

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

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COMPANY E

Company E, Eighth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Redding, Shasta County

Organized December 19, 1889*

Reconstituted October 31, 1891**

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
John E. Reynolds, Captain	Dec. 19, 1889	Jan. 7, 1890
Thomas B. Dozier, First Lieut.	Dec. 19, 1889	Jan. 7, 1890

Activities:

Company E was organized at Redding, December 21, 1889, and became a part of the Eighth Infantry Battalion in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Location and Organization. The Board recommended that the five companies comprising the Fifth Brigade be formed into a battalion. Major T. H. Barnard had been detailed by Headquarters to preside over the election of officers. John E. Reynolds and Thomas B. Dozier were the elected commanding officers. The unit received their arms soon after organization.

The company began its military existence with a large membership of seventy-two. From the returns for February, the first month the unit was attached to the battalion, the percentage of attendance at the three drills during the month averaged 75.92 per cent.

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*Company E 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 E became attached to the Eighth Infantry Regiment.)

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COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The results of the two annual inspections were as follows:

	<u>No. Present</u>	<u>No. Absent</u>	<u>Percentage of Attendance</u>	<u>Average Merit</u>
July 1890	55	7	87.09%	
March 1891	49	2	96.00%	4.00%

A comparison of the returns from the yearly inspection and muster reports indicates that the percentage of attendance and average merit had increased, although the numerical strength of the company had decreased. The reports also indicated that the company had maintained an active interest in their organization after the enthusiasm of joining the service had worn off.

Company E made a poor shooting record in compliance with the target practice requirements. During the 1890 preliminary shoot on June eighteenth the unit made the third-class, but they did not qualify in the finals in September of that year. The following year four members rated third-class honors and were awarded decorations for that class.

The encampment of July 1891 at Santa Cruz was the last activity participated in by Company E before being transferred to the Eighth Infantry Regiment. At the Camp of Instruction the unit had thirty-four out of fifty-two men in camp which gave them a percentage attendance rating of 63.38 per cent. The average merit at the Camp of Inspection was 3.83 per cent and inspection of quarters 4.20 per cent.*

With the organization of Company F of Oroville, the Eighth Infantry Battalion was elevated to a regiment, and Company E was designated Company E, Eighth Infantry Regiment, October 31, 1891.**

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

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