

History of the 6th Infantry Regiment, Company D, National Guard of California 1888-1907

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COMPANY D

Company D, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade (formerly Company D, Sixth Infantry Battalion, Third Brigade)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files
 Location: Modesto, Stanislaus County
 Organized October 29, 1887
 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 D, Sixth Infantry Regiment April 25, 1899+
 Mustered out May 10, 1907++

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
T. W. Drullard, Captain (Resigned May 17, 1888)	Oct. 29, 1887	Nov. 12, 1887+++
R. K. Whitmore, Captain	June 13, 1888	July 14, 1888
R. K. Whitmore, First Lieut. (Promoted to Captain June 13, 1888)	Oct. 29, 1887	Nov. 12, 1887+++
C. E. Bainbridge, First Lieut. (Resigned Feb. 20, 1889)	June 13, 1888	July 14, 1888
William H. Wood, First Lieut.	Mar. 20, 1889	April 9, 1889

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*Company D, formerly Company D, Sixth Infantry Battalion, Third Brigade designated Company D, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, February 21, 1888.

Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.

**Company D, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade redesignated Company D, Ninth Infantry Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December 9, Company D, Ninth Infantry Battalion redesignated Company D, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.

Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 87, 88.

***Company D 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 D as part of the Sixth Infantry Regiment, re-entered the National Guard, April 25, 1899.

Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59.

++Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 3.

+++Captain Drullard and Lieutenant Whitmore retained their former commissions as of November 12, 1887, when they commanded Company D, Sixth Infantry Battalion.

COMPANY D (Continued)

<u>Commanding Officers (Continued)</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
R. K. Whitmore, Captain (Re-elected July 20, 1892)		
John Kane, First Lieut.	Mar. 18, 1891	May 10, 1891
R. K. Whitmore, Captain (Re-elected Sept. 26, 1894)		
Thomas Johns, First Lieut.	May 21, 1893	
David W. Morris, Captain	Sept. 12, 1896	Oct. 12, 1896
Thomas Johns, First Lieut. (Re-elected July 13, 1895)		
David W. Morris, Captain (Re-elected June 20, 1899)		
George H. Freitas, First Lieut.	July 13, 1897	Nov. 22, 1897
David W. Morris, Captain (Re-elected July 23, 1901)		
W. C. Grove, First Lieut.	Nov. 9, 1900	Jan. 18, 1901
W. C. Grove, Captain	July 25, 1903	Aug. 1, 1903
W. E. Garrison, First Lieut.	July 25, 1903	Aug. 1, 1903
Lars Rasmussen, Captain (Resigned Sept. 17, 1906)	July 11, 1905	Aug. 12, 1905
W. E. Garrison, Captain	Oct. 10, 1906	Nov. 15, 1906
W. E. Carrico, First Lieut. (Disqualified)	July 11, 1905	
L. D. Austin, First Lieut. (Resigned June 12, 1906)	Nov. 14, 1905	Jan. 3, 1906
Walter R. Wood, First Lieut.	Oct. 10, 1906	Nov. 15, 1906

Activities:

Company D was organized October 29, 1887, as a unit of the Sixth Infantry Battalion, and prior to that date was a Cadet company attached to the battalion. On February 21, 1888, as a result of an Act passed by the State Legislature, providing for an increase in the number of National Guard companies, the Sixth Infantry Battalion was elevated to a regiment. As a regiment, the "Gallant Six," as they called themselves, was composed of six companies, the minimum number required by law. An election of field officers was also held on February twenty-first, which was followed by a discussion on the advisability of holding an encampment. The evening of business was brought to a close with a banquet at the Commercial Hotel in Stockton.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The first activity Company D participated in after becoming attached to the regiment, was a regimental encampment held at Santa Cruz from August 19 to 26, 1888. The camp was named "Camp Dimond," in honor of Major General W. H. Dimond. The attendance at this encampment was good, showing a daily average of 266 men present. Company D participated in a general encampment the following year from August eleventh to eighteenth at Santa Cruz. The Sixth Infantry Regiment, while attending this encampment, was inspected by Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. Cutler, Division Inspector, who gave the rating for Company D as follows:

Inspection	3.83 per cent	(fair)
Inspection of Quarters	4 per cent	(good)
Average Attendance	68.25 per cent	(fair)

The low ratings at this inspection were due to the fact that the regiment held drills for the first time with another regiment, and were unaccustomed to the formations. The encampments that followed were of a regimental type which gave the soldiers more individual training in battle formation, which was a higher plane of instruction. Several such encampments were held by Company D, proving very instructive to the unit as shown by the yearly reports. In the year 1896, the members of Company D were given a rating of "Excellent" in their manipulation of arms and an average attendance of 80 per cent.

The encampment at Atascadero was an outstanding event for the troops in Company D for two reasons. This was not only a brigade encampment where nearly every company of the National Guard of California was assembled, but also the entire United States Army of the State was represented. The combined forces occupied the Camp from August 13 to 26, 1904, inclusive, and participated in numerous methods of war maneuvers. There was a full two weeks of constant drill and maneuvering. In a report to the Adjutant General, Colonel R. E. Whitmore described the benefits derived from this encampment as follows:

"As to an opinion in regard to the value of the maneuvers from a military standpoint, I think more was learned of the conditions of actual warfare by the officers and men of the Guard, during the two weeks of the encampment, than at all of the State camps which I have attended since 1887, and I have been to all of them. The knowledge gained was that the soldier must be a picked man and in perfect physical condition; able to endure all the hardships incident to long marches in all kinds of weather; know how to shoot; how to conserve his strength; what kind and

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

how much food to eat; the absolute necessity of correct fire discipline, and above all that, it is not necessary for the enlisted man to know the plans of the commanding General. The knowledge gained by the officers will be manifested, hereafter, in many ways toward the betterment of the Guard, especially in the important matter of having the companies well grounded in the drill regulations, -the primer, as it were, of military knowledge."

This type of encampment was the result of the "Dick" Militia Law, of 1903, which was intended to put the Militia on the same basis as the Regular Army. Although a great deal was gained through the constant drill and maneuvering of the troops, the inspecting officer, Colonel Whitmore, suggested that such encampments be held but once every two years. He felt that if the men were put through such fatiguing work each year, they would soon lose interest, resulting in many companies being mustered out of service.*

Target practice was another important feature in the progress of the National Guard. There was one day at each encampment set aside for this practice, creating a spirit of friendly rivalry among the troops. The outcome of the annual target practices was that some very pronounced scores in marksmanship were attained. However, for the year of 1890, there were no medals awarded Company D, as the best scores achieved were made by sixteen men ranging from only 50 to 80 per cent. During the target practice of 1896, there were seven men in Company D who received medals. This showed decided improvement within a few years, due to constant practice and keen interest taken by the members of the company. The Guardsmen were also eager to attain a rating equal to the Regular Army in regards to marksmanship and military training. This, however, was difficult to achieve under the existing method of instruction. These conditions were changed with the passage of the "Dick" Militia Law of 1903. A brief description of this enactment reads as follows:**

"One of the most important congressional enactments of recent years for the betterment of the National Guard of several States, was the Militia Act of January 21, 1903, commonly known as the "Dick" Law. It takes the place of the old law, which had been in existence for more than one hundred years and

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*Adjutant General Report 1904-1905, page 65.

**Adjutant General Report 1904-1905, page 9.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

which had become obsolete and largely inoperative. The new Act contemplates the harmonizing of the militia of all the States and Territories with the Regular Army of the United States, as to organization, armament and discipline, as far as it may be practicable, and authority is given the War Department to furnish each State with the necessary equipment without cost to the State. It is compulsory upon each State, which desires to participate in the pecuniary advantages of this law, to be inspected annually by an officer of the Regular Army, detailed by the Secretary of War, and upon his report of the satisfactory or unsatisfactory condition of the organized militia (National Guard) of the State and its compliance with the national law, depends its sharing in the allotment made each year by Congress."

It was in accordance with this law that the militia in 1904 was put on the same basis as the United States Army.

When the President, on April 23, 1898, issued a call for troops in the Spanish-American War, the National Guard of California were of the first to be taken. Although Company D did not serve in the Philippine Islands, the men spent many anxious months at Fort Point, expecting to be called for foreign service. They were destined, however, for continued performance of garrison duties. The men were held in readiness should troops be needed in defending the United States from a foreign invasion upon the Western Coast. The members of Company D, served as volunteers until December 15, 1898, when they were mustered out of Federal service at Fort Point, California. Due to an Act of the Legislature, all National Guard troops serving in the Spanish-American War were entitled to a military allowance, providing they re-enlisted in the National Guard within 150 days after their dismissal from Federal Service. Company D re-entered the Guard on April 25, 1899, thereby complying with the provisions of the Act.*

The earthquake which occurred on April 18, 1906, practically destroyed San Francisco. As a result, the majority of the National Guard was called into active service. Company D, with the remainder of the Sixth Infantry Regiment, was attached to

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

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

the Second Provisional Brigade and prepared to aid the civil authorities on April twenty-third. The provisional brigade was an emergency formation of troops from various organizations in order to evenly distribute guards throughout the city of San Francisco. Company D served in this capacity until May 31, 1906, when the troops were relieved from further duty.

The annual inspection reports of Company D, show that although the company retained a good rating, it was lacking in membership. In 1888 there were but thirty-nine members. As the men had been issued no uniforms until 1889, they were unable to attend parades until the Fourth of July of that year. The company was well represented according to the number of enlistments and was rated as "good" for two consecutive years in all military requirements. The ratings for 1890 advanced somewhat. As the Company's attendance average was forty-four men and the former ratings of "good" were changed to "very good" and "excellent," the unit retained practically the same rating until the year of 1896, when the ratings fell to only "fair" and "good."

A test for efficiency was also given Company D, on March 25, 1896, which was termed as an Emergency Call. The men reported at their armory in light marching uniform, with blankets slung over the shoulder and canteen and haversack hung by the side. The emergency call was performed in order to show to the Governor and officers in command of the brigade, how quickly the men could respond for service. Although there were but thirty-five present out of an enlistment of fifty, they presented themselves well.

The annual inspection report of 1898, made by Lieutenant-Colonel T. J. May, is worthy of mention. There were 102 enlisted men on the rolls and 89 reported for inspection, which was an average of 87 per cent. The average merit of the men was 86 per cent and Colonel May could not praise them too highly. However, each following year showed a decrease in both attendance and military ratings. Finally in 1907, a smoker and banquet was given by the members of Company D, for the purpose of reviving interest in the company. They invited the business men and a number of prominent citizens of Modesto, and asked their assistance in maintaining the National Guard unit at Modesto. There was little interest manifested in the matter and Company D was, therefore, mustered out of service for inefficiency on May 10, 1907.