

History of the 6th Infantry Regiment, Company G, National Guard of California 1893-1907

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COMPANY G

Company G, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Bakersfield, Kern County

Organized May 25, 1893

Reconstituted December 9, 1895*

Mustered into Federal Service May 11, 1898**

Mustered out of Federal Service December 15, 1898***

Reorganized as Company G, Sixth Infantry Regiment May 3, 1899†

Redesignated May 11, 1907††

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William H. Cook, Captain	May 25, 1893	May 29, 1893
Hugh A. Blodgett, First Lieut.	May 25, 1893	May 29, 1893
William H. Cook, Captain (Re-elected Feb. 10, 1896)	_____	_____
Hugh A. Blodgett, First Lieut. (Re-elected Feb. 10, 1896)	_____	_____
Kenneth C. Masteller, Captain (Resigned Sept. 14, 1899)	June 23, 1899	Sept. 5, 1899
B. A. Hayden, Captain (Resigned Mar. 22, 1901)	Oct. 26, 1899	Nov. 29, 1899
Howard Haley, First Lieut.	June 23, 1899	Sept. 15, 1899

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*Company G, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade redesignated Company G, Tenth Infantry Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December 9, Company G, Tenth Infantry Battalion redesignated Company G, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.
Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 87, 88.

**Company G as part of the Sixth Infantry Regiment mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War, May 11, 1898.
Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, pages 5, 6.

***Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, pages 5, 6.

†Company G as part of the Sixth Infantry Regiment, re-entered the National Guard, May 3, 1899.
Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59.

††Company G, Sixth Infantry Regiment redesignated Company L, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade, May 11, 1907.
Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 4.

COMPANY G (Continued)

<u>Commanding Officers (Continued)</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Lucien Beer, Captain	April 9, 1901	May 3, 1901
Howard J. Haley, First Lieut. (Re-elected Aug. 13, 1901)		
A. S. Crites, Captain	April 21, 1903	June 18, 1903
T. E. Davis, First Lieut.	Sept. 15, 1903	Oct. 30, 1903
E. B. Duncan, Captain	Oct. 2, 1906	Nov. 15, 1906
Edwin S. Kent, First Lieut.	Nov. 14, 1905	Jan. 3, 1906

Activities:

In 1893, Company G was one of the ten new companies added to the National Guard. The unit was organized and stationed at Bakersfield, Kern County, May twenty-fifth. During the reorganization of the Guard in 1895, the Sixth Infantry Regiment to which the unit was attached, underwent no material change other than to be consolidated into two battalions of infantry for two days. Company G for that period was designated Company G, Eleventh Battalion. At the end of the two days, the battalions were again organized into regiments. Company G retained its former designation until the Sixth Infantry was transferred to the Second Infantry in 1907.

Three months after organization September 1893, Company G was called into service in connection with the threatened riot between the Whites and the Chinese at Redlands. Company G reported to the Judge of Kern County for one week, but as the labor difficulties were settled without violence, the unit was not called upon for assistance.

The encampment of the Sixth Infantry was held at Stockton June 16 to 24, 1894. The camp was designated "Camp Muller" in honor of Brigadier-General M. W. Muller, commander of the Third Brigade. Company G benefited from its association with the other companies and perfected themselves in discipline and drill while attending the camp.* The members of Company G displayed an active interest in their organization by attending the annual encampments with well filled ranks. Two of the most outstanding encampments were "Camp Budd" held at Santa Cruz, 1901 and the joint maneuver camp at Atascadero in 1904.

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*For additional information concerning the Encampment at Stockton, refer to History of Company B, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.

COMPANY G (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Company G had returned from the encampment at Stockton but a week when the call came for the unit to report for service in connection with the Railroad Strike at Sacramento. On July twelfth, Brigadier-General M. W. Muller, commander of the Third Brigade, ordered Lieutenant-Colonel S. S. Wright to assemble Company G, together with Companies E and F for duty at the town of Sumner. The company was to report in heavy marching order with forty rounds of ball cartridges and five day rations per man. Company G reported for duty on the thirteenth at Sumner and, in all, was on duty twenty-two days. The activities participated in by the unit during that period consisted of guarding railroad trains, the roundhouse, depot and the Kern River Bridge. During the time Company G was on duty, they escorted the first train maintaining service between Bakersfield and Oakland after the Strike had subsided. From a Property Return it is learned that the company lost four caps during the Railroad Strike, some having blown off the men's heads while riding on trains doing guard duty.

That Company G had improved in efficiency and military routine was apparent from a survey of the Inspection Reports for 1893 and 1894. An increase of almost 10 per cent in the general percentage which rose from 77.77 to 87.03 per cent during the year period, was indicated. Another proof of the unit's increasing efficiency was the rapidity and promptness with which they answered the Emergency Call of 1896.* The Emergency Call had been issued to expressly test the efficiency of the companies of the National Guard in reporting for duty during a riot or invasion should the occasion arise.

On February 22, 1885, the unit departed from the usual routine of parading and held a two day outing on the Fair Grounds near Bakersfield. The company spent the time advantageously in drilling and engaging in military maneuvers and target practice. On Memorial Day in 1893 and 1894, Company G furnished a firing squad to fire the honorary salute for the Grand Army of the Republic Post. For the 1894 Fourth of July activities, the unit paraded with Company E at Visalia. Field days were held throughout the year as an incentive to the members for maintaining interest in their organization and perfecting themselves in

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*For additional information concerning the Emergency Call, refer to History of Company E, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.

COMPANY G (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

military routine. During 1901, the first Field day was held on February twenty-second and was devoted to target practice. One day in March, April and May of that year was set aside for instruction in the extended order, practice and advance in guard duty. The company had a 90 per cent efficiency rating for 1901 which indicated that the field days had successfully served their purpose. Company meetings were held for two hours once a week and were conducted as follows:

Company called to order at 8:30 A.M., by the Captain
Drilled fifteen minutes in Manual of Arms
Drilled fifteen minutes in Company Movements
Drilled thirty minutes in Extended Order
Drilled thirty minutes in Mounting Guard details

On some occasions the routine was varied as follows:

Drilled fifteen minutes in Inspection
Drilled fifteen minutes in Setting up Exercises
Drilled one hour in Extended Order

On the twenty-third of April 1898, President McKinley issued a call for volunteers for the War with Spain. Company G was mustered into the Federal Service May eleventh of that year and was stationed at Benicia Barracks until December fifteenth, when the unit was mustered out of Federal Service. On May 3, 1899, the unit re-entered the National Guard service and was entitled to the military allowance from the State in accordance with the Legislative Act of March 21, 1899. The provisions of the Act entitled companies re-entering the National Guard service within the required 150 days to share the allowance from the State.* The time spent in the Federal Service was a factor in Company G maintaining their high rate of efficiency percentage at inspections. For 1900 it was 85 per cent and the following year increased to 90 per cent. In connection with the 1900 inspection, the following arms, uniforms and accoutrements were in the unit's possession and were in good condition which indicated the company was well equipped:

75 Springfield rifles, caliber .45
74 carbines, caliber .45
75 bayonet scabbards
75 cartridge belts (woven)

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*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 8, pages 58, 59.

COMPANY G (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

61 cartridge belt plates
75 gun slings
5 arm chests
60 haversacks
60 haversacks straps
60 canteens
60 meat cans
7 wooden wiping rods
75 headless shell extractors
75 screw drivers
3,000 ball cartridges
1 bugle
75 shelter tent halves with poles and pins
60 leggins (pairs)
50 trousers
65 campaign hats
50 caps
50 blouses
30 overcoats
1 Donavin Army range
1 re-loading set

Company G, despite the ever changing rules governing target practice, maintained a fairly good score throughout the existence of the company. During the year 1895, two members of Company G, made the Second-class having a percentage of 80 per cent and 81 per cent, respectively.

The Earthquake in San Francisco was the last major activity participated in by Company G before the Sixth Infantry Regiment was disbanded and Company G transferred to the Second Infantry in 1907. Company G, together with the other units of the Sixth Infantry Regiment reported for duty which consisted of patrol and guard duty and remained in active service until May nineteenth. Adjutant General J. B. Lauck commented on the efficient and conscientious manner in which the companies performed their duties.

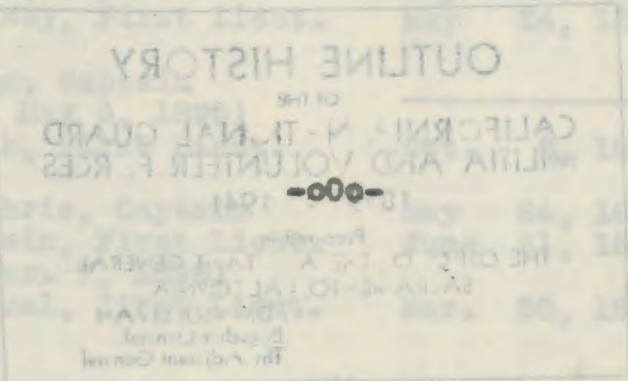
While the Spanish-American War and Earthquake had a tendency to deplete the ranks of many of the National Guard units, the numerical strength of Company G did not vary. In 1895 the unit had sixty members, in 1904 fifty-five. In 1906 the membership had again increased to fifty-seven. The ability of the officers in command to keep their company up to the required military standard was responsible for the transfer of Company G to the Second Infantry when the Regiment was disbanded in 1907. The Sixth Infantry was mustered out in tardy compliance with the "Dick" Militia Law. This law required that the National Guard conform to that of the Army, and Regiments were to be composed of twelve companies, in each battalion. Three of the

COMPANY G (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

eight companies comprising the Sixth Infantry Regiment were mustered out for inefficiency which was the direct cause for the regiment being one of the two regiments disbanded. Company G as one of the five remaining companies was transferred to the Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade and was redesignated Company L, Second Infantry Regiment.*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
John A. Graham, Captain	May	24, 1893	May 19, 1893
George W. ...	May	24, 1893	May 29, 1893
John A. Graham, Captain	May	24, 1893	May 29, 1893
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*Company H, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade redesignated Company K, Sixth Infantry Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December 9, Company H, Sixth Infantry Battalion redesignated Company H, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade. Adjutant General Report 1893-1895, General Order No. 17, 18, page 27, 28.

**Company K as part of the Sixth Infantry Regiment mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War, May 11, 1898. Adjutant General Report 1893-1895, page 27.

***Adjutant General Report 1893-1895, page 2, 3.

****Company H as part of the Sixth Infantry Regiment, re-entered the National Guard, May 6, 1899.

*Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 4.

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