

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

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COMPANY D

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

Reference: Adjutant General's Files  
 Location: Red Bluff, Tehama County  
 Organized December 19, 1889  
 Reconstituted October 31, 1891\*  
 Mustered out February 7, 1895\*\*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
James R. Sweeney, Captain	Nov. 22, 1890	Nov. 22, 1890***
Edward J. Blossom, First Lieut.	Nov. 22, 1890	Nov. 22, 1890***
Oscar E. Graves, Captain	Dec. 17, 1892	Jan. 23, 1893
Edward J. Blossom, First Lieut. (Re-elected Dec. 17, 1892) (Resigned June 9, 1893)	_____	_____
Milton G. Gill, First Lieut.	Aug. 7, 1893	Aug. 15, 1893
Oscar E. Graves, Captain (Re-elected Dec. 27, 1894)	_____	_____
Milton G. Gill, First Lieut. (Term expired 1895)	_____	_____
Wilton C. Mount, First Lieut.	Oct. 14, 1895	Dec. 6, 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 D became attached to the Eighth Infantry Regiment.)

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 17, page 87.

\*\*\*Captain Sweeney and Lieutenant Blossom retained their former commissions as of November 22, 1890, when they commanded Company D, Eighth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade.

Activities:

Company D was one of the three companies organized in 1889 to fill the quota of companies required for a battalion formation. When the Eighth Infantry Battalion was organized into a regiment, October 31, 1891, the unit became Company D, Eighth Infantry Regiment. Captain James R. Sweeney remained in command until December 1892, when Oscar E. Johnson was elected to the Captaincy.

The first activity Company D participated in with the other units of the regiment was the Battalion Drill held in Marysville, June 1892. The unit was represented by Captain Sweeney and Lieutenant Blossom. Battalion drill was practiced as well as the holding of an officer's "school of tactics" at the pavilion. The members were entertained by a banquet given by Company C of Marysville. The following August, Company D attended an encampment at Santa Cruz and gained extensive military knowledge. The company, together with the balance of the regiment, benefited greatly from the instruction of General Dimond and Captain Barry of the United States Army.\*

The first annual Inspection and Muster were held March 1892, with Colonel A. D. Cutler, Division Inspector, acting as the mustering officer. The company rated a 100 per cent attendance record, all of the fifty-two members being present. The average merit was 5.25 per cent out of a possible 6 per cent. The returns from two later annual inspections of 1893 and 1894, gave the company 100 per cent attendance rating for both years. The membership for the two years was sixty and seventy men respectively, with an average merit rating of 5.58 per cent for the year 1893. Twenty-five of the seventy members were new recruits, having joined the service since January first previous to the 1894 inspection, which indicated the unit was active and worked for the interest of their organization. The following remarks are extracts from Inspector, First Lieutenant G. W. McIver's report of March 31, 1894, at Colusa:\*\*

Eight men appeared in ranks without arms or uniforms;  
ten men wore citizens' trousers.

While the company was being prepared for inspection,  
right guide of company gave command "right dress"

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\*For additional information of Company C and the Encampment of 1892, refer to Regimental History, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 191.

1894 ✓

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

to rear rank. Company C displayed great steadiness in ranks during the inspection and drill. The deportment of the men in ranks were excellent with the exception of hands raised unnecessarily a few times. The men wore campaign hats, leggings and field belts. The company drill after inspection was very good, the only fault was the slowness with which the movements were executed; the step was too slow. Distance between forms was well kept. "Company right" and "Company left" were well executed.

The manual of arms was good, but rather slow. The company was in an excellent state of drill and discipline, considering the company had so many new recruits. Fifty-one of the unit's sixty-three guns were unserviceable. Eighty dollars a month was paid for the armory, which presented a neat appearance for inspection. The records and accounts of the company were well kept. It was the practice of the company to hold regular drill meetings every Monday evening. Officers' and non-commissioned officers' meetings were held at the call of the Captain.

At the 1894 Inspection, it was found that Company D had in their possession sixty-five dress coats and sixty helmets which were of no use to the unit. Inspector McIver recommended that these coats and helmets be sold and the proceeds applied to the purchase of ammunition.

An improvement in target practice was apparent from reports of target practice for the company while in the regiment. The scores were as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>First Class</u>	<u>Second Class</u>	<u>Third Class</u>
1893	0	6	23
1894	4	9	28
1895	3	17	30

The last activity Company D participated in before being mustered out, was the Railroad Strike of 1894. The company reported for duty in Sacramento on July twenty-fifth and remained in service at that point until July thirtieth. First Lieutenant Milton G. Gill had commanded the company during the encounter.\*

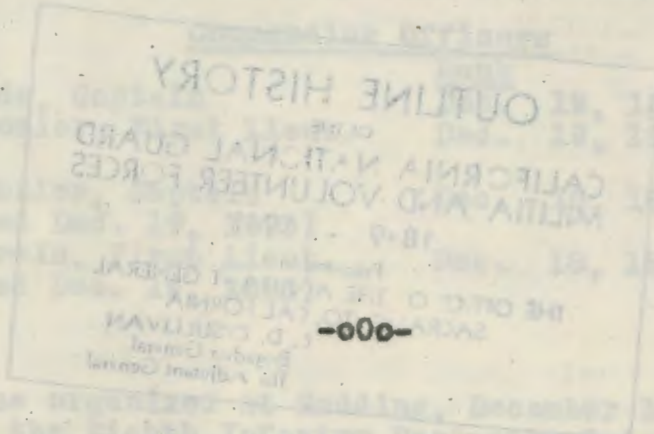
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\*For additional information, refer to the National Guard and the Railroad Strike 1894. Adjutant General's Office.

COMPANY D (Continued)

**Activities: (Continued)**

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 D was mustered out of service by General Order No. 17, December 7, 1895.\*



**Activities:**

Company D was organized at Salinas, December 10, 1894, and became attached to the Eighth Infantry Regiment, October 31, 1891. When the battalion was increased to a Regiment, the company was placed at the headquarters of the Regiment in San Francisco, California, December 15, 1891. At this time, First Lieutenant Thomas H. Dexter was promoted to the captaincy of the unit. The company's ranks comprised fifty-two recruits at the organization.

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

\*\*Company D, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade redesignated Company E, Twelfth Infantry Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two

\*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 17, page 87.

Adjutant General Report 1894-1895, General Order No. 17, 18, pages 87, 88.

\*\*\*Captains Reynolds and Lieutenant Dexter received their furlough commencing on January 7, 1895, when they commanded Company D, Eighth Infantry Regiment, Fifth Brigade.