

# **The California Volunteers and the Civil War: 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Infantry 1863-1865**

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SIXTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY

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

Regimental Headquarters:

Benicia Barracks, California  
Humboldt County

February 1864

Mustered in March 14, 1863  
Mustered out October 31, 1864

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Henry M. Black, Colonel	_____	Feb. 6, 1863
Ambrose E. Hooker, Lieut. Col.	_____	Feb. 6, 1863

Companies Included in Sixth Regiment of Infantry:

Company A:\*

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Alexander W. Copely, Captain	_____	Feb. 17, 1863
Alexander B. McGowan, Captain	_____	Apr. 28, 1863
John W. Davis, First Lieut.	_____	Feb. 17, 1863

Locations of Company:

Alcatraz Island, California		Oct. 21, 1862- Nov. 17, 1862
Presidio, San Francisco		Nov. 1862
Benicia Barracks, California		Mar. 30, 1863
Butte County		Aug. 26, 1863
Benicia Barracks, California		Oct. 28, 1863
Alcatraz Island	June 1, 1864-	Apr. 17, 1865
Presidio, San Francisco		Oct. 31, 1865

Mustered in Oct. 21, 1862  
Mustered out Oct. 31, 1865

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\*Company A, Sixth Regiment of Infantry, was formerly  
Company K of the First Regiment of Washington Territory  
Infantry.

SIXTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY (Continued)

Company B:

<u>Commanding Officers:</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Matthew Sherman, Captain	_____	Feb. 17, 1863
Robert Farren, Captain	_____	Mar. 21, 1863
Konrad F. Wiemeyer, Captain	_____	Feb. 13, 1863
Marcus A. Sawtelle, First Lieut.	_____	Mar. 2, 1863
William A. Chandler, First Lt.	_____	Mar. 25, 1863
John Oaks, Captain	_____	Aug. 24, 1864
Gaston d'Artoise, First Lieut.	_____	Feb. 13, 1864
Hampton Hutton, First Lieut.	_____	Dec. 9, 1864
J. P. Hackett, Captain	_____	Feb. 28, 1865
Charles H. Cutting, First Lieut.	_____	Aug. 3, 1865

Locations of Company:

Organized in San Francisco, May 11, 1864,  
and served in garrison at Benicia Barracks until  
October 25, 1865.

Mustered in May 11, 1864  
Mustered out October 25, 1865

Company C:

<u>Commanding Officers:</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
<u>Name</u>		
Thomas Buckley, Captain	_____	Feb. 17, 1863
John Oaks, First Lieut.	_____	Mar. 3, 1863
Benjamin S. Rowe, First Lieut.	_____	Aug. 24, 1863

Locations of Company:

Benicia Barracks, California	Oct. 1863
Fort Humboldt, California	Feb. 17, 1864
Boynstons Prairie	Mar. 4, 1864
Camp Jaqua, California	July 8, 1864,

Company C was on scout from this camp from July  
tenth until October, 1864; killing and wounding  
forty Indians.

Fort Humboldt, California	Oct. 11, 1864
Camp Lincoln, Humboldt County	May 10, 1865
Presidio, San Francisco	Dec. 15, 1865

Mustered in October 20, 1863  
Mustered out December 15, 1865

SIXTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY (Continued)

Company D:

<u>Commanding Officers:</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
<u>Name</u>		<u>1863</u>
Alexander B. McGowan, Captain	_____	June 23, 1863
John Oaks, Captain	_____	July 12, 1863
John M. Schrader, First Lieut.	_____	Apr. 27, 1864
John T. Hill, Captain	_____	Apr. 27, 1864
Patrick Golden, First Lieut.	_____	

Locations of Company:

Company D was organized at San Francisco, and sent at once to Benicia Barracks, California, remaining there until June 1865, when ordered to Camp McDermit, Nevada.

Presidio, San Francisco

Dec. 1865

Mustered in September 12, 1864

Mustered out December 20, 1865

Company E:

<u>Commanding Officers:</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
<u>Name</u>		
Dunne M. Greene, Captain	_____	Feb. 17, 1863
Konrad F. Wiemeyer, First Lieut.	_____	Mar. 7, 1863
John Boon Taylor, First Lieut.	_____	May 14, 1864
Washington Bruce, Captain	_____	Apr. 17, 1865
Clemens Hellstern, First Lieut.	_____	May 18, 1865

Locations of Company:

Benicia Barracks, California

July 1863

Fort Humboldt, California

Feb. 17, 1864,

from this date until October 10, 1864, Company E was constantly in the field operating against hostile Indians in the Humboldt District.

Benicia Barracks, California

Oct. 20, 1864

Mustered in July 11, 1863

Mustered out October 31, 1865

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SIXTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY (Continued)

Company F:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
John H. Gilmore, Captain	_____	Feb. 18, 1863
George Vaughn, First Lieut.	_____	Mar. 13, 1863
Hampton Hutton, First Lieut.	_____	July 28, 1863
Isaiah Hurlburt, Jr., Captain	_____	May 7, 1864
Stephen Gray, First Lieut.	_____	May 7, 1864
John Boon Taylor, Captain	_____	May 18, 1865

Locations of Company:

Company F was organized August 17, 1864, and stationed at Benicia Barracks until mustered out of service.

Mustered in August 17, 1864  
Mustered out October 25, 1865

Company G:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Eli Cook, Captain	_____	Feb. 19, 1863
Jacob Hackett, First Lieutenant	_____	Mar. 16, 1863
William K. McOwen, First Lieut.	_____	Aug. 20, 1864

Locations of Company:

Benicia Barracks, California	Feb. 2, 1864
Fort Humboldt, California	Feb 17, 1864

Company G was on continuous Indian scout duty until October twentieth when the unit reached Benicia Barracks, California.

San Jose, California	Jan. 30, 1865
Monterey Barracks	Feb. 17, 1865
Presidio, San Francisco	Oct. 1865

Mustered in February 2, 1864  
Mustered out October 31, 1865

SIXTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY (Continued)

Company H:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Joseph S. Knowler, Captain	_____	Mar. 6, 1863
Washington Bruce, First Lieut.	_____	May 6, 1863
Ferdinandd Smith, First Lieut.	_____	
John H. Coster, First Lieut.	_____	Sept. 18, 1865

Locations of Company:

Company H was organized at Benicia Barracks, March 4, 1864, and stationed at the post during the term of service.

Mustered in March 4, 1864  
Mustered out October 25, 1865

Company I:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Albert Davidson, Captain	_____	Mar. 4, 1863
Marcus A. Sawtelle, First Lieut.	_____	Mar. 2, 1863
Albert Hahn, Captain	_____	June 22, 1864
W. H. Tuttle, First Lieutenant	_____	June 22, 1864

Locations of Company:

Benicia Barracks, California	Sept. 2, 1864
Fort Churchill, Nevada	June 14, 1865
Camp Black, Paradise Valley	July and Aug. 1865
On scout duty during September, 1865	
Presidio, San Francisco	Dec. 1865

Mustered in September 5, 1864  
Mustered out December 20, 1865

Company K:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Charles Cochran, Captain	_____	Mar. 21, 1863
Moses, M. Knox, First Lieut.	_____	Mar. 21, 1863
John M. Shrader, First Lieut.	_____	June 12, 1863
Christopher Bright, First Lieut.	_____	June 24, 1863
James Ulio, Captain	_____	June 11, 1864

Locations of Company:

Benicia Barracks, California	Feb. 1864
San Francisco--as Provost Guard	Sept. 1864
Benicia Barracks, California	July 1865

SIXTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY (Continued)

Company K: (Continued)

Mustered in February 1864  
Mustered out October 25, 1865

Activities of the Sixth Regiment of Infantry:

The Sixth Regiment of Infantry was organized in 1863, by Brigadier General Wright in accordance with an order from the Secretary of War. Henry M. Black was given the rank as Colonel of the regiment with Ambrose E. Hooker as Lieutenant Colonel. On February 8, 1864, Colonel Black with three companies of his regiment (C, E, and G) went to Humboldt County for the purpose of putting an end to the Indian warfare in that District.

Company C while in that county was stationed at Camp Jaqua, California, from which place the unit left July 10, 1864, on an Indian scout which lasted until October thirtieth. During that time, the company reported having killed and captured forty hostiles. These troops were engaged for eight months in active campaigning against Indians and marched a distance of nearly two thousand miles.

Company E was active in Indian warfare, and from February 1864 until October of the same year, the men were constantly operating against tribes of hostiles in Humboldt County, California. The third company which was sent to Humboldt County to aid in subduing the Indians was Company G. These troops left Benicia Barracks by steamer on February 15, 1864, traveling a distance of two hundred miles; and remained in that vicinity for several months.

General Wright was quite elated over the accomplishments of these companies during the period they were stationed in Humboldt County. In a letter to the Adjutant General of the United States Army, he praised Colonel Black's officers and men very highly in their untiring efforts to conquer the hostiles. The troops endured many hardships, traveling through rain and snow. The companies broke up in scouting parties and killed between twenty and thirty Indians and wounded many. The loss of the United States forces was small. Many of the principle Indian Chiefs surrendered and it was felt by Colonel Black that the Indian war would soon come to an end.

Companies A, B, F, H, I, and K of the Sixth Regiment of Infantry were located at two strategic points--Benicia Barracks and the Presidio, in order to protect the unguarded western.

SIXTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY (Continued)

Activities of the Sixth Regiment of Infantry: (Continued)

coast from Rebel invaders.

Company D was sent to Nevada, no doubt, to guard the Overland Mail Route, which was in constant danger of being attacked by the tribes of warring Indians. Captain John T. Hill from this company was tried and convicted of manslaughter during the first part of November 1865. The incident pertaining to his conviction is related as follows:\* "While on a march, Captain Hill and his men came upon the lifeless body of an Indian woman with a living child lying beside her. The Captain ordered his men to scalp the corpse and throw the child over a precipice. Finding that the fall of the child did not prove fatal, the troops were ordered by Captain Hill to stone the child to death. Contrary to the laws of today in meting out punishment for such crimes, the Captain received the sentence of dishonorable discharge from the service\*\* and imprisonment on Alcatraz Island (Government prison) for a period of one month."

The men of this regiment were kept on their respective duties until the Fall of 1865, when the terms of service had expired, and as a unit, were mustered out of the United States service.

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\*Sacramento Union-November 11, 1865, Page 4, Column 4.

\*\*General Orders #23-Headquarters Department of California, dated November 9, 1865.