

History of the Troop B (Sacramento Light Artillery), Cavalry, National Guard of California 1895-1905

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TROOP B CAVALRY

Troop B Cavalry, unattached, Third Brigade (formerly Sacramento Light Artillery)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files
Location: Sacramento, Sacramento County
Organized October 7, 1864
Reconstituted March 19, 1880*
Reconstituted July 1, 1893**
Reconstituted July 23, 1895***
Mustered into Federal Service May 10, 1898+
Mustered out of Federal Service February 3, 1899++
Reorganized as Troop B Cavalry May 4, 1899+++
Assigned August 15, 1905++++

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
John Cooke, Captain (Re-elected July 22, 1896)	June 19, 1882	July 27, 1882+++++
Samuel Kay, First Lieut. (Re-elected Nov. 11, 1897)	June 27, 1887	July 30, 1887+++++

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*Troop B Cavalry, formerly Sacramento Light Artillery, unattached, redesignated Light Battery B, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade, March 19, 1880.
Adjutant General Report 1880, Special Order No. 19, page 76.

**Light Battery B, First Artillery Regiment redesignated Battery B, Light Artillery, unattached, Fourth Brigade, July 1, 1893.
Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, General Order No. 7, page 96.

***Battery B, Light Artillery, unattached, redesignated Troop B Cavalry, Third Brigade, July 23, 1895.
Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 11, page 76.

+Troop B Cavalry redesignated Battery C, Heavy Artillery and mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War, May 10, 1898.
Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, page 8.

++Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 5.

+++Battery C, Heavy Artillery re-entered the National Guard as Troop B Cavalry, May 4, 1899.
Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59.

++++Troop B Cavalry, Third Brigade assigned to the First Squadron of Cavalry redesignated Troop B, First Squadron of Cavalry, August 15, 1905. Adjutant General Report 1906, page 3.

+++++Captain Cooke and Lieutenant Kay retained their former commissions as of July 27, 1882, and July 30, 1887, respectively, when they commanded Light Battery B, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade.

TROOP B CAVALRY (Continued)

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Samuel Kay, Captain	June 16, 1899	July 10, 1899
O. J. Boden, First Lieut.	June 18, 1899	July 10, 1899
Samuel Kay, Captain (Re-elected July 31, 1901)	_____	_____
O. J. Boden, First Lieut. (Re-elected July 31, 1901)	_____	_____
Samuel Kay, Captain (Re-elected June 17, 1903)	_____	_____
O. J. Boden, First Lieut. (Re-elected June 17, 1903)	_____	_____
Samuel Kay, Captain (Re-elected May 31, 1905)	_____	_____
O. J. Boden, First Lieut. (Re-elected May 31, 1905)	_____	_____

Activities:

On July 23, 1895, General Order No. 11 was issued which stated that Light Battery B in Sacramento would be discontinued as such, and be enrolled as cavalry to be known and designated as Troop B Cavalry, unattached, Third Brigade. Troop B was the final designation of this unit which was one of the oldest military organizations in Sacramento having been organized as the Sacramento Light Artillery, October 7, 1864.

Troop B, in order to maintain their efficiency as a military organization attended many encampments, which were as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Year</u>
Aug. 15 - 22	Santa Cruz	1897
June 14 - 23	Santa Cruz	1901
Aug. 9 - 15	Santa Cruz	1902
Aug. 6 - 22	Santa Cruz	1903
Aug. 13 - 26	Atascadero	1904

The major encampments in the above list are given in detail as follows: In 1904 the first of a series of Joint Army and Militia Camps of Instruction were held at Atascadero from August 13 to 26. Troop B entrained at Sacramento on August twelfth, at 8:15 P.M. The cars provided by the Southern Pacific Railroad were first-class officers being supplied with a chair car. Horses were loaded at 6:00 P. M. The troop also loaded the mounts of the field and staff, Second Infantry. Troop B arrived at Atascadero at 10:00 A.M., August thirteenth, and here they received their first lesson. The

TROOP B CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

systematic manner in which the United States Army Officers detrained the arriving troops, the method in which camp equipment was loaded on wagons, and the way in which the march to camp started with so little confusion was certainly a good lesson, not only to the Third Brigade Quartermaster Department, but to every officer and enlisted man as well.

The military problems in which Troop B participated in at this encampment were as follows:

PROBLEM NO. 1, First exercise. Advance and Rear Guard: In this exercise, Troop B was divided - on platoon reporting to Colonel R. K. Whitmore, Sixth Infantry, and were used as orderlies. The other platoon reported to Major Edward Jones, Sixth Infantry. Troop B received no definite instructions, and was assigned no part in problem that was worthy of mention.

PROBLEM NO. 2, Attack and Defense of Convoy:
Troop B was under the immediate command of Captain John T. Nance, Ninth Regiment of Cavalry, United States Army, who was placed in command of the California Organized Cavalry on its arrival at Camp Atascadero, Troop B acted as advance and rear guard for the cavalry in this problem. A great amount of hard riding was done in an effort to get in touch with the wagon train, consisting of 100 wagons, and attempt their capture, but the troops were unable to do so. Troops A, C, and D, Cavalry, advanced through a ravine in an effort to locate train. Troop B acting as rear guard, was attacked by a battalion of infantry. The troop reported immediately to commanding officer and instructions to hold off "Blue" forces as long as possible then retreat.

TROOP B CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

PROBLEM NO. 3, Third exercise. Outpost attack and defense. Troop B was the only cavalry of the Blue forces, Major Brown, Artillery Corps, United States Army, commanding. Troop B departed from camp one hour before main body to take possession of Post Office Hill, there to await the arrival of one company of infantry, then to scout all roads from point 42 Eagle Ranch road to 43, and to protect left flank of rear guard. After being relieved by infantry company, the unit took position as ordered, but the troop being small in numbers and the territory to be scouted being large, considerable trouble was experienced by skirmishers in keeping in touch with one another. Troop B was attacked by a troop of United States Cavalry and compelled to retreat to hills on east of Eagle Ranch road between points 42 and 43.

PROBLEM NO. 5, March and Deployment of a Division: There was little for the cavalry to do in this maneuver. Troop B deployed as skirmishers at greatly extended intervals representing a cavalry screen, with orders to fire on the approaching columns and offer resistance sufficient to compel them to deploy. After accomplishing this the troop retreated to the hills east of Eagle Ranch, where artillery had been stationed and supported them.

PROBLEM NO. 6, Attack and Defense of an entrenched position: In this exercise Troop B was used as an advance guard for the Provisional Regiment United States Army. The country through which the troop marched was the worst of any encountered during the camp. The

TROOP B CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

PROBLEM NO. 6, (Continued)

chapparral was so dense that the men had often to dismount and break a passageway through to permit them to proceed. On arriving at the last chain of hills in front of the entrenched position to be assaulted, the troop halted and the infantry advanced and proceeded to the attack. Troop B kept up a continuous fire over heads of the infantry until they charged.

PROBLEM NO. 8,

Passage of a Defile: In this maneuver Troop B acted as escort to a platoon of artillery. The troop received instructions to make a rapid march and prevent the occupation of a certain advantageous point by the enemy. It was thought this could not be accomplished as it was necessary to make a wide detour to get to the appointed place. After one of the quickest rides of the week - 5 miles in 20 minutes, the troop arrived at "Q" with plenty of time to spare. The duties of Troop B here consisted of supporting the battery. The remainder of the cavalry arrived shortly afterwards by another route, and Captain J. T. Nance assumed command. After a wild ride down the sides of several very steep hills and a short skirmish with the enemy, recall was sounded.

Troop B entrained for Sacramento at 8:30 A.M., August twenty-sixth, arriving there at 11:00 P.M. These maneuvers were of the greatest value to both officers and enlisted men. The experience was such as the National Guard had never had before, though an attempt was made at the Division Encampment held at Santa Cruz in 1901, but very poorly executed. It did away with the "squads right" and "squads left" of armory drill and showed that the extended order must be studied by officers and enlisted men instructed in this most important part of the tactics.

TROOP B CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

In the compulsory target practice that was held each year as required by law, Troop B ranked low in the number of qualified Marksmen. In 1896, the troop had 17 Marksmen with the rifle and Sergeant G. Farrer won the State revolver championship with a score of 47. In 1902, Troop B had 27 qualified Marksmen with a revolver, 22 in 1903, and 20 in 1905, this being the last target practice report of the troop as an unattached company.

Immediately after the reorganization of 1895, Troop B adopted the following Constitution and By-Laws for the improvement of the troop:

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE NO. 1. Section No. 1: The name of this organization shall be Troop B, Third Brigade, National Guard of California.

Section No. 2: The troop shall be organized and drilled according to the regulations governing the Army of the United States and the codes, rules and regulations governing the National Guard of California.

ARTICLE NO. 2. Section No. 1: The commissioned officers of the troop shall consist of one Captain, one Senior First Lieutenant, one Junior First Lieutenant, and one Second Lieutenant; the non-commissioned officers, one First Sergeant, one Quartermaster Sergeant, four Sergeants, eight Corporals, two Trumpeters, two Farriers, and one Saddler.

Section No. 2: In addition to the officers mentioned in the foregoing section, there shall be a Troop Clerk, a Finance Committee, and an Investigation Committee, each committee to consist of three members of the Troop.

TROOP B CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

ARTICLE NO. 3. Section No. 1: The Captain shall have command of the troop, and be ex-officio Treasurer, with power to appoint a Deputy. He shall levy all fines imposed by the laws and enforce their collection; also, preside at all meetings of the Troop and enforce a due observance of the laws, rules and regulations; see that the officers and committees perform their respective duties as required; appoint all committees not otherwise provided for; give the casting vote on all questions before the Troop except election of officers and applications for membership; inspect and announce the result of balloting and other votes of the Troop; sign all documents that require his signature and perform such other duties as appertain to his office. He shall make a semi-annual report of the financial condition of the Troop.

Section No. 2: In the absence of the Captain, the officer next in rank present shall take charge of the Troop, and shall possess all the powers and authority of the Captain.

Section No. 3: The First Sergeant shall keep a correct roll of all members of the Troop with the residence of each attached, and see that each Sergeant is furnished with a copy of the same; he shall call the roll at all drills and parades in the following order: First, commissioned and non-commissioned officers, in the order of their rank; Second, Privates in alphabetical order; he shall note all absentees at each assemblage, and hand their name to the Troop Clerk at least three days thereafter, and shall perform such other duties as generally pertain to his office.

TROOP B CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: ((Continued))

ARTICLE NO. 4.

Section No. 4: The Troop Clerk shall be present at all meetings of the Troop, and keep correct minutes of all the proceedings. At each monthly meeting he shall call the list of absentees during the past month, and the fines registered against such absentees; he shall receive all the money for fines and pay the same over to the Treasurer; taking a receipt therefore; he shall file all orders, letters and official documents in such a manner as the Captain shall direct; he shall keep a roster showing the the names of all members of the Troop, their age, occupation, date of enlistment, residence, date of discharge; he shall also keep a book showing all money receipts and disbursements of the Troop and shall make a semi-annual report in writing of all financial transactions. He shall furnish the First Sergeant with the names of all members and countersign all orders signed by the commanding officer drawn on the Treasurer; he shall receive such compensation for his services as may be determined upon by the Troop.

Section No. 5: The Finance Committee shall examine the books of the Treasurer and the Troop Clerk, and make a report to the Troop.

Section No. 6: The Quartermaster Sergeant shall keep a correct account of all Troop property; he shall furnish each member with full equipments; see that all are properly uniformed, and shall require of each member a proper receipt therefore, he shall make a semi-annual report of the condition of all property in possession of the Troop; he shall receive such compensation as the Troop may direct for his faithful services.

TROOP B CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)
Activities: (Continued)

ARTICLE NO. 4. Section No. 1: All candidates for membership must be free white males of the age of 18 and not over 45 years of age, of sound health, of good moral character and industrious habits, and have some known respectable means of support and pledge themselves to support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of California, and the Constitution and By-Laws of this Troop. No person who has been dishonorably discharged from any company of the National Guard of California and not pardoned by the Commander-in-Chief, shall be eligible to membership.

ARTICLE NO. 1.
ARTICLE NO. 2.
Section No. 2: All applications for membership must be in writing, stating name, residence, age and occupation, which proposition must be posted in the Troop Armory at least one week before balloting. All proposals must be referred to the committee on investigation who will make report thereon at the next stated meeting, when a ballot shall be taken, and if not more than two black balls appear the applicant shall be declared elected, but if more than two black balls appear, the ballot shall be deferred one week. The members who cast the black balls shall inform the commanding officer of the grounds and causes thereof during that week, and such officer shall at the next meeting state to the Troop the reason given without stating the names of those members, when a new ballot shall be held, and if less than 5 black balls appear the candidate shall be declared elected; but if 5 or more balls appear the candidate shall be declared rejected.

Section No. 3: On balloting for candidates the ballot box shall be placed in full view of the presiding officer and be inspected by him and he shall proclaim the result. Every applicant on

TROOP B CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Section No. 3: (Continued) being elected and sworn in for three years shall sign the roll, and Constitution and By-Laws.

Section No. 4: Rejected applicants shall not be proposed again for the period of three months after their rejection.

Section No. 5: This Constitution may be amended by giving two weeks notice in writing of any proposed amendment when if two-thirds of all the members present vote in favor thereof, it shall be adopted.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE NO. 1. Section No. 1: The Troop shall meet for drill every Wednesday at 8:00 P.M., and shall parade as required by law and when ordered by competent authority.

ARTICLE NO. 2. Section No. 1: The Troop shall meet on the first Wednesday of each month for the transaction of special business. Special meetings may be called by the commanding officer at his discretion, or at the written request of 10 active members, but no other business shall be transacted than that stated in the call. The annual meeting shall be held on the first Wednesday in January of each year at 8:00 P.M.

Section No. 2: A quorum consists of one commissioned officer and 15 active members. If a quorum shall not have assembled within 15 minutes of the appointed time, after notifying the absentees, those present may adjourn.

Section No. 3: The senior officer present shall preside, and have power to fine any member for disorderly conduct, in a sum not exceeding two dollars, subject to an appeal to the Troop. In all transactions not otherwise directed, a majority vote

TROOP B CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Section No. 3: (Continued) shall rule.

Section No. 4: The rules of order as laid down in Cushing's Manual so far as they do not conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of this Troop shall govern.

ARTICLE NO. 3. Section No. 1: All non-commissioned officers shall be appointed by the commanding officer.

Section No. 2: The Troop Clerk shall be elected by the votes of the members of the troop, at the annual meeting in January of each year, and hold office until his successor qualifies. The Finance and Investigation Committee, shall be appointed by the Captain.

Section No. 3: All elections shall be by paper ballot, and a majority of all votes present shall be necessary to a choice.

Section No. 4: All elections for members shall be by ball - ballot, and all elected members must sign the Troop roll Constitution and By-Laws, and take the oath prescribed by the law within one month after their election, otherwise their election shall be null and void.

Section No. 5: At all elections for officers, the presiding officer shall appoint two members as tellers, whose duties it shall be to receive and count the votes cast into the ballot box. They shall canvass all the votes and declare the result to the presiding officer, by whom it shall be announced to the Troop.

Section No. 6: The Investigation Committee shall examine into the moral and physical qualifications of the candidate for membership and report the same at the next meeting. Any member about to propose an applicant must submit the name, age, weight, height, and occupation to the Investigation Committee before filing the application.

TROOP B CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Section No. 7: The Quartermaster Sergeant shall be present at least 15 minutes prior to the hour fixed for any drill and half an hour prior to the hour fixed for any parade, subject to the same fine as Sergeants for absence or neglect of duty. He shall act as Sergeant at Arms at all meetings and his duty shall be to let no one but members come into the Armory, and let no one leave unless they receive permission from the presiding officer.

Section No. 8: Other special committees may be appointed by the presiding officer whenever it may be deemed necessary by the Troop, and it shall be his privilege to preside at the meetings of the committee.

ARTICLE NO. 4. Section No. 1: Any member who appears in uniform of the Troop, or any portion thereof on any occasion or at any place not authorized by the commanding officer, or who loans his uniform or accoutrements, or any portion thereof, to any person not a member on any occasion whatever, shall be fined not less than two dollars.

Section No. 2: Any member while in uniform who becomes intoxicated or uses vulgar or profane language in or about the Armory, or when on drill or parade, shall be liable to immediate arrest and be deprived of his uniform.

Section No. 3: Any member who changes his residence, shall inform the Troop Clerk thereof within one month, otherwise he will be fined fifty cents.

Section No. 4: No furloughs shall be granted unless the member making application therefore has paid in full the amount of all fines recorded against him.

TROOP B CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

ARTICLE NO. 5.

Section No. 5: If any member divulges the name of a member who may think proper to speak or vote against a candidate for membership, or shall make public any business which should be confined to the Troop only, he shall be fined not less than five dollars.

Section No. 6: All officers or members who absent themselves from three consecutive assemblages without an excuse acceptable to the commanding officer, are debarred from the privileges and exemptions provided for members of the National Guard and are liable to be reported to the commanding officer of the brigade for court-martial. Fines for absence from parades: Commissioned officers, \$2.50; non-commissioned officers, \$1.50; Privates, \$1.00. For absence from drills and meetings: Commissioned Officers, 75¢; non-commissioned officers, 50¢; Privates, 25¢. For leaving the ranks on parade or drills, without leave of the commanding officer, a fine of not less than \$1.00. For appearing on parade or drill without the proper arms or accoutrements, or with the uniform not clean, and not in proper order \$1.00. For talking in the ranks on parade or drill, 25¢. For leaving a meeting without consent of the presiding officer, 50¢. For non-commissioned officers neglect of duty not otherwise provided for, 50¢. For civil officers neglect to duty to send books to the Armory at the appointed time of meeting, if unable to attend, 50¢. For committee neglect of duty for each member, 50¢.

Section No. 7: All fines shall be read by the Troop Clerk at the two succeeding regular meeting and stand open for written or personal excuse. If no legal excuse is made then it cannot be remitted.

On February 23, 1886
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Memorandum No. 1, February 24, 1886, page 1, column 4.

TROOP B CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

On March 1, 1896, the
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Armory showed the Pa
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the State, with
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ARTICLE NO. 5. Section No. 1: Any citizen of the State may be elected an honorary member of the Troop, said election to be by the same method as the election of an active member.

his command at eight
repeated the orders
Company G of Sacram
companies of the Sec
Marysville, Woodland
Armory showed the Pa
mental field staff
out of 75, about 10

Section No. 2: Any member of the troop having received his certificate of exemption from the State of California for military service is entitled to be placed on the Honorary Roll.

The result of the in
of the best drilled
Guard, should be pr
survived. Colonel
the State, with
being pleased at the

Section No. 3: It shall be the privilege of all honorary members to attend all meetings of the Troop, but they shall not participate in the general debate and business without leave.

On April 21, 1896, the
Troop B Cavalry
Artillery, Battery
Fort Canby, Washing
garrison duty until
1899. The State Leg
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Section No. 4: The Honorary Roll shall be placed in the Armory and the names of those entitled to appear therein shall be placed thereon at least every six months.

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Troop B Cavalry
Artillery, Battery
Fort Canby, Washing
garrison duty until
1899. The State Leg
the company and memb
into the service of
therefrom the privi
in the Guard will

ARTICLE NO. 6. Section No. 1: These By-Laws may be altered or amended by giving two weeks notice in writing of any proposed amendment, when if two-thirds of all the members present vote in favor thereof, it shall be adopted, if it does not conflict with the Codes, rules and regulations governing the National Guard.

On February 23, 1896, Troop B under the command of Captain John Cooke, went out to the Freeport road a distance of several miles, thence to the lower Stockton road and back to Oak Park, Sacramento. On the way the Troop was drilled in the movements of cavalry on the march. At Oak Park field evolutions were gone through for half an hour and the men did exceedingly well. The horses were a bit green, however, and somewhat hampered the movements of the Troop. As the day advanced they became more accustomed to the bugle calls and the good effects of the exercise were apparent. A great crowd of spectators witnessed the movements of the troop.*

*Sacramento Bee, March 6, 1896, column 2.

*Sacramento Bee, February 24, 1896, page 1, column 4.

TROOP B CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

On March 5, 1896, Brigadier-General M. W. Muller, commanding the Third Brigade, issued an emergency call for the troops of the brigade to assemble at their respective armories for the purpose of inspection, and to see whether or not they were in perfect fighting trim. At 2:00 P.M., Colonel J. W. Guthrie, commanding the Second Infantry, received orders to assemble his command at eight o'clock in the evening. Colonel Guthrie repeated the orders to the officers of Troop B, Company E and Company G of Sacramento, and the two officers of the outlying companies of the Second Infantry at Chico, Colusa, Nevada City, Marysville, Woodland, and Redding. Roll-call at the Sacramento Armory showed the following present Brigade Staff, 3; Regimental Field Staff, 4; Company G, 63 men out of 69; Troop B, 56 out of 75; Signal Corps, 15 out of 17.

The result of the inspection showed that Troop B, which was one of the best drilled of similar organizations in the National Guard, should be provided with the regulation revolvers and carbines. Colonel R. L. Peeler, Assistant Adjutant General of the State, witnessed the ceremonies and expressed himself as being pleased at the good showing made by the soldiers.*

On April 21, 1898, the United States declared war against Spain. Troop B was mustered into Federal service at San Francisco, May tenth, and redesignated Battery C, First Battalion of Heavy Artillery. Battery C on June 5, 1898, was assigned to duty at Fort Canby, Washington, where it remained performing ordinary garrison duty until mustered out of Federal service, February 3, 1899. The State Legislature in 1899 enacted a law giving to the company and members of the National Guard, who were mustered into the service of the United States and subsequently discharged therefrom the privilege of reporting back and returning to duty in the Guard with credit for continuous service. The Legislature stipulated, however, that they must report back for duty in the Guard within 150 days after being mustered out of Federal service. Troop B re-entered the National Guard, May 4, 1899.

On April 6, 1905, Troop B was inspected by Colonel Thomas Wilhelm, United States Army, Assistant Inspector General of the California National Guard. His report to Adjutant General J. B. Lauck on the condition of the troop is as follows:

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*Sacramento Bee, March 6, 1896, page 5, column 2.

TROOP B CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The percentage of attendance at drills during the past year is 63.36 per cent. The enlisted men of the troop number forty-nine, all of a good class. The organization is available for domestic emergency and could be assembled for duty in 5 or 6 hours, mounted in about 10 hours. Property, stores, and equipment are in good condition, and well kept. The organization is instructed to a considerable extent in fire discipline, sighting and estimating distances. The McClellan saddles and other horse equipment are in excellent condition.

Percentage of attendance at inspection and muster, good 86 per cent; promptness at roll-call and troop exercises, very good 94 per cent; discipline, very good 95 per cent; military appearance, very good 92 per cent; condition of arms, good 88 per cent; condition of equipment, excellent 100 per cent; condition of clothing, very good 92 per cent; condition of records, good 89 per cent; Troop movements, good 89 per cent; manual of arms and other exercises, very good 90 per cent; general average, 91.3 per cent.

Colonel Wilhelm during the year of 1905, inspected sixty-five organizations of the National Guard and the general average of 91.3 given to Troop B was the fifth highest percentage awarded in the State.

On August 15, 1905, four months after Colonel Wilhelm's inspection, Troops A, B, C, and D Cavalry, were organized into a squadron of cavalry in accordance with the provisions of Sections 1927, and 1935 State Political Code. For additional information concerning the activities of Troop B, refer to the history of Troop B, First Squadron of Cavalry, National Guard of California.

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