

History of the 2nd Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard 1917-1921

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SECOND SEPARATE COMPANY

1036

(LOS ANGELES)

Second Separate Company, Infantry, National Guard of California

Reference Adjutant General's Office

Location Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Mustered in December 5, 1917*

Redesignated July 22, 1919**

Redesignated November 1, 1920***

Redesignated August 23, 1921****

Commanding Officers

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Rank</u> | <u>Commission</u> |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| William B. Heinecke, Captain (promoted Major May 21, 1921) | Dec. 5, 1917 | Mar. 7, 1918 |
| Oscar L. Horn, First Lieutenant (commission cancelled March 26, 1918) | Dec. 5, 1917 | Mar. 7, 1918 |
| Abram B. Foster, First Lieut. (resigned July 30, 1919) | Feb. 12, 1918 | June 25, 1918 |
| Frank A. Fuchs, First Lieutenant (resigned April 15, 1920) | Dec. 18, 1919 | Jan. 15, 1920 |
| Ralph V. McClain, First Lieut. (assigned, Howitzer Company) | May 13, 1920 | May 24, 1920 |
| R. S. Dicey, Captain | June 27, 1921 | July 7, 1921 |
| Lawrence Bull, First Lieutenant | Aug. 4, 1921 | Aug. 9, 1921 |

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*Second Separate Company designated Company B, and mustered into the service of the State, December 5, 1917.

Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 116.

**Company B, redesignated Company A, First Separate Battalion of Infantry, July 22, 1919.

Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 116.

***Company A, First Separate Battalion Infantry transferred to the Second Separate Battalion Infantry as Company A, November 1, 1920.
General and Special Orders 1920, General Order No. 14, page 27.

****Company A, Second Separate Battalion, redesignated Company A, 160th Infantry, California National Guard, August 23, 1921.
General and Special Orders 1921, General Order No. 15, page 31.

(LOS ANGELES)

Activities:

The Second Separate Company of Infantry, National Guard of California, was organized in Los Angeles December 5, 1917, and was the second new company to enter the service of the State. William B. Heinecke was elected Captain, and Oscar L. Horn, First Lieutenant. The Second Separate Company was fortunate in that Captain Heinecke remained in command of the unit until May 21, 1921. The first year of the company's existence was most trying. Several Separate companies were disbanded because of the fact that their officers and men were being drafted into Federal Service. Many members voluntarily enlisted in the United States Army.

The failure of the Fourth Separate Company to meet the requirements of the Federal Government, caused that unit to be discontinued and the members to be transferred to the Second Separate Company on February 18, 1919. Thirty-one members of the Fourth Company were transferred to the Second, and the roll of the Second Company was increased to 86 members, there having been but 55 members in the company before the transfer. A few months later the Second Company was one of the six units of Separate companies to meet the requirements and was recognized by the Federal authorities in 1919. Accordingly on July 22, 1919, the Second Separate Company was designated as Company A, First Separate Battalion of Infantry, California National Guard.

Probably the first public appearance of the Second Company was on May 30, 1918. The seriousness of the World War was impressed upon the mind and hearts of the American people and the coming of Memorial Day caused many to eliminate all holiday spirit. There seemed to be a noticeable absence of the usual picnicking and holiday outings that in recent years had characterized the annual observance of the day. There was a feeling that on future Memorial days there would be new soldiers' graves to be decorated, new names to be emblazoned in the grateful memory of a nation well served.

The parade was led by a cordon of police, Grand Marshal W. A. Packard of Robley D. Evans Post, with his Chief of Staff, C. F. Derby of Stanton Post and his aides. The line of march was east on Fifth Street to Broadway, south on Broadway to Sixth, west on Sixth to Hope and thence to the Bible Institute. Fully one thousand Grand Army members and United Spanish-American War Veterans were in line, while the military escort comprised upwards of one thousand five hundred marchers. A conspicuous

(Los Angeles)

Activities: (Continued)

feature of the parade was a huge service flag denoting that four hundred thirty-eight sons and grandsons of G. A. R. veterans were now in the service of their country. The veterans were escorted by three companies of the Los Angeles Home Guards and by members of Roosevelt and Admiral Glass Camps, United States War Veterans.

The full strength of the Los Angeles High School Cadets formed the vanguard, immediately behind the marshal and his aides. In the ranks of the Grand Army men, marched the Veteran Fife and Drum Corps, the fifers playing airs that once reverberated at Gettysburg and along the Rappahannock River. Several of the G. A. R. drummers carried old Civil War drums. The plaudits of the spectators were shared by the veterans of '98, represented by Roosevelt and Admiral Glass Camps, United States War Veterans. Three battalions of the newly-organized California National Guard, under command of Major Parker, were tendered a noisy reception during the parade.*

The first anniversary of the signing of the Armistice was designated Welcome Home Day in California, and Adjutant General J. J. Borree, National Guard of California, issued the following order:

"The First Separate Battalion and Companies E and F, Infantry, California National Guard, will parade on Welcome Home Day, November 11, 1918, on which day the State will, by appropriate exercises in the various communities, commemorate the day upon which the golden message was sent broadcast throughout our glorious State: 'The Boys Are Home'. November 11, 1918 has been proclaimed the day for us to show our returned service men that we are a grateful people, and let us show our gratitude in true California fashion. The citizen who, in time of war, offers himself as a guardian

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*The Los Angeles Times, May 31, 1918, page 1, column 3.

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SECOND SEPARATE COMPANY (Continued)

(LOS ANGELES)

Activities: (Continued)

of the Nation's honor, at grave danger to himself, is the man to whom we give the name of soldier. California's manhood responded to the various calls for soldiers until her honor roll far exceeded the number required of the State. California does appreciate the patriotic service rendered by her sons. The spirit of these men may be emulated by all, thus planting the seed of a patriotic American citizenry. These men have endured hardship and privation, and by their valor and soldierly fortitude added a golden page to California's history. Commanding officers should exert themselves to parade their organizations, with every available officer and enlisted man present".*

In obedience to the above order the Second Separate Company participated in the exercises held in Los Angeles on November 11, 1919. A year of peace had been recorded and now fifty thousand people crowded into Exposition Park in Los Angeles to pay a solemn and impressive tribute to the mothers and sons who had sacrificed their hearts and their lives upon the Altar of Liberty. On this Welcome Home Day mothers and sons, arm in arm, rejoiced with the multitude on the first anniversary of peace. Here and there however, was seen a veil, hiding the sorrowful face of one whose son had not returned, and many gold stars shone from black bands on many sleeves. Quite often the scenes of gladness were clouded as the speeches of the orators revived memories of the days of darkness. Meredith P. Snyder, Mayor of Los Angeles, wept as the death of his own son on the battlefield was mentioned. Governor William D. Stephens was orator of the day.**

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*General and Special Orders 1919, General Order No. 12, page 19.

**The Los Angeles Times, November 12, 1919, page 17, column 1.

SECOND SEPARATE COMPANY (Continued)

(LOS ANGELES)

Activities: (Continued), National Guard of California

About a year later on November 1, 1920, Company A, First Separate Battalion, was redesignated Company A, Second Separate Battalion. The company was known by this designation for about nine months when another redesignation took place. The last change was made on August 23, 1921, when Company A, Second Separate Battalion was redesignated Company A, 160th Infantry, California National Guard, and proved to be a permanent one.

For further information concerning this organization refer to Company A, 160th Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California.

The condition of the Third Separate Company was also clear in a letter from First Lieutenant Charles A. Allen of that organization. The letter was addressed to Adjutant General J. J. Soeris, was dated July 25, 1919, and stated as follows:

About the seventh day of November 1918, I was advised by William P. Kelley, Captain Third Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard, that he had telegraphed his resignation to the Adjutant General. About the same date, Captain Kelley left Los Angeles, going to El Paso, Texas, from which place he communicated with me and advised me that the records and papers of the Third Separate Company were left by him at the Balcon League Club in Los Angeles.

Third Separate Company designated Company C, and transferred into the service of the State, December 12, 1917.
Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 115.

Fourth Separate Company organized on July 25, 1918.
General and Special Orders 1917-1920, Order No. 9, page 18.