

# **History of the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Company B (Emmet Guard), National Guard of California 1888-1907**

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COMPANY B

Company B, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade (formerly Emmet Guard)  
 Reference: Adjutant General's Files  
 Location: Stockton, San Joaquin County  
 Organized May 21, 1884  
 Reconstituted July 22, 1885\*  
 Reconstituted February 21, 1888\*\*  
 Reconstituted December 9, 1895\*\*\*  
 Mustered into Federal Service May 11, 1898+  
 Mustered out of Federal Service December 15, 1898++  
 Reorganized as Company B, Sixth Infantry Regiment May 9, 1899+++  
 Mustered out December 31, 1906

Commanding Officers

| <u>Name</u>   | <u>Rank</u>    | <u>Commission</u> |
|---|----------------|-------------------|
| Edward Byrnes, Captain                                      | April 16, 1888 | April 30, 1888    |
| Joseph Goodman, First Lieut.                                | April 16, 1888 | April 30, 1888    |
| Edward Byrnes, Captain<br>(Re-elected April 17, 1890)       | _____          | _____             |
| Joseph Goodman, First Lieut.<br>(Re-elected April 17, 1890) | _____          | _____             |
| Edward Byrnes, Captain<br>(Re-elected April 4, 1892)        | _____          | _____             |
| William M. Simpson, First Lieut.                            | May 25, 1891   | July 1, 1891      |

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- \*Company B, formerly Emmet Guard, unattached, redesignated Company B, Sixth Infantry Battalion, Third Brigade, July 22, 1885.  
Adjutant General Report 1885, General Order No. 18, page 70.
- \*\*Company B, Sixth Infantry Battalion, Third Brigade designated Company B, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, February 21, 1888.  
Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.
- \*\*\*Company B, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade redesignated Company B, Ninth Infantry Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December 9, Company B, Ninth Infantry Battalion redesignated Company B, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.  
Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, Special Order No. 18, page 88.
- +Company B as part of the Sixth Infantry Regiment mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War, May 11, 1898.  
Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, page 8.
- ++Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.
- +++Company B as part of Sixth Infantry Regiment, re-entered the National Guard, May 9, 1899.  
Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59.

COMPANY B (Continued)

| <u>Commanding Officers (Continued)</u>                         |                |                   |
|--|----------------|-------------------|
| <u>Name</u>  | <u>Rank</u>    | <u>Commission</u> |
| William M. Simpson, Captain                                    | April 23, 1894 | May 28, 1894      |
| William Bruce, First Lieut.                                    | April 23, 1894 | May 28, 1894      |
| William Bruce, Captain   | Jan. 8, 1896   | Feb. 17, 1896     |
| Peter M. Duffy, First Lieut.                                   | Jan. 8, 1896   | Feb. 17, 1896     |
| William Bruce, Captain<br>(Re-elected Jan. 24, 1898)           | <hr/>          |                   |
| Louis A. Eaton, First Lieut.                                   | Jan. 24, 1898  | Mar. 1, 1898      |
| William Bruce, Captain<br>(Re-elected May 28, 1900)            | <hr/>          |                   |
| Asa R. Newell, First Lieut.                                    | May 28, 1900   | Aug. 25, 1900     |
| Asa R. Newell, Captain   | Feb. 3, 1902   | Mar. 15, 1902     |
| Charles F. Walden, First Lieut.<br>(Resigned Sept. 21, 1902)   | Feb. 3, 1902   | Mar. 15, 1902     |
| Roy Kimball Edwards, First Lieut.                              | Dec. 26, 1902  | April 23, 1903    |
| Charles E. Hill, Captain                                       | Mar. 21, 1904  | Sept. 27, 1904    |
| Roy Kimball Edwards, First Lieut.<br>(Resigned April 19, 1905) | <hr/>          |                   |
| Arthur Leon Healey, First Lieut.                               | June 1, 1905   | Aug. 12, 1905     |
| James T. Haddow, Captain                                       | Oct. 11, 1906  | <hr/>             |
| Le Roy Kreider, First Lieut.                                   | Oct. 11, 1906  | <hr/>             |

**Activities:**

Company B prior to 1884 was the Emmet Guard, unattached, and had been organized as a Provisional Company in 1879. Five years later on May twenty-first the unit became part of the National Guard. In 1882, Company B became part of the Sixth Infantry Battalion and remained so designated until February 21, 1888, when the battalion was raised to a regiment. Although a regimental change was made, Company B retained its former letter designation.

Company B was a very efficient unit in military requirements prior to the Spanish-American War. At least once every year the company attended an encampment. Frequently it was only a regimental affair, but the result was a continued improvement in the company, especially in becoming familiar with the actual difficulties of subsistence and camp life. The first encampment attended by the corps was in 1889 when the Sixth Infantry Regiment camped at Santa Cruz for one week. The camp was named "Camp Dimond," in honor of Major General Dimond. Camp Allen, at Santa Cruz was chosen for the site of the Camp of Instruction in 1891. Captain J. J. O'Connell, First Infantry United States

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Army, was detailed as Inspecting and Mustering Officer by the Secretary of War. Company B with forty-seven members present had a 72.30 per cent attendance record and a 4.00 per cent average merit rating at the inspection during the encampment of 1891.

The Camp of Instruction held at Stockton beginning June 16, 1894, was a particularly interesting one and from which Company A gained extensive military knowledge. The object of the camp was for discipline and drill. The camp was named for Brigadier-General M. W. Muller, commander of the Third Brigade. Call was sounded from the guardhouse for the following activities:

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Reveille  | Sunrise     |
| Surgeon's Call                                  | 6:00 A. M.  |
| Breakfast Call                                  | 6:30 A. M.  |
| Company Drill                                   | 7:15 A. M.  |
| Recall from Drill                               | 8:00 A. M.  |
| Inspection of Quarters                          | 8:15 A. M.  |
| Fatigue Call                                    | 8:45 A. M.  |
| Orderly Call                                    | 9:00 A. M.  |
| Officers' and Non-commissioned Officers' School | 9:15 A. M.  |
| Camp open                                       | 10:00 A. M. |
| Battalion Drill                                 | 10:00 A. M. |
| Dinner Call                                     | 12:00 Noon  |
| Parade  | 5:50 P. M.  |
| Guard Mount                                     | 6:00 P. M.  |
| Supper  | 6:30 P. M.  |
| Retreat   | Sundown     |
| Tattoo  | 11:00 P. M. |
| Taps  | 11:30 P. M. |

The company doing guard was excused from all drills except the battalion drill at 10:00 A. M. Company roll-call by the first sergeant of each company took place at reveille. A provost guard detailed daily by the adjutant consisted of one officer, one sergeant, one corporal and six privates. The duty of this guard was to patrol Stockton and arrest all men guilty of misbehavior. Inebriation, profanity and improper language or conduct, either in or out of camp, were among the offenses for which the offenders were sent to the guardhouse. Lieutenant G. W. McIver of the Regular Army was detailed to act as drill inspector and was the only regular officer on duty. After supper at 6:30 each evening, the men were free to do as they wished until tattoo beat at 11:00 o'clock. Lieutenant McIver reported Company B as well as other companies of the Sixth Infantry required more and better instruction, especially in the

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

school of the soldier, which lays the foundation for good drill. The lieutenant also called attention to the arms in possession of the companies, stating that 75 per cent were unserviceable.\*

Less than two weeks after the encampment, Company B was called upon to render service in assisting the civil authorities in protecting life and property during the Railroad Strike in Sacramento, July 1894. The company under command of Captain W. E. Simpson was on duty in Sacramento from July Fourth to fifteenth and from July fifteenth to July twenty-fifth at Dunsmuir. Their activities consisted chiefly of guard duty. Company B had fifty-eight men and three officers in the field and were credited with having performed their duties with great efficiency.\*\*

To test the efficiency of the Sixth Infantry Regiment, Brigadier-General M. W. Muller, commander of the Third Brigade, issued an emergency call affecting all the companies in the regiment. The Colonel notified Major Grant to pass the call along to Companies A and B of Stockton, and then by wire notify the Captains of the different companies of the regiment in other towns. Eight o'clock, the time set for the companies to be in their armories, found Companies A and B on duty awaiting orders. The two companies were drawn up in line on the floor of the pavilion in readiness to go into the field if that were required. The men were in light marching uniform, with blankets slung over their shoulders and canteens and haversacks hung by the side. Company B was formed in line by First Sergeant James H. Ford and numbered in line fifty-five men. The few absentees were either sick, out of town, or unavoidably prevented from being present. Several appeared at the armory but were unable to enter the ranks on account of illness.

After Sergeant Ford had the company lined up Captain William Bruce took command, and held the unit in readiness for inspection by Major Grant who was accompanied by Bugler Horton, acting as Battalion Adjutant. After the inspection, Colonel Nunan addressed the men complimenting and crediting them for the promptitude with which the emergency call was answered. In his remarks, Colonel Nunan rejected the slurs so unjustly cast upon the Guardsmen that

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\*Stockton Evening Mail, June 16, 1894, page 1, column 3.

\*\*For further details of Company B and the Railroad Strike, refer to History of Company A, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

they were only "Holiday Soldiers," by stating that from his experience with the men during the Moqueleemos Grant trouble and also during the Railroad Strike at Sacramento and Dunsmuir, he knew the men would respond even more promptly to a danger call than they would turn out for a holiday parade. Major Frank E. Lane also commented on the fine showing made by Company B.\*

Following the Railroad Strike up to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War in 1898, the activities of Company B were mainly military routine. On May eleventh, of that year, the unit was mustered into Federal Service and stationed at Fort Point, preparatory to being called for active duty. This call did not come and the corps was mustered out of the Federal Service December fifteenth and returned to Stockton. The company suffered an extensive loss of uniforms and equipment while in the Federal Service, the following articles having been misplaced or stolen while the volunteers were being outfitted for the Spanish-American War: Seven uniform coats, fifty-six pairs of trousers, twenty-four campaign hats, thirteen blouses, twenty-two pairs of leggins, fifteen helmets. The Board of Survey decided this was an abnormal and unusual loss of property but recommended that the matter be dropped as the property was of little value, having been badly worn in the service.

Company B was very attentive at parades and acted as escort to the different civic societies as well as parading on the days required by law throughout the year. It was customary after the parade on February twenty-second to devote the balance of the day to drill in the extended order. Memorial Day was given over to the decoration of the graves of the deceased members of the company. The unit for many years went to Modesto to participate in the Fourth of July festivities.

Company B averaged a good attendance at the annual musters and also made a good average merit in 1891 the unit had an average merit rate of 4.40 per cent and in 1894, 5 per cent. However, after the Spanish-American War the average of the company was lowered and at the general inspection in November 1900, the general efficiency rating had dropped to 30 per cent. The discipline, instruction and military appearance was very poor and the members had apparently lost interest in the company, only thirty-five being present. Captain William Bruce evidently worked and tried hard to bring the company up to the high standard of efficiency it had enjoyed in former years, as the returns of

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\*Stockton Evening Mail, March 6, 1896, page 1, column 3.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

the annual muster in 1901 indicated that the general average had increased to 85 per cent. However, due to Captain Bruce's retirement from command of the unit in 1902 and trouble among the members, a general lack of interest in the company affairs again manifested itself and by 1905 the general average had decreased to 67.5 per cent. Captain A. R. Newell, who was elected in 1902 and whose term continued until 1904, was held to answer on charges of Court Martial in connection with the animosity which had grown out of the rivalry between the two factions in the company at the election in March 1904. Captain Newell lost the election by one vote after a hard contest to Captain C. E. Hill. At the trial held in July of that year, Captain Newell was acquitted on three charges and found guilty on one; that of recruiting his company without following the military provision relative to medical examinations. Captain Newell was permitted to have charge of the company at the encampment at Atascadero in 1904, as Captain-elect Hill had not received his commission, although he had been elected five months previous.\* The company left for Camp Atascadero on the thirteenth of August and as part of the National Guard of California had the privilege for the first time in the history of the organization, to enter a regular army camp and participate in its field maneuvers and receive instructions from regular army officers. The camp of joint maneuvers was held in accordance with terms of the "Dick" Militia Act which had been passed by Congress January 21, 1903. Company B, together with the other units of the Sixth Infantry Regiment took part in the following problems, either as a whole or in part:

Problem Number 1: First exercise, "Advance guard and rear guard." Sixth Infantry Regiment commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel George W. Stewart.

Problem Number 2: "Attack and Defense of a convoy." The Sixth Infantry Regiment took part in this problem as advance guard, commanded by R. K. Whitmore.

Problem Number 3: Third exercise, "Attack and Defense." The Sixth Infantry Regiment was commanded by Colonel Stewart.

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\*San Francisco Chronicle, August 12, 1904, page 3, column 2.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Problem Number 4: Was omitted.

Problem Number 5: "March and deployment of a division," Colonel Whitmore in command.

Problem Number 6: "Attack and Defense of an entrenched position," commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart. The Commanding Officer, Sixth Infantry Regiment was detailed on this occasion as a spectator with the "Blue" force, under command of Major Chubb, Fifteenth United States Infantry.

Problem Number 9: Was omitted.

Major General Arthur MacArthur of the Regular Army, stated that from a military standpoint the Camp of Instruction had been of an immeasurable benefit to all concerned. Opportunities had been afforded to both officers and men of both regulars and militia, to learn things that they could not possibly learn elsewhere in time or peace, a knowledge of which is of vital importance in war. The training was advantageous to the officers of the Regular Army, giving them experience in handling large and small bodies of men in the field, under conditions as closely resembling those of war as could be had. Officers and men of the National Guard also benefited from the encampment, having learned to keep under cover as well as to march and deploy in a hostile country. This part of the instruction, alone, meant the saving of many lives in actual service. The efficiency of the National Guard was greatly improved after participating in the maneuvers.\*

Company B was called upon to render assistance during the Earthquake in San Francisco in April 1906. While the unit performed their duty cheerfully and well, it had a tendency to deplete the ranks and by December the company had fallen below the standard of efficiency. Therefore, upon the recommendation of the regimental and brigade commander, the unit was ordered disbanded and mustered out of the service of the State December 31, 1906.\*\*

The mustering out of Company B caused a controversy among the members of the unit who charged Colonel R. K. Whitmore, the mustering officer, with neglect of duty contending that the Colonel violated the military rules in connection with the

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\*Stockton Evening Mail, August 26, 1904, page 1, column 5.

\*\*Stockton Evening Mail, December 18, 1906, page 5, column 3.  
Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 3.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

disbandment of the company. The rules and regulations of the National Guard of California stated that within twenty days after an election the Examining Board must examine the elected officers, notifying them of the time and place. In the case of Company B, the officers were elected October eleventh and were not notified by the Colonel to be on hand for examination as to their qualifications until December third. It was on this point that the men of Company B claimed Colonel Whitmore was negligent and that he mustered out the company to cover his own carelessness which was, no doubt, caused by the Colonel campaigning as a candidate for the Assembly in Stanislaus County and having no time for his military duties. Captain James T. Haddow had been prevailed upon to resign his First Lieutenancy with Company A, to become the commanding officer of Company B. However, due to the delay of the examination, Haddow accepted a position in Oakland which deprived the company of an able and efficient officer.

Plans had been adopted for a new joint armory to house the two Companies A and B; a ten year lease having been agreed upon as a basis for the erection of a building to be used exclusively for military purposes. This building was sorely needed and only required the signature of Haddow, as Captain, to complete the transaction. However, the company lost the new armory as well as their captain-elect, due to neglect of Colonel Whitmore. Thirty-nine men had been present for the election which was the constitutional majority of the company and twenty new recruits were ready to sign as soon as Haddow became Captain.

Colonel Whitmore gave inefficiency as the reason for mustering the company out, but the men of Company B claimed this was an erroneous report as there were several other companies lower on the list. The company's recent participation in the San Francisco Earthquake was cited to offset the inefficiency charge. The two units, A and B, received orders at 10:30 P. M., April nineteenth to proceed to San Francisco for duty in the stricken area, and by midnight had fifty men ready to take the train. The two companies arrived in San Francisco by nine o'clock on the following day.\* However, while much bitterness existed among the members of the company, the disbandment order was not countermanded and the unit ceased to exist December 31, 1906.

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\*Stockton Evening Mail, December 21, 1906, page 8, column 3.