

History of the Troop A (former First California Guard), 1st Squadron of Cavalry, National Guard of California 1917

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Troop A, First Squadron of Cavalry (formerly First California Guard)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized July 27, 1849

Reorganized June 1, 1881*

Redesignated May 5, 1885**

Redesignated June 14, 1893***

Reconstituted June 23, 1895****

Assigned August 15, 1905*****

Mustered out January 8, 1907*****

Reorganized, mustered in, and Stationed Bakersfield March 4, 1911+

Reconstituted May 1, 1911++

Mustered into Federal Service June 26, 1916+++

Mustered out of Federal Service November 17, 1916++++

Resumption of Service in the National Guard 1916+++++

Mustered into Federal Service August 24, 1917+++++

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*Troop A, First Squadron of Cavalry, formerly First California Guard (Light Battery A) redesignated Company B, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade June 1, 1881.

Adjutant General Report 1881-1882. General Order No. 11, par. 6, page 81.

**Company B, Second Artillery Regiment redesignated Company A, Second Artillery Regiment May 5, 1885.

Adjutant General Report 1885-1886. Special Order No. 25, page 113.

***Company A, Second Artillery Regiment, detached from Second Artillery and redesignated Battery A Light Artillery unattached, June 14, 1893.

Adjutant General Report 1893-1894. General Order No. 7, par. 2, page 96.

****Battery A Light Artillery redesignated Troop A Cavalry, Second Brigade July 23, 1895.

Adjutant General Report 1895-1896.

General Order No. 11, page 76.

*****Troop A Cavalry, Second Brigade was assigned to the First Squadron of Cavalry and redesignated Troop A, First Squadron of Cavalry, August 15, 1905.

Adjutant General Report 1906, page 3.

***Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 3.

++A new company organized in Bakersfield and designated Troop A Cavalry First Brigade March 4, 1911. General and Special Orders and Circulars 1911. General Order No. 6, par. 6.

++Troop A Cavalry redesignated Troop A, First Squadron of Cavalry May 1, 1911. General and Special Orders and Circulars 1911.

Special Order No. 5, page 3.

+++Troop A as part of the First Squadron of Cavalry was mustered into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican border June 26, 1916.

Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 16.

++++Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 16.

++++General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916. General Order No. 34, page 150.

++++Troop A, First Squadron Cavalry mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War August 22, 1917. Muster Roll, Troop A, First Squadron Cavalry August, 1917.

Adjutant General Files. (Troop A, served as a unit of 145th Machine Gun Battalion, 40th Division, during the World War.)

TROOP A (Continued)

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
R. C. Greeninger, Capt.	June 28, 1905	Aug. 12, 1905
E. H. Carr, First Lieut.	June 27, 1904	Aug. 11, 1904
Alvin E. Morgan, Capt. (died Feb. 20, 1913)	Mar. 4, 1911	Mar. 31, 1911
C. W. Robinson, Capt.	Mar. 27, 1913	May 1, 1913
A. M. Barton, First Lieut. (resigned May 17, 1912)	Mar. 4, 1911	Mar. 31, 1911
H. W. Klipstein, First Lieut.	June 6, 1912	July 22, 1912
H. W. Klipstein, Capt.	Oct. 22, 1914	Nov. 21, 1914
C. S. Curran, First Lieut. (resigned Sept. 7, 1915)	Oct. 22, 1914	Nov. 21, 1914
W. C. Bush, First Lieut.	Sept. 23, 1915	Nov. 1, 1915
W. C. Bush, Capt.	May 4, 1916	June 19, 1916
E. L. Burns, First Lieut.	May 4, 1916	June 19, 1916

Activities:

Troop A, First Squadron of Cavalry stationed in San Francisco was formerly Troop A unattached Second Brigade. On August 15, 1905 in accordance with the provisions of Sections 1927 and 1933 of the Political Code Troops A, B, C and D Cavalry were organized into a squadron known and designated as the First Squadron of Cavalry with Troop A retaining the same designating letter.

Eight months after Troop A's reorganization they were called out for their first emergency duty when on April 18, 1906, a severe earthquake and fire laid most of the city of San Francisco in ruins. Troop A lost their armory by fire and the members moved to 5th Street between Mission and Market where they camped from April eighteen to twenty-first. On April twenty-second Troop A reported to Major Samuel Kay, commander of the First Squadron of Cavalry for emergency duty. On April twenty-second the Squadron received orders to take command of the Fourth National Guard District lying west of Valencia Street from 22th to 30th and between 30th and V Avenue on the south and Golden Gate Park on the north. The Troops proceeded to Valencia Street between 23rd and 24th and established camp in a vacant lot. Owing to a lack of wagon transportation and other difficulties camp was not established until after retreat.

The men being very tired and location of district not thoroughly known, patrols were not sent out until Monday morning April twenty-third at eight A.M. Owing to the large district the Squadron had to patrol and the small number of troops it was necessary to send

TROOP A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

one full troop at a time to be on duty four hours and off duty eight hours. Troop B commanded by Captain O. J. Baden relieved Troop C at twelve noon. Troop A command by Captain R. C. Greeinger relieved Troop B at four P.M. This routine was carried on during their stay in this district. While stationed there, the guards procured a few horses and after April twenty-fourth the district was patrolled by mounted guards. Troop A continued to patrol various districts in San Francisco until May 31, 1906, when they were dismissed.

Following the earthquake Troop A was unable to maintain the standard of efficiency required by the War Department and on January 8, 1907, the troop was mustered out of the service of the State. Four years later on March 4, 1911, a military company organized in Bakersfield, Kern County, was mustered into States Service and designated Troop A Cavalry, First Brigade, under command of Captain A. E. Morgan.

A ceremony was held at the armory in Bakersfield on March 4, 1911, when Troop A was formerly mustered into service by Major Samuel Kay. The ceremony, brief, but interesting, was witnessed by a large gathering of the members of the cavalry troop. After the roll was called the following officers of the company were elected: Captain A. E. Morgan, First Lieutenant A. D. Barton, Second Lieutenant H. W. Klipstein.

Captain Morgan, Major Matlack, Lieutenant-Colonel Criles, Major Kay, H. F. Condict, Captain Beer, Lieutenant A. F. Nagle and Lieutenant's Barton and Klipstein made short addresses lauding the new organization. Captain Morgan announced the appointment of private Lewis as First Sergeant. The non-commissioned officers would be appointed from time to time until the full quota was completed. Troop A in personnel and enthusiasm was a fine body of young men, and out of sixty-eight examined for physical defects sixty-six were sworn into service. All the speakers complimented the officers and enlisted men of the troop. After the troop had been mustered in the floor was cleared and dancing was indulged in.*

Troop A in order to increase their military efficiency attended several encampments. From August 11 to 21, 1912, Troop A participated in the war maneuvers in conjunction with the United States Army troops in the vicinity south of San Francisco. The activities

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*Morning Echo May 5, 1911, page 1, column 4.

Troop A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

of Troop A who together with Troop B were attached to the Blue forces of the United States Army during the encampment were as follows:

August 13 Squadron drilling and patrolling.

August 14 Field Order No. 1 received, ordering entire Brigade to proceed to Colma. Left Presidio at 8:00 A.M. arriving at Colma 2:30 P.M. where they went into camp. At 5:00 P.M. First Squadron of Cavalry received orders to proceed south as far as Milbrae as soon as possible at which place they would receive further orders. Troops A and B detachment of Hospital Corps, and one section from Company E United States Signal Corps left Colma without wagons at 6:45 PM. arriving at Milbrae a distance of 9 miles at 9:10 P.M. Reported by wireless their arrival to Brigade Headquarters at Colma, pitched shelter tent camp for the night and established outposts on principal highways. At 10:30 P.M. received instructions to proceed southwest in the morning of August fifteenth reconnoitering Half Moon Bay and vicinity, hostile ships having been seen in that locality, and ascertain if hostile troops had landed.

August 15 Broke camp at Milbrae at 7:00 A.M. marched to cross road on saddle between South Peak and Scarper Peak arriving there at 9:50 A.M. Wireless station established, patrols of one officer and three enlisted men were dispatched as follows, one down Dennison Creek road, and one down road extending south and parallel to Lock Creek all with instructions to carefully observe Bay and vicinity for hostile ships or forces; weather slightly foggy; wireless messages sent to Brigade Headquarters reporting conditions

TROOP A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

and disposition of patrols. Written messages were received from each patrol by mounted courier stating "No hostile ships or troops sighted". Last patrol reported back to camp at 12:45 P.M. Message reporting conditions prepared to send to Brigade Headquarters, but the Brigade station having been closed it was not sent. Squadron left observation point at 1:00 P.M. pursuant to orders previously received, and returned to Milbrae where the Brigade had gone into camp, reporting to the Brigade Adjutant at 3:30 P.M. Cavalry then went into camp for the night.

August 16

Cavalry received orders to push forward to the support of the Twelfth United States Infantry at San Juan. One wireless section from Company B Signal Corps National Guard of California attached; broke camp at 6:45 A.M. and with Troop B acting as Advance Guard marched to Old Mountain View arriving there at 3 P.M., encamped for night, reported to Brigade by wireless. Several horses being in bad condition, telegram was sent to Adjutant General at Coyote requesting service of a veterinarian to meet Squadron at San Jose 10:00 A.M. August seventeenth.

August 17

Broke camp at 7:00 A.M. with Troop A as advance guard proceeded along County Road to Coyote, stopped for feed and water three and one half miles south of San Jose at which place veterinarian Hill reported and treated several lame horses. Arrived at Coyote at 2:20 P.M. Captain R. J. Faneuf, commanding Battery B, National Guard of California reported, and entire command went into camp, reporting by wireless to Brigade Headquarters at 2:30 P.M. Outposts were established on all commanding elevations and roads and maintained during the night. At 10:00 P.M. orders were received from Brigade Headquarters to proceed the next morning to

TROOP A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Morgan Hill and report to Colonel Bowen in command of the Twelfth United States Infantry.

August 18

Left camp at Coyote 7:00 A.M. arrived at Morgan Hill 9:00 A.M. Battery B National Guard of California, cavalry escort wagons and wireless section went into camp immediately north of town and Troop A and B with Hospital Corps pressed south to bridge held by Twelfth United States Infantry. Major Samuel Kay, Squadron Commander reported to Colonel Bowen and received orders to march south along the county road a distance of four or five miles, driving back or capturing hostile patrols reported in that direction then return reconnoitering east and west of road as far as the foot hills to camp at Morgan Hill. No hostile patrols were encountered, cavalry arrived at camp at 5:00 P.M. Reconnoitered same territory 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. without incident.

August 19

Information received that "Red Army" was approaching Morgan Hill from the direction of Gilroy. Cavalry left camp at 6:00 A.M. with orders to protect left flank and reconnoiter foot hills; 9:00 A.M. received orders to patrol west of Morgan Hill, advance guard came in contact with hostile troops at head of Pleasant Valley taking the Colonel Adjutant and an orderly of the Fifth Infantry National Guard of California prisoners; 10:15 A.M. orders were received by motorcycle messenger to return to Coyote reconnoitering Summit Road. At 11:30 A.M. the advance guard captured the Lieutenant Colonel and two mounted scouts of the Fifth Infantry National Guard of California. No other hostile troops

TROOP A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

were seen and the cavalry returned to Coyote via Swamp Road arriving at 5:00 P.M. Escort wagons had returned direct from Morgan Hill, and under direction of Quartermaster-Commissary had established camp.

August 20

"Red Army" was reported advancing on Coyote and encounter was expected. Troops were ordered to take assigned positions in field at 5:00 A.M. Troop A proceeded along main road to south and gained contact with the enemy approaching from direction of Morgan Hill reporting to Brigade Commander their strength and position. Troop A performed the duties assigned and incidentally captured six mounted scouts. The cavalry advance came in contact with the enemy on the divide crossed by the road leading west from Coyote and about seven miles distance therefrom. It was learned from a mounted scout captured by the advance party that they had come in contact with the "Red" Cavalry supported by the Seventh Infantry National Guard of California of the Red Army which information was immediately reported to Brigade Commander. This position was maintained for approximately thirty minutes but as the line of Red Infantry gained the crest of the hill, Troops A and B gradually retired and made a detour to the right and rear, around the hill, to observe and if possible obstruct any further flanking movement. At 2:30 P.M. the "Red" Cavalry were seen dismounted making their way up a long steep slope to the northeast of the position held by Troops A and B. In ascending this slope the Red Cavalry was open to the troops fire for about twenty minutes. At this time Recall was sounded and the troops returned to Coyote where they went into joint camp.

August 21

Troop A returned to their home station in Bakersfield.

TROOP A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

From October 5 to 9, 1915, Troop A attended the camp for discipline and instruction of the First Squadron of Cavalry at Fort Winfield Scott.

In the target practice that was required to be held once each year, Troop A was below the average in the number of qualified men. In 1912 the troop had eight qualified men with the revolver and six with the rifle. In 1913 Troop A had twenty-three qualified men with the revolver and thirteen with the rifle. In 1914 they had ten qualified riflemen and fifteen in 1915.

State militiamen in Bakersfield were excited during the month of March 1910 over the current rumor that the National Guard would be called to fill the vacancies at army posts vacated by the regulars who had been ordered to the Mexican border. All the men were anxiously looking forward to the receipt of such orders, as a majority of the cavalymen were anxious to have a try at living in an army post under regular army regulations. Numerous telegrams had been received by Captain Morgan of Troop A, relative to the sending of local militia officers to the Mexican border to fill the vacancies in the regular army staffs. However nothing definite was learned by any of those concerned.* The rumors proved to be unfounded as no National Guard company or officer was transferred from their home stations.

The possibility that California National Guard companies would be sent to the Mexican border was directly responsible for the military companies of the State being equiped to their full strength. Captain A. E. Morgan of Troop A on April 13, 1911, was informed by the Adjutant-General that full equipment for the troop would be shipped from Sacramento within a week and when the announcement was made to the troopers much interest was shown. The equipment for the troop would consist of dress and service uniforms, arms, and horse equipment and a full camp outfit for each man. Troop A at this time had a membership of sixty-seven men and was in good condition. A great deal of interest was manifested in the drilling of the troop by all the members. Captain Morgan was anxious to add about fifteen or twenty more men to the troop. As soon as the uniforms arrived Troop A was to give a grand ball at the armory at which they would wear their new regalia for the first time.**

On May 1, 1911, Headquarters First Squadron of Cavalry that had been discontinued in 1908 was mustered back into service and Troop A Cavalry was redesignated Troop A, First Squadron of Cavalry.

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*Morning Echo March 11, 1911, page 1, column 2.

**Morning Echo April 14, 1911, page 1, column 1.

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TROOP A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

With the exception of rifles and revolvers and a few kitchen necessities, full equipment for Troop A was received from Sacramento May 16, 1911, and all the troopers were well pleased with the new equipment. Among the paraphernalia were uniforms for 120 men, dress uniforms for 75 men, equipment for 50 horses, sabers, tents, camp outfits and other accoutrements. The new uniforms were to be worn for the first time by the cavalrymen Sunday, May twenty-eighth when the troopers attended church as an escort of honor for the Grand Army of the Republic, and they would march to the Union cemetery for the decoration exercises Tuesday May thirtieth.*

Troop A on May 30, 1911, participated in the Memorial Day exercises in Bakersfield. With the military organizations and the Spanish War Veterans the procession was quite an extended one, and the only thing lacking to complete it was a band of music. At an early hour in the day, the armory was a scene of military activity. Troop A in their handsome dress uniforms, marched to St Paul's Guild Hall, the headquarters of the Grand Army, and escorted the veterans to the armory where the procession was formed by Lieutenant-Colonel A. S. Crites of the Second Infantry. Company L, Second Infantry in command of Captain A. F. Nagle had the right to the line and was followed by Troop A in command of Captain A. E. Morgan. Both organizations were well represented in line and more than ordinary interest was taken in the cavalry organization, as it was its first public appearance.**

More than one hundred couples took part in the military ball given by Troop A on June 8, 1911, which was one of the foremost social events of the season. The grand march which was led by Assemblyman and Mrs F. H. Hall, presented a very attractive appearance. Following Mr and Mrs Hall were Captain A. E. Morgan of Troop A and Mrs Morgan, and other officers of the troop and their ladies according to their rank, and members of Company L, Second Infantry. The hall was profusely decorated with flags, cavalry sabers and streamers which attracted a great deal of comment from the large crowd.***

Troop A from August 12 to 13, 1911, participated in a practice march to Kern River Canyon under the command of Captain A. E. Morgan. Troop A numbering thirty men, mounted, left the armory

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*Morning Echo May 17, 1911, page 1, column 3.

**Morning Echo May 31, 1911, page 1, column 1.

***Morning Echo June 9, 1911, page 1, column 4.

in Bakersfield for the Canyon at 8:20 P.M. August 12, 1911, in heavy marching order. The problem for the night attack was to force a way through the enemy lines with relief for a detachment of infantry surrounded by the enemy in the canyon. The scouts preceeding the advance guard drew the enemies fire one half mile west of Cottonwood Creek. Mounted flanking parties were sent to the right and left. At the command "Fight on Foot" the troop was deployed forward ar double time as skirmishers. The enemy on the hill on the right were driven in by the flanking detachment. The mounted detachment sent out to protect the left flank were ambushed and counted out. The main body advancing by rushes gained the bank of Cottonwood Creek. The blowing of "Recall" ended the engagement.

The troop reached camp at 1:20 P.M. the morning of the thirteenth. The picket line was stretched, the horses unsaddled and fed in fifteen minutes. Guards were posted and relieved every hour during the night.

The problem for August thirteenth was as follows:

"Instructions from the umpire were to find the location and strength of "Blue" forces reported advancing from the south. Troop A represented a Squadron supported by Company L, Second Infantry representing a battalion."

The Cavalry was thrown out in front toward Cottonwood Creek scouting the hill to the east. Contact was gained with the enemy on the hill to the east. Skirmishers were thrown up the hill on the left flank of the "Blue" forces while, the main body making a detour through the hills to the south, succeeding in turning the right flank of the "Blue" forces. The "Blue forces were represented by Second Lieutenant H. W. Klipstein and four troopers mounted. The information required by the umpire was forwarded through him from time to time by mounted troopers. Much valuable experience was gained by the men in this action in scouting and extended order. The return trip to Bakersfield was accomplished safely with the exception of one minor accident. Trooper C. L. Campbell being thrown and pinned under his horse. He was shaken up, but not seriously injured. The fall was due to his horse stepping in a hole while galloping.

Troop A was to be the host at a watermelon feast at the armory August 17, 1911, while the members of Company L, Second Infantry rifle squad were to be the guests, the cavalrymen having been defeated by the infantrymen in a rifle shoot by a score 630 to 548. The ranges were 200, 300 and 500 yards. Each Guardsmen was allowed 10 shots at each range, a perfect score for each 5 shots counted 50. Sergeant Kent of Company L scored the highest mark, making 122 points out of a possible 150. Sergeant Elkins of Company L and Sergeant Tilton of Troop A, tied for Second place with 115 points. The contest was witnessed by a large crowd of interested spectators and took place on the East Bakersfield range.*

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*Morning Echo August 9, 1911, page 1, column 7.

TROOP A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

The account of the mimic battle by Troop A in Kern River Canyon August 13, 1911, accurate and circumstantial in all other respects, omitted to note the rather sensational fact that Lieutenant Henry Klipstein of Troop A was "killed" three times. What made the incident even more horrifying was that one time Klipstein was killed he represented a troop of cavalry, another time he represented a battery of light artillery, and a third time he personated a whole company of infantry. Every time he was slaughtered, massacred and wiped out, not a man, a horse or a gun of him remained. It out-classed Thermoplae in the way of slaughter or was even worse than the Alamo, for the Alamo only happened once and the destruction of Lieutenant Klipstein happened over and over, three times in one day. It all happened because the trooper's dash and daring got the better of the prudence. He led himself with such abandon and disregard for danger that all three times he was cut off from help or succor, and even the umpire wept technical tears as he saw the great rents technically torn in Klipstein's technical ranks.*

Troop A carried off the silver cup at the rifle range September 11, 1911, defeating Company L, Second Infantry by a score of 317 points to 292. The match was a spirited one, and the marksmen from Company L asserted they would get even at the October shoot. The team that won the cup three times in succession retained it as a permanent trophy. Sergeant J. R. Gore of Troop A, broke all records by making 24 points out of a possible 25 to 800 yards, and 24 out of 25 at 1000 yards.**

Troop A was to have its first annual inspection Thursday evening October 26, 1911. The squadron commander, Major Samuel Kay, was to be the inspecting officer and the troopers were working overtime getting into shape. Captain Morgan expected to surprise the inspecting officer by the showing the troop would make. Although only in service since March 4, 1911. Troop A showed the effect of careful training and had gained an efficiency that many older organizations might envy.***

Through a misunderstanding an unpleasant conflict arose Thursday night October 26, 1911, at armory hall, over who had the right of way, Troop A or a dog show. Captain Morgan of Troop A locked the man who was in charge of the dog show, out of hall and threatened to rip up all the benches prepared for the show and throw them out into the street. Troop A needed every inch of room because the unit was to be officially inspected by Major Kay, but Superintendent A. L. Stuart of the dog

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*Morning Echo August 16, 1911, page 3, column 5.

**Morning Echo September 12, 1911, page 6, column 4.

***Morning Echo October 18, 1911, page 1, column 1.

TROOP A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

show had a duly executed lease of the premises which was signed by the officers of Company L, Second Infantry. When Captain Nagle of Company L made it he did not know about the official inspection. Superintendent Stuart started off to get an injunction or some kind of a court order that would let him go ahead with his preparations for the show when he ran into H. C. Katze, who at once acted as mediator. A compromise was soon reached. The troop confined itself to what floor space was left and work on the unfinished benches was suspended until after the inspection.*

At Troop A's first annual field day held at Recreation Park, January 1, 1912, one horse was killed and five riders miraculously escaped death or serious injury when their horses fell under them on a slippery track, furnishing an excess of thrills. Gray Ghost, the property of Joseph Werringer, was the horse killed, and troopers Babe McKinly, Charles and Arthur Curran, Kent Knowlton and Fred Lazarus a stalbeman from Stockdale riding one of W. S. Tevis horses, were the riders who came to earth. The latter being the only rider that was not injured to any great degree. His ankle was sprained but not seriously.

Charles Curran riding St Elmo, furnished the first big sensation of the day. It was in the first hurdle race and the rangy bay looked like a possible winner, although he was not jumping nearly so well as General Lee and Virginian when he bolted the track and ran broadside into wire that guyed a telephone pole, turned completely over in the air, and landed on his side. Curran threw himself free from the horse and landed in a soft place. He was a second longer in getting to his feet than the horse, but he ran nimbly toward the grand stand before the crowd that started towards him had gone a dozen yards. Curran declared he was not hurt, and the horse was only slightly burned where the wire caught him.

With these accidents to give it the sep of undoubted danger the field day was a most successful affair in all respects. Troop A made an excellent showing in all the drills, and even the Grand Army veterans who viewed the work with critical eyes from the railing in the front of their autos, said that the troopers did remarkably well for a bunch of raw recruits with green horses. To less professional observers the troopers seemed an exceptionally fine lot of well set up horsemen with no qualifying phrases needed in acknowledging their fine work. Under the command of Captain A. E. Morgan the program went off with no waits between events and with genuine military precision.**

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*Morning Echo October 27, 1911, page 2, column 4.

**Morning Echo January 2, 1912, page 1, column 5.

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TROOP A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

On January 9, 1912, Lieutenant A. B. Dockery of the Fifth United States Cavalry, detailed as cavalry instructor for the state militia of Calif. and Oregon with headquarters in Sacramento, gave a general instruction address at the regular weekly drill of Troop A in their armory at Bakersfield. Upon the conclusion of the drill, Lieutenant Dockery expressed himself as favorably impressed with the work of the local troopers. Lieutenant Dockery was making a tour of inspection of the various troops of California Cavalry in the cities and towns of the State. He arrived in Bakersfield from Fresno on the morning of January ninth, and left for Los Angeles that night after inspecting Troop A. The Inspector was to again visit Bakersfield in March to be present at the annual cavalry inspection by the officers of the militia.*

In view of the continued turbulence in Mexico and the recent frequent clashes of the belligerents with non-combatant Americans along the border between the two countries, Captain Morgan of Troop A stated on March 8, 1912, that he would not be surprised were he to receive orders from headquarters to prepare Troop A for actual service. Upon his recent visit to Bakersfield Adjutant-General E. A. Forbes directed Captain Morgan to ascertain how quickly he could secure the necessary horses and be prepared to leave Bakersfield with his command.** Fortunately it did not become necessary for Troop A to leave Bakersfield.

The first annual inspection of Troop A was conducted on the night of March 12, 1912, at the armory by Major S. W. Kay, commanding officer of the cavalry division of the militia, and Lieutenant A. B. Dockery, Fifth United States Cavalry, instructor of the militia organizations of California, Oregon and Washington. The visiting officers expressed themselves as highly pleased with the result of their inspection and complimented Captain Morgan upon the efficiency of the troop. Major Kay announced that Troop A had the distinction of being considered the crack troop of the State. Following the inspection Major and Lieutenant Dockery were the guests of honor at a supper given by the commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the troop at the Southern Grill, at which many addresses appropriate to the occasion were delivered.***

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*Morning Echo January 10, 1912, page 4, column 2.

**Morning Echo March 9, 1912, page 6, column 6.

***Morning Echo March 13, 1912, page 1, column 6.

2828

TROOP A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Troop A and Company L, Second Infantry were to journey to Fresno on July 4, 1912, to take part in the big celebration there. Captain Morgan was drilling Troop A overtime getting them in the best of form for the occasion. Major L. E. Wilson of the Second Infantry was in Bakersfield and talked over the plans with Captain Morgan. Major Wilson stated that the celebration was to be one of the largest ever held in the valley. Excursion trains would be run from all the towns near Fresno, and special rates would be given to visitors from any of the valley towns.*

Because of his failure to appear for drill practice after repeated warnings Edgar De Wolfe, a young civil engineer and member of Troop A was arrested January 3, 1913, by Deputy Sheriff Dave Wright on complaint of Captain Morgan. It was said De Wolfe promised to attend drill and when he failed to turn up, officers of the troop were sent to his home to demand an explanation. He came to the door in answer to their knock and promised to get ready immediately for attendance. The officers then claimed he shut the door in their faces and refused to come out. De Wolfe took the matter as a joke when he was taken to jail. However, the thought of the Kangaroo court and the possibility of spending the night in jail put things in a new light and he quickly secured bondsmen who put up twenty-five dollars for the appearance.** When De Wolfe was brought to trail the judge fined him thirty dollars, but suspended the sentence providing he obeyed all orders until March 4, 1914.

Members of Troop A and Company L, Second Infantry and the Hurbut Post Grand Army of the Republic, united February 23, 1913, to do honor to the memory of Captain A. E. Morgan late commander of Troop A, and to lay his body to rest in Union cemetery with full military honors. T. A. Metcalf, chaplain of the post, was to conduct the services according to the Grand Army ritual. The Grand Army Post and Company L, Second Infantry would form a military escort, and members of Troop A would act as pallbearers. The funeral was to be held from Morton & Connelly's undertaking parlors on Chester Avenue at two-thirty P.M. and beside the members of the three military organizations, it was anticipated that many friends would be in attendance as Captain Morgan was universally liked and respected in Bakersfield. Besides the local expressions of sympathy that the family received, a message came from Adjutant-General E. A. Forbes in which he declared that the death of Captain Morgan was a distinct loss to the National Guard, as he was one of the ablest Captains in the State.***

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*Morning Echo June 26, 1912, page 8, column 3.

**Morning Echo January 4, 1913, page 5, column 4.

***Morning Echo February 23, 1913, page 6, column 7.

TROOP A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

On July 4, 1913, Captain C. W. Robinson of Troop A received orders from Adjutant-General E. A. Forbes, asking him to have the troop patrol the road race course in the city limits of Bakersfield. The members of the troop would be stationed along the course from a half mile south of the Santa Fe tracks on Union Avenue, to the Bakersfield race track, where the cars check in. In order to inform those at the race track that the cars were coming, a system of signal was used. The trooper nearest the end of Union Avenue, where the racers would first appear, was provided with a pair of field glasses. As soon as he could see the number of an oncoming car, and if that number were twenty-four for example, he would wave his flag twice to the left and four times to the right, and so on for other cars. The other troopers stationed farther down the course would catch up the signal and pass it on until it reached the race track. Troop A was divided into three details in charge of Lieutenant H. W. Klipstein, Lieutenant Charles Curran and Quartermaster Sergeant O. W. Giersch.*

On the evening of December 3, 1914, Troop A held a smoker at their armory in Bakersfield which was attended by twenty-five troopers and proved to be a decided success as a good program was staged under the direction of Ernest Lewis. The feature of the evening was a wrestling match between Middough and Townsend, the latter securing one fall. This contest was to be settled at the next smoker. There was a three round boxing contest between Corporal Place and Sergeant Burns, with no decision. Some clever single stick contests were held between Sergeant Knowlton and Corporal Fennell and Sergeant Wilson and Corporal Davis. In the musical program there was a piano solo by Leslie Robinson and a vocal solo by Jake Polhemus. Corporal Davis was court martialed and Ernest Lewis prosecuted. It was decided to settle the matter with a four round boxing contest between Davis and Lewis at the next smoker.**

On June 26, 1916, Troop A was mustered into Federal Service at Sacramento for duty on the Mexican border. On June twenty-eighth the troop entrained for Nogales, Arizona, arriving there July second. Troop A did not engage in active service but did only guard and patrol duty along the border until October twenty-sixth when they entrained for Los Angeles. The troop remained at Exposition Park

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*Morning Echo June 20, 1913, page 3, column 4.

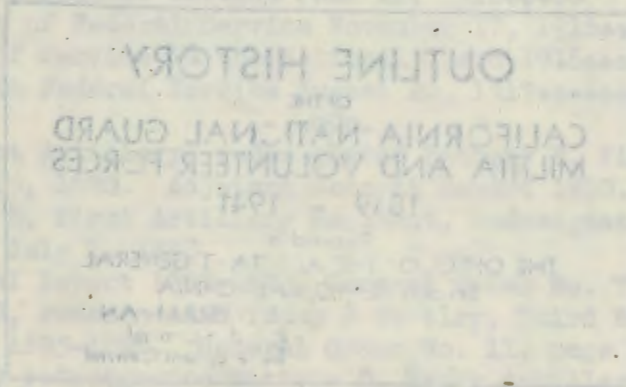
**Morning Echo December 11, 1914, page 3, column 3.

TROOP A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

in Los Angeles until November 17, 1918, when they were mustered out of Federal Service.

Troop A, on August 5, 1917, was again called into Federal Service. This second call was for duty during the World War, and the unit became a part of the 145th Machine Gun Battalion.* For further information concerning the regiment activities of this unit refer to the History of the 145th Machine Gun Battalion 40th Division.



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*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, pages 21, 22.