

History of the 8th Infantry Regiment, Company A (Chico Guard), National Guard of California 1891-1895

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COMPANY A

Company A, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade (formerly
Chico Guard)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files
Location: Chico, Butte County
Organized May 18, 1875
Reconstituted February 15, 1890*
Reconstituted October 31, 1891**
Consolidated and redesignated December 7, 1895***

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
John J. Cahill, Captain	Mar. 26, 1891	May 10, 1891****
Harry D. Burroughs, First Lieut.	Mar. 26, 1891	May 10, 1891****
Harry D. Burroughs, Captain	Mar. 18, 1893	April 14, 1893
John S. Waterland, First Lieut.	Mar. 18, 1893	April 14, 1893
John S. Waterland, Captain (Resigned Oct. 1, 1895)	Mar. 20, 1895	April 24, 1895
Charles E. Small, Captain	Nov. 6, 1895	Dec. 18, 1895
Lawrence A. Jackson, First Lieut.	Mar. 20, 1895	April 24, 1895

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*Company A, formerly Chico Guard, unattached, redesignated
Company A, Eighth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade, February 15,
1890.

Adjutant General Report 1890, page 4.

**Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, page 40. (The rank date of
Colonel Park Henshaw, October 31, 1891, is to be used as the
date Company A became attached to the Eighth Infantry Regiment.)

***Companies A and F, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade
consolidated and designated Company A, Twelfth Infantry Battalion,
December 7, 1895. Two days later, December 9, Company A, Twelfth
Battalion redesignated Company A, Second Infantry Regiment, Third
Brigade.

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

****Captain Cahill and Lieutenant Burroughs retained their former
commissions as of May 10, 1891, when they commanded Company A,
Eighth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade.

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities:

Company A was originally the Chico Guard that became Company A, Eighth Infantry Battalion and on October 31, 1891, was designated as Company A, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade. Captain John Cahill was in command of the company when it became attached to the regiment and retained that rank until the election of officers in 1893. Much credit is due the officers who commanded Company A, as during its existence, the company held an excellent record in attendance. The annual Inspection and Muster for the three consecutive years, 1892, 1893 and 1894, show Company A as having a 100% attendance record. The inspectors at the annual target practices also denote a marked advancement in the issuance of yearly medals. Following is a table of the first and last target practice of Company A while attached to the Eighth Infantry Regiment:

	First Class	Second Class	Third Class
1892	0	1	15
1895	6	20	30

Company A took part in a Divisional Encampment at Santa Cruz from August 7 to 14, 1892. The camp site was called Camp Columbus in honor of the Anniversary of Columbus' discovering of America. The members of Company A received training that proved invaluable to them in later years. They were drilled and paraded in company and battalion formation, and maneuvered with all modern equipment.*

*For additional information regarding the Encampment of 1892, refer to History of Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade.

COMPANY A

Activities: (continued)

Company A was called into active service during the Railroad Strike in 1894. Practically every railway line between the Oregon line and San Diego were unoperated. The State of California was in drastic need of immediate transportation for the fruit crop which was ready for shipment to eastern states. When the state officials decided to use force in obtaining this transportation, the National Guardsmen were called into active service. Colonel Park Henshaw, commander of the Eighth Infantry Regiment, issued orders for the companies of his command to assemble at once. Company A was at that time parading in a Fourth of July celebration at Chico. The members reported within an hour after receiving the orders. The troops were then issued 20 rounds of re-loaded cartridges, preparatory to being stationed at a point several miles north of Chico on the Southern Pacific railroad tracks. Their objective was to prevent a trainload of strikers, enroute to San Francisco from Dunsmuir, from reaching their destination. A section of the track was taken up by the members of Companies A and F and a danger signal displayed some distance beyond. Deploys of troops were sent out along the line of Chico Creek with men on either side of the road. A 12-pound Parrot Gun which had been used in the parade was stationed at a point which commanded the track for fully one-half mile. The companies were then assigned positions which they were to have taken at 5 P. M. of the Fourth. However, a few minutes before 5 o'clock, Colonel Henshaw received another order which rescinded the first. He was ordered to dismiss his command and permit the strikers to pass. Fearing an outbreak from strike sympathizers, the latter instructions were fully carried out, and the track repaired and left in perfect condition. However, Company A remained on duty in the vicinity of Chico until July twenty-fourth. The company was then sent to Sacramento where the troops remained on strike duty until July 30, 1894.

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The Board of Location and Organization recommended a reduction in the number of companies in the National Guard of California during 1895. The maximum number of companies allowed by the State Legislature was sixty-nine, therefore, Company A was one of the six companies to be affected by the proposed reduction. Companies A and F of the Eighth Infantry, were consolidated and attached to the Second Infantry Regiment, December 9, 1895, and designated Company A, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.*

Edward Ford, Captain	June 2, 1893	June 10, 1893
Frank L. Flisby, First Lieut.	Feb. 21, 1894	Mar. 23, 1894

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Company B, Formerly Colusa Guard, unattached, redesignated Company B, Eighth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade, February 13, 1890.
Adjutant General Report 1890, page 4.

*Adjutant General Report 1891-1896, page 40.
(The rank date of Colonel Park Benbow, October 21, 1891, is to be used as the date Company A became attached to the Eighth Infantry Regiment.)

**Company B, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade redesignated Company B, Twelfth Infantry Battalion, December 7, 1890. For more detail, December 9, Company B, Twelfth Infantry Battalion redesignated Company B, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 87, 88.

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