

# **The California Volunteers and the Civil War: 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Infantry 1861-1866**

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SECOND REGIMENT OF INFANTRY

Reference: "Record of California Men in the War of the Rebellion" (1890)  
Adjutant General's Office.

Regimental Headquarters:

Camp Sumner	October 2, 1861-January 1, 1862
Fort Humboldt	January 10, 1862-July 20, 1863
Fort Miller (Fresno County)	August 11, 1863-October 1, 1864
Presidio San Francisco	October 9, 1864-August 15, 1865
Various camps throughout Arizona Territory	August 31, 1865-February 28, 1866

Mustered in October 2, 1861

Mustered out April 16, 1866

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Francis J. Lippett, Colonel	July 26, 1861	August 19, 1861
James N. Olney, Lieut. Col.	Aug. 24, 1861	Sept. 7, 1861
Thomas F. Wright, Lieut. Col.	_____	Nov. 27, 1864
Thomas F. Wright Colonel	_____	Jan. 5, 1865
Robert Pollock, Lieut. Col.	_____	Jan. 5, 1865

Companies Included in Second Regiment of Infantry

Company A:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Charles W. Smith, Captain	Sept. 2, 1861	Sept. 7, 1861
Frederick McDougal, First Lt.	Sept. 2, 1861	Sept. 7, 1861
Henry Flynn, Captain	June 18, 1862	June 18, 1862
Chauncey P. Fairfield, 1st, Lt.	Oct. 2, 1862	Nov. 4, 1862
John J. Shepard, First Lt.	March 27, 1863	March 28, 1863

Location of Company:

San Francisco	Oct. 11, 1861
Fort Dalles, Oregon	Nov. 30, 1861
Fort Vancouver, Washington Territory	April 30, 1862
Fort Humboldt, California	June 30, 1862
Fort Miller, California	Aug. 31, 1863
Presidio San Francisco	Oct. 31, 1864
Fort Goodwin, Arizona Territory	Oct. 31, 1865-
	May 31, 1866

Mustered in October 11, 1861

Mustered out June 30, 1866

Companies Included in Second Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

Company B:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
John C. Schmidt, Captain	Sept. 5, 1861	Sept. 7, 1861
Thomas B. Campbell, First Lt.	Sept. 5, 1861	Sept. 7, 1861
Abraham B. Smith, First Lt.	_____	Oct. 1, 1862
C. P. Fairfield, Captain	_____	Dec. 9, 1864
B. S. Coffman, First Lt.	_____	June 7, 1864
C. W. Williams, First Lt.	_____	Jan. 19, 1865

Location of Company:

Camp Lyon	September 1861
Camp Cady, Wyoming Territory	October 21, 1861
Fort Hoskings, Oregon	October 30, 1861
Fort Vancouver, Washington Territory	July 16, 1862
Alcatraz Island, California	July 31, 1862
Various Camps throughout California until Arizona Territory	September 30, 1865
Fort Yuma, California	October 1865
	March 31, 1866

Mustered in September 5, 1861

Mustered out May 10, 1866

Company C:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Michael O'Brien, Captain	Sept. 20, 1861	Sept. 26, 1861
James H. Stewart, First Lt.	Sept. 20, 1861	Sept. 26, 1861
Louis S. Lohse, First Lieut.	_____	Jan. 7, 1864
John B. Urmey, Captain	_____	Jan. 5, 1865
I. E. Hughes, First Lieut.	_____	Jan. 5, 1865

Location of Company:

Presidio San Francisco	September 1861
Fort Vancouver, Washington Territory	October 21, 1861
Walla Walla, Washington Territory	October 31, 1861
Fort Colville, Washington Territory	November 31, 1861
Fort Humboldt, California	August 8, 1862
Camp Lincoln, California	September 15, 1862
San Francisco, California	October 20, 1864
San Pedro (Enroute to Arizona territory)	August 28, 1865
Fort Grant (Arizona Territory)	February 28, 1866

Mustered in September 6, 1861

Mustered out May 10, 1866

Companies Included in Second Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

Company D:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William E. Hill, Captain	Sept. 27, 1861	Oct. 10, 1861
Joseph B. Wing, First Lieut.	Sept. 27, 1861	Oct. 10, 1861
P. B. Johnson, First Lieut.	_____	Nov. 4, 1862
George M. Knickerbocker First Lieutenant	_____	June 7, 1864
J. Calder Innes, Captain	_____	Nov. 13, 1865

Location of Company:

San Francisco	September 1861
Fort Colville, Washington Territory	November 17, 1861
Fort Humboldt, California	July 31, 1862
Fort Bragg	August 7, 1862
Presidio San Francisco	October 20, 1864
Fort Gaston	August 31, 1865
Fort Humboldt, California	December, March 1865

Mustered in September 14, 1861  
Mustered out April 16, 1866

Company E:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Eugene B. Gibbs, Captain	Oct. 9, 1861	Oct. 10, 1861
John H. Brady, First Lieut.	Oct. 9, 1861	Oct. 10, 1861
John H. Gonnison, First Lt.	_____	April 10, 1862
John Cashman, First Lieut.	_____	Oct. 24, 1864

Location of Company:

San Francisco	September 1861
Fort Vancouver	October 21, 1861
Alcatraz Island	May 9, 1862
Fort Humboldt	May 16, 1862
Camp Curtis	September 17, 1862
Benicia Barracks	May 14, 1863
Camp Curtis	December 17, 1863
Presidio San Francisco	October 4, 1864
Drum Barracks	August 21, 1865
Fort Grant	December 31, 1865
Fort Yuma	March 31, 1866

Mustered in October 14, 1861  
Mustered out May 10, 1866

Companies Included in Second Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

Company F:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Charles D. Douglas, Captain	Oct. 1, 1861	Nov. 19, 1861
Henry Flynn, First Lieut.	Oct. 1, 1861	Nov. 19, 1861
William H. Noyes, First Lt.	_____	June 18, 1862
J. H. Delaney, First Lieut.	_____	Oct. 6, 1864
Louis F. Grant, First Lt.	_____	Dec. 3, 1864
Frederick A. Morgan, First Lt.	_____	Jan. 19, 1865

Location of Company:

Carson City, Nevada	September 1861
San Francisco	October 1, 1861
Forts Lippitt, Wright, Anderson, (Humboldt County)	January 1862
Fort Gaston	September 1862
Fort Wright	December 1862
Presidio San Francisco	May 4, 1866

Mustered in September 1861

Mustered out May 4, 1866

Company G:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William W. Stuart, Captain	Oct. 9, 1861	Nov. 19, 1861
Theodore Whitmore, First Lt.	Oct. 9, 1861	Nov. 19, 1861
John E. Hill, First Lieut.	_____	Jan. 28, 1865
John E. Hill, Captain	_____	June 7, 1864
John C. Innes, First Lieut.	_____	June 7, 1864
Frances Bellow, First Lt.	_____	Dec. 9, 1864
Charles H. Bartle, Captain	_____	March 17, 1865

Location of Company:

Presidio San Francisco	November 1861
Crescent City, California	March 11, 1862
Camp Lincoln	June 11, 1862
Benicia	June 16, 1865
Fort Miller	August 22, 1865
Camp Babbitt	August 28, 1865
Fort Tejon	January 15, 1864
Drum Barracks	June 9, 1864
Presidio San Francisco	October 29, 1864
Drum Barracks	August 21, 1865
Fort Grant, Arizona Territory	December 31, 1865
Drum Barracks	April 30, 1866

Mustered in December 31, 1861

Mustered out May 10, 1866

Companies Included in Second Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

Company H:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William H. Short, Captain (Resigned January 31, 1863)	Oct. 21, 1861	Nov. 16, 1861
John Hanna Jr., Captain		Feb. 1, 1863
John Monholland, First Lieut. (Resigned June 30, 1863)	Nov. 16, 1861	Oct. 21, 1861
James H. Stewart, Captain		June 7, 1864
James H. Delaney, First Lieut. (Transferred to Company F April 4, 1865)		June 7, 1864
Frederick A. Morgan, First Lt.		Jan. 19, 1865

Location of Company:

San Francisco	October 21, 1861
Santa Barbara	January 2, 1862
Alcatraz	April 14, 1862
Fort Gaston	April 30, 1862
Fort Humboldt	August 22, 1862
Benicia Barracks	May 14, 1863
Fort Gaston	December 22, 1863
Camp Anderson	September 16, 1864
Presidio San Francisco	October 4, 1864
Fort Goodwin, Arizona Territory	October 31, 1865

Mustered in October 21, 1861

Mustered out July 2, 1866

Company I:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Edward R. Thellar, Captain	Oct. 25, 1861	Nov. 22, 1861
George W. Harris, First Lieut.	Oct. 25, 1861	Nov. 22, 1861
Alfred Morton, First Lieut.		Jan. 8, 1862
Chauncey P. Fairchild, First Lt.		Nov. 4, 1862
William F. Shindler, First Lt.		Feb. 22, 1863
John J. Shepard, First Lieut.		Mar. 28, 1863
J. C. Innes, First Lieut.		Jan. 7, 1864
John H. Casler, First Lieut.		Nov. 13, 1865

Location of Company:

San Francisco	December 1861
Camp Curtis	April 30, 1862
Fort Gaston	May 31, 1862
Fort Humboldt	June 30, 1863
Camp McDowell	July 31, 1864
Presidio San Francisco	October 31, 1865
San Pedro, Arizona Territory	October 31, 1865
Fort Grant	December 31, 1865
Fort Yuma, California	March 31, 1866

Companies Included in Second Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

Company I: (Continued)

Mustered in October 25, 1861  
Mustered out May 10, 1866

Company K:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Charles Hefferman, Captain	Nov. 1, 1861	Nov. 30, 1861
Charles G. Hubbard, First Lt.	Nov. 1, 1861	Nov. 30, 1861
Alfred Morton, Captain	_____	Feb. 14, 1863
William H. Noyes, Captain	_____	Feb. 6, 1863
Theodore C. Winchell, First Lt.	_____	June 7, 1864

Location of Company:

San Francisco	October 28, 1861
Post Lippitt	January 10, 1862
Eel River	July 1862
Fort Gaston	June 1863
Various camps in Calif. and at Presidio S.F.	December 1863
Fort Miller	October 1, 1864
Presidio San Francisco	October 8, 1864
Drum Barracks	August 21, 1865
Fort Goodwin	April 30, 1866

Mustered in December 31, 1861  
Mustered out June 30, 1866

Activities of the Second Regiment of Infantry:

This regiment was organized at San Francisco, California and Carson City, Nevada, during the months of October and December 1861. After completing its organization, five companies (A, B, C, D and E) were sent to Washington and Oregon Territories to relieve the regular troops. These companies, however, returned to California within a short time. Two companies were sent to Santa Barbara to protect the citizens against the Indians, and to enforce the laws of the United States.

Francis J. Lippitt served as Colonel of the Second Regiment until October 1865, when due to expiration of terms the men of his regiment were mustered out of service. The Veterans together with new recruits were again organized into a new regiment with Thomas F. Wright as Colonel, in which capacity he served until March 13, 1865, being commissioned Brevet Brigadier General for his faithful service during the war; he was mustered out with the Regiment in the Spring of 1866.

Activities of the Second Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

The Indians during this period were causing a great deal of trouble in Humboldt County, therefore, General Wright gave orders in April of 1862, to capture and hang all Indians who were engaged in hostilities, present or past, excepting the women and children. Company F was stationed at Fort Humboldt when the troops were sent out on Indian scout duty. On April second, Lieutenant Flynn, then in command of the company, came upon and captured three Indians travelling toward Redwood Creek, where it had been reported there was a band of two hundred hostile Indians. To prevent them from giving the band notice of the company's approach, the Indians were warned of the consequences that would result; but unheeding the warnings they tried to escape and ran toward Redwood Creek. Lieutenant Flynn instantly fired at them, killing one. The other two escaped, although one had been shot through the head.

During the month of May 1862, the people of Elk Camp, a small settlement fifteen miles northeast of Fort Andrews, asked for government protection from the Indians, who had been killing their cattle. Colonel Lippitt ordered troops to be sent there at once to cut a trail to that point from Fort Ter Waw, which would open a short and sure line of communication from Fort Ter Waw to the posts south of the Klamath River.

Company A during this time was sent from Fort Humboldt to Yager Creek to be under the command of Lieutenant Flynn, who was then commanding Company F. Prior to this time, Company E had been under the command of Captain Charles Smith, who was placed under arrest for bringing his men into Fort Humboldt in a very drunken and disorderly condition. He was no doubt asked to resign as the records show his resignation from the service on June 10, 1862.

Again in May 1863, a second detachment from Company F, including twenty men under Lieutenant Flynn, was sent on a scout near Mad River, a few miles below Fort Lyon, where they were fired upon by a band of Indians in ambush. None of the men were injured except the citizen guide, who was shot through both thighs. The troops pursued the Indians into the timber which was almost impenetrable from dense undergrowth and "chaparall" found in all the forests of this country. They were unable to sight any of the savages although guns snapped from every direction around them (the caps having no doubt been spoiled by a recent rain.)



Activities of the Second Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

On the fourteenth of May, near Angels Ranch, Lieutenant Flynn with about fifteen men located a ranch of Indians, who had seen them approaching and crossed the river, (known as Mad River) on their fish dam before the soldiers could overtake them. They then cut the dam away so the man could not follow them. After about an hour of firing the Indians retreated up a hill, losing six men in the skirmish. There were no casualties among the men of Company F. The soldiers then destroyed all the provisions, beds, clothing and equipment belonging to the Indians. There being about one hundred and fifty Indians in the tribe, Lieutenant Flynn decided it was useless to follow them with only fifteen men, so he returned to Fort Anderson. Upon his arrival, Captain Douglas left at once with his whole command in quest of this band of Indians. It is unknown whether or not the Indians were found.

On the sixteenth of the same month a detachment of five men from Company E, stationed near Coopers Mills on Yager Creek, reenforced by four or five citizens went in pursuit of a band of forty Indians. These Indians had robbed the mills of thirty-three hundred pounds of flour on the night before. After a very difficult ten mile march northward the troops came upon the Indian rancheria where they found the flour and having no means of packing, destroyed it, together with the lodges and their contents. No Indians were seen as they had all fled upon the approach of the party.

A report on the fifteenth of May from Captain Hefferman of Company K, located at Fort Lyon, states that on a recent scout he had destroyed five rancherias, from which the Indians had fled before his arrival. During this scout he also killed one Indian and wounded two others. The two wounded Indians escaped, leaving behind a powder horn which proved to belong to a man that had been murdered by the Indians on Bremens Ranch in November of 1861.

The troops continued in active operation against the Indians even though there was a great deal of snow in the mountains, and the routes travelled were composed of lofty mountain ridges which rendered travelling always laborious and often dangerous. The lack of miles caused the only interruption in active operations. The men were often compelled to pack their blankets, in fact everything except their firearms. The soldiers of this regiment were engaged in cutting a trail from Fort Humboldt to the crossing of Yager Creek, a distance of twenty-five miles, fifteen miles of which was a dense forest. This country had never been explored by white men and was known to be a haunt of many of the Indians who had been committing outrages.

Activities of the Second Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

The Regiment during its existence was stationed throughout California and its companies were constantly participating in scout expeditions against the Indians, who were committing deprédations on the various frontiers of the State.

In the year of 1864, Captain Hull, commanding Company D, gave a report on some of the activities of his company.\* This report is as follows:

At Camp No. 25, Coast Range,  
Mendocino County, Calif., April 30, 1864.

Sir:

I have the honor to make the following report of the proceedings of the detachment of my company while on scout, from the sixteenth to the thirtieth instants, viz.: April sixteenth, occupied in making preparations for crossing Eel River in a northeasterly direction. April seventeenth, I proceeded with two Sergeants, one Corporal, one guide and eleven privates to the mouth of White Rock Canon that falls into Eel River, a distance of about twenty miles; found the river at that point impassable.

April eighteenth, sent out two parties, one up and the other down the river, in search of a ford, but without success, each party traveling about ten or twelve miles. April nineteenth, proceeded up the river with the whole detachment, about fifteen miles, and with great difficulty succeeded about two A. M. to cross. The men being very wet, I encamped for the night; found fresh Indian signs. April twentieth, having arrived in the neighborhood of Indians kept my men and animals concealed in the bushes until dark, then traveled a distance of about twelve miles, keeping a good lookout for Indian camp fires but discovered none; by the moonlight I could plainly see the traces of Indians through the tall grass.

April twenty-first, encamped at daylight and at nightfall resumed the scout; traveled all night over a very rough country called the Rola Bola Mountains; plenty of Indian signs; traveled a distance of twenty miles. April twenty-second, remained in camp until night, then resumed the scout. After traveling until nearly daylight discovered Indian camp fires situated on a high bluff of rock that seemed impossible to approach, and was so to strangers at night time; hence I was

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\*Record of California Men in the War of the Rebellion (1890)

Activities of the Second Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

compelled to defer the attack until daylight, but those wary savages discovered us and fled. They had a start of about two miles. I followed them as fast as possible, the ascent being extremely difficult, and pursued them that day until myself and men were almost exhausted; must have traveled a distance of fifty miles including the scout of the previous night. Discovered by the trail the Indians had separated into two bands. April twenty-third, divided my men into two parties; gave Serfeant Wheeler one and myself the other. I followed one trail, traveling alternately by day or night until my provisions began to give out. I arrived at this camp on the twenty-eighth; traveled a distance averaging twenty miles per day since the twenty-third.

April twenty-ninth, Sergeant Wheeler arrived at camp with eleven Indian women and one child, prisoners captured by him on the twenty-eighth; he reports eight Indian men killed, besides quite a number wounded, who threw themselves into the river and thus escaped or were likely drowned. This occurred at a place called Big Bend, on Eel River. He also states that his party traveled not less than twenty miles each day.

I have detained three of the captives (women) as guides for a few days, believing that they will be of great use to me; the remainder I have forwarded to Camp Grant to be escorted to Fort Humboldt, agreeable to district orders. I have had built on Eel River a large canoe, capable of carrying twenty men. I feel pleasure in stating that people are already driving large herds of stock into a portion of the country scouted over by me, heretofore prevented by Indians.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

William E. Hull,

Captain Second Infantry, California Volunteers,  
Commanding Company D.

First Lieutenant James Ulio, Acting Assistant Adjutant General,  
Humboldt Military District, Camp near Fort Gaston, California.

The last report to be found indicating the duties performed by this Regiment is from Company C, during January of 1866. The company under Colonel Wright was engaged in a battle with the Apache Indians, thirty miles east of Fort Grant, Arizona Territory, in which thirteen Indians were killed and six taken prisoners.

During the Spring of 1866, the Regiment was mustered out of service at the Presidio in San Francisco.