

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

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COMPANY H

Company H, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade

Location: Merced, Merced County

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Organized May 24, 1893

Reconstituted December 9, 1895*

Mustered into Federal Service May 11, 1898**

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

Reorganized as Company H, Sixth Infantry Regiment May 8, 1899+

Mustered out May 10, 1907++

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
John R. Graham, Captain	May 24, 1893	May 29, 1893
George W. Conway, First Lieut.	May 24, 1893	May 29, 1893
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John R. Graham, Captain (Re-elected May 6, 1895)		
Elmer E. Smith, First Lieut.	Oct. 8, 1894	Feb. 27, 1895
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Arthur S. Guthrie, Captain	May 24, 1897	June 24, 1897
Andrew C. Corwin, First Lieut. (Resigned Mar. 7, 1898)	June 21, 1897	July 3, 1897
Roy Vandenhuevel, First Lieut.	Mar. 28, 1898	April 30, 1898

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

**Company H 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, pages 5, 6.

+Company H as part of the Sixth Infantry Regiment, re-entered the National Guard, May 8, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 7, page 59.

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

COMPANY H (Continued)

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Charles W. Agee, Captain	Nov. 11, 1899	Dec. 15, 1899
Roy vandenheurel, First Lieut. (Acting Captain per S.O. No. 2, April 22, 1901)	Mar. 28, 1898	April 30, 1898
D. J. Bambauer, Captain	Aug. 27, 1901	Sept. 14, 1901
John R. Graham, First Lieut.	May 27, 1897	Sept. 14, 1901
John R. Graham, Captain	Oct. 24, 1903	Nov. 14, 1903
Walter Casad, First Lieut.	Oct. 24, 1903	Nov. 14, 1903
Walter Casad, Captain	Nov. 15, 1905	Jan. 3, 1906
A. L. Silman, First Lieut.	Nov. 15, 1905	Jan. 3, 1906

Activities:

Company H was organized May 24, 1893, in accordance with a recommendation made by the Board of Location and Organization. The Board authorized the addition of ten new companies to the National Guard in California which constituted the raising of an Infantry company in the city of Merced. The unit was known as Company H and attached to the Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade. The members of Company H were anxious to compete with the other companies of the regiment in regard to military appearance and all military requirements, and began at once to hold weekly drills and inspections.

A Brigade Encampment was held a year following the organization of the company at Stockton from June sixteenth to twenty-fourth. This gave the men of Company H an opportunity to drill and maneuver in larger formations than was possible within their company ranks. This camp was one of drill and military discipline and Company H benefited greatly by the regular military routine. The daily routine was as follows:

Reveille	Sunrise
Surgeons 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-Com. Officer's School	9:15 A.M.
Camp Open	10:00 A.M.
Battalion Drill	10:00 A.M.
Dinner Call	12:00 M
Parade	5:50 P.M.
Guard Mount	6:00 P.M.
Supper	6:30 P.M.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Retreat
Tattoo
Taps

Sundown
11:00 P.M.
11:30 P.M.

Company roll-call by the First Sergeant of each company, took place at reveille, retreat and tattoo; and the report was received by one of the company officers, who was present during roll-call. The men absent from roll-call "without leave" were, immediately upon return to camp, placed in the guardhouse by the First Sergeant. These arrests were in turn reported at once to the company commander and releases were made only upon an order from the Commanding Officer or Officer of the Day. The troops were also given warnings against profane and improper language or conduct, either in or out of camp. There was a daily detail of one officer, one sergeant, one corporal and six privates selected from the companies comprising the Sixth Infantry Regiment, which was termed as a provost guard. This guard was instructed to patrol the city of Stockton and arrest all men guilty of misbehavior. This severe military discipline was enacted in order to acquaint the National Guardsmen with the rules of Regular Army life, should an occasion arise, calling the guard into active service. The brigade encampments were acclaimed to be of such benefit to the troops that another was held in 1897. This camp was located at Santa Cruz and given the name of Camp Budd in honor of Governor Budd. The units, including Company H, were encamped from August 15 to 22, 1897. There were drilled under somewhat the same routine as in 1894, except that many up-to-date war maneuvers were practiced. During the years that followed, Company H saw active service on three different occasions, 1894, 1898 and 1906.

Company H was affiliated with the National Guard but a period of one year when the Railroad Strike of 1894 claimed the unit for active duty. The members of the company had just prior to this time, been issued their new uniforms which tended to create a military atmosphere among the troops. This being their first opportunity of serving their country in active service, the Guardsmen were eager to render their services wherever needed. The Railroad Strike had withheld the operation of trains throughout the United States for a week previous to Company H being called into service. This caused an accumulation of mail in all cities, which was one important reason for attempting to break the strike. In California the fruit season was at its best and if shipping was to be withheld indefinitely, the crop would be almost an entire loss. The duty of the Guardsmen was to assist in re-establishing service and maintain law and order. One detachment of Company H was ordered to Bakersfield on July fourteenth, where the unit was put on train duty. A second detachment was sent out the following day and the remainder

COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

of the company on July nineteenth. All three divisions were assigned the same type of duties. The troops remained on duty until July twenty-fifth, at which time the majority of Company H was ordered to report to their armory at Merced. A small detachment remained at Bakersfield until July 31, 1894, when they were relieved from duty. Again in 1898, Company H volunteered for active service in the Spanish-American War.* In 1906, the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire resulted in practically all of the California National Guard being called for service. Company H responded readily, although the membership had gradually fallen far below the original membership.**

The members of Company H were not always held to the strict military routine of company drills and encampments. They were represented upon such occasions as parades held on national holidays, inaugural ceremonies and at funerals where military honors were due the deceased. Company H participated in one of the most colorful parades ever held in Stockton on June 24, 1901. An elaborate preparation was made for the laying of the corner-stone of the city's new Post Office. The Masonic Lodge of Stockton sent invitations to lodges within a radius of one hundred miles to be represented at the event. Numerous civic and fraternal societies were also invited to participate in the parade in conjunction with the Sixth Infantry Regiment. The procession was an unusually long one for its kind. The first division was headed by a detachment of police on foot; next came the Sixth Infantry band which was followed by the nine companies of the regiment, including Company H; directly following the National Guardsmen were Rawlins Post, Grand Army of the Republic and the Relief Corps; these were immediately followed by carriages containing the Supervisors, the City Counsel and officers of the day. The second division under command of Chief-aide, W. R. Johnson, was headed by the boys band; the local Post Office force in uniform came next and was followed by the Masons who covered two or more blocks. The parade as a whole elicited general praise, giving new enthusiasm to the members of Company H. They held hopes of restoring the company to its pre-war enrollment.***

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*For additional information concerning the activities of Company H in the Spanish-American War, refer to the History of the Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.

**For additional information concerning the activities of Company H in the San Francisco Earthquake, refer to the History of the Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.

***Stockton Evening Mail, June 24, 1901, page 5, column 1.

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COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

A survey of the annual inspection and muster reports of Company H for the year of 1895 gives the following ratings:

Discipline	Good
Instruction	Good
Military appearance	Excellent
Arms and other property	Excellent
Present	49
Absent	6
Percentage present	90 %

The company retained such ratings as these and at times, even better ones, until after the Spanish-American War. There was then a lack of interest manifested by the members as the report for 1901 indicates a 50 per cent decrease in the number present at the annual inspection. However, their military requirements were good as the company made an average of 80 per cent.

In 1903 the "Dick" Militia Law was passed which effected the National Guard of California. The numbers of regiments were to be reduced from five to three regiments. Most of the companies attached to the Sixth Infantry Regiment were transferred to other regiments. Company H was one of the two companies to be mustered out of service owing to their inability to bring their membership up to the required number. The last day of the company's existence was on May 10, 1907. On the evening of that day, members of the company assembled at their armory in Merced and fell in line for the last time. Honorable discharges were issued the men by the mustering out officer, Captain J. C. Fuller, Troop C, Salinas, assisted by Captain Walter Casad of Company H. This brought to a close the military service of Company H, Sixth Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.*

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*The Merced Express, May 18, 1907, page 3, column 7.