

# **History of the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Company B (Colusa Guard), National Guard of California 1891-1895**

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COMPANY B

Company B, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade (formerly Colusa Guard)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files  
Location: Colusa, Colusa County  
Organized October 10, 1887  
Reconstituted February 15, 1890\*  
Reconstituted October 31, 1891\*\*  
Redesignated December 7, 1895\*\*\*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
James R. Shelton, Captain	Aug. 12, 1890	Sept. 23, 1890
Ross McAmis, First Lieut.	Aug. 12, 1890	Sept. 23, 1890
Ross McAmis, Captain	July 2, 1892	Sept. 22, 1892
Wesley K. DeJarnatt, First Lieut.	July 2, 1892	Sept. 22, 1892
Howard Ford, Captain	June 2, 1893	June 10, 1893
Martin L. Roberts, First Lieut.	June 2, 1893	June 10, 1893
Howard Ford, Captain (Re-elected July 18, 1895)		
Frank L. Pirkey, First Lieut.	Feb. 23, 1894	Mar. 22, 1894

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\*Company B, formerly Colusa Guard, unattached, redesignated Company B, 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.)

\*\*\*Company B, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade redesignated Company B, Twelfth Infantry Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, 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.



Activities:

Company B, Eighth Infantry Regiment was in existence four years prior to becoming attached to the regiment on October 31, 1891. The unit was organized October 10, 1887, as the Colusa Guard, unattached, and in 1890 became attached to the Eighth Battalion and designated as Company B, Eighth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade. Captain James R. Shelton was elected commander of the company in 1890 and retained that commission until the election of officers in 1892.

The first activity of the company, other than regular military routine, was its participation in a Battalion Drill held at Marysville, June 1892. The unit, represented by fifteen men, was under command of Captain Ross McAmis and Lieutenant W. K. DeJarnett. At this drill all the cross order battalion formations were executed in a most satisfactory manner. This was, however, the first time since the drill regulations had been changed that the men drilled in battalion formation. After the drill a banquet was given by Company C in honor of 150 guests and the entire Eighth Infantry Regiment.

During August of 1892 a Divisional Encampment was held at Camp Columbus, Santa Cruz. Company B as part of the Eighth Infantry Regiment arrived at camp on August seventh and remained for a period of eight days. The first day of military routine began with three and one-half hours of steady drill, first in company and afterwards in battalion formation. The companies were well represented and the men carried out their instructions in grand military style. There was also a dress parade which was held on August twelfth and viewed by an extremely large crowd of visitors. It was spectacular in every detail and enjoyed fully by all who witnessed it. Camp Columbus was visited by a majority of California's notables including Governor H. H. Markham, and Adjutant General C. C. Allen. Each day of the encampment was spent in strenuous exercising in drills, marches and carbine practices. The members of Company B, therefore, gained much needed practice in regular army routine and discipline which proved beneficial.

The annual inspection and muster for Company B was held March 28, 1894. This was the last inspection of the company prior to its redesignation in 1895. There was sixty-eight men and three officers present at the inspection which was made by Lieutenant G. W. McIver of the Seventh United States Infantry. The members



Activities: (Continued)

of Company B were criticized by the Lieutenant for their laxity in handling pieces during inspection and drill. There was, however, some excuse as the troops had never been drilled except in manual of arms as the company armory was too small to permit regular drills.\*

Company B had a 200 yard target range in which the members were keenly interested. The unit took part in the annual target practices and made fair ratings. At the target practice of 1892 there were but nine men who scored and they were in third class. However, in 1894, ten men were eligible for second class medals and thirty-three men made third class medals. Private C. H. Manville was given a first class medal in 1895 and six men earned medals of second class. There was a decided improvement between 1892 and 1895, indicating that the men benefited by having their own company target range.

The unit was called into active service July 4, 1894, in connection with the Railroad Strike. This strike effected nearly every railway line between the Oregon line and San Diego. Company B was on duty from July fourth to July thirtieth, assisting in breaking the strike. During this time the men were given an opportunity to use their previous training of army life in the field.\*\*

During the strike it was apparent in military circles that a complete reorganization of the National Guard was necessary. The change went into effect December 7, 1895, when the regiments were organized into battalions. Company B became Company B of the Twelfth Battalion of Infantry. Two days later, December 9, 1895, the Twelfth Battalion was organized into the Second Infantry and Company B designated as Company B, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.\*\*\*

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\*Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, pages 189, 190.

\*\*For additional information concerning the Railroad Strike, refer to History of Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade.

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