

History of the Company F (San Francisco Light Guard), 1st Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1880-1907

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COMPANY F

1812

Company F, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly San Francisco Light Guard)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized November 12, 1858

Reorganized March 26, 1880*

Reorganized and Consolidated June 22, 1885**

Reconstituted December 9, 1895***

Mustered into Federal Service May 6, 1898****

Mustered out of Federal Service September 21, 1899+

Reorganized as Company F, First Infantry Regiment November 29, 1899++

Reconstituted April 19, 1901+++

Reconstituted April 19, 1901++++

Consolidated and Redesignated May 11, 1907+++++

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
George M. Gaylord, Captain	Apr. 1, 1879	Apr. 10, 1879+++++
Charles F. Holyoke, First Lieut.	Apr. 13, 1880	Apr. 21, 1880
Charles F. Holyoke, Captain (Resigned Jan. 2, 1883)	Apr. 19, 1882	Apr. 19, 1882
Edward Everett, First Lieut.	Apr. 17, 1882	Apr. 19, 1882

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*Company F, formerly San Francisco Light Guard organized November 12, 1858, reorganized and designated Company F, First Infantry Regiment, March 26, 1880.

Adjutant General Report 1880, General Order No. 12, page 63.

**Companies F and E, First Regiment consolidated and designated Company F, First Infantry Regiment, June 22, 1885.

Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, General Order No. 36, page 113.

Note General Order No. 36 is a missprint and should be Company F instead of Company E.

***Company F formed from the consolidation of Batteries D and F, Second Artillery Regiment and designated Company F, First Infantry Regiment, December 9, 1895.

Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, and 18, pages 86, and 88.

****Company F as part of the First Infantry Regiment was mustered into the Federal Service May 6, 1898.

Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 4.

+Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 11, page 68.

++Company F, as part of the First Infantry Regiment re-entered the National Guard of California, November 29, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 79.

+++Company F redesignated Company A, First Battalion Coast Artillery, April 19, 1901.

Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, General Order No. 5, page 66.

++++Company L, First Infantry Regiment, redesignated Company F, First Infantry Regiment, April 19, 1901. Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, General Order No. 5, page 66.

+++++Companies D and F, First Infantry Regiment consolidated and redesignated as Company M, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, May 11, 1907.

Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 4.

*****Captain George M. Gaylord retained his rank and commission dates of April 1, 1879 and April 10, 1879, when he was commanding the San Francisco Light Guard, Company F, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

COMPANY F (Continued)

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Edward Everett, Captain (Resigned July 2, 1883)	Jan. 30, 1883	Feb. 15, 1883
A. W. Collins, Captain (Resigned Mar. 7, 1884)	Aug. 14, 1883	Aug. 20, 1883
Z. P. Clark, Captain (Appointed Major and Paymaster on Brigade Staff)	July 22, 1884	Sept. 24, 1884
A. W. Collins, First Lieut. (Promoted to Captain Aug. 14, 1883)	May 23, 1883	July 17, 1883
George Fredericks, First Lieut. (Resigned Feb. 20, 1885)	Aug. 14, 1883	Aug. 20, 1883
George Teller, Captain (Resigned July 2, 1886)	Aug. 1, 1885	Aug. 13, 1885
Phillip S. Teller, First Lieut. (Resigned Nov. 27, 1885)	Aug. 1, 1885	Aug. 13, 1885
Robert J. Loughery, Captain	Oct. 26, 1886	Nov. 16, 1886
G. W. Longley, First Lieut.	Feb. 16, 1886	Mar. 24, 1886
F. M. Rosenthal, Jr., Captain (Resigned Aug. 11, 1890)	Dec. 18, 1888	Jan. 26, 1889
James A. Margo, Captain	Oct. 9, 1890	Oct. 30, 1890
James A. Margo, First Lieut. (Promoted to Captain October 9, 1890)	Mar. 9, 1890	Mar. 27, 1890
John F. Eggert, First Lieut.	Oct. 9, 1890	Nov. 10, 1890
James A. Margo, Captain (Re-elected Oct. 13, 1892)	_____	_____
John F. Eggert, First Lieut. (Re-elected Oct. 13, 1892)	_____	_____
John F. Eggert, Captain (Resigned Dec. 9, 1895)	Oct. 18, 1894	Nov. 16, 1894
Henry E. Curzons, First Lieut.	Oct. 18, 1894	Nov. 16, 1894
John A. Miller, Captain	Oct. 29, 1895	Jan. 22, 1896
Firmin A. Nippert, First Lieut.	Mar. 17, 1896	April 4, 1896
John A. Miller, Captain (Re-elected April 5, 1898)	_____	_____
Firmin A. Nippert, First Lieut. (Re-elected April 5, 1898)	_____	_____

COMPANY F (Continued)

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Firmin A. Nippert, Captain	Feb. 28, 1900	April 16, 1900
William A. Varney, First Lieut.	Feb. 28, 1900	May 2, 1900
John F. Eggert, Captain (Re-elected Mar. 20, 1902)		
B. M. Clancy, First Lieut.	May 23, 1901	June 11, 1901
John F. Eggert, Captain (Re-elected June 16, 1904)		
H. G. Stindt, First Lieut.	June 11, 1903	June 22, 1903
H. G. Stindt, Captain	Mar. 2, 1905	April 17, 1905
D. A. Hagens, First Lieut. (Resigned Oct. 23, 1905)	Mar. 2, 1905	April 19, 1905
William G. Hyde, First Lieut.	Jan. 4, 1906	Feb. 6, 1906

Activities:

Company F of the First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, was formerly the Light Guard of San Francisco, organized November 12, 1858. Under the general reorganization of the National Guard in 1880, the name Light Guard was dropped and the unit was redesignated as Company F, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

A year later in San Francisco on Memorial Day, Company F and the Grand Army of the Republic took part in a parade in which they were reviewed by George C. Perkins, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard of California. The unit also joined in the memorial services of President James A. Garfield of the United States during this same year.

The company showed a great deal of interest in the encampments held once each year and for a number of years the members bore their own expense at these camps. Four of these encampments were held annually from 1880 to 1884 at Sacramento, Santa Cruz, San Jose and again at Santa Cruz. In 1885 the entire National Guard went into encampment from August 15 to 23. The camp was well located and it was designated Camp Stoneman in honor of George Stoneman, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard of California. During this encampment Company F engaged in battalion skirmishes, brigade drills, dress parades, sentry duty and guard mounting. The unit also took part in a sham-battle which created great excitement among the many thousands of spectators that viewed the scene from the surrounding hills as it appeared to be a real battle. The different companies were well officered and the deportment was excellent.*

*Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, pages 7, 123.

COMPANY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

During the next ten years from 1885 to 1895 the company encamped as follows: In 1886 the unit camped with the First Infantry at Santa Rosa, the next year at Healdsburg with the Second Brigade, and the following year in July, the First Infantry spent eight days encamped at San Jose. The camp was designated "Camp Tirrell", in honor of Major Francis H. Tirrell, Surgeon of the regiment, who died in the month of January preceding the encampment. There was an average attendance during the eight days of 226 members. During the year 1889 every organization in the State of California went into encampment in various designated places. Company F with the First Infantry camped at Santa Rosa. This was the twelfth annual encampment of the First Infantry Regiment. They were well supplied with camp equipment, and the officers and men, having had considerable experience, were well instructed in camp duties.*

From July 5 to 13 in 1891 the unit encamped with the Second Brigade at Santa Cruz. In 1892 a divisional encampment was held which was a great success in every respect. The following year, owing to the limited appropriations, no Camps of Instruction were held.** Most of the duties performed by the members during these encampments were the regular drills, brigade dress parades, sentry duty and guard mounting. The unit did not participate in any encampment in 1894 as they aided in controlling the Railroad Strike of that same year.

According to an inspection report by Fred C. Smith, Inspecting Officer, June 17, 1880, the company had a very high percentage totaling 93.13 per cent in drill and attendance for the year. During the entire existence of the company a high standard was maintained. And during the year of 1896 Inspection Officer Charles Jansen reported in March an increased percentage of 98 per cent.

Aside from regular duties Company F took part with the First Infantry in the funeral procession of King Kalakaua of Hawaii on January 22, 1891. However, a few weeks previous the corps had been reviewed by this same king. The unit also joined in the funeral services of Senator George Hearst in March of this same year. A few months later they were an escort to the Grand Army

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2 *Adjutant General Report 1889-1890, pages 10, 11.

3 **Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 10.

1846

COMPANY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

of the Republic in the decoration of the graves of its deceased members. Company F with the First Infantry showed respect in joining the funeral procession of Major General H. A. Cobb, National Guard of California, which took place on the morning of May 15, 1892. The services were held in the Masonic Temple. In the upper center of the building before the dias, the coffin reposed upon a black shrouded, flower wreathed bier. Two Knight Templars were at the head of the coffin mounting guard. Displayed against the dias at the upper end of the room were many handsome floral trophies in various designs. The ceremonies began at 10:45 A.M., with the mournful procession winding down the stairway from the Temple. Outside they were joined by contingents from the First and Third Infantry and the Second Artillery. The chief mourners having entered the coaches provided, the procession wound its way to Laurel Hill Cemetery. The Infantry and Artillery led the way in columns of fours, followed by the band of the First Infantry playing funeral dirges. Immediately behind the military came the Knight Templars marching in single ranks and open order, escorting the hearse in their midst; six mourning coaches closed the procession which attracted crowds along the way.*

Aside from the unit showing respect to its deceased members and others in higher command and performing their regular duties, special emphasis was given by the company when celebrating Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, July Fourth and Admission Day of each year.

For a soldier to be efficient in actual service, he had to be able to handle a gun properly, know its capacity and fire it accurately. This required constant practice both at known measured distances and distances determined by the eye. Because of lack of funds the members of the National Guard were only allowed to fire five to ten shots at each target practice. Those absent did not get even this insufficient practice, as an official record was kept and those not present were not allowed to make up the target shoot. However, the State Legislature passed a law March 12, 1885, that \$7,000 be appropriated every two years, to be paid to the Adjutant General and expended by him for the promotion of rifle practice. Unfortunately no money was set apart until 1887 when the State Legislature

Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 14.

California Infantry, First Regt. -o0o- Company F "The City Guard", page 248, State Library.

*San Francisco Chronicle, May 16, 1892, page 10, column 6.

COMPANY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

appropriated \$3,500 for the thirty-ninth and fortieth fiscal years, which was only half the amount allowed by law. A portion of this was used for the purchases of State decorations. Also targets were established, ample ammunition was supplied, medals were offered; all of which created a great interest in target practice as the medals were given to denote the standing the soldiers had attained during that particular year in rifle practice. It was through this arrangement that some of the poorest riflemen, by having constant practice and mingling with the better riflemen, became the best shots of the unit. Many of the members of the First Infantry Regiment received medals from the 688 that were awarded in 1887. In June of 1894 while encamped at Camp Dimond, Santa Cruz the First Infantry Regiment won the Dimond Trophy, for the best discipline, week end drill, deportment, general appearance and promptness in military duties.*

In the month of July 1894 Company F with the First Infantry was called to active service in the vicinity of Sacramento to help in controlling an almost nationwide railroad strike, affecting three-fourths of the United States. The unit camped at the State Fair Grounds and when the ranks were formed for duty the men marched to the depot at the west side where an entrance was attempted. The guard was met with peaceful but stubborn defiance from a solid mass of strikers, not at all riotous or disturbing the peace, but determined not to yield. The members stood out in the hot sun most of the day and many of them became exhausted from the heat. As there was no further trouble that day the company returned to camp. Finally, after twenty-three days had elapsed the strike was ended and the members were dismissed and returned to their homes. A report from C. C. Allen, Adjutant General of California, stated that the duties of the soldiers of this State were performed with zeal, willingness and promptness, and deserved the highest of praise.

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2. *Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, page 8.

Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 14.

California Infantry, First Regiment, 1861, Company B "The City Guard", page 248, State Library.

COMPANY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

A few months after the strike, upon the recommendation of the Board of Location and Organization, Company F was redesignated Company L, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade. Due to this transfer a vacancy occurred which was filled by a new company, formed from the consolidation of Batteries D and F of the Second Artillery and designated as Company F, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, December 9, 1895.*

According to an inspection report by Major Charles Jansen, Brigade Inspector, out of the twelve companies composing the First Infantry stationed in San Francisco, the one which ranked the highest in order of merit was Company F, having eighty-seven on the rolls and only one member absent at inspection.**

With the outbreak of the Spanish-American War each State was called upon for enlisted men. Company F with the First Infantry Regiment was mustered into the regular army at San Francisco May 6, 1898, under the President's call for volunteers. This regiment was under the command of Colonel James F. Smith, and sailed from San Francisco on the United States Transport "City of Pekin", May twenty-fifth, convoyed by the United States Flagship "Charleston". This was the first time that any American soldiers had ever crossed the waters to be engaged in war in a foreign land. On June thirtieth the regiment arrived at Cavite, Island of Luzon, and disembarked July third. They established Camp Dewey at Tambo, near Manila July fifteenth and took part in the battle of Malate trenches July thirty-first to August first. The unit also participated in the assault and capture of Manila August 13, 1898. Company F again took part in the campaign of the Philippine Insurrection from February 5 to March 21, 1899. After a period of almost sixteen months of service, Company F with the First Infantry Regiment left the Philippines on the transport "Sherman" on their return home, they arrived in San Francisco on August 23, 1899, where they disembarked and camped at the Presidio August twenty-fifth and the regiment was mustered out of the United States service September 21, 1899.***

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*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, 18, pages 86, 88

**Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, page 181.

***Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 4.

***Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 4.

***General and Special Orders and Regulations - 1907, General Order No. 13.

COMPANY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The unit on their return to the United States again resumed their duties as Company F, First Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California and for the next seven years the activities of Company F were few except for drills, encampments, parades and target practice.

On April 18, 1906, an Earthquake in San Francisco caused tremendous disaster in the city. Company F with the National Guard was called to render their services in quelling the frenzied populace as they were being driven from their burning homes. The principal work performed by the troops of the National Guard in San Francisco was to assist the civil authorities and the regular United States Troops in preserving order in both the burned and unburned districts. A great deal of relief work was done by the First Infantry and the Battalion of Coast Artillery during this time. Hundreds were homeless and hungry and in many instances the people had not even a blanket to sleep on at night. The guard kept a wagon train loaded with supplies obtained through contribution for days to the refugees at Golden Gate Park and other places. Company F with the First Infantry helped to patrol the streets and guard various public building, banks and storehouses. After approximately two weeks of service the troops were relieved from duty on May 31, 1906.*

One of the last activities performed by Company F before the unit consolidated and the regiment mustered out, was an over night encampment held August 4, 1906, at Agua Caliente. Approximately nine months later on May 11, 1907, Companies F and D, First Infantry Regiment were consolidated and designated as Company M, Fifth Infantry Regiment.** On this same day May 11, 1907, the First Infantry Regiment was disbanded from the service of the National Guard of California.***

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*Adjutant General Report 1906, page 10, and 12.

**Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 4.

***General and Special Orders and Circulars - 1907, General Order No. 10.