

# **History of the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, Company C, National Guard of California 1889-1891**

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COMPANY D

Company D, Eighth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Red Bluff, Tehama County

Organized December 19, 1889\*

Reconstituted October 31, 1891\*\*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Bruce B. Lee, Captain (Deceased Oct. 30, 1890)	Dec. 19, 1889	Jan. 7, 1890
James R. Sweeney, Captain	Nov. 22, 1890	Nov. 22, 1890
James R. Sweeney, First Lieut. (Promoted to Captain)	Dec. 19, 1889	Jan. 7, 1890
Edward J. Blossom, First Lieut.	Nov. 22, 1890	Nov. 22, 1890

**Activities:**

Company D was one of the three companies organized in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Location and Organization. The company was mustered into service December 19, 1889, and attached to the Eighth Infantry Battalion. Lieutenant-Colonel Park Henshaw was the officer detailed to preside at the organization and election of officers. The commanding officers elected were Bruce B. Lee, Captain and James R. Sweeney, First Lieutenant. The newly elected officers received their commissions January 7, 1890. The company had a membership of eighty-four at the time of organization. The returns for the first month show an attendance percentage of 76.97 per cent for the three company drills held during that period. Eighteen new and forty-two old rifles were issued to the unit shortly after organization.

As part of the Eighth Infantry Battalion, Company D took part in the Washington Day parade. This was the first activity the unit participated in after the organization of the battalion. Parades on the other holidays throughout the year were observed

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\*Company D 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 D became attached to the Eighth Infantry Regiment.)

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

in accordance with the regulations governing the military routine on these matters.

The first annual inspection of the company was held July 1890. Company D with forty-two members present and ten absent had an average rating of 80.76 per cent. A marked improvement was noted from the annual inspection report of March 1891 which showed the numerical strength of the unit advanced from fifty-two to sixty. With one member absent the attendance rating was 98 per cent, while the average merit was 6 per cent or excellent.

Company D although efficient in other military requirements, did not come up to standard in target practice. None of the members of Company D made high enough scores to qualify for the first and second-class honors during the rifle practice of 1890 and 1891. However, eight qualified for third-class in 1890 and five for 1893, having the required score and were awarded the prescribed State decorations.

The last activity participated in by Company D, before the battalion was elevated to a regiment, was the encampment at Santa Cruz in July of 1891. At the inspection held during the Camp of Instruction, Company D with forty-two members present had an attendance record of 77.77 per cent; an average of 3.83 per cent; and a 4.20 per cent rating for their quarters.\*

In accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Location and Organization the Eighth Infantry Battalion was organized into a regiment October 31, 1891. Company D was designated Company D, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade.\*\*

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\*For additional information concerning the Encampment of 1891, refer to History of Eighth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade.

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