

History of the 7th Infantry Battalion, Company B (San Diego City Guard), National Guard of California 1881-1888

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COMPANY B

Company B, Seventh Infantry Battalion, First Brigade (formerly San Diego City Guard)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files
Location: San Diego, San Diego County
Organized October 12, 1881
Reorganized July 22, 1885*
Reconstituted May 5, 1888**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Douglas Gunn, Captain (Re-elected May 1, 1885)	Oct. 12, 1881	Jan. 23, 1882***
George Dannals, First Lieut. (Re-elected May 1, 1885)	June 8, 1882	Dec. 18, 1882***
T. A. Nerney, Captain	Jan. 13, 1888	May 15, 1888
Harry M. Schiller, First Lieut.	Jan. 13, 1888	May 15, 1888

Activities:

Company B, Seventh Infantry Battalion was formerly the San Diego City Guard an unattached company of the First Brigade, organized October 12, 1881. On July 22, 1885, the San Diego City Guard and the Eagle Corps another unattached company of the First Brigade formed a battalion known as the Seventh Infantry Battalion. The San Diego City Guard was thereafter designated as Company B.

In 1885, the Legislature for the first time made an appropriation for a division or general encampment of the National Guard. The encampment was to be held at Santa Cruz from August fifteenth to twenty-third of that year. The number of men authorized to be taken to camp owing to the small sum appropriated was limited to thirty-five men per company. All persons in excess of that number went at their own expense or that of their company. Company B

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*Company B, formerly San Diego City Guard, unattached, redesignated Company B, Seventh Infantry Battalion, First Brigade, July 22, 1885.

Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, General Order No. 18, page 70.

**Company B, Seventh Infantry Battalion, First Brigade designated Company B, Seventh Infantry Regiment, First Brigade, May 5, 1888. Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.

***Captain Gunn and Lieutenant Dannals retained their former commissions as of January 23, 1882, and December 18, 1882, respectively, when they commanded the San Diego City Guard.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

was able to attend the encampment with forty members, and was among the six units that composed the First Provisional Regiment. This Camp of Instruction was very successful and reflected credit upon the officers and men whose untiring energy made it possible. There was a notable improvement in the drill and bearing of the troops toward the end of the week, and every organization in camp felt that it had a week of profitable experience. The value of the National Guard as an aid to the civil power or as a military force in an emergency, depended wholly upon its proper armament, equipment, discipline and instruction. Reliable soldiers could not be made by armory instruction and street parades. Camp duty was an essential factor of good military instruction, and encampments of considerable bodies offered advantages that a camp of a single regiment did not afford; duty was more attractive, and a friendly rivalry was stimulated among the different organizations and the troops became accustomed to operating together.* Company B left the Santa Cruz encampment with the knowledge that they had been classed by their superior officers as one of the best drilled companies in camp.

In the early eighties the Adjutant General by the offer of valuable prizes, and liberal expenditures for targets and ammunition, hoped to incite a spirit of competition among the members of various companies and promote efficiency in the use of the rifle. There already existed a friendly rivalry between a number of officers and men of the National Guard, who had in their ranks some of the best shots in America. This competitive spirit could have been developed to include the entire personnel of the Guard, had not the Adjutant General been unable to afford sufficient financial assistance.** In 1885 the Legislature amended section 2094 to read "that there must be paid to the Adjutant General \$3,500 per annum to be expended by him in promoting rifle practice." This unfortunately was practically void as no appropriation was made to pay such expenditures that year. Had it been, such a sum would have enabled the Adjutant General to establish targets, supply ample ammunition and to offer medals, greatly stimulating the interest and practice in this most essential branch of military instruction.***

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*Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, page 127.

**Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, page 14.

***Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, pages 8, 9.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

On September 10, 1886, at the annual target practice held in San Diego, which was required by law, Company B attended. Fifty-seven men took part, scoring 748 points out of a possible 1,425 for an actual percentage of fifty-two, the highest made by any company in the Seventh Infantry Battalion.*

Seven new companies were organized in the First Brigade in 1887, and mustered into the service of the National Guard, thus completing the number of companies required for a regimental organization. The Seventh Infantry Battalion was reorganized and became the Seventh Infantry Regiment, May 5, 1888.** For further information concerning Company B, refer to History of Company B, Seventh Infantry Regiment, First Brigade.

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*Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, page 27.

**Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 1.