

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

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COMPANY C

Company C, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade (formerly Company C, Eighth Infantry Battalion)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files  
 Location: Marysville, Yuba County  
 Organized December 19, 1889  
 Reconstituted October 31, 1891\*  
 Redesignated December 7, 1895\*\*

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
George B. Baldwin, Captain	Dec. 19, 1889	Jan. 7, 1890***
John T. Lyden, First Lieut.	Dec. 18, 1889	Jan. 7, 1890***
John T. Lyden, Captain	Nov. 30, 1891	Dec. 10, 1891
William P. Ellis, First Lieut.	Nov. 30, 1891	Dec. 10, 1891
John T. Lyden, Captain (Re-elected Dec. 18, 1893)		
Richard Belcher, First Lieut.	Aug. 7, 1893	Oct. 4, 1893
Edward A. Forbes, Captain	Sept. 17, 1894	Oct. 29, 1894
Philip J. Divver, First Lieut.	Oct. 15, 1895	Dec. 10, 1895

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\*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 C became attached to the Eighth Infantry Regiment.)

\*\*Company C, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade redesignated Company D, Twelfth Infantry Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December 9, Company D, Twelfth Infantry Battalion redesignated Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, pages 87, 88.

\*\*\*Captain Baldwin and Lieutenant Lyden retained their former commissions as of January 7, 1890, when they commanded Company C, Eighth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade.

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COMPANY C (Continued)

**Activities:**

Company C was a comparatively new organization, having entered the National Guard service December 19, 1889, as part of the Eighth Infantry Battalion. George B. Baldwin, Captain of the unit, remained in command of the Company during its existence in the Battalion, becoming Major of the Eighth Infantry Regiment, October 31, 1891. First Lieutenant John T. Lyden was elected to the Captaincy November thirtieth, of that year. The unit had a membership of sixty and gave their officers whole-hearted support which was indicated from their regular attendance at drills.

The armory that Company C occupied, was a frame structure built originally for county fairs and for which the unit paid \$65.00 a month rental. The drill hall was large, affording ample space for a variety of close order movements. The armory proper was well fitted up, having in addition two small rooms. The arrangement of the quarters were good with the exception of the exit which was too narrow. The returns for November, the first month the unit was in the Regiment, gave the unit an 85.56 per cent rating. By March 1892, the percentage of attendance had increased to 87.75 per cent. Regular drill meetings were held the first, second and third Monday of each month. Officers' and non-commissioned officers' meetings were held monthly.

Company C was host to the other five companies of the Eighth Infantry Regiment at a Battalion drill sponsored in their city, June 17, 1892. A large crowd of civilians also attended the drill. This was the first time the officers and men had the opportunity of practicing together since the drill regulations had changed. Company C had fifty members present under command of Captain John T. Lyden and Lieutenant George H. Voss. Major George B. Baldwin was in charge of the drill and reported it was executed satisfactorily. A banquet was given the visitors at noon. The officer's school of tactics took place at four-thirty P. M., closing the activities for the day. The out of town companies were well pleased with the hospitable reception they had received from the members of Company C.\*

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\*Marysville Appeal, June 17, 1892, page 4, column 4.

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COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Two months later in 1892, Company C attended the Divisional Encampment at Camp Columbus, Santa Cruz, August sixth to fourteenth. The unit as part of the Eighth Infantry Regiment participated in special instruction consisting of three and one-half hours of steady drill, first as a company and afterwards as part of a battalion. The outstanding event of the encampment was the naval and military engagement held on Friday before the close of camp. The naval division comprised the "Charleston" and "Boston." The military lines were to circle the hills around Santa Cruz and endeavor to prevent the marines from taking the city. Thirty thousand rounds of ammunition was used against the Navy. That Company C gained extensive military knowledge from the camp is apparent from the reports that the Eighth Infantry Regiment, which indicated the unit conducted themselves in the most soldierly manner and warranted much praise.

Company C had a good 200' yard range and made a series of outstanding target scores during the unit's existence in the Eighth Infantry Regiment.

The unit's interest in target practice was given an added impetus by the interest Major George B. Baldwin displayed toward the improvement of the scores. The Major had secured eight medals of an outstanding design from the East in February 1892, and distributed them among the different corporal commands in Company C. His intention was to create a friendly rivalry among the members for marksman honors. In accordance with the new infantry drill regulations of the United States Army, each company was grouped into squads consisting of seven Privates under the leadership and immediate control of the non-commissioned officers. The second Sunday of each month was set aside for the squads to meet at the range and compete for the above mentioned trophies. The best shot in the squad was to wear the special medal of that squad for one month. A special medal will be shot for on the third Sunday of each month, the contestants to be the victors from the squad of the previous Sunday. Company C benefited from the competition to the extent that Private McAfee and three others made the First-class that year.\*

In 1892, four members made the First-class, twelve the Second-class and twenty-six the Third class division. The four members of the unit making over 90 per cent were entitled to compete for

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\*Marysville Appeal, February 19, 1892, page 3, column 2.

COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (continued):

first and second prize as the champion shots of the year. Lieutenant George H. Voss, Corporal F. C. Miller and Privates McAfee and Shelford were the four men participating in the 1892 tournament which was held at Marysville under the supervision of Major Frederick H. Greeley. Private McAfee, as the victor, was presented with a gold medal for his remarkable score. He was credited with having made the highest score ever made with a military gun. At 200 yards, shooting off hand, he had scored thirty-nine consecutive bull's eyes and earned the distinction of being the foremost marksman in America. The other members of the National Guard were exhorted to follow Private McAfee's example in attaining this honor which had been accomplished by persistent work and diligent practice. On the first Sunday, he had made forty-eight out of a possible fifty; on the following Sunday forty-nine, and the day of the competition he made three full scores, finishing with thirty-nine bull's eyes. Major F. H. Greeley of the Brigade Staff, made the presentation at the annual inspection of Company C, March 18, 1893. The medal had the following inscription: "thirty-nine consecutive bull's eyes," and on the reverse "March 18, 1893." Private McAfee was given a hearty ovation by the other members of Company C.\*

The State Rifle Shoot held in Marysville, March 31, 1893, attracted wide spread attention and a large crowd was present for the occasion. The two companies engaged in the friendly contest were Company C, of Marysville and Company F, of Woodland. The State medals to be awarded were coveted prizes and in addition were worth \$150.00 and \$100.00 respectively. The two participants qualifying for the second class medals were Privates Shelford of Company C, of Marysville and A. Johnson of Company F, of Woodland. They had on a previous date tied the score at forty-three, but as Johnson had made a bull's eye in the ninth shot, he was according to the Creedmore rules, entitled to the award. However, a controversy arose on the subject and Colonel Park Henshaw made a protest demanding that Shelford receive the medal. The Colonel contended that according to General Order No. 2 issued on February 10, 1893 "all competitors must fire in the open" and Shell Mound range, where Private Johnson had recently shot, was not on open ground. Major George B. Baldwin of the Eighth Infantry Regiment stated that Company C had

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\*Marysville Appeal, March 18, 1892, page 5, column 5.

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COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

conformed to the law in every respect and unless Private Shelford received the medal he would resign. The matter was taken up with the Adjutant General C. C. Allen and as Major Baldwin remained in the service, it was assumed Private Shelford was, in all fairness, awarded the disputed medal.\*

Peter Engel donated a trophy to be awarded to the Company in the Eighth Infantry Regiment averaging the highest score for the six target practices for the years 1890, 1891 and 1892. Company C, having the largest percentage in each of the first four target shoots was entitled to the award. The trophy was in possession of Company F of Oroville, who had averaged the highest scores for 1892. The members of Company F harbored an antagonistic feeling toward Company C, contending the Marysville company won when they had no real opposition. They were also indignant that the rules of the competition were not made known to them until after they had won two competitions, and stood an excellent chance of winning again. However, Company C was awarded the silver cup by default in June of that year.\*\*

The scores for the last two years that the company was in the regiment were as follows:

Year	First Class	Second Class	Third Class
1894	3	18	31
1895	15	24	24

The increase in the number making the first and second class division in 1895, accents the company's continued interest in target practice throughout the units military service to the State.

Company C as part of the Eighth Infantry Regiment was called out for duty in connection with the Railroad Strike in July 1894. The company reported for duty at Sacramento, July twenty-third and remained on duty until July thirtieth.\*\*\*

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\*Marysville Appeal, March 31, 1893, page 8, column 5.

\*\*Marysville Appeal, June 16, 1893, page 10, column 7.

\*\*\*For additional information of Company C and the Railroad Strike 1894, refer to Regimental History of the Eighth Infantry Regiment.

## Activities: (continued)

The first annual Inspection and Muster of the Company was held March 1892, when the numerical strength, attendance percentage and the average merit of the Company was judged. Company C had sixty-four members and all were present, giving the Company 100 per cent in attendance and an excellent average merit of 5.50 per cent. Brigade Inspector, Major George A. Snook and Major Thomas H. Bernard, Inspector of Rifle Practice, conducted the inspection. Sixteen members of Company F, Oroville, under command of First Lieutenant Henry D. Lausen, were guests of Company C on the occasion. Major Snook made a minute inspection of the rifles and uniforms, after which the men were marched and countermarched, winning the commendation of all, with their splendid military appearance. The men were well drilled and of fine physique, giving them the martial bearing of a soldier.\* The Inspection reports of 1893 and 1894, indicate that the Company had a 100 per cent attendance record for the two years with fifty-nine and seventy-three members present and also an increased numerical strength. The average merit rating for 1893, was 5.50 per cent, however, this rating was not given for the latter year. Part of the details of the 1894 Inspection report by First Lieutenant G. W. McIver, Seventh United States Infantry read as follows:

56 men were in ranks, under arms

14 men were uniformed and without arms

7 men in rear rank of Company, wore citizen's trousers.

Men wore campaign hats, leggins and field belts.

The uniforms were old and Inspector McIver recommended an entire new allotment.

The general appearance of the men in ranks was good but in many cases the position of soldier was faulty.

Only twenty out of fifty-eight guns were serviceable and these were used constantly in target practice.

Marching by fours and in line was fairly good, but the guides displayed lack of instruction.

The manual of arms was also bad.

However, these defects were caused by the fact that forty of the men were new recruits, having joined the ranks of the Company since January 1894, and had received scarcely two months training prior to the Inspection.\*\*

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\*Marysville Appeal, March 18, 1892, page 5, column 5.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 189.

COMPANY C (Continued)

**Activities: (Continued)**

During the Railroad 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 C redesignated Company D, Twelfth Infantry Battalion. Two days later, December ninth, Company D, Twelfth Infantry Battalion was redesignated Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade.

NAME	DATE	POSITION	DATE
James S. ...	1891	...	Nov. 22, 1891
...	1891	...	Nov. 22, 1891
...	1891	...	Jan. 23, 1891
...	1893	...	Aug. 15, 1893
...	1894	...	Dec. 6, 1894

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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 D was organized as the Twelfth Infantry Regiment.)

Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, General Order No. 17, page 47.

\*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 87, 88.  
 (The rank date of November 22, 1891, was then Company D, Twelfth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade.)