

# **The California Volunteers and the Civil War: 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Infantry 1861-1865**

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FOURTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY\*

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

Regimental Headquarters:

Auburn, Placer County	November 1861
Camp Union	February-May 1862
Camp Latham	May-September 1862
Drum Barracks	September 1862-November 1865

Mustered in November 8, 1861  
Mustered out November 30, 1865

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Henry M. Judah, Colonel	Sept. 6, 1861	Sept. 10, 1861
Harvey Lee, Lieut. Col.	Sept. 6, 1861	Sept. 10, 1861
Ferris Foreman, Colonel	Nov. 9, 1861	Nov. 9, 1861
James F. Curtis, Lieut. Col.	_____	June 22, 1863
James F. Curtis, Colonel	_____	May 9, 1864
Edgar W. Hillyer, Lieut. Col.	_____	May 15, 1865

Companies Included in the Fourth Regiment of Infantry:

Company A:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
C. W. Rowell, Captain	Sept. 21, 1861	Sept. 26, 1861
Edgar W. Hillyer, First Lt.	Sept. 21, 1861	Sept. 26, 1861
Alexander W. Copely, Captain	_____	Jan. 12, 1864
Joseph W. Soby, First Lt.	_____	Jan. 12, 1864
A. G. Randall, Captain	_____	April 17, 1865
P. R. Wilbur, First Lt.	_____	April 17, 1865

Location of Company:

Placerville (Place of organization)	Sept. 21, 1861
Washington Territory (Fort Walla Walla)	Nov. 1861
Benicia Barracks	Sept. 1862
Camp Drum	March 1863
Santa Barbara	Jan. 1864
Drum Barracks	Dec. 1864-Jan. 1865

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\*The Mountain Volunteers and the Auburn Grays became parts of the Fourth Regiment of Infantry. Synonyms of Volunteer Organizations of the United States, page 8.

Company A: (Continued)

Mustered in September 21, 1861  
 Mustered out November 30, 1865

Company B:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Jessie Fitch, Captain	Sept. 28, 1861	Oct. 10, 1861
Alexander W. Copely, First Lt.	Sept. 28, 1861	Oct. 10, 1861
George C. Love, First Lt.	_____	Jan. 12, 1864
Jeremiah Phelan, Captain	_____	March 31, 1865
J. W. Scoby, First Lieut.	_____	April 3, 1865

Location of Company:

Fort Vancouver (Washington Territory)	November 1861
Fort Dalles, (Oregon Territory)	April 1862
Benicia Barracks, California	October 1862
Drum Barracks, California	March 1863
Fort Mojave, California	May 1863
Drum Barracks, California	Dec. 1863-Oct. 4, 1864
Fort Gaston	April 1865
Presidio San Francisco	April 1866

Mustered in September 25, 1861  
 Mustered out April 18, 1866

Company C:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Benjamin R. West, Captain	Oct. 5, 1861	Oct. 16, 1861
Henry McCann, First Lieut.	Oct. 5, 1861	Oct. 16, 1861
James Davison, First Lieut.	_____	Jan. 12, 1864
Orlander H. Lee, First Lt.	_____	Oct. 4, 1864

Location of Company:

Fort Walla Walla (Washington Territory)	November 1861
Benicia Barracks, California	September 1862
Drum Barracks, California	May 1863
Santa Catalina Island	January 1864
Drum Barracks	September 1864
Camp Cady	February 1865

Mustered in October 5, 1861  
 Mustered out February 19, 1866



Companies Included in the Fourth Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

Company D:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Lyman S. Scott, Captain	Oct. 15, 1861	Oct. 16, 1861
James Garden, First Lieut.	Oct. 15, 1861	Oct. 16, 1861
James Davison, First Lt.	_____	Jan. 12, 1864

Location of Company:

Fort Yamhill, (Oregon Territory)	November 1861
Fort Hoskins, (Oregon Territory)	August 1863
Fort Vancouver (Washington Territory)	October 1864
Fort Yamhill, (Oregon Territory)	October 1864
Presidio San Francisco	December 1865

Mustered in October 15, 1861  
Mustered out December 19, 1865

Company E:

Commanding Officers:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
John C. Crowninshield, Cap.	Oct. 10, 1861	Nov. 16, 1861
Edward B. Blake, First Lt.	Oct. 10, 1861	Nov. 19, 1861

Edgar W. Hillyer, Captain	_____	Dec. 27, 1862
Patrick Munday, First Lt.	_____	Feb. 17, 1863
Newton Israel, First Lieut.	_____	Jan. 12, 1864

Dewitt C. Titus, Captain	_____	June 21, 1865
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Location of Company:

Fort Steilacoom (Washington Ter.)	November 1861
Benicia Barracks, California	October 1862
Drum Barracks, California	May 1863
Camp Curtis	July 1863
Drum Barracks	September 1863
Fort Yuma	February 1864
Date Creek	April 1865

Mustered in October 10, 1861  
Mustered out March 31, 1866

Companies Included in the Fourth Regiment of Infantry

(Continued)

COMPANY H.

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Charles S. Brooks, Captain	Nov. 1, 1861	Nov. 9, 1861
John M. Cass, First Lieut.	Nov. 1, 1861	Nov. 19, 1861
John M. Cass, Captain	_____	April 7, 1862
Edward D. Tuttle, First Lt.	_____	Nov. 25, 1862
George Haycock, First Lt.	_____	Feb. 1, 1864
John Smith, First Lieut.	_____	Oct. 4, 1864

Location of Company:

Camp Union	February 1862
Camp Lathem	June 1862
Drum Barracks	September 1862
Fort Yuma	March 1863
San Luis Obispo	August 1864
Drum Barracks	November 1864
Presidio San Francisco	November 1865

Mustered in February 6, 1862  
Mustered out November 30, 1865

Company I:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Charles Atchison, Captain	_____	Jan. 2, 1862
Robert P. Nason, First Lt.	_____	Jan. 8, 1862
John M. Starkweather, Cap.	_____	April 21, 1865
James S. Rathburn, First Lt.	_____	Sept. 20, 1865

Location of Company:

Camp Sigel, Calif. (Place of organization)	October 1861
Camp Union, California	February 1862
Benicia Barracks	June 1862
Drum Barracks	March 1863
Fort Mojave	May 1863
Camp Cady	March 1865
Camp Lincoln (Arizona Territory)	April 1865
Drum Barracks	April 1865
Presidio San Francisco	November 1865

Mustered in October 7, 1861  
Mustered out November 30, 1865



Companies Included in the Fourth Regiment of Infantry (Continued)

Company K:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Augustus H. Hall, Captain	_____	Jan. 10, 1862
Jacob Austin, First Lieut.	_____	March 3, 1862
Patrick Munday, Captain	_____	Oct. 1, 1863
Jonothan M. Starkweather, First Lieut.	_____	Jan. 12, 1864

Location of Company:

Camp Union	February 1862
Benicia Barracks	June 1862
Fort Yuma	March 1863
Drum Barracks	April 1864
Camp Lincoln (Arizona Territory)	April 1865
San Bernardino	July 1865
Drum Barracks	August 1865
Presidio San Francisco	November 1865

Mustered in February 1, 1862  
Mustered out November 30, 1865

Activities of the Fourth Regiment of Infantry:

The Headquarters of the Fourth Regiment of Infantry was first located at Auburn, Placer County, and while stationed there, five companies (A, B, C, D and E) were sent to Oregon to relieve the regular troops stationed in that state, who were protecting the citizens from hostile tribes of Indians.

The regiment served principally in Oregon and Washington Territories, and in the southern part of California. The muster rolls and monthly returns of this regiment give no accounts of the service rendered by the different companies, and it is impossible to give a complete history of the regiment.

The only recorded activities available are two newspaper items written during the year of 1863.\* One article gives an account of the first military execution held on the Pacific Coast. Private Peter Kleinkoff of Company C had attempted to rob and kill a comrade near Benicia, and then deserted from the army. The date of his apprehension is not known, however he was court martialed and sentenced to death on July 17, 1863.

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\*Sacramento Union, July 20, 1863, page 2. column 4.

Activities of the Fourth Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

The officials conducting the execution, desiring to make an example in an effort to check the number of desertions from the ranks of the Volunteers, used a radical measure in meeting out the punishment. On the day of execution the Battalion, consisting of ten companies of the Second and Sixth Infantries, California Volunteers, paraded at eleven o'clock forming three sides of a square. The prisoner was then seated in his coffin and conducted to the open side of the square where he was put to death by the firing squad.

The other item of interest which was recorded is that of the Vigilante Committee of Los Angeles.\* For quite some time in the vicinity of Los Angeles there had been a great many robberies and murders, also much cattle thieving, making that section unsafe to live in. The authorities had arrested five men, all guilty of numerous crimes, and were holding them in the county jail when the citizens formed a Vigilante Committee and demanded these men be punished at once, not desiring to wait for the slow process of the law. Three hundred citizens, all members of the Committee, surrounded the jail and after working several hours with chisels and saws managed to extricate the prisoners. Then unheeding the pleas of the sheriff, they performed a mass hanging.

The execution of the five men took place under the corridor in front of the jail. All the business houses closed during this procedure and the town was extremely quiet. The Committee then gave notice that all law-breaking persons were to leave town within twenty-four hours or be dealt with accordingly. This gave cause for the town people to ask for military protection as they feared there would be more of a disturbance than the citizens alone could cope with. Company E, under Captain Hillyer, was at once dispatched to the scene of trouble, and encamped on the outskirts of Los Angeles in order to preserve the peace of the city.

This regiment was first commanded by Colonel Henry M. Judah, who resigned in November 1861. He was succeeded in command by Colonel Ferris Forman, who held this rank until his resignation on August 20, 1863. Colonel James A. Curtis then assumed command and remained at the head of the regiment until it was disbanded by consolidation November 30, 1865.\*\* Colonel

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\*Sacramento Union, November 26, 1863, page 3, column 2.

\*\*The men of the Fourth Regiment of Infantry with unexpired terms were consolidated into a battalion of five companies.



Activities of the Fourth Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

Curtis was at one time Chief of Police in San Francisco. He was made Brevet Brigadier General on March 13, 1865 for his meritorious conduct during the war.

The men of the Forth Regiment of Infantry whose terms of service had expired were mustered out of service during the Fall of 1864 at Drum Barracks, California. These companies, with the aid of new recruits, were reorganized at the Presidio in San Francisco, and the final muster out of the regiment took effect during the latter part of 1865 and Spring of 1866, in accordance with the enlistment dates of the various companies.