

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

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COMPANY F

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

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Fresno, Fresno County

Organized January 26, 1888

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 F, Sixth Infantry Regiment 1899+

Redesignated May 11, 1907++

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Edwin F. Selleck, Captain+++	Jan. 26, 1888	Feb. 3, 1888
Alonzo C. Williams, First Lieut.	Jan. 26, 1888	Feb. 5, 1888
Colin Chishohn, Captain	Jan. 31, 1889	Feb. 27, 1889
John F. Bedford, First Lieut.	Oct. 10, 1889	Nov. 30, 1889

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

Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.

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

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

***Company F 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 F as part of the Sixth Infantry Regiment, re-entered the National Guard in 1899.

Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 7, Par. 6, Page 64

++Company F, Sixth Infantry Regiment redesignated Company K, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, May 11, 1907.

Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 4.

+++Captain Edwin F. Selleck was retired per Special Order No. 3, and became Major of the Sixth Infantry Regiment.

COMPANY F (Continued)

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Truman G. Hart, Captain*	Feb. 17, 1893	Mar. 24, 1893
Edwin T. Wolcott, First Lieut.*	June 1, 1893	July 12, 1893
George W. Jones, Captain	Feb. 21, 1895	June 26, 1895
Edwin T. Wolcott, First Lieut. (Re-elected 1895)	_____	_____
George W. Jones, Captain (Re-elected April 1, 1897)	_____	_____
Edwin T. Wolcott, First Lieut. (Re-elected June 17, 1897) (Resigned Feb. 24, 1898)	_____	_____
James M. Collins, First Lieut.	April 7, 1898	April 30, 1898
George W. Jones, Captain (Re-elected Mar. 9, 1899)	_____	_____
James M. Collins, First Lieut.	April 7, 1898	April 30, 1898
George R. Andrews, Captain	Dec. 7, 1899	Jan. 23, 1900
Elbert T. Wilson, First Lieut.	April 5, 1900	June 18, 1900
Ira E. Wilson, Captain	Dec. 5, 1901	Jan. 24, 1902
Claude T. Spivey, First Lieut.	Dec. 5, 1901	Jan. 24, 1902
Ira E. Wilson, Captain (Re-elected Nov. 12, 1903)	_____	_____
Claude T. Spivey, First Lieut. (Re-elected Nov. 12, 1903)	_____	_____
Claude T. Spivey, Captain	Dec. 7, 1905	Feb. 6, 1906
L. W. Murrel, First Lieut.	Dec. 7, 1905	Feb. 14, 1906

Activities:

Company F was organized on January 26, 1888, and attached to the Sixth Infantry Battalion, Third Brigade. On February twenty-first of the same year the battalion was changed to a regiment and Company F was redesignated Company F, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.** This change was due to an Act of the Legislature which provided for an increase in the number of National Guard units throughout the State. The regiment was at that time raised from a battalion of four companies to a regiment of six companies.

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*There is no record of an election having taken place in 1891 when the terms of the commanding officers of 1889 should have expired and it is assumed these officers remained in command until the election of 1893.

**Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.

COMPANY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Company F retained its same commanding officers, as the company had been organized but one month previous to becoming attached to the regiment. An election was held on February 21, 1888, for regimental officers only, after which the possibility of holding an encampment was discussed.* A regimental encampment was held from August 14 to 26, 1888, at Camp Dimond, Santa Cruz. The following year the entire National Guard went into encampment, and the men of Company F again made preparation for a week's leave from their work or business. A number of such encampments were held during the life of the company, proving very instructive. The Brigade and Regimental Encampments were termed as being far more beneficial to the citizen soldiers than encampments operated on a larger scale. Company F, during 1892, again participated in a regimental encampment at Santa Cruz from August sixth to fourteenth. The unit, with the remainder of the Sixth Infantry Regiment, was accompanied by the Fifth Infantry Regiment and formed what was known as the Third Provisional Brigade. This encampment was successful in all military maneuvers and highly commented upon by Adjutant General Allen. Company F during this encampment, gained a much needed knowledge of war maneuvers and military discipline.**

The National Guard of California played an important part during the Railroad Strike of 1894. Practically every organization of the Guard was called for duty in maintaining service on the lines extending from the Oregon-California boundary to San Diego. Major General Dimond received orders on July 3, 1894, to prepare troops for active service in the vicinity of Sumner, with instructions to assist in opening transportation in the southern part of the State. Company F under command of Colonel S. S. Wright, on July 12, 1894, was dispatched to that point, arriving at their destination at 6:30 A.M., the following day. During the afternoon of the same day, the unit was placed aboard a train enroute to the Tehachapi Mountains. The unit remained on duty for thirteen days, engaged in guarding railroad trains, the roundhouse, the depot, Kern River Bridge and other railroad property. On July twenty-fifth Captain Truman G. Hart, of Company F, received orders to return his company to its armory in Fresno.***

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*San Francisco Call, February 24, 1888, page 3, column 4.

**For additional information concerning the Encampment of 1892, refer to History of Company A, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.

***Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, pages 275, 276.

COMPANY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The declaration of war between Spain and the United States gave Company F a second opportunity of serving its country. When President McKinley issued a call for troops on April twenty-third, the National Guard responded. Many of the companies saw service in the Philippine Islands, although a larger portion were stationed at various points along the California Coast. Company F was stationed at Santa Cruz from June 10 until September 10, 1898. The troops were guarding the powder works located there, until ordered to Fort Point on September tenth. On the eleventh of October they were given one months furlough, and on December fifteenth, the members of Company F were mustered out of service at Fort Point. During the war with Spain a provision was made by the State Legislature, permitting all members of the National Guard to receive credit for continuous service during the period of enlistment in the Federal Service. This act provided that the men must present themselves to the State for re-entrance within 150 days after being mustered out of United States Service. Company F reported with the required number of members and was reinstated into the service of the National Guard.*

Company F assisted in maintaining law and order during the Earthquake and Fire of San Francisco on April 18, 1906. The men were ordered to the stricken city and on April twenty-fourth were assigned to duty guarding several relief camps, public buildings, banks and storehouses. This was the third time since its organization that Company F was mustered into active service. The unit remained on duty until May 19, 1906, at which time the men were dismissed and returned home.**

Company F maintained a high rating of efficiency from the date of its organization. The members were continually striving to increase their standards, and in the year of 1894 their goal was nearly reached. The company's rating for that year in discipline and instruction was "excellent" and military appearance "very good." However, their arms and accoutrements were old, which detracted from their appearance and gave them a minor rating in that respect.

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*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 8; General Order No. 7, Par. 6, page 64.

**Adjutant General Report 1906, page 11.

COMPANY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

On November 18, 1905, a battalion inspection, which included Companies F and C was held by Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Schrieber of the First Brigade. After the inspection Company F listened to remarks and instructions presented by the Colonel. This was followed by an earnest appeal by Colonel R. K. Whitmore of the Sixth Infantry Regiment, to make a better showing at the following inspection. The members of Company F evidently resolved not to be "called upon the carpet" again in regards to their military appearance as later reports show high ratings in that respect. In May of 1907, a complete reorganization of the National Guard of California was effected. Company F, on May third held its last meeting and inspection under the designation which it had retained for the past twenty years. The inspection was made by Colonel Thomas Wilhem, Major of the United States Army, who issued the following report:

Attendance at inspection	82	per cent	(good)
Promptness	91	per cent	(very good)
Discipline	100	per cent	(very good)
Condition of clothing	93	per cent	(very good)
Condition of records	95.5	per cent	(very good)
Company movements	90	per cent	(very good)
Manuel of arms and other exercises	90.5	per cent	(very good)
General average	92.2	per cent	(very good)

Captain Spivey expressed himself as being greatly pleased with the company. "The company has good reason to feel proud," he said, "as last year, when it stood highest in the regiment its general average was only 91.63 per cent. It will have occupied the position of top company in the Sixth Infantry Regiment for two consecutive years."*

Six days following this report the Sixth Infantry Regiment was disbanded on May 11, 1907, in tardy compliance with provisions of the "Dick" Militia Law. This law required that the National Guard conform to that of the regular army which required regiments to be composed of twelve companies each, in three battalions. There were three companies of the Sixth Infantry Regiment that were mustered out for inefficiency, which brought the strength of the regiment below the requirement of law. Although the Sixth Infantry Regiment was disbanded in 1907, Company F, remained in National Guard Service and was redesignated as Company K of the Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade on May 11, 1907.**

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*Fresno Morning Republican, May 3, 1907, page 5, column 4.

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