

California and the War with Spain: 8th Infantry Regiment, California U.S. Volunteers, 1898

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EIGHTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

AND THE

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Reference: Muster Rolls of the Eighth Regiment of California
Volunteer Infantry, July 8, 1898 to February 6, 1899.

Regimental Headquarters:

Camp Barrett, Oakland July 8, 1898 to Sept. 10, 1898
Benicia Barracks, Solano County Sept. 10, 1898 to Feb. 6, 1899

Mustered in July 8, 1898

Mustered out February 6, 1899

Commanding Officers:

Park Henshaw, Colonel

(Mustered in July 8, 1898)

Frank de L. Carrington, Lieutenant-Colonel

(Mustered in July 8, 1898)

Albert K. Whitton, Major

(Mustered in July 8, 1898)

Edwin A. Forbes, Major

(Mustered in July 8, 1898)

George F. Shields, Major and Surgeon

(Appointed June 22, 1898)

(Promoted to Brigade Surgeon July 19, 1898)

Frank W. Dudley, Major Surgeon

(Mustered in July 19, 1898)

Oliver C. Miller, Captain and Chaplain

(Mustered in July 19, 1898)

David A. Smith, First Lieutenant and Adjutant

(Mustered in June 23, 1898)

(Promoted to Captain of Company B, Jan. 6, 1899)

Thomas H. Derby, First Lieutenant and Adjutant

(Appointed and Mustered in Jan. 16, 1899)

John D. Yost, First Lieutenant and Surgeon

(Mustered in June 22, 1898)

Frank W. Dudley, First Lieutenant and Surgeon

(Mustered in June 27, 1898)

(Mustered in as Major and Surgeon July 19, 1898)

Charles D. McGettigan, First Lieutenant and Assistant

Surgeon

(Appointed July 19, 1898)

Emanuel S. Heller, First Lieutenant and Quarter-

Master

(Mustered in June 29, 1898)

(Promoted to Captain Company C, Jan. 8, 1899)

Marion W. Pratt, First Lieutenant and Quarter-

Master

(Mustered in Jan. 16, 1899)

EIGHTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

AND THE

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Companies included in the Eighth Regiment of California Volunteer Infantry

Company A, Eighth Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Barrett, Oakland
July 7, 1898 to Sept. 10, 1898
Benicia Barracks, Solano County
Sept. 10, 1898 to Feb. 6, 1899

Mustered in July 7, 1898
Mustered out February 6, 1899

Commanding Officers:

John J. Cahill, Captain
(Mustered in July 7, 1898)
Lawrence A. Jackson, First Lieutenant
(Mustered in July 7, 1898)

Company B, Eighth Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Barrett, Oakland
July 6, 1898 to Sept. 10, 1898
Presidio, San Francisco
Sept. 10, 1898 to Feb. 2, 1899

Mustered in July 6, 1898
Mustered out February 2, 1899

Commanding Officers:

Herbert L. Partridge, Captain
(Mustered in July 7, 1898)
(Resigned Jan. 5, 1899)
David A. Smith, Captain
(Appointed Jan. 6, 1899)
Larue A. DeYoe, First Lieutenant
(Mustered in July 7, 1898)

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EIGHTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

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Companies included in the Eighth Regiment of California Volunteer Infantry
(Continued)

Company C, Eighth Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Barrett, Oakland
July 7, 1898 to Sept. 10, 1898
Fort Point, San Francisco
Sept. 10, 1898 to Oct. 31, 1898
Presidio, San Francisco
Oct. 31, 1898 to Feb. 2, 1899

Mustered in July 7, 1898
Mustered out February 2, 1899

Commanding Officers:

William S. Barnes, Captain
(Mustered in July 7, 1898)
(Resigned Jan. 7, 1899)
Emanuel S. Heller, Captain
(Appointed Jan. 8, 1899)
Morton W. Stockdale, First Lieutenant
(Mustered in July 8, 1898)

Company D, Eighth Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Barrett, Oakland
July 6, 1898 to Sept. 14, 1898
Vancouver Barracks, Washington
Sept. 16, 1898 to Jan. 31, 1899

Mustered in July 6, 1898
Mustered out January 31, 1899

Commanding Officers:

William Elliott, Captain
(Mustered in July 6, 1898)
Cyrus Knapp Megget, First Lieutenant
(Mustered in July 7, 1898)

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EIGHTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

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Companies included in the Eighth Regiment of California Volunteer Infantry
(Continued)

Company E, Eighth Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Barrett, Oakland
July 6, 1898 to Sept. 10, 1898
Fort Point, San Francisco
Sept. 10, 1898 to Oct. 31, 1898
Presidio, San Francisco
Oct. 31, 1898 to Feb. 2, 1899

Mustered in July 6, 1898
Mustered out February 2, 1899

Commanding Officers:

Charles E. Haven, Captain
(Mustered in July 6, 1898)
Charles H. Holmes, First Lieutenant
(Mustered in July 6, 1898)

Company F, Eighth Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Barrett, Oakland
July 7, 1898 to Sept. 10, 1898
Benicia Barracks, Solano County
Sept. 10, 1898 to Dec. 22, 1898
Angel Island, Marin County
Dec. 22, 1898 to Jan. 28, 1899

Mustered in July 7, 1898
Mustered out January 28, 1899

Commanding Officers:

Carl L. E. Wink, Captain
(Mustered in July 7, 1898)
William H. Cobbledick, First Lieutenant
(Mustered in July 7, 1898)

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EIGHTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

AND THE

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Companies included in the Eighth Regiment of California Volunteer Infantry
(Continued)

Company G, Eighth Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Barrett, Oakland
July 7, 1898 to Sept. 14, 1898
Vancouver Barracks, Washington
Sept. 16, 1898 to Jan. 31, 1899

Mustered in July 7, 1898
Mustered out January 31, 1899

Commanding Officers:

Milton W. Simpson, Captain
(Mustered in July 7, 1898)
George H. Wethern, First Lieutenant
(Mustered in July 7, 1898)

Company H, Eighth Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Barrett, Oakland
July 8, 1898 to Sept. 14, 1898
Vancouver Barracks, Washington
Sept. 16, 1898 to Jan 31, 1899

Mustered in July 8, 1898
Mustered out January 31, 1899

Commanding Officers:

Lemuel E. Lyon, Captain
(Mustered in July 8, 1898)
James G. Estep, First Lieutenant
(Mustered in July 8, 1898)

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EIGHTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

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Companies included in the Eighth Regiment of California Volunteer Infantry
(Continued)

Company I, Eighth Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Barrett, Oakland
July 7, 1898 to Sept. 14, 1898
Vancouver Barracks, Washington
Sept. 16, 1898 to Jan. 31, 1899

Mustered in July 7, 1898
Mustered out January 31, 1899

Commanding Officers:

Peter T. Riley, Captain
(Mustered in July 7, 1898)
John R. Tyrrell, First Lieutenant
(Mustered in July 11, 1898)

Company K, Eighth Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Barrett, Oakland
July 6, 1898 to Sept. 10, 1898
Benicia Barracks, Solano County
Sept. 10, 1898 to Feb. 6, 1899

Mustered in July 6, 1898
Mustered out February 6, 1899

Commanding Officers:

Howard Ford, Captain
(Mustered in July 6, 1898)
Thomas Rutledge, First Lieutenant
(Mustered in July 7, 1898)

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EIGHTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

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Companies included in the Eighth Regiment of California Volunteer Infantry
(Continued)

Company L, Eighth Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Barrett, Oakland
July 7, 1898 to Sept. 10, 1898
Benicia Barracks, Solano County
Sept. 10, 1898 to Dec. 22, 1898
Angel Island, Marin County
Dec. 22, 1898 to Jan. 28, 1899

Mustered in July 7, 1898
Mustered out January 28, 1899

Commanding Officers:

George H. Voss, Captain
(Mustered in July 7, 1898)
William E. Smith, First Lieutenant
(Mustered in July 11, 1898)

Company M, Eighth Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Camp Barrett, Oakland
July 9, 1898 to Sept. 10, 1898
Alcatraz Island, San Francisco
Sept. 10, 1898 to Jan. 28, 1899

Mustered in July 9, 1898
Mustered out January 28, 1899

Commanding Officers:

George B. Baldwin, Captain
(Mustered in July 9, 1898)
Jesse J. Adel, First Lieutenant
(Mustered in July 9, 1898)

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Activities of the Eighth Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers:

The Eighth Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry was composed of six companies from the Second Infantry and six companies from the Fifth Infantry, National Guard of California. After the selection of the companies comprising the regiment, the next step was to choose a camp site for the new organization. Several tracts of land were inspected by the officials in charge of the matter, and finally a suitable location was found at Fruitvale near Oakland. The camp was named Camp Barrett, in recognition of the assistance rendered by Adjutant General A. W. Barrett in arranging the numerous details involved in turning the California Guardsmen over to the United States under President McKinley's first and second calls for Volunteers.*

The companies composing the regiment commenced to arrive at Camp Barrett June twenty-eighth and by July third the entire regiment was assembled there. From the date of their arrival at Camp Barrett until they were mustered into the volunteer service, the troops were in that uncertain period of transition during which they were neither soldiers nor National Guardsmen.

During this period, aspirants for commissions in the new regiment besieged the offices of Governor Budd, and the string of applicants consisting of politicians and prominent citizens seeking appointment for themselves, their friends or members of their families seemed endless. It was stated that there were one thousand candidates for appointment as major, although there were only three commissions to be issued for that rank.**

Among company officers too, there was much apprehension. The officers who brought the companies to camp from the interior towns were uncertain as to just where they would stand when the final apportionment of officers was made.*** The wishes

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*San Francisco Examiner, June 26, 1898, page 36, column 6.

**San Francisco Examiner, June 23, 1898, page 3, column 6.

***San Francisco Examiner, July 3, 1898, page 22, column 3.

Activities of the Eighth Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers:

of all could not, of course, be gratified. Matters were eventually adjusted and those aspirants who failed to secure a commission could do naught but await another opportunity if there should be another.

Colonel Park Henshaw issued his first orders July third, fixing the routine of camp duty. The orders were as follows:*

"The hours of service and roll-call and regulations for the government of the camp are announced and will remain in force until further orders:

- 5:20 A.M. Reveille, first call for assembly of musicians
- 5:30 A.M. Reveille
- 5:35 A.M. Assembly and roll-call under arms. Officers will be present at the roll-call, and immediately thereafter the companies begin drilling in the manual of arms in the company street. Recruits will be drilled in the school of the soldier without arms.
- 6:00 A.M. Breakfast call. Immediately after breakfast each company will thoroughly police the streets and about its own tents, and tents will be placed in order.
- 7:00 A.M. Surgeon's call
- 7:00 A.M. Fatigue call
- 8:00 A.M. Company drill, first call.
- 8:10 A.M. Assembly
- 9:10 A.M. Recall. Recruits will be drilled in the school of the soldier without arms.
- 9:40 A.M. Battalion drill, first call.

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*San Francisco Examiner, July 4, 1898, page 7, column 3.

Activities of the Eighth Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers:

9:50 A.M.	Assembly
10:50 A.M.	Recall
11:00 A.M.	Inspection of camp by surgeons
11:20 A.M.	Inspection of tents
11:45 A.M.	First sergeant's call
12:00 A.M.	Dinner call
1:00 P.M.	Drill for recruits, first call
1:10 P.M.	Assembly
2:10 P.M.	Recall
4:30 P.M.	Guard mounting, first call
4:40 P.M.	Assembly of guard details
4:50 P.M.	Adjutant's call
5:35 P.M.	Retreat roll-call
5:45 P.M.	Assembly
6:00 P.M.	Supper
9:30 P.M.	Tattoo
10:00 P.M.	Taps

All officers are required to thoroughly inform themselves upon all the ceremony of guard mounting. Non-commissioned officers' schools will be held in each company at an hour not to conflict with other duties, and always under the charge of a commissioned officer."

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Activities of the Eighth Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers:

On July fifth rumors began to circulate at Camp Barrett that when official commissions for the officers of the new regiment should be issued, there would be several changes among the captains and lieutenants of the twelve companies of the National Guard which had been assembled to form the Eighth Regiment of California Volunteers. The utmost reticence was observed at headquarters with reference to contemplated changes. The only information obtainable on that subject was that any changes that might be made, would be for good and sufficient causes, and absolutely necessary for the efficiency of the companies and for the general excellence of the regiment as a whole. Every effort was made at headquarters to keep the contemplated changes secret until the Governor's official order was issued. Rumor had it that the men of the companies in which captains and lieutenants should be changed would object emphatically to losing their old officers and would in all probability refuse to be mustered into the new regiment.

Following these rumors, Camp Barrett was in a state of unrest. The examinations were concluded and the men were ready to be mustered in. Every one was waiting for the appointments that Governor Budd would make, as Captain Murray, the United States mustering officer, refused to muster in a single private until the officers had been named. The company commanders were all anxious to be appointed and mustered into the United States service, and it was the anticipation of changes that caused all the trouble. There were some threats among the men that if their old officers were not permitted to lead them, they would not enlist. They were still private citizens and the fact that they had passed the physical examination did not give any one the power to force them to go any farther in the process.*

On July sixth, it became known that Governor Budd had dropped from the rolls, eleven of the thirty-six line officers of the Eighth Regiment, and in their places had appointed three new captains, three new First Lieutenants and four new Second Lieutenants. The announcement of the changes added to the excitement at Camp Barrett and some of the men announced definitely that they would decline to take the oath unless their

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*San Francisco Examiner, July 6, 1898, page 4, column 1.

old officers were retained. Governor Budd insisted that every new appointment made by him was for a good cause.*

The two captains dropped by the Governor were J. J. Ward, Captain of Company F at Woodland, and W. E. Smith, Captain of Company H at Redding, both of the Second Regiment of Infantry, National Guard of California. Some of the men dropped did not choose to enter the volunteer service as privates, thereby creating several vacancies.

July seventh was a day of revolt at Camp Barrett. Dissatisfaction was general among the men and some left the companies because their friends were deprived of places. Company F of Woodland refused to be mustered in because Captain Ward was not appointed to command them.** Company H of Redding at first said they would not muster in. Strong efforts were made to induce them to change their attitude; they wavered, and finally when the promise was made that their Captain, W. E. Smith should be given a commission as First Lieutenant somewhere in the regiment, they agreed to muster in.

Officers labored long and patiently with the Woodland Company to induce the men to change their minds, but the cause was hopeless. The boys were determined, and stated almost to a man that they would go home unless they could muster in under Captain Ward. The Governor maintained that his action in withholding a commission from Captain Ward was for good cause. He stated further that Ward was negligent in the performance of the duties pertaining to company matters. Governor Budd produced a letter bearing the signature of Adjutant-General Barrett stating that Captain Ward had failed to file in the Adjutant-General's office, the bond required by law from the commanding officer of each company of the National Guard.***

The allegations of the Governor and Adjutant-General were publicly denied by Captain Ward and Lieutenant Marden of the Woodland Company. Lieutenant Marden stated further that the missing bond of Captain Ward had been found in Adjutant-General Barrett's office in a pigeon hole where it had lain overlooked for several days.****

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*San Francisco Examiner, July 7, 1898, page 7, column 1.

**San Francisco Examiner, July 8, 1898, page 7, column 1.

***San Francisco Examiner, July 8, 1898, page 7, column 1.

****San Francisco Examiner, July 9, 1898, page 8, column 1.

Activities of the Eighth Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers

The Woodland men, headed by Captain Ward and Second Lieutenant Grant Warden marched out of Camp Barrett July eighth. About twenty of the men enlisted in other companies of the volunteer forces and the others returned to their homes in Woodland. First Lieutenant C. C. Peart and seven privates of Company F remained at Camp Barrett to be detailed to other companies. Lieutenant Peart was subsequently commissioned as First Lieutenant in the Volunteer Forces by Governor Budd.* Company F of Woodland was, on the thirtieth of July, 1898, disbanded and mustered out of the service of the State "for good and sufficient cause."**

The excitement over the revolt of the Woodland Company soon subsided and attention was directed to the selection of a volunteer company as a substitute for Company F. Governor Budd and Adjutant-General Barrett received many messages from company commanders throughout the State, proffering the services of their commands to fill the vacancy. For a time it was the general belief that Company F of the Sixth Regiment, U. S. A. of Fresno would be given the place, but on July eighth messages from Camp Barrett urging the Governor to have the new company at the Camp the following day, killed the chance of the Fresno men. That company needed four days to assemble.

J. J. Adel of San Jose wired the Governor that he had 240 men to select from all anxious to join the new regiment, and could report at Camp Merritt on twelve hour's notice. The Governor immediately wired acceptance of the offer from San Jose and instructions to Captain George Baldwin to go to San Jose and select 120 men from the 240 who had offered their services and to have them at Camp Barrett by noon July ninth.

The San Jose Volunteers arrived at Camp before noon on the ninth, the medical examinations hurried through, and the company was mustered in as Company M of the Eighth Infantry Regiment at sunset that day. Captain Baldwin was placed in command of the new company and J. J. Adel of San Jose was appointed First Lieutenant.***

The mustering in ceremonies completed, the men of the Eighth Regiment were placed under strict military regulations. The camp was closed to visitors, except in cases where hardship might be worked, and pass regulations provided that not more than ten men from each company should be permitted to leave camp each day.****

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*San Francisco Examiner, July 9, 1898, page 8, column 1.

**Adjutant General Report, 1896-1898, General Order No. 4, page 119.

***San Francisco Examiner, July 9, page 8, column 1; and San Francisco Examiner, July 10, 1898, page 22, column 6.

****San Francisco Examiner, July 12, 1898, page 7, column 3.

Activities of the Eighth Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers

Active drilling commenced immediately at Camp Barrett and the men worked as faithfully as though they were about to depart for overseas duty. The officers and men of the Eighth had in fact hoped and expected to be sent overseas, and keen rivalry existed between the Seventh and Eighth Volunteer Regiments as to which of them would receive the first call for overseas service. Drill in extended order, reconnoissance, map making and other instruction was given the men at Camp Merritt.*

On the sixth of September, orders were received from the Secretary of War that the Companies of the Eighth California Volunteer Infantry be stationed at four different points for garrison duty. In compliance with this order Colonel Henshaw, Field, Staff and Band, and Companies A, F, K and L, took station at Benicia Barracks September tenth. Major A. K. Whitton and Companies B, C and E took station at the Presidio, San Francisco. Captain G. B. Baldwin with Company M moved to Alcatraz Island. In compliance with an order dated September 13, 1898, Lieutenant Colonel F. de L. Carrington with Companies D, G, H and I proceeded by rail to Vancouver Barracks, Washington.**

At Benicia Barracks, on the sixteenth of November, eight members of Company K to whom passes had been issued failed to return to camp. Captain Howard Ford supposed that the men had started for their homes at Colusa and he set out in search of them. Northbound trains through Davisville and Woodland were interrupted and the men were captured. The soldiers explained that they had not deserted, but having been denied furloughs, they decided to disappear for a few days because of what they claimed was unfair treatment accorded them at Benicia.***

Companies F and L were, on December 22, 1898, transferred from Benicia Barracks to Angel Island where they remained until mustered out of the service. The other companies of the regiment remained at the posts assigned to them September tenth, until they were also mustered out of the service. While at these stations the several companies performed garrison duty and other duties usually performed at military posts.****

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*Muster Roll, Field and Staff, Eighth Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers on file in Adjutant General's Office.

**San Francisco Examiner, Sept. 10, 1898, page 4, column 5.

***San Francisco Examiner, Nov. 18, 1898, page 12, column 3.

****Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.

Activities of the Eighth Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers

On the fifth of January, 1899, orders were issued for the mustering out of the Eighth Regiment of California Volunteers. The muster out began January 28, 1899, when Companies F, L, and M were mustered out of the service at Angel Island and Alcatraz Island. Companies D, G, H, and I were mustered out at Vancouver Barracks, Washington on the thirty-first of January 1899. Companies B, C, and E were mustered out at the Presidio, San Francisco, February second and Companies A and K were mustered out at Benicia Barracks February sixth.*

Ten companies of the Eighth Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers, took advantage of the act of the State Legislature approved March 21, 1899, giving the companies and members of the National Guard of California who were mustered into the service of the United States and subsequently discharged therefrom, the privilege of reporting back and returning to duty in the National Guard.

The following companies of the Eighth Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers, reported for duty under the new law:

Companies A, E, and F reported back to the National Guard May 4, 1899; Company D reported May tenth; Company B, May 12; Company G, May 15; and company L, May 16; Company C reported June 10; Company K reported June 14; and Company I reported June 30.** Company M was not a member of the National Guard. Company H of Redding failed to report for duty in the National Guard within the time specified and was disbanded and mustered out of the service of the State of California on the fifth of July, 1899.***

The ten companies of the Eighth Regiment of California Volunteer Infantry, having reported for duty as stated above within the time specified by law, received full credit for continuous service in the National Guard of California from the time they were mustered into the United States service until they reported back for duty in the Guard.****

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*Company Muster Out Rolls on file in Adjutant-General's Office.

**Adjutant General Report, 1899-1900, General Orders Nos. 6 and 7, pages 58 and 64.

***Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 7, page 64.