

History of the 6th Infantry Regiment, Company C (Forsyth Guard), National Guard of California 1888-1907

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COMPANY C

Company C, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade (formerly Forsyth Guard)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files
 Location: Fresno, Fresno County
 Organized: June 15, 1885
 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 C, Sixth Infantry Regiment April 13, 1899++
 Redesignated May 11, 1907+++

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
M. W. Muller, Captain (Re-elected June 17, 1889)	June 15, 1885	June 30, 1885++++
Stuart S. Wright, First Lieut. (Re-elected June 17, 1887) (Promoted to Major Nov. 23, 1887)	June 15, 1885	June 30, 1885++++
Phillip Stewart, First Lieut.	Jan. 20, 1888	Feb. 3, 1888

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- *Company C, formerly Forsyth Guard, unattached, redesignated Company C, Sixth Infantry Battalion, Third Brigade, July 22, 1885.
Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, page 6.
- **Company C, Sixth Infantry Battalion, Third Brigade designated Company C, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, February 21, 1888.
Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.
- ***Company C, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade redesignated Company C, Tenth Infantry Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December 9, Company C, Tenth Infantry Battalion redesignated Company C, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.
Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, Special Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 87, 88.
- ****Company C 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 C as part of the Sixth Infantry Regiment, re-entered the National Guard, April 13, 1899.
Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59.
- +++Company C, Sixth Infantry Regiment redesignated Company C, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, May 11, 1907.
Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 4.
- ++++Captain Muller and Lieutenant Wright retained their former commissions as of June 30, 1885, when they commanded Forsyth Guard.

COMPANY C (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
M. W. Muller, Captain (Re-elected Jan. 17, 1889)		
Cornelius B. Pressley, First Lieut.	Mar. 20, 1889	April 9, 1889
M. W. Muller, Captain (Re-elected June 17, 1891)		
Ledyard F. Winchell, First Lieut.	Feb. 18, 1891	Mar. 12, 1891
Ledyard F. Winchell, Captain	Dec. 16, 1891	Jan. 23, 1892
Herbert Z. Austin, First Lieut.	Dec. 16, 1891	Jan. 23, 1892
Herbert Z. Austin, Captain	Dec. 5, 1893	Dec. 23, 1893
Robert L. Peeler, First Lieut.	Dec. 5, 1893	Dec. 23, 1893
John D. Morgan, Captain (Retired May 1, 1895)	Aug. 28, 1895	Oct. 11, 1895
George O. Duncan, Captain	May 28, 1896	June 23, 1896
S. K. Lemon, First Lieut. (Re-elected Oct. 26, 1897)	Aug. 28, 1895	Nov. 5, 1895
Edward Jones, Captain	June 23, 1899	Sept. 5, 1899
John A. Devlin, First Lieut.	June 23, 1899	Sept. 5, 1899
Edward Jones, Captain (Re-elected May 17, 1901)		
John A. Devlin, First Lieut. (Re-elected May 17, 1901)		
John A. Devlin, Captain	July 11, 1902	Aug. 14, 1902
William Stoddard Scott, First Lieut.	July 11, 1902	Aug. 14, 1902
John A. Devlin, Captain (Re-elected Sept. 9, 1904)		
Ora W. Spears, First Lieut.	May 27, 1904	Aug. 9, 1904
Ora W. Spears, Captain	Oct. 6, 1905	Jan. 3, 1906
Edwin C. Neal, First Lieut.	Oct. 6, 1905	Jan. 3, 1906

Activities:

Company C was organized June 15, 1885, as the Forsyth Guard, unattached, and one month later became attached to the Sixth Infantry Battalion. Through an act of the Legislature of 1888, the Battalion was elevated to a regimental organization and this company was then designated Company C, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.*

During the year 1888, Adjutant General George B. Cosby, issued an order constituting monthly regimental drills in battalion formation. Company C, being attached to the Sixth Infantry Regiment, was affected by this order and was scheduled to drill in the evening, every

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*Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.

COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

fourth Monday of the month with Company F of the Sixth Infantry Regiment. A school of instruction for the non-commissioned officers of the regiment was also ordered to be held once a month. The officers of Company C and Company F assembled at the armory of Company C in Fresno, on the second Wednesday of each month, under the supervision of Major Stuart S. Wright of the Third Brigade Staff, who was also in command of the battalion drills.

Target practice was one of the essential schools of instruction held by all companies in the National Guard. Company C attained and held a fair rating during its existence and would no doubt have made a much better rating, had they been supplied with modern rifles. The annual target practice of each company was a requirement of the law and was held during September of every year.

The Legislature of 1887 appropriated a sum of \$56,000 for the purchase of new uniforms for the California National Guard. This appropriation also provided for the organization of a Uniform Board which, throughout the history of the Guard, was given control of all Government money set aside for the purchasing of uniforms. The duties of the Uniform Board were numerous, and often required many months of strenuous consideration before a contract was given to an individual firm. A careful inspection had to be made of the material selected, and arrangements made for the cutting and making of the garments. The uniforms that were issued in 1888 were similar to those worn by the men of the United States Army. The year was an outstanding one for the Guardsmen as never before had they been so completely uniformed as each of the forty companies of the National Guard, which included Company C, was allotted \$1,140. This amount enabled each company to purchase fifty-seven uniforms at approximately \$20.00 each. In 1893 Company C was again issued new uniforms, and in this allotment the new drab hats and leggings were introduced. The Legislature of 1897 appropriated money for a complete new uniform, but Company C was not able to draw their portion, as the outbreak of the Spanish-American War caused the shipment belonging to the unit to be diverted and turned over to the California United States Volunteers at San Francisco. However, in 1902 the entire National Guard was provided with uniforms patterned after the ones worn by the Regular United States Army. Company C shared in this provision as their uniforms of previous years had become obsolete.

The members of Company C participated in a Brigade Encampment at Camp Dimond, which was located at Santa Cruz. The assembling of the troops began on August 18, 1889, and was concluded on August 25. This camp was considered ideal from the location standpoint

COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

and was systematically arranged. The encampment of August 5 to 14, 1892, was also held at Santa Cruz. This camp was called Camp Columbus, in honor of the Fourth Centennial of Columbus' discovery of America. At this Camp of Instruction, the Fifth and Sixth Infantry Regiments constituted the Third Provisional Brigade, which was under command of Brigadier-General M. W. Muller. The success with which this encampment maintained its military atmosphere was accredited to Major Dimond, in command of the camp. The major was determined this should be a Camp of Instruction and not one for display, and evidently made a success of the undertaking as Adjutant General Allen commended him highly. Credit was given Company C in helping to maintain the desired atmosphere and it was said that the encampment of 1892 was the most successful camp ever held up to that date.* There were no encampments held during the following two years, owing to the limited State appropriations. The next encampment, designated as Camp Muller was held at Stockton, from June 16 to June 24, 1894. This was a regimental encampment and Company C was well represented. The troops were thoroughly disciplined and drilled at camp, but they did not let that interfere with their social life outside of camp.

The "boys in blue" were entertained a great deal by residents of Stockton, and the city was proud to have the troops. During the week, as was a previous custom, the officers gave a ball for the citizens of Stockton, who in turn gave a grand ball for the soldiers before they left the city. There were encampments of other years, but this one was an outstanding one in respect to Company C, since they not only made a good record in camp but also made a lasting impression upon the citizens of Stockton.**

Another eventful encampment in which the troops of Company C participated was held at Santa Cruz from June fourteenth to twenty-third. At this camp the entire National Guard assembled, a feature that had not been carried out for many years. The average attendance at the camp was about 70 per cent and was rated as exceedingly satisfactory, considering the fact that the Spanish-American War had caused a somewhat demoralized condition to exist in the National Guard. Governor Henry F. Gage visited the camp, and after reviewing the troops, expressed himself as being well pleased with their appearance and military drill. A noted change was made in the regular routine of this Division Encampment as compared with those held in previous years. It differed to the effect that each of the three brigades, which

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*For additional information concerning the encampment of 1892, refer to the History of Company A, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.
 **Stockton Evening Mail, June 16, 1894, page 1, column 3.

COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

included the Sixth Infantry Regiment, were sent out on practice marches accompanied by a troops of cavalry, a detachment of the Signal Corps and a detachment of the Sanitary Corps. The men were required to carry their rations, blankets, and equipment as only two wagons were allowed each brigade for transporting headquarters' equipment. Each command remained out one night, camping from seven to ten miles from the main camp. They engaged in many maneuvers both going and coming, which gave the officers in command an idea of the moving and commanding of large bodies of troops and equipment in the field. The soldiers performed their duties well and at the completion of the encampment a marked improvement was seen in all troops. The members of Company C derived many benefits from this encampment, as being attached to the Sixth Infantry Regiment they participated in all maneuvers. A Camp of Instruction held at San Luis Obispo from August 13 to 17, 1904, was the next major encampment that Company C participated in. The camp was designated as Camp Atascadero and was an outstanding camp for the reason that the first time in the history of the National Guard, they were encamped with the United States Army. This type of encampment proved satisfactory to both units and the Sixth Infantry Regiment acquitted themselves in a most credible manner, considering that the problems which confronted them were entirely new to the majority of officers and all of the enlisted men.*

Company C participated in a number of special parades, besides taking part in the specified drills and parades held on holidays. Among the spectacular parades, was the one held on January 11, 1895, in Sacramento, which honored the inauguration of Governor James Budd. The citizens of Sacramento intended for that day to be well remembered by all who witnessed the grand parade, as the Third Brigade and many other military units and bands wound their way through the beautifully decorated streets. Every business house was also fully decorated and gave the appearance of a Fourth of July celebration. The Third Brigade, to which Company C was attached, had a very good reason for their eagerness in taking part in that parade as Governor Budd had formerly been Brigadier-General of their organization. To these men, the Governor was still "King Jim" and the "Thoroughbred." Needless to say he was admired by all the troops and officers in military circles, and they were ready to pay their respects to one who had climbed the ladder of success.**

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*For additional information concerning the encampment of 1904, refer to the History of Company A, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.

**Sacramento Bee, January 11, 1895, page 1, column 1.

COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

On June 24, 1896, Company C again participated in a noted parade, although it differed in aspect from the parade of a year previous. This occasion was one of deep sorrow, that of paying tribute to the late Major General W. H. Dimond. The funeral for the General was one of San Francisco's largest and most impressive. Although Company C did not take an outstanding part in the funeral, they formed a section of the parade, in which far more than a thousand troops marched to pay their last respects to their former Major General.*

At the outbreak of the Railroad Strike in California during July of 1894 practically every company of the National Guard, that could be prepared for active service, was called out for duty. Company C, however, was not called as the troops lacked transportation facilities as well as ammunition and equipment. The latter being unfit for use.

The National Guard of California played an important roll in the Spanish-American War. When President McKinley issued his first call for troops on April 23, 1898, the National Guard responded. Company C as part of the Sixth Infantry Regiment was mustered into the Volunteer Service on May 11, 1898. Many of these men saw service in the Philippine Islands, while others were stationed at various points along the coast of California. Whatever duty these National Guardsmen were assigned to, they performed it in a most exacting manner and were highly complimented by Adjutant General A. W. Barrett. Company C was one of the Companies that remained in California and was assigned to garrison duty at Benicia Barracks. The entire Sixth Infantry Regiment was concentrated at Fort Point on September 10, 1898, and on October fourteenth was given a months furlough. Company C was mustered out of the United States service on December 15, 1898. During the absence of the National Guard from the State service during the war, a provision was made by the State Legislature to permit all members of the Guard to receive service credit, providing they presented themselves to the State for re-entrance into the National Guard.** Company C reported with the required number of members and was returned to State duty as part of the Sixth Infantry Regiment on April 13, 1899.***

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*San Francisco Chronical, June 25, 1896, page 16, columns 1-6.

**Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 6, Par. 4, page 59.

***Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59.

COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The San Francisco Earthquake which occurred on April 19, 1906, gave cause for all National Guard organizations of California, except the Naval Militia of Eureka, to be called into active service. Company C arrived in San Francisco on the twentieth of April with the remaining companies of the Sixth Infantry Regiment. These and many other units of Guardsmen were highly praised for their conception of duty in a time of great need. Any number of the State troops left their own business or position and reported to their armories without being called. The National Guard was the first to render assistance in distributing food and bedding to those made homeless. The duties performed by the men of Company C were somewhat varied. They not only rendered aid but also performed guard duty in keeping the undesired from marauding the condemned business houses and residents. On the twenty-third of April, the entire National Guard of California was organized into two provisional brigades. The First Brigade was comprised of the companies stationed outside of San Francisco, and the companies located in and around the city including Company C, were attached to the Second Brigade.* During the few days prior to the organization of the Provisional Brigades, Company C was assigned to patrol duty along Van Ness Avenue and the streets to the west and adjacent thereto. The troops were instructed to preserve order, prevent looting and render assistance wherever necessary. The fire which was caused from broken gas mains, and had gained headway over a major part of San Francisco, was put under control by the twenty-third of April. The National Guard was then assigned to districts and Company C remained on duty in San Francisco until May 12, 1906.

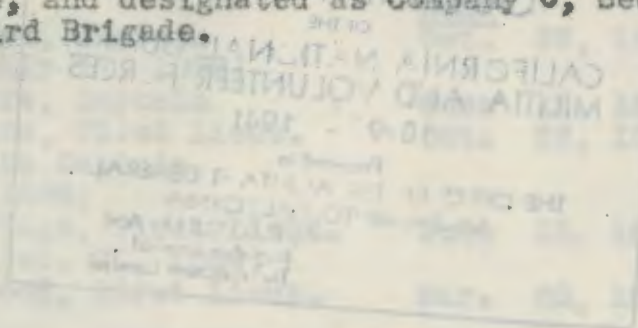
The annual inspection and muster of the National Guard of California was an important factor in checking the attendance average and general efficiency of the individual companies. Prior to 1891 there was no inspection reports on file for Company C, although the attendance rating for the company for the year ending April 1881, was 77.94 per cent. This was a fair score, but evidently not good enough for the men of Company C, as the following year they attained a rating of 89.65 per cent. The following two years showed a gradual decrease to 86.53 per cent, but at the annual inspection of 1896 their attendance was 100 per cent. A "general efficiency" rating was given the men of Company C during the year of 1900, which proved it to be a very outstanding unit attaining a rating of 99 per cent.

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*Adjutant General Report 1906, Field Order No. 1, page 58.

Activities: (Continued)

On May 11, 1907, an order was issued disbanding the Sixth Infantry Regiment. This order was in tardy compliance with the Dick Militia Law of 1903, which required the organization of the National Guard to conform with that of the United States Army. This order required that all regiments be composed of twelve companies, each in three battalions. The companies of the Sixth Infantry Regiment that were inefficient, due to small memberships, were mustered out of service and the remaining companies were transferred to other regiments. Company C was transferred on May 11, 1907, to the Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, and designated as Company C, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.



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