

The Girls of Company Z

In the late 1800s, high schools started to teach their students military tactics, mirroring the land grant colleges that were required to by the Morrill Act of 1862. Since the act did not specify anything regarding gender, a group of girls attending Omaha Central High School decided to form their own drill team, called Company Z. The auxiliary drill team was formed in 1896 with the mission that "girls could learn to drill like boys". With only a five-year run of the company, the team was disbanded by the new Principal Waterhouse in 1899. Waterhouse cited that "snobbish-ness was being cultivated" and ordered the girls to open the team for all girls wanting to join or be disbanded. It is currently speculated whether there was a "snobbish" attitude around Company Z, or Principal Waterhouse just took issue with a girls drill team.



Primary Source

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn99021999/1899-10-19/ed-1/seq-5/#date1=1777&index=19&rows=20&words=Company+girl+Z&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=&date2=1963&proxtext=company+z+girls+&y=0&x=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

Secondary Source

<https://history.nebraska.gov/blog/girls-company-z>