)

***Chico Weekly Chronicle-Record, December 7, 1889, page 3, column 5.

COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Company C at the annual inspection of July 1890, had a membership of sixty-three and rated 100 attendance percentage while the results of the 1891 inspection indicated a membership had fallen to 56 but the attendance rating remained at 100 and the average merit was 4.66 per cent. The company had four drills a month, which were well attended by the members of the company. The returns for two months in 1890 and one month of 1891, showed an attendance rating of 82.98 per cent; 93.03 per cent; and 72.41 per cent, respectively.

Company C as a new unit made a fair average at target practice in 1890, with thirty-three of the members securing a Third-class rating. The finals in the 1891 shoot showed an improvement over the previous year with seven men making the Second-class and thirty the Third-class.

Due to the short period Company C was attached to the battalion, the unit attended two encampments. The first encampment was held at Chico, October 1890, with only the companies of the Eighth Infantry Battalion attending. This was the first occasion the units had the opportunity of drilling as one body and learned many points of military routine, particularly in skirmish drill. The Camp of Instruction for the following year was held from July eighteenth to twenty-fifth at Santa Cruz. Thirty-five out of the fifty-nine members of Company C were present. Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. Cutler, Division Inspector, was muster and inspection officer during the encampment. Company C had a percentage present of 59.32; an average merit of 4.00 per cent and an average merit-quarters 4.60 per cent.

The Board of Location and Organization decided to equalize the regiment of the National Guard by increasing the Eighth Infantry Battalion to a regiment of six companies. Therefore, Company F of Oroville was organized making the required number of companies for a regiment. The Eighth Infantry Regiment was organized October 31, 1891.* Company C was redesignated Company C, Eighth Infantry Regiment on that date.

-000-

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