

The California Volunteers and the Civil War: 1st Regiment of Infantry 1861-1864

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, 23 January 2015

Original document on file at the California State Library

FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY

Reference: "Record of California Men in the War of the Rebellion" (1890)
Adjutant General's Office

Regimental Headquarters:

Camp Latham	January 1862
Tucson, Arizona	July 1862
Fort Craig	December 1862-April 1864
Fort Goodwin (Arizona Territory)	June and July 1864
Las Cruces, New Mexico	August 1864

Mustered in No muster in rolls on file.
Mustered out No muster out rolls on file.

COMMANDING OFFICERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
James H. Carleton, Colonel	_____	Aug. 19, 1861
Joseph R. West, Lieutenant Col.	_____	Aug. 19, 1861
Joseph R. West, Colonel	_____	April 28, 1862
Edwin A. Rigg, Lieutenant Col.	_____	June 23, 1862
Edwin A. Rigg, Colonel	_____	Feb. 7, 1863
Wm. McMullen, Lieut. Col.	_____	Feb. 7, 1863

Companies Included in First Regiment of Infantry:

Company A, First Regiment of Infantry:
Headquarters: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in August 31, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864*

Company B, First Regiment of Infantry:
Headquarters: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in December 4, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864**

oOo

*Company A, First Regiment of Infantry, was transferred to First Battalion, Veterans Infantry, and was mustered out on September 9, 1866.

**Company B, First Regiment of Infantry, was transferred to First Battalion, Veteran Infantry, and was mustered out on September 15, 1866.

Companies Included in First Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

Company C, First Regiment of Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in August 26, 1861
Mustered out August 26 and 31, 1864*

Company D, First Regiment of Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in August 28, 1861
Mustered out September 15, 1866**

Company E, First Regiment of Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in August 26, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864, September 15, 1866***

Company F, First Regiment of Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in August 31, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864***

Company G, First Regiment of Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in August 31, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864

Company H, First Regiment of Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in August 26, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864

Company I, First Regiment of Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in August 26, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864

Company K, First Regiment of Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in January 10, 1862
Mustered out November 29, 1864

oOo

*Company C was mustered out in two detachments; first detachment at Fort Whipple, Arizona Territory, August 26, 1864, second detachment at Los Pinos, New Mexico, August 31, 1864. Men with unexpired terms were transferred to the mustered out with First Veteran Infantry Battalion on September 17, 1866.

**Companies D, E, and G were transferred to First Battalion, Veteran Infantry and were mustered out on September 15, 1866.

***Company F was broken up and the men transferred to other companies.

Activities of the First Regiment of Infantry:

This regiment was organized in pursuance to the President's first call upon the State of California for troops in the War of the Rebellion. The regiment was assembled and organized at Camp Downey, Oakland, so named in honor of the Governor of California, John G. Downey. James H. Carleton was first to command the regiment. He was appointed Colonel on August 19, 1861, by means of a telegram from the Secretary of War, which read as follows:

War Department,
August 15, 1861

Honorable John G. Downey
Governor of California
Sacramento City, Calif.

In filling the requisition given you August fourteenth for five regiments, please make General J. H. Carleton of San Francisco Colonel of a cavalry regiment, and give him proper authority to organize as promptly as possible.

(Signed) Simon Cameron
Secretary of War

Colonel Carleton was not only given command of a cavalry regiment as the telegram indicated but was also given command of the First Regiment of Infantry as shown in the following letter:

Executive Department
Sacramento, California
September 2, 1861

His Excellency
Abraham Lincoln
President of the United States:

Sir: The first requisition made upon this State for one thousand five hundred volunteers has been filled and the command given to Colonel Carleton. It having been intimated by the War Department that it was your desire that this officer should have the command, I cheerfully complied, as I had every confidence in his experience, patriotism and gallantry. I would now represent to your Excellency that the command of this expedition to Utah is a most important one, and will embrace a juris-

Activities of the First Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

diction of some one thousand five hundred miles. As Colonel, he will have command of the First California Infantry and the First California Cavalry, being more than a Colonel's command and less than that of a Brigadier. I would respectfully ask, on behalf of the State, that this be created a separate department, and that Colonel Carleton be appointed Brigadier-General of this brigade. I trust you will at once see the benefits that will result from this course. As it is remote from Headquarters on the Pacific, and being subject to have all communications cut off for four months in the year by snows, the officer in command of this department should be invested with ample power to act as circumstances might require. Besides, California has not yet been honored with a military appointment of this rank, and should your Excellency deem it advisable to accede to this request, I know of no man more deserving than Colonel Carleton, nor one who would reflect more credit upon the State, or give more satisfaction to the General Government.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient
servant,

(Signed) John G. Downey

Colonel Carleton after being promoted to Brigadier-General on April 26, 1862, was succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph R. West. Colonel West was then promoted to Brigadier-General on December 16, 1862, and was succeeded by Colonel Edwin A. Rigg.

The regiment was moved from Camp Downey to Camp Latham near Los Angeles, where the troops were thoroughly drilled in preparation to joining the California Column. Several companies of this regiment were ordered to Fort Yuma, California, on October 6, 1861. A brief account of their prescribed duties while stationed there is quoted in the following letter.

Activities of the First Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

Headquarters District of Southern Calif.
Los Angeles, Calif., October 6, 1861

Lieut.-Col. Joseph R. West,
First Infantry, California Volunteers
en route to Fort Yuma, California

Colonel: You are ordered, with three companies of the First Infantry, California Volunteers, to march to Fort Yuma, to relieve the present garrison there. It is important to the interest of the service that you reach there with the least possible delay. Besides, promptness in executing must be the cardinal point in all movements of the First Infantry. You must know that Fort Yuma, in a strategic point of view, is an outpost to all of Southern California. It is on the line whence must come the only troops which can possibly menace the State from Texas or Arizona overland. If you use circumspection, you can never be surprised there. If you are not surprised, your force properly managed, with the desert as an auxiliary, will never be whipped, to say the least.

You will seize all the ferryboats, large and small, upon the Colorado River. All the crossing of the river must be done at one point, under the guns of the fort. All persons passing into Sonora or Arizona from California must take the oath of allegiance before they pass. So must all coming into California by the route overland via Yuma. Do not hesitate to hold in confinement any person or persons in that vicinity, or who may attempt to pass to or from California, who are avowed enemies of the Government or who will not subscribe to the oath of allegiance. Keep an exact record of the name, place of residence, age, occupation, and whence he came, and whether he is to go, of each person passing the River to or from California.

Activities of the First Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

You will assume control of the steamers on the river, if in your judgment such control is vital to your safety or to the interest of your Government. You will promptly report to the officer in command near Warner's Ranch, and to myself, should you be menaced by an enemy in force. You will make any and, if necessary, every sacrifice to destroy that enemy before he reaches this edge of the desert, calling on all of the troops at Camp Wright to assist you by a timely advance should it be necessary to this end.

Keep your command well supplied, in a high state of discipline and drill, and I have no fears but that the country will have good reports of your conduct.

I am, your friend and well-wisher,

(Signed) James H. Carleton
Colonel, First California Volunteers,
Commanding.

As an illustration of the oath of allegiance referred to in the previous letter an exact copy of one follows:*

Oath of Allegiance
to the
Government of the United States

I, _____, do solemnly swear, that I have never, voluntarily, borne arms against the United States since I have been a citizen thereof; that I have voluntarily given no aid, countenance, counsel, or encouragement, to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto; that I have neither sought, nor accepted, nor attempted to exercise the functions of any office whatever, under any authority, or pretended authority, in hostility to the United States; that I have not yielded a voluntary support to any pretended government, authority, power, or constitution, within the United States, hostile or inimical thereto. And I do further swear that, to the best of my knowledge and ability, I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; SO HELP ME GOD.

oOo

*Oath of Allegiance on file with company papers, Adjutant General's Office.

Activities of the First Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

Regimental headquarters, after leaving Camp Latham in November 1862, were located at Fort Craig, New Mexico, until April 1864. In August of 1864, regimental headquarters were at Las Cruces, New Mexico, but there is no record on file showing they were mustered out of service on that date.

Upon the muster out of the First Infantry, the members of the regiment, together with those of the Fifth Infantry whose terms had not expired, were consolidated into a battalion of seven companies, and were known as the First Veteran Infantry, California Volunteers.

COMPANY A FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY

Company A:

Location: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in August 31, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers</u>	
	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
E. A. Rigg, Captain	Aug. 15, 1861	Aug. 31, 1861
Edward B. Willis, First Lt.	Sept. 5, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
Nicholas S. Davis, First Lt.	Sept. 5, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
E. B. Willis, Captain	_____	Sept. 16, 1862
E. W. Wood, First Lieut.	_____	Sept. 6, 1862
R. M. Crandall, Captain	_____	Feb. 7, 1863

Activities:

Company A was organized in San Francisco, under Captain Edwin A. Rigg, in response to the President's first call for volunteers. The company was sent first to Camp Latham, where the men were on drill and camp duty until March 1862, leaving then for Fort Yuma. On May ninth Company A received orders to leave for Tucson, Arizona, by way of Pimos Villages. This march proved to be a strenuous one as it was difficult to obtain from the Indians more than a small daily allotment of flour and forage. This was due to the fact that the officers in command of the troops had nothing to offer in payment except promises of "manta"* to be delivered in the near future. Under such trying circumstances the company reached Tucson on June 6, 1862.

oOo

*Manta, as it was known among the Indians, was white cotton cloth. The following scale of prices was agreed upon with the Indians.

4 qts. flour, weighing $4\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. for 1 yd. Manta
4 qts. wheat, weighing 13 lbs. for 1 yd. Manta
7 qts. Pinole (mixed meals used for gruel) weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. for 1 yd. Manta
50 lbs. hay or 150 lbs. green fodder for 1 yd. Manta.

COMPANY A FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Company A was one of five companies of Infantry under command of Colonel West which took possession of Tucson, on June twentieth, without having fired a shot, as the Confederates had evacuated the territory upon word of the advance of the Union troops. From August 1862 to April 1863, Company A was stationed at Franklin, Texas, where the unit participated in a number of Indian scouting expeditions. On the eighteenth of August 1863, a detachment of this company was stationed at Lam Valles, near Sante Fe, to check the Navajo and Apache Indians who were attempting to pass through that vicinity. A detachment of Company A returned to Fort Marcy, Sante Fe, the last of October, where they remained on detached service until March 12, 1864, when the rest of the company under command of Captain Crandall arrived at that post. On June twenty-fifth of that year, the unit was ordered from Sante Fe, New Mexico, to Fort Union remaining there until October.

On the thirty-first of August 1864, Captain Crandall and the men who had not reenlisted as Veteran Volunteers, were mustered out by reason of the expiration of term of service. The company was again recruited to full strength by taking the men from Companies E, F, and I of the First California Infantry whose terms were unexpired. The final mustering out of this company took effect on September 7, 1866.

COMPANY B FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY

Company B:

Location: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in December 4, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Valentine Drescher, Captain	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
Francis S. Mitchell, First Lt.	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
Richard S. Barrett, First Lt.	_____	June 23, 1862
Jeremiah Pheland, First Lt.	_____	July 11, 1862
Wm. F. Ellsworth, First Lt.	_____	May 4, 1864

Activities:

In answering the call for volunteers, Company B was organized and mustered into service on December 4, 1861, at Camp Downey. Immediately subsequent to muster the unit was sent to the southern part of the state. The company left California enroute for Fort Barrett, Arizona Territory, April 1862, for the purpose of taking possession of Tucson. This mission was accomplished by five infantry companies commanded by Colonel West.

During the month of July the company received orders to march as a part of the California Column to the Rio Grande. They arrived at Mesilla on the tenth of August 1862. Private John N. Dewey died of wounds received in action while attempting to arrest a Mexican desperado at Mesilla on August twenty-ninth. Privates Higgins and Leibold were wounded in action by Apaches while in charge of a government train which was forcing its way through Cooks Canyon. The company continued its march into Texas, gaining the confidence of the people who had feared the Union troops, as they felt their coming would cause them trouble. Instead they found the soldiers ready to aid them through government protection. The Union forces caused the Confederate troops to abandon the Territories of New Mexico and Texas entirely, thereby accomplishing their mission.

The company was stationed in New Mexico from December 1862 until August 31, 1864, at which time it was mustered out of service. The men with unexpired terms were transferred to the First Veteran Infantry Battalion and mustered out on September 15, 1866

COMPANY C FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY*

Company C:

Location: Camp Downey, Oakland

Mustered in August 26, 1861

Mustered out in two detachments August 26 and 31, 1864

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers</u>	
	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William McMullen, Captain	_____	Sept. 16, 1861
Daniel B. Haskell, First Lt.	_____	Sept. 16, 1861
Joseph P. Hargrave, Captain	_____	June 23, 1862
Edgar Pomeroy, First Lt.	_____	May 4, 1864

Activities:

Among the first to volunteer their services in the War of the Rebellion was Company C, which was organized and mustered into service during August of 1861. The first station occupied by this company after leaving Camp Downey was in the southern part of California, where the men were thoroughly drilled and ready to comply with orders to march into Arizona, where they arrived at Tucson on May 21, 1862.

Company C was among the units under command of Colonel Carleton when Arizona was put under martial law on June 8, 1862** This was done to assure public safety to the people by giving the Federal Government authority over all, including the troops of the California Column which at that time occupied the territory.

The company was later sent to the Rio Grande and arrived at Mesilla, New Mexico, August 13, 1862. The following month Company C had an encounter with Apache Indians in the vicinity of Dog Canyon. Upon returning to Mesilla, December 31, 1862, the company had traveled a distance of about five hundred miles. The unit was stationed in New Mexico and Texas until October of 1863. It was then sent to Fort Whipple, Arizona Territory, remaining there until August 26, 1864.

Company C was mustered out in two detachments, one at Fort Whipple, August 26, 1864 and the other at Los Pinos, New Mexico, August 31, 1864. The men whose terms had not expired at those dates were transferred to the First Veteran Infantry Battalion, California Volunteers and were mustered out September 17, 1866.

oOo

*The Amador Mountaineers became Company C, First Regiment of Infantry. Synonyms of Volunteer Organizations of the United States, page 8.

**Detailed information on Arizona Under Martial Law will be found in the history of California Column.

COMPANY D FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY

Company D:

Locations: Camp Downey, Oakland

Mustered in August 28, 1861

Mustered out (Became Company D, First Veteran Infantry and mustered out September 15, 1866)

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Hugh C. Gorley, Captain	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
Francis S. Mitchell, Captain	_____	June 23, 1862
William A. Thompson, Captain	_____	June 23, 1862
John Martin, First Lieut.	August 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861

Activities:

Company D was organized at San Jose, California, in response to the call for volunteers in suppressing the Rebellion. The troops were assembled and mustered into service at Camp Downey, Oakland, and were sent from there to Camp Latham where they were trained in modern methods of warfare, prior to joining the California Column.

On November 29, 1861, a detachment of twenty men from this company, under command of Lieutenant Vestal, aided in the capture of Dan Showalter and his party, which was a Confederate organization. Following is the letter written by Captain Gorley, telling of the part which Company D of the California Volunteers played in this capture.*

(Copy)

San Rafael
September 1889

R. H. Orton,
Adjutant General State of California

Sacramento

Dear Sir and Comrade:

In compliance

with your request to furnish such information as I may be possessed of concerning the California Volunteers in order to assist you in the compilation of their record of services while in the field during the Rebellion, I hereby undertake

oOo

*A letter was written to Adjutant General Orton, at the General's request on September 1889, by Captain Gorley, at one time commander of Company D. The Adjutant General's office desired information concerning the activities of the California companies involved in the War of the Rebellion, as the office was compiling a Service Record.

Activities: (Continued)

to give a scrap of California Volunteer history from which I hope you may glean something worthy of record in your own way and style. I may be a little tedious, but you understand the cutting down and pruning out process, which you are at liberty to use in this matter.

The Capture of Dan Showalter and his Party
By the California Troops

You are aware that this force was formed in California to cooperate with the Confederate troops organized in Texas for the ostensible purpose of invading Arizona and California and was known as the Showalter Party. It was composed of brave and daring men selected expressly for bold and daring deeds. They were wily and suspicious and covered their movements so completely that Government Detectives were unable to see anything in their movements to warrant and arrest. Colonel Carleton, however, who commanded the Southern District of California with Headquarters at Los Angeles, had an eye upon them from the time they entered his Department until they were captured. I was stationed at Camp Wright, Oak Grove, near Warners Ranch, San Diego County on the old overland stage route which crossed the desert to Fort Yuma. Our command was composed of Companies D, G and F, First California Infantry, and a detachment of the First California Cavalry under command of Lieutenant Wellman, the whole under the command of Major E. A. Rigg, First California Infantry. Letters were received daily from Colonel Carleton informing our commander of the movements of the Showalter Party. Finally an order came for our command to enter the field and capture this "outfit" before it crossed the Rio Colorado River into Arizona. Active operations began at once with us. Every road approaching our camp was guarded--scouts were sent out in every direction--over mountains, through ravines, deep canyons and far out on desert wastes--signal stations were erected on lofty mountain peaks, so that nothing was left undone that could be done in order to secure success and fulfill the orders from Headquarters. No one as yet knew the strength of this party, and various reports were brought in--some placing the number as high as one hundred men, and who were moving in the direction of our camp. Then again we would hear that this force had broken into detachments and were moving in different directions, but all aiming for our

COMPANY D FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY (CONTINUED)

Activities: (Continued)

position. As a matter of course we prepared for a fight, and while I write I can look through the lens of time and see how eagerly the hearts of those brave young soldiers beat for that chance. At midnight November 26, 1861, if my memory serves me aright, Wellman's bugles sound to "Boots and Saddles" and away went those dashing fellows into the dark and dismal mountain fastnesses on a mission which no one knew but the commanding officer and those who were intrusted with the secret. On the evening of the twenty-seventh, I received a "paper Cap" informing me of my official duty on the coming morrow--ie--commander of Camp Wright until further notice--at the same time I was ordered to have my Company D, First Infantry, California Volunteers, under Lieutenant Vestal, ready to march at daylight, with two days rations and sixty rounds of ball cartridge to the man. On the twenty-eighth according to orders Company D marched out of camp accompanied by Major Rigg in person, leaving me to assume command as directed. The following letter I received late in the afternoon of the twenty-eighth which shows what anxiety the Major was laboring under for the success of this expedition:

In Camp, Warners Ranch
November 28, 1861

Captain: If Lieutenant Wellman has returned send him on here at once with his detachment of cavalry. I need him as soon as possible and before daylight if he can get here. If he has not arrived, Lieutenant Taylor get a mule from Mr. Poole and go to Temicula and send him on. If Wellman has taken the trail after the party he is looking for, get the Alcalde (Indian) at Temicula to send an express after him. The party we want are on the road from Temicula to San Jose Valley and will be in tonight, if they are not alarmed. They may go off to Ysabell, but I think not. The Alcalde is the Indian who brought me the express--today--I think he has but one eye. Keep this to yourself except to explain to Lieutenant Taylor what want him to do. If Lieutenant Wellman has taken the right trail let him come on here by it, but send an express from Temicula to him giving him this information--that the party were at Pomona today at ten o'clock A.M., Pomona is on that trail.

(Signed)

Respectfully
E. A. Rigg,
Major Commanding

COMPANY D FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

To Captain H. A. Gorley
Camp Wright, Oak Grove

P. S. Keep the men quiet but wide
awake and ready to move at
a moment's warning.

E. A. R.

The instructions in the above letter were compiled with as far as possible --but Lieutenant Wellman by this time was far out on the trail in hot pursuit of the enemy, and therefore Lieutenant Taylor failed to connect, but brought back the information, obtained through the old Alcalde's express that Wellman was on the right track and would drive Showalter and his men into San Jose Valley unless he captured them on the mountain. This was communicated to Major Rigg in his camp at Warners Ranch (some twenty miles distant). By daylight on the twenty-ninth Company D was put in motion to cover the trail leading into San Jose Valley from the mountains, without delay. Wellman encamped near the western summit of the mountain (up which he had been travelling) on the night of the twenty-eighth. At dawn on the morning of the twenty-ninth, he took up the chase, and on reaching the very summit, just at sunrise, he discovered his game at breakfast half way down the eastern side of the mountain. On being discovered, Showalter's men sprang to arms. Placing a white handkerchief upon his sword Wellman rode into their camp and demanded their surrender. This proposition was flatly refused by the fiery Showalter. Wellman told them that his orders were to arrest and take them to Camp Wright, Oak Grove, and that he preferred doing so peaceably. Some two hours were consumed in negotiating terms of surrender. Showalter demanded in case of surrender that his men be allowed to carry their arms into camp. Wellman was only too glad to grant this request, as he had but eighteen men whose horses by constant travelling over mountain roads for three or four days and nights were well nigh exhausted. But Showalter had no idea of surrendering without a fight, but took advantage of the delay in obtaining shelter for his animals out of the line of Wellman's fire. When this was accomplished he sent word to Wellman, that he had come to the conclusion not to go to Camp Wright unless compelled to by force. Wellman's bugles sounded the "dismount" and then the "deploy" and finally the "advance", when just at this critical moment Company D under Lieutenant Vestal came upon the scene and under the immediate eye of Major Rigg. Taking in the situation of things at a glance, Company D unslung knapsacks and with cheers deployed.

COMPANY D FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

as skirmishers and moved forward and up the hill. Showalter seeing himself between two fires raised the white flag and surrendered to Lieutenant Wellman. They were escorted into Camp Wright by their captors at dark on the twenty-ninth amid the rejoicings of the troops stationed there. By virtue of the Camp Roster, notwithstanding my previous promotion, I was officer of the day on the twenty-ninth, and it devolved upon me to disarm the captured party. I marched them into a large tent--stood them in line, and with the assistance of Lieutenant Hargrave, who was officer of the guard, took each individual name and the number and name of his arms. Their horses were corralled, and they were at last prisoners of Uncle Sam, made no without the loss of blood on either side. They numbered twenty-two and were the best armed men I ever saw or every expect to. Their weapons were of the latest pattern. Their fixed ammunition was carried in such a manner as to facilitate their loading and firing with rapidity. They were litterly loaded down with knives and pistols, besides ther repeating rifles. We had carefully examined their effects and their persons and supposing that we had secured all of their arms we bade them good night, when one of the party by the name of Roberts, and who was the fines specimen of humanity that could be found in ten thousand, standing fully six feet high, broad shouldered, full black beard, straight black hair that fell over his massive shoulders and neck, while beneath heavy eye-brows peered a set of piercing coal black eyes, stepped up to me and said: "Captain, I have a little knife which you overlooked in your search--I think it my duty to inform you of it, and request that I be allowed to retain it to cut my tobacco with." "Oh certainly, sir, keep it" I replied. "But Captain," said Roberts, "You had better take a look at it, so that t here may be no trouble about it hereafter if found in my possession." At the same time he began to draw from the back of his neck, or coat rather, a wicked looking knife about a foot and a half in length, which so astonished me that I imagined it a Bavard-Sword. A few days after the capture of their men, Major Rigg was ordered to Fort Yuma, and I being the ranking Captain at the Post, by the following letter was placed in command of the troops at Camp Wright:

Headquarters, Detachment First Infantry
and cavalry, California Volunteers,
Camp Wright, San Diego County,
Southern California
December 4, 1861

Captain:

In pursuance of instructions, dated N_ovember twenty-sixth

Activities: (Continued)

from James H. Carleton, Colonel Commanding First California Volunteers, you will take command of this Camp (Post) until relieved by Major Ferguson, First Cavalry. Exercising every vigilance in keeping your command prepared for any emergency--you will find all the orders you require in the order book and instructions in the letter book.

(Signed)

Respectfully
Edwin A. Rigg
Major First Infantry California
Volunteers Commanding

To Captain H. A. Gorley
Commanding Company D
First Infantry California Volunteers

The first day of my official duty, I recieved a note from Showalter asking permission to visit my quarters on business. I granted his request and he was escorted under guard to my tent. He began his conversation by saying that my name was very familiar to him. I replied that his name was also familiar as there were families by his name in my native county, Pennsylvania. Our conversation brought out the fact that he was from my native town and he knew me, as he said, as a "towheaded boy" while I remembered him as a young man going to school at Madison College. Years had intervened since those boyhood days and as a matter of course time had changed us both, obliterating recognition in the usual way. He related his early and daring exploits in California--his political career as a legislator and his trouble with a fellow member by the name of Piercy--his duel and victim. He wound up his conversation by demanding that he and his party be sent to Los Angeles, there to be tried by the civil authorities. This, as a matter of course was refused. He raged, threatened, cried and cursed all at the same time, and at last brought his fists down upon the table with an oath that he would take the desperate chances in the face of the guard and go. I ordered him returned to his quarters, and gave instructions to double the guard. Infact up to this time there was no proof positive that they were Confederates or that they were on their way to join the Confederacy. They claimed to be on a prospecting tour and were aiming for Arizona for that purpose. On or about the tenth of December 1862, I received instructions from Headquarters of the Regiment to allow Showalter and his men to depart, and to take them their arms and horses. The day was set for their release and the freedom of the camp was extended to them in order to prepare for their journey. They appeared very happy in anticipation of their freedom and made.

COMPANY D FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

themselves at home among the soldiers, engaging in footracing, ball playing, joking and laughing as though they were a part and parcel of Uncle Sam's army. The day before their final release was to have taken place, the cavalry brought in a captured mail and among the letters were several from Showalter to his friends in San Francisco, written several days before his capture. One of his letters written from Temicula, clearly outlined his business, disclosing the fact that he and most of his party were commissioned officers in the Confederate Army, and closed with these remarks. "We understand that a force of United States troops are stationed at Oak Grove about twenty-five miles east of here. We intend to evade their camp by taking a trail over the mountains to the south of them--strike the Colorado River below Fort Yuma, and when once on the other side, if they follow us we will give them h_l." I sent for Showalter and read to him his letters, and then told him that under the circumstances I should hold him and his men prisoners of war until I communicated with Colonel Carleton. Copies were made of his letters and the original ones forwarded to Colonel Carleton requesting instructions. In a day or so I received orders to hold them at all hazards and await future instructions. Future instructions were to turn over Showalter and the greater part of his men to Colonel E. E. Eyre, First California Cavalry, on his arrival at Camp Wright, who was then on his march from Los Angeles to Fort Yuma. This I did. On the eighth of January 1862, Major Ferguson arrived and assumed command of Camp Wright. On the eleventh of January the following orders were read at Dress Parade:

Headquarters Camp Wright, California
January 11, 1862

(Orders No. 25)

In compliance with instructions from District Headquarters, Captain H. A. Gorley with half of his Company D, First Infantry California Volunteers, are hereby detailed to proceed to Fort Yuma.

The A. A. Q. M. will furnish such transportation as will be absolutely necessary and no more for this movement, and have it ready tomorrow morning. Captain Gorley will draw subsistence for his command, to include the 24th inst. He will receive further and detailed instructions previous to moving.

(Signed) D. Ferguson
Major First Cavalry California
Volunteers Commanding

Activities: (Continued)

The letter of instructions read as follows:

January 11, 1862

Captain;

You will start tomorrow morning with half of your Company D and take the general prisoners of this command named in orders 27th (herewith) under guard, and also the two civilian prisoners William Hamilton and E. M. Morgan, at this camp, and deliver them all safely and securely to the commanding officer at Fort Yuma, to be there confined as directed by Colonel Carleton. For the delivery of these prisoners you will be held to a strict accountability, and to accomplish this duty you will exercise every vigilance yourself and put as strong a guard over the prisoners as your command will admit of, day and night, charging the non-commissioned officers and soldiers composing the guard that their prisoners must be delivered at all hazards.

I am sir very respectfully
Your obedient servant
(Signed) D. Ferguson
Major First Cavalry, Commanding

Captain H. A. Gorley
Commanding Company D
First Infantry California Volunteers, Present

In conformity with the above order and armed with the letter of instructions, I left Camp Wright with the remnant of Showalter's party, in a heavy rain storm January 12, 1862. E. M. Morgan mentioned in orders was a nephew of the celebrated Confederate raider by that name. We arrived at Fort Yuma after a march of one hundred and eighty miles in eight days. Having turned my prisoners over to the officer of the day, I reported to the commanding officer, Major E. A. Rigg, who complimented us on our successful march. The Showalter prisoners were employed in assisting the troops in building earthworks around the Fort in order to defend it against those whom they had hope to assist in capturing the great State Of California. In the course of time they were released. Some of them found their way back to their homes in California wiser if not better citizens, others went south and joined their fortunes in the Confederate Cause--some went down in battle fighting against the republic. Showalter was spared for a worse fate. After his return from the Rebel Army he located in Mazatlan, Mexico, and was shot

COMPANY D FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY (CONTINUED)

Activities: (Continued)

dead by his barkeeper in a drunken quarrel. And thus ends the career of one whose abilities warranted a better fate. The majority of the brave spirits that stood by the country in its hour of trial in so desolate a region in which their soldier lot was cast during the great Rebellion have no doubt answered that last roll call on the shores of eternity.

Respectfully
Your obedient servant
(Signed) H. A. Gorley

After these men and their leader had been dealt with according to military discipline, we find that Company D was sent to Arizona Territory to be stationed at Tucson, which at that time was being occupied by the troops of the California Column. Company D formed a part of the Column, remaining on duty in Tucson until July twenty-third, and upon receiving orders from headquarters, left for Mesilla, New Mexico, arriving there August 15, 1862. The advancement of these troops into New Mexico and Texas caused the Confederates to evacuate those territories. The company left San Elizario, Texas, January 8, 1863, to be stationed at Fort West, New Mexico, where it was on camp and scout duty until December of that year. During the next few months Company D was encamped at Fort McRae, New Mexico, and Fort Goodwin, Arizona Territory.

On November 29, 1864, this company was reorganized at Las Cruces, New Mexico. The men with unexpired terms were transferred to Company D, First Veteran Infantry and mustered out of service on September 15, 1866, as their terms had then expired.

COMPANY E FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY

Company E:

Location: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in August 26, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers</u>	
	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Thomas L. Roberts, Captain	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
William A. Thompson, First Lt.	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
Sidney R. Delong, First Lt.		May 4, 1864

Activities:

Company E, as one of the first to answer the President's call for troops, was organized at Sacramento. After being mustered into service at Camp Downey, the company was stationed in the southern part of the state until April of 1862, at which time it became a part of the California Column, marching into New Mexico and Texas. This company assisted in taking possession of Tucson, Arizona Territory, and placing the territory under martial law.

On July 28, 1862, the company was ordered to leave San Simon, Arizona Territory, for the Rio Grande, and reached Fort Fillmore, New Mexico, on the eleventh of the following month. General Carleton, who was in charge of all the Union forces, was endeavoring to free Arizona, Texas and New Mexico of the Confederates. This was being accomplished very rapidly as the Confederate troops were retreating at the advancement of the California Column into these territories. The flag was hoisted over many forts in Texas and some of the troops marched two hundred and fifty miles into that State before accomplishing their mission.

After the Confederates had been completely driven out of New Mexico and Texas, Company E was stationed at Fort Craig and Los Pinos, New Mexico, until August 31, 1864, at which time and place the company was mustered out of service, except for the men with unexpired terms who were transferred to the First Battalion Veteran Infantry and mustered out September 15, 1866.

COMPANY F FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY

Company F;

Location: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in August 31, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
W. L. Parvin, Captain	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
Joseph P. Hargrave, First Lt.	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
H. M. Benson, Captain	_____	Nov. 26, 1862
Edward G. Taylor, First Lt.	_____	June 23, 1862

Activities:

After organizing at Camp Downey, Oakland, Company F was ordered to Camp Latham near Los Angeles. The troops were drilled in all types of war manuevers, preparing for the long march which had been outlined for them with the California Column.

The company left Fort Yuma, California, on May 15, 1862, enroute to Fort Barrett, Arizona Territory, arriving there May thirty-first after a march of two hundred miles. After leaving Fort Barrett, Company F was stationed at Fort Bowie, Apache Pass, guarding the route used for communications from Tucson, Arizona, to the Rio Grande.

By the latter part of the year this company had advanced along the Rio Grande, and carried the Union flag many miles into Texas. These troops shared with the California Column in their accomplishment of clearing the territory of Confederates.

Company F was then stationed at Fort Craig, New Mexico, until September of 1863. From then until August 31, 1864, the company was on duty at various stations throughout New Mexico and Arizona, being mustered out of service on that date. The men whose terms had not expired were transferred to the First Veteran Infantry and mustered out September 15, 1866.

COMPANY G FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY

Company G:

Location: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in August 31, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers</u>	
	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Henry A. Green, Captain	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
Merrill Savage, First Lt.	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
R. M. Crandall, First Lieut.	_____	Feb. 26, 1862
James B. Whitmore, First Lt.	_____	Feb. 7, 1863

Activities:

Company G was one of the first companies organized at Camp Downey, during the call for volunteers. After being mustered into service the troops were moved to Camp Latham, situated at the Cienega, between Los Angeles and Santa Monica. In the Spring of 1862, Company G became part of the California Column, and was stationed in Tucson, Arizona Territory, until December of the same year. It was on the second of December that the company left there for the Rio Grande, marching a distance of two hundred miles to Mesilla, New Mexico, where it was stationed until February 28, 1863.

Company G was on Indian scout duty at several different camps in New Mexico and Texas. The remainder of that year, and in June of 1864, the troops were stationed at Antelope Springs, Arizona Territory. Leaving there on July fourth, the company pursued a course towards the Rio San Francisco. On the twenty-fifth, while nearing the river, they had an engagement with Apache Indians, killing three and taking six prisoners. They also obtained nineteen head of beef cattle.

The following month, August 31, 1864, Company G was mustered out of service. The men with unexpired terms were transferred to First Veteran Infantry and mustered out on September 15, 1866.

COMPANY H FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY

Company H:

Location: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in August 17, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
B. J. McMahon, Captain	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
Thomas Cox, Captain	Nov. 1, 1861	Nov. 14, 1861
A. B. McGowan, First Lieut.	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
Lafayette Hammond, Captain	_____	July 11, 1862
Daniel B. Haskell, Captain	_____	Jan. 2, 1864
John S. Crouch, First Lt.	_____	May 4, 1864

Activities:

In answering the call for recruits in the War of the Rebellion, Company H was among the first to be mustered into service. It was organized at the Presidio, in San Francisco, and sent at once to Camp Latham, near Los Angeles, and later to Fort Yuma. Leaving there on April twenty-third, this unit arrived at Fort Barrett, Arizona Territory, on May twenty-sixth. The latter part of that month the Company left for Tucson, Arizona Territory, and participated with the California Column in gaining control of this territory from the Confederate forces. Company H was stationed in Arizona until July twenty-third, at which time they were ordered to Mesilla, on the Rio Grande, and arrived there August fifteenth, after marching a distance of two hundred miles. The motive of this march was to force the Confederate troops out of New Mexico and Texas, which was accomplished during the month of August 1862, by the combined forces known as the California Column.

The company left Mesilla November 6, 1862, and was stationed at Harts Mills and Franklin, Texas, until May 31, 1863. During the ensuing year Company H was on duty throughout New Mexico and was mustered out of service at Las Cruces, New Mexico, August 31, 1864.

COMPANY I FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY

Company I:

Locations: Camp Downey, Oakland
Mustered in August 26, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers</u>	
	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William P. Galloway, Captain	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
Henry M. Benson, First Lieut.	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
W. B. Smith, First Lieut.		Nov. 26, 1862

Activities:

Company I was organized at Marysville during August 1861, and was mustered into service at Camp Downey near Oakland. These troops were ordered at once to Camp Latham where they spent a number of months undergoing rigid tests in drill and was maneuvers. Having completed this period of training the company joined the California Column in the spring of 1862, and marched into New Mexico. As part of the Column, Company I assisted in gaining control of Arizona and placing it under martial law.*

Company I left Fort Craig, New Mexico, on January 22, 1863, and arrived at Tule Rose Valley on the thirty-first after travelling a distance of one hundred and thirty-two miles. This was only one of the many marches made by the company, as the total distance covered during the year of 1863 was seven hundred and three miles.

The company was stationed at Fort Craig, New Mexico, when the terms of service of the men expired and they were mustered out on August 31, 1864.

oOo

*Detailed information on Arizona Under Martial Law will be found in the History of California Column.

COMPANY K FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY

Company K:

Location: Camp Latham, Los Angeles

Mustered in January 10, 1862

Mustered out November 29, 1864

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers</u>	
	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William Moore, Captain	Oct. 1, 1861	Oct. 1, 1861
Nicholas S. Davis, Captain	_____	Feb. 7, 1862
George H. Pittis, First Lt.	_____	Feb. 7, 1862

Activities:

Company K was formed at Camp Latham, near Los Angeles, on January 10, 1862, being the last company of this regiment mustered into volunteer service for the purpose of participating in the war of the Rebellion. The activities of this company are very similar to the others in the First Regiment of Infantry, as the unit formed a part of the California Column in the spring of 1862.

Company K, after spending some time in drill preparation and camp duty, was sent to Tucson, Arizona Territory. The unit aided in placing this territory under military law,* and shared in the victory over the Confederate troops.

The company left San Elizario, Texas, in December 1862, and was stationed in New Mexico at various camps until November 1864. On the twenty-fifth of that month Company K joined Colonel "Kit" Carson's forces in an expedition against the Comanche and Kiowa Indians. A skirmish took place near the old adobe fort on the Canadian River in northern Texas and was known as the Battle of Adobe Walls. The troops numbering three hundred and twenty, included Companies B, K and M of the First California Cavalry; Company H of the First California Infantry; and two companies of the First New Mexico Cavalry, and seventy-five friendly Ute Indians. The troops completely destroyed the Indian village, consisting of one hundred and fifty lodges, together with all the dried meats, berries, buffalo robes, powder and cooking utensils belonging to the Indians.

On November 29, 1864, the men of Company K were mustered out of service on expiration of their terms.

oOo

*Detailed information on Arizona Under Martial Law will be found in the History of the California Column.