

History of the Troop C, 1st Squadron of Cavalry, National Guard of California 1911-1917

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TROOP C

Troop C, First Squadron of Cavalry (formerly Troop C Cavalry, unattached, First Brigade)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Salinas, Monterey County

Organized August 5, 1895

Assigned August 15, 1905*

Redesignated July 31, 1908**

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 C Cavalry, First Brigade assigned to First Squadron of Cavalry and designated Troop C, First Squadron of Cavalry, August 15, 1905.
Adjutant General Report 1906, page 3.

**Troop C, First Squadron of Cavalry, redesignated Troop C Cavalry, First Brigade July 31, 1908.
General and Special Orders and Circulars 1908, General Order No. 15.

***Troop C Cavalry, redesignated Troop C, First Squadron of Cavalry, May 1, 1911.
General and Special Orders and Circulars 1911, Special Order No. 5, par. 15.

****Troop C 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 C, as part of the First Squadron Cavalry was mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War. August 24, 1917. Muster Roll, Troop C, First Squadron Cavalry August, 1917.
(Troop C, served as a unit of the 145th Machine Gun Battalion, 40th Division, during the World War.)
Adjutant General Report 1914-1920 - page 22.

TROOP C (CONTINUED)

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Charles J. Fulle, Capt.* (Re-elected Jan. 29, 1906)	Jan. 20, 1902	Mar. 15, 1902
Fred W. Winham, First Lieut.* (Re-elected Jan. 27, 1906) (Resigned Aug. 20, 1908)	Aug. 5, 1895	Oct. 11, 1895
Emanuel Dougherty, First Lieut.	Sept. 7, 1908	Sept. 26, 1908
Charles J. Fulle, Capt. (Re-elected May 13, 1909)	_____	_____
Emanuel Dougherty, First Lieut. (Re-elected May 13, 1909) (Resigned Oct. 15, 1912)	_____	_____
Charles J. Fulle, Capt. (Re-elected Oct. 20, 1913)	_____	_____
Arnold Thomsen, First Lieut.	Dec. 23, 1912	Feb. 28, 1913
Arnold Thomsen, Capt.	May 14, 1914	July 14, 1914
E. J. Hardy, First Lieut.	May 14, 1914	July 24, 1914
E. J. Hardy, Capt. (Transferred to National Guard Reserves, Jan. 25, 1917)	Mar. 16, 1916	May 15, 1916
David E. Barney, Capt. (Entered Federal Service, July 24, 1917)	May 15, 1917	June 2, 1917
B. E. Underwood, First Lieut. (Acting Capt. from Jan. 25 to May 15, 1917)	Mar. 16, 1918	May 15, 1916

Activities:

Troop C was organized on August 5, 1895 as Troop C Cavalry, unattached First Brigade. The unit remained under that designation until August 15, 1905, when it was assigned to the First Squadron of Cavalry, retaining its letter designation.

This unit had for many years prior to its assignment to the First Squadron, been an efficient troop, and had many notable records. The members were anxious to maintain these records and worked diligently for better ratings.

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*Captain Fulle and Lieutenant Winham retained their former commissions as of March 15, 1902, and October 11, 1895, respectively, when they commanded Troop C Cavalry, First Brigade.

Activities: (Continued)

The first major activity of Troop C occurred in April 1906 when the unit was called into active service incident to the earthquake and fire in San Francisco, occurring on April eighteenth.

The troops were immediately dispatched to the stricken city. Their duties in San Francisco consisted of aiding the civil authorities in preserving order and in rendering aid to the afflicted. While stationed in San Francisco, the troops were highly commended for their untiring efforts to be of assistance. The following news article gives an idea of their reliability:

Camp, First Squadron of Cavalry
Valencia Street between 23rd and 24th Streets
San Francisco, California
April 25, 1906

"To the Citizens of Salinas:

"As commanding officer of Troop C, National Guard of California, I feel it my duty to inform you concerning the conduct of the troop since its departure from home. It is the first time in the history of the troop that it has been called upon to perform such a sad and responsible duty. Up to the present time the members have performed their tasks cheerfully and with a will, and Salinas may well be proud of its Sons.

"Troop C was first of the outside troops to arrive and were assigned as General Koster's headquarters guard until the arrival from Sacramento of Major Kay, Commanding Officer of the four troops of Cavalry. Upon arrival of Major Kay in San Francisco, Troops A, B and C were sent to guard District No. 4 extending from 20th to 30th Streets, and from Valencia Street to Golden Gate Park. Our first duty today was to relieve the Committee of Vigilantes in the district and we are now patrolling the area formerly under their jurisdiction. Our Troop is on duty from 8:00 A. M. to 12 M. and 8:00 P. M. to midnight. It is impossible to describe the condition of affairs here as they are something no one can realize until he sees them. The health of the Troop is splendid. No need to worry concerning that. It is hard to say how long we will be absent from home, but we all hope to return soon.

"Hoping you are all well and that those who have members of the Troop in their employ will endeavor to get along without their help until our return, as they should as good citizens, for the

Activities: (Continued)

troops are urgently needed here, and Salinas should be glad to be able to help San Francisco when assistance is so greatly needed. We all know that we are needed at home, but remember that there are about three hundred thousand of your fellow citizens here who need protection.

"Address all letters in care of Troop C, First Squadron of Cavalry, National Guard of California, Valencia Street, between 23rd and 24th Streets, Station C.

Yours truly,
(Signed) C. J. Fulle
Captain, Troop C, N. G. C."*

After four weeks of patrol duty among the ruins of the once fair metropolis of the Pacific Coast, Troop C arrived at their Home Station on the evening of May 18, 1906. Their home coming was the occasion for an ovation in which all the people of Salinas took part. Headed by the Salinas City Band, an outpouring of citizens, proud of the fine record made by their local troops, proceeded to the depot to receive the troopers.

The greeting was spontaneous and could leave no doubt in the minds of the returning troopers, that the record made by them in San Francisco was a matter of just and honest pride.

The troopers, led by the band and escorted by the ladies of Troop C, Red Cross Society, made a splendid appearance as they marched to their armory, amid the plaudits of the crowds that lined the streets.

The uniforms worn by the troops were not quite so natty as when the lads left home and the bronzed appearance of the individuals was sufficient evidence of the strenuousness of their four weeks absence on duty. With the consciousness of having performed their duty in a creditable manner the boys doffed their uniforms, anxious to take up their duties in civil life.**

In appreciation for the work done by the troop, Adjutant General J. B. Lauck, addressed a personal letter to Captain Fulle, which read as follows:

"My Dear Captain:

"I have learned with pleasure of the arrival home of Troop C, after its strenuous tour of duty, and am gratified at the hearty

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*The Salinas Journal, April 28, 1906, column 6.

**The Salinas Journal, May 19, 1906, page 3, column 2.

TROOP C

TROOP C FIRST REGIMENT CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

welcome accorded your boys by the citizens and people of their home town.

"I desire to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and commendation, (in which I am but voicing the sentiments of the Commander-in-Chief), of the soldierly behaviour of the members of your Command and of the excellent and efficient service rendered in the performance of the difficult and manifold duties assigned them while on duty incident to the earthquake and fire in San Francisco.

"The merchants and citizens of Salinas were to be congratulated for the existence of such an effective military organization in their midst, and to the high standing and efficiency of which they had contributed in no small measure. Their action in standing by the Troops during the emergency, even to personal inconvenience and, in many cases, financial loss, by reason of the enforced absence of the troopers in their employ is most commendable.

"Assuring the officers and members of Troop C of many hearty encouragements and co-operation in all that pertains to its upbuilding, I am,

"Very truly yours,
(Signed) J. B. Lauck, Adjt. Gen."*

Captain Fulle and Troop C were highly elated over the complimentary letter from the Adjutant General., which gave them renewed courage in serving their people and country in time of need.

The men had given the best there was in them in their desire to be successful. That they did succeed was evidenced by the spontaneous greeting, extended to them upon their homecoming, and by the letter of commendation from Adjutant General Lauck.

Captain Fulle was detailed to command the Camp of Instruction in target practice, established at Woodland, August 15, 1906. The camp was

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*The Salinas Journal, June 6, 1906, page 5, column 6.

Activities: (Continued)

formed for the purpose of training the State Rifle Team which was sent to Sea Girt, New Jersey, to compete in the National Rifle Shoot.

At the revolver practice held at Salinas on October 21, 1906, the members of Troop C displayed their ability. Although the competition for the trophy was held among twenty-four military organizations, Troop C won, with a rating of 90.4%.*

Again in 1907 the Brigade trophy was won by Troop C with a score of 99.7%. The men were jubilant on account of the fact that their troop topped the brigade list and that the second year in succession the trophy would be in their possession.

The members of Troop C were however quite upset after reading an article in a local newspaper, stating that Company B, Fifth Infantry of San Jose with a rating of 99.5% stood the highest of National Guard Companies of California. However Troop C lost no time in correcting this statement and gave the ratings which were recorded in the Adjutant General's Office and which read as follows: Company B, San Jose, 98% instead of 99.5%; Troop C, Salinas, 99.7% instead of 98% as had been the ratings quoted by Company B of San Jose. This rating entitled Company B to the trophy of the First Brigade, with a rank as second to the best National Guard Company in California.

The following statement issued by Captain Thomas Wilhelm, outlines the manner in which Troop C was rated:

"This troop is in excellent condition. The men are of good physical appearance, are zealous and attentive to duty. They are well instructed in dismounted service. The required number of dismounted drills were had during the past year, but not the number of mounted drills called for by State law."

Percentage of attendances at:

Muster and Inspection	Excellent	100%
Promptness at Roll Call and Company Exercises	Excellent	100%
Discipline	Excellent	100%
Military Appearance	Excellent	100%
Condition of Arms	Excellent	100%
Condition of Equipment	Excellent	100%

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*The Salinas Journal, December 22, 1906, page 1, column 2.

TROOP C, FIRST SQUADRON OF CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Condition of Clothing	Very Good	99.5 %
Condition of Records	Excellent	100. %
Troop Movements	Very Good	.99%
Manual of Arms and other exercises	Very Good	98.5 %
General Average		<u>99.7 %*</u>

The following year, 1908, was not so favorable for Troop C. After holding the trophy for two years, they were compelled to relinquish it to Company A, Seventh Infantry. Losing the trophy to Company A was a disappointment to the members of Troop C, although they were lacking only in small arms practice, which, with membership, was a new rating. The Troop attributed this failure to the fact that the range was eight miles from town, and it was difficult to get members out to shoot. The troops did not realize just how important a factor the rifle practice was under the ruling of 1908 and their rating fell 1.41% lower than that of 1907.**

The troops resolved to regain possession of the trophy and spent a great deal of time, during the following year, on their rifle range. At the inspection in 1909, they were amply repaid for their efforts as the beautiful trophy at that time became their permanent possession.

Adjutant General Lauck presented the trophy to Captain Fulle and his Troop C, on December 4, 1909. In his address to the Unit, General Lauck spoke in terms of highest praise, complimenting Troop C upon its achievement. He spoke of them as an ideal company and regretted that California was unable to produce more units of equal efficiency.

Captain C. J. Fulle in a brief address, accepted the trophy in behalf of his troop and announced in determined terms that if another cup should be offered by the State, his men would surely capture it.

The Captain also told of the cup having been won for two successive years by Troop C, and of its loss, but re-capture in the next two years. A delightful supper at the Hotel Bardin, closed the evening's program, as well as a chapter in the list of Troop C's achievements.***

On the evening of April 1, 1910, each of the ninety-three members of Troop C was presented with a beautiful gold medal as a token of appreciation for their efforts in winning the trophy for the third

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*The Salinas Journal, October 26, 1907, page 2, column 5.

**The Salinas Journal, June 20, 1908, page 1, column 1.
The Salinas Journal, June 27, 1908, page 4, column 6.

***The Salinas Journal, December 4, 1909, page 4, column 2.

TROOP C, FIRST SQUADRON OF CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

time. The medals were about three inches in length and in the form of a miniature trophy. They were purchased at a price of \$375.00 each, which sum was contributed by Salinas merchants and other public spirited citizens.*

The activities of Troop C were somewhat varied and aside from military duties, the unit participated in many social and civic affairs. The company was always prominent in local parades and often traveled many miles to accept an invitation from other cities.

The Admission Day celebration in Salinas in 1906 was a proud bit of history in the local annals. The day was an ideal one for the celebration and excursion trains from Watsonville, Hollister and San Luis Obispo brought crowds of visitors. It was estimated that the throng on the main thoroughfare of Salinas, numbered between six and eight thousand people. The crowd was orderly, and a remarkable fact was that not one arrest was made during the entire day. The parade which moved in four divisions, was the finest ever seen in Salinas. Troop C felt it a great honor to participate in such an outstanding event and were highly complimented on their military appearance in the parade.**

The fourteenth annual ball of Troop C, in Salinas on November 26, 1909, was one of the most elaborate affairs ever given under the auspices of the guard. The event was unanimously recognized as such by the large crowd that attended. The inclement weather did not interfere in the least with the success of the ball and it was fully up to the usual high standard established in former years. The hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion and the electrical display was perfect. Dancing commenced shortly after nine o'clock, and lasted until after midnight. Much of the credit for the evening's entertainment was due to the committee in charge which was composed of the following active members of Troop C: E. Dougherty, N. A. Holady, W. F. McGregor, A. Thomsen and F. H. Bubar.***

Captain Fulle had reason to be alarmed, when on September 23, 1910, he received a letter from the Adjutant General's Office regarding the mustering out of Troop C. The letter advised Captain Fulle that unless the unit reported for the encampment at Atascadero, October first with its full quota of men, it surely would be mustered out of the service. Captain Fulle began at once to contact all business men who had National Guardsmen in their employ, in order to gain assurance that these men would not loose their positions should they attend the encampment.

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*The Salinas Journal, April 2, 1910, page 4, column 6.

**The Salinas Journal, September 15, 1906, page 4, column 1.

***The Salinas Journal, November 27, 1910, page 3, column 7.

~~TROOP C~~ FIRST SQUADRON OF CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

These contacts proved beneficial and on September thirtieth, Captain Fulle issued a statement to the effect that he had at least thirty-four men and possibly more. Fortunately the employers of the troopers were patriotic and public spirited and granted vacations to the men for the trip, so that the Guardsmen could comply with the order.

The troops spent a profitable two weeks at camp and returned to Salinas, October twenty-first on a special train which brought several other companies home. Salinas had every reason to again be proud of her military organization. Troop C was always ready for a fight or a frolic. The unit was always first to turn out; first at roll call and last to leave the field of mimic warfare. At the review of the troops by Governor Gillett, Troop C made a specially fine appearance. The ranks were true and had the appearance of Regulars. The perfect discipline and soldierly appearance of the Troop also won high praise from the regular officers in command.

Captain Fulle was squadron commander of the three troops of California Cavalry and Lieutenant Dougherty was in command of Troop C. The regular officers were surprised at the military intelligence displayed by the non-commissioned officers of Troop C.

The troopers were quoted as stating that the encampment was a strenuous experience, but they felt that they had made good. This encampment was typical of the many encampments in which Troop C participated prior to the World War in 1917.*

A military school of instruction was held during a two weeks period in July 1913. The following named members of Troop C attended the school: Captain C J. Fulle; Lieutenant Arnold Thomsen; Sergeants E. J. Hardy and S. P. Butler; Quartermaster Edward Haver; Corporals F. J. Fontes, Arthur Coy, James McClean, Ira Bailey, and Chefs R. Abbott and W. Fenton. They had an interesting and instructive time in camp and greatly enjoyed visiting the beach after school hours, although the camp was not altogether a holiday.

The Cavalry Instructors were Captain Mosely and Lieutenant Roscoe of the First Cavalry at the Presidio. Those two officers kept the troopers busy and put them through their lessons, from the elementary principles to the graduation exercises, as finished cavalymen. The Lieutenants and non-commissioned officers were put on an equal basis in classes. A Sergeant and Corporal of the Regular Army were the Instructors of Troop C Squadron. Each man was put through the drill of grooming his mount, saddling, riding, changing the horses gait, and putting one foot or the other first, according, as they were swinging around, urging the horses to trot or gallop and other maneuvers familiar to horsemen. When these exercises were over, each man was taught how to treat his horse and how to clean his saddle and accoutrements. These were regular exercises every forenoon.

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*The Salinas Journal, October 22, 1910, page 1, column 2.

TROOP C, FIRST SQUADRON, 1ST CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The Captains were trained in a separate squad, and all had enough to do. Captain Fulle's experience in the Regular Army left little for him to learn, but he worked as diligently as the others. He returned to Salinas delighted with the experience, especially when he saw how proficient his men were in drill even though mounted on untrained horses. This Camp of Instruction was the last troop activity in which Captain Fulle participated as he was retired April 25, 1914.

The members of Troop C were much concerned over the Captain's request for retirement as he had been with the troop for seventeen years. His retirement from active duty was accepted by the members of Troop C with much regret, although they realized that the Captain was needed at home, as his wife was seriously ill.*

An election for a new Captain was held on May 15, 1914 and Lieutenant Thomsen was elected to that position and First Sergeant E. J. Hardy was on the same date promoted to the position of First Lieutenant.

The newly elected officers began at once to comply with orders from Headquarters, and to recruit the troop to war strength of one hundred three officers and men. The order was issued in case the disturbance on the Mexican Border became serious and a call for troops was found necessary.**

During July of 1914, Troop C received its first allotment of government horses. Previous to this time, the men had furnished their own mounts. The United States Government had now purchased nineteen head of horses, six of which were turned over to Troop C. These horses were to be fed and cared for by the Government, and used for training purposes.

There had been a previous drawback to both Cavalry and Field Artillery units, in a lack of veterinarian service, as a consequence of which several valuable animals were lost.

In accordance with United States regulations, the Cavalry and Artillery units of the National Guard were not entitled to a veterinarian, as those units did not form a regiment. When an act of the Legislature of 1913 made it possible for the First Squadron of Cavalry to add a veterinarian to its staff, Julian P. Nichols was selected to perform the duties of that position. J. P. Nichols attended all encampments and cared for the horses of Troop C as he

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*The Salinas Journal, April 25, 1914, page 1, column 7.

**The Salinas Journal, May 16, 1914, page 3, column 4.

~~TROOP C, FIRST SQUADRON OF CAVALRY~~ (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

did for those belonging to the other three Cavalry units.*

At the annual inspection held on March 12, 1915, Troop C retained the same high rating as on previous years. Lieutenant G. Kent, First United States Cavalry and Major S. W. Kay of the California National Guard, were Inspection Officers. There were forty-six men of the troop present aside from the officers, and Major Kay expressed himself as perfectly satisfied with the showing made. Major Kay was also quoted as having stated that the members of Troop C had adequately discharged their obligations to the State by acquiring a substantial knowledge of military tactics. Lieutenant Kent expressed pleasure at seeing the men so well drilled and filled with enthusiasm for the Cavalry service. The troop was short five men, which reduced its percentage of attendance, but the officers found that the equipment, records, and discipline, were first class.**

During the month of February 1916, Troop C held a meeting at which an inspection of munitions and supplies was made and everything was found in first class condition. A resolution signed by practically all the business firms of Salinas was presented and read at the meeting. The merchants agreed to encourage and support Troop C to the extent of their ability. They further agreed to permit their employees, who were members of the National Guard, to participate in maneuvers or encampments without prejudice to their employment, but without compensation. This resolution inspired more young men to join the unit and Troop C recruited twelve new members within a month's time.*** Captain E. J. Hardy was on March 16, 1916, elected Commander of the unit and took an active interest in bringing Troop C to a higher standard of efficiency and to increase its membership. A campaign for new members was instituted, as it was rumored that the unit would be sent to the Mexican Border in case the threatened outbreak between Mexico and the United States should materialize.**** As a donation from Don Pedro Zabolos of Salinas, the addition of a swimming pool was built onto the armory of Troop C. The plunge was 10 X 15 feet and 6 feet in depth. There were hot and cold showers as accessories to the plunge, and a nook with kitchen facilities for such cooking as the boys wished to do. With these additions, Salinas was acclaimed as having the most modern of any single troop armory in California and the only one providing a plunge for its members.***** The improvements were an incentive for

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*Adjutant General Report 1910-1914, page 14.

**The Salinas Journal, March 13, 1915, page 3, column 3.

***The Salinas Daily Index, March 8, 1916, page 8, column 6.

****The Salinas Daily Index, March 10, 1916, page 1, column 1.

*****The Salinas Daily Index, May 12, 1916, page 1, column 1.

~~TROOP C, FIRST SQUADRON OF CAVALRY~~ (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

new members to join the troop and the unit was soon recruited to minimum war strength.

The Order for the unit to proceed to Sacramento at maximum war strength reached Captain Hardy on the morning of June 19, 1916 in the form of a telegram which read as follows:

"Sacramento, 3:50 A. M.

Captain Edward Hardy, Troop C,
Salinas, California

General Orders No. 18, orders your men under arms. Service
United States. Maximum strength 88.

(Signed) Thomas, (Asst.) Adj. Gen.**

The telegram was received by Captain Hardy at 8:02 A. M. and at 9:15 A. M., Engineer Wallace of the local fire department, turned in the anxiously awaited alarm of three repeated rings. It was but a short time before the entire unit reported at their armory for the anticipated war news. Captain Hardy informed the troops that as soon as the company was fully recruited, they would report at Sacramento, for detailed instructions.**

Meanwhile every effort was being made to bring the strength of the troop up to war requirements. Not only did the young men of Salinas enlist in the unit, but all surrounding towns gave their youth who were eligible for service.

The citizens of Salinas started a mess fund for the boys of Troop C when they realized the unit might be sent to the Mexican Border. As the time for departure drew near, everyone became more concerned than ever and donated freely to the fund which was to provide the boys with some extra good food in addition to the regular camp rations. The generosity of Salinas residents showed itself by the numerous contributions. On July twenty-second, there was \$850 in the fund and it was expected to reach \$1000.***

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*The Salinas Daily Index, June 19, 1916, page 1, column 1.

**The Salinas Daily Index, June 19, 1916, page 1, column 1.

***The Salinas Daily Index, June 22, 1916, page 1, column 4.

Activities: (Continued)

Just five days after receiving orders to recruit, Captain Hardy and his company of eighty men left Salinas for the mobilization camp at Sacramento. The departure of the troops was signalized by an unprecedented patriotic demonstration on the part of the people of Salinas and vicinity. Hundreds of men, women and children, who included friends and relatives of the troopers, assembled at the armory to bid the boys goodbye. The Stars and Stripes were unfurled on nearly every staff in the city and everyone who could obtain one, carried a small American Flag. Among the throngs were several old veterans and ex-members of the troop, all of whom looked as though they wished to don a khaki uniform, shoulder a rifle and start for the front.

The troop was escorted to the depot by some two thousand people in automobiles and on foot. During this feature, all the business houses of Salinas remained closed and hundreds of people lined the sidewalks along the line of march. The parade was headed by the Salinas band, playing martial music. Eight beautiful young ladies carrying a large American Flag preceded the soldiers. At the depot, the last farewells were said, the soldiers entered the waiting cars and the train pulled out for Sacramento with the crowd cheering and the troops waving hats and flags. Many of the women; mothers, wives, sisters, and sweethearts of the departing soldiers, were moved to tears as the train left the station. They were however, consoled by the thought that Captain Hardy and his men would give good accounts of themselves.*

The First Squadron of Cavalry which included Troop A of Bakersfield, B of Sacramento, C of Salinas and D of Los Angeles, left Sacramento for the Mexican Border on June 30, 1916. The troop train was routed through the San Joaquin Valley, hence the friends and relatives of the Salinas Troop did not get another glimpse of them.

The Squadron arrived in Nogales, Arizona on Sunday morning July 1, 1916. The entire squadron marched to the camp site after a hearty breakfast on the train. Soon the bleak, rocky hillside was a neat village of buff colored tents occupied by 358 men and 18 officers of the squadron, under command of Major S. W. Kay.**

That the troops found living on the desert in Arizona somewhat different from that of their home coast town in California is evidenced by the following newspaper article:

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*The Salinas Daily Index, June 24, 1916, page 1, column 5.

**The Salinas Daily Index, July 10, 1916, page 1, column 3.

~~TROOP C~~ ~~FIRST SQUADRON~~ ~~OF CAVALRY~~ (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

"All the members of Troop C, First Squadron of Cavalry, are in fine condition physically, and in excellent spirits. Thunder storms, surpassing anything previously experienced by the men are a constant cause of excitement, sometimes keeping all in suspense as crash after crash of thunder, accompanied by both chain and sheet lightning, continues for hours during the afternoon and evening. Huddled in the tents last Thursday afternoon, the men spent a rather uncomfortable hour, as rain and hail fell in torrents, and a rivulet of muddy water completely surrounded the tents. That the Salinas Troops might share the fate of eight artillery men, who were rendered unconscious in their tents a week previous, was the fear that arose as the electrical volleys continued, but no serious damage was suffered."*

The troop remained in Arizona five months performing guard and patrol duty on the Mexican Border before they returned to California, and were mustered out of Federal Service.

Although the troop train arrived in Salinas at 5:30 A. M. on the morning of November eighteenth, the returning soldiers were accorded a hearty welcome from over eight hundred residents. The morning was cold and frosty and these people deserved great credit for leaving their warm beds long before sunrise. By arrangement with the Southern Pacific officials, and the telephone operator in Salinas, the passing of the troop train through King City was flashed to Salinas. Two minutes later, the siren of the Light and Power Company was screaming and the fire bell pealed forth the summons to be up and give the returning troopers a rousing welcome. No one was more surprised than the troopers themselves when they saw the depot and streets crowded with their friends and relatives. All were glad to be home but not one man regretted having been away. They were happy to have been of service in time of need.

The Troops had been home about three days when the city of Salinas gave a reception in their honor as had been planned. First a chicken dinner was served at Foresters Hall, after which the troops and citizens of Salinas were entertained at the Brown Opera House by a moving picture. At the close of the show, adjournment was made to the Armory Hall which had been decorated for the occasion. There a dance was given the soldiers by the Red Cross Society, the music for which was furnished by the Salinas Band.**

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*The Salinas Daily Index, August 4, 1916, page 1, column 3.

**The Salinas Daily Index, November 22, 1916, page 1, column 5.

~~TROOP C, FIRST SQUADRON OF CAVALRY~~ (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

A new Militia law, known as the National Defense Act became effective in the latter part of 1916. Before the new act was fully understood by National Guardsmen, it caused a great deal of unrest within the Militia companies of California. The members of Troop C were on the verge of disbanding as the Act called for a three year enlistment in the National Guard and an additional three years in the National Guard Reserves. However, when it was understood that the three years in the Reserves was optional, Troop C decided to remain in the service.

The first few months of 1917 were spent in recruiting the company to its war quota as there was a strong feeling that the United States would be forced to join the Allies against Germany during the World War. Lieutenant Underwood served as commander of the unit during the period between January 25 and May 15, 1917 as Captain Hardy had been transferred to the National Guard Reserves and the vacancy was not filled until May fifteenth when E. D. Barney was elected Captain.

The company gave a dance in their armory on the evening of May fifteenth and attended in full uniform, lending a pronounced military atmosphere. Troop C expected to be called into Federal Service at any time, and the money realized from the entertainment was to be used to provide the unit with a mess fund of good healthy proportions. The high regard in which the troop was held in Salinas was shown by the large attendance. Those who attended, and they came from far and near, were well repaid.*

A telegram from the Adjutant General of California to Mayor Thorpe of Salinas on June 28, 1917, urged the Mayor to start a recruiting campaign to bring the enrollment of the unit up to 105. There were then only 70 men in Troop C and that meant that all new recruits would be taken from Salinas Valley instead of being drafted from other sections. The men of Salinas proved themselves patriotic and the company was recruited to a strength of 107 by August twelfth. The unit on that date left Salinas for a destination unknown.

The following newspaper article is a touching commentary on the departure of not only Troop C but of all units that departed from their home stations for the war zone:

"The occasion was not one of hilarity nor yet of solemnity, for there could be none of the former in the fond farewells of mothers and sons or of the clinging goodbyes of sweethearts. But yet, hearts were too brave to allow solemnity to overcome them and many smiled bravely through their tears. While Troop C was at the station awaiting their train, the

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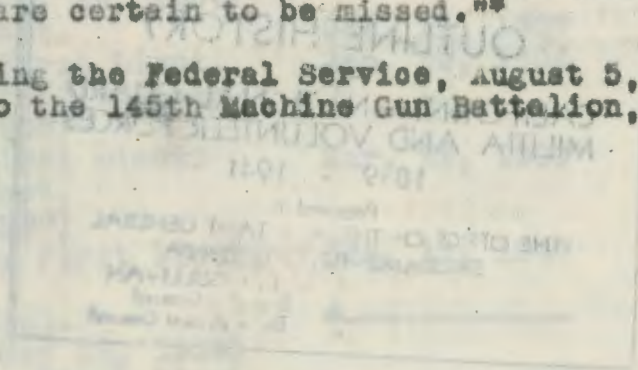
*The Salinas Daily Index, May 16, 1917, page 8, column 4.

TROOP C FIRST REGIMENT CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Salinas band played martial airs. As the train drew slowly up to the station, the cheery notes of "Dixie" echoed through the air. Many were silently thankful to the band for the lighter more cheery notes that helped in sending the boys forth with a smile. As the train drew slowly away at 2:00 P. M., Salinas began to appreciate the seriousness of the Great War. The following day, Salinas was lonesome. The previous week, the boys had drilled in the streets or had gathered in groups in front of the armory or at the stable where they kept their mounts. When one hundred seven men suddenly leave a town the size of Salinas, they are certain to be missed.**

Upon entering the Federal Service, August 5, 1917, Troop C was assigned to the 145th Machine Gun Battalion, 40th Division.**



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*The Salinas Daily Index, August 13, 1917, page 1, column 5.

**Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 22.