

History of the 7th Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1888-1917

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Seventh Infantry Regiment, First Brigade

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Organized May 5, 1888

Disbanded December 7, 1895*

Reorganized December 8, 1895**

Mustered into Federal Service May 9, 1898***

Mustered out of Federal Service December 2, 1898****

Reorganized as Seventh Infantry Regiment April and May 1899*****

Mustered into Federal Service June 29, 1916+

Mustered out of Federal Service November 11, 1916++

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

Redesignated mustered into Federal Service October 14, 1917++++

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- *Seventh Infantry Regiment disbanded when Seventh and Ninth Infantry Regiments consolidated and formed three battalions, December 7, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 17, page 86.
- **Seventh Infantry Regiment reorganized by First, Second and Third Battalions Being formed into Seventh Infantry Regiment, December 9, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 18, page 88.
- ***Seventh Infantry mustered into Federal Service for duty during the Spanish-American War, May 9, 1898. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.
- ****Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.
- *****Seventh Infantry Regiment re-entered the National Guard of California July 5, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 7, par. 6, page 64.
- +Seventh Infantry mustered into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican Border, June 29, 1916. Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 19.
- ++Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 19.
- +++General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, General Order No. 34, PAGE 150.
- ++++Seventh Infantry Regiment mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War and designated 160th Infantry, 40th Division. October 14, 1917. Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, pages 27, 28 and 29.

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
W. H. Russell, Colonel (resigned Aug. 1, 1890)	May 5, 1888	June 14, 1888
Charles Allen Colonel (promoted to Adj. Gen. Jan. 8, 1891)	Sept. 20, 1890	Sept. 30, 1890
Arthur Palmer, Lieut. Colonel	May 5, 1888	June 14, 1888
Isaac Benjamin, Major	May 5, 1888	June 15, 1888
Asa M. Green, Captain Adjutant	May 5, 1888	Jan. 3, 1886*
E. R. Smith, Major Surgeon	June 18, 1888	June 20, 1888
W. G. Schreiber, Colonel**	Feb. 7, 1891	Mar. 3, 1891
W. H. Russell, Colonel (retired June 30, 1892)	Mar. 19, 1892	
W. G. Schreiber, Colonel	June 25, 1892	June 25, 1892
J. L. Howland, Lieut. Colonel	Feb. 7, 1891	Mar. 3, 1891
M. L. Starin, Major (resigned Feb. 12, 1895)	Feb. 7, 1891	Mar. 3, 1891
A. F. Halpin, Major	Apr. 6, 1895	May 22, 1895
John B. Franklin, Capt. Adjutant (resigned July 18, 1893)	Mar. 28, 1891	Apr. 3, 1891
H. D. Alfonso, Captain Adjutant	Aug. 15, 1893	Oct. 4, 1893
F. K. Ainsworth, Major Surgeon (resigned Dec. 16, 1893)	Mar. 28, 1891	Apr. 3, 1891
D. C. Barber, Major Surgeon	Dec. 16, 1893	Dec. 23, 1893
John R. Berry, Colonel	Dec. 21, 1895	Jan. 4, 1896
T. A. Nerney, Lieut. Colonel (resigned Sept. 21, 1896)	Jan. 25, 1896	Feb. 17, 1896
W. G. Schreiber, Lieut. Colonel (retired June 8, 1901)	Oct. 17, 1896	Nov. 30, 1896
Dana R. Weller, Major (transferred to 3rd Bat. Feb. 17, 1896)	Jan. 25, 1896	Feb. 17, 1896
Frank C. Prescott, Major	Jan. 17, 1893***	Feb. 17, 1896
H. D. Alfonso, Captain Adjutant (reelected Jan. 25, 1896)		
Hugo, D. Arndt, Major Surgeon	Jan. 20, 1896	Feb. 17, 1896
John R. Berry, Colonel (reelected Jan. 13, 1900) (retired Mar. 3, 1904)		

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*Captain Green retained his former commission as of January 3, 1886, when he commanded the Seventh Infantry Battalion.

**Colonel Schreiber removed from office by Court Order, May 19, 1892, Adjutant General Report 1891-1892. Special Order No. 4, page 148.

***Frank C. Prescott retained his Rank as of Jan. 17, 1893, when he was Major, Ninth Infantry Regiment.

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Commanding Officers (cont.)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
S. H. Finley, Colonel	Feb. 13, 1904	Mar. 3, 1904
R. V. Dodge, Lieut. Colonel (retired Mar. 14, 1901)	Jan. 13, 1900	Apr. 16, 1900
F. L. Reynolds, Lieut. Colonel (retired Jan. 23, 1905)	Mar. 30, 1901	May 3, 1901
W. W. Midgley, Lieut. Colonel	Mar. 18, 1905	Mar. 22, 1905
Robert Wankowski, Major (promoted Nov. 11, 1903)	Jan. 13, 1900	Apr. 6, 1900
Truman Cole, Major	Feb. 13, 1904	Mar. 3, 1904
H. L. Twining, Captain Adjutant (resigned Mar. 16, 1900)	Sept. 14, 1899	Oct. 9, 1899
M. P. Frasier, Captain Adjutant (resigned Apr. 20, 1901)	Apr. 14, 1900	June 18, 1900
Walter Jameson, Captain Adjutant (resigned Feb. 27, 1904)	Apr. 26, 1901	May 29, 1901
A. R. Stedman, Captain Adjutant (resigned Jan. 6, 1905)	Mar. 10, 1904	Apr. 2, 1904
Parke S. Roper, Captain Adjutant	Jan. 6, 1905	Feb. 3, 1905
W. W. Roblee, Major Surgeon (retired Apr. 15, 1907)	Sept. 9, 1899	Nov. 6, 1899
F. M. Bruner, Major Surgeon	Apr. 29, 1907	June 19, 1907
W. G. Schreiber, Colonel	Jan. 13, 1908	Mar. 8, 1908
S. M. Saltmarsh, Lieut. Colonel	June 1, 1907	June 11, 1907
Truman Cole, Major (reelected Jan. 18, 1908)	_____	_____
G. E. Heber, Captain Adjutant	May 1, 1908	May 26, 1908
P. A. Adams, Major Surgeon	May 13, 1908	June 22, 1908
W. G. Schreiber, Colonel (reelected Apr. 19, 1909)	_____	_____
S. M. Saltmarsh, Lieut. Colonel (reelected Apr. 19, 1909)	_____	_____
Truman Cole, Major (reelected Apr. 19, 1909)	_____	_____
G. E. Heber, Captain Adjutant (reelected Apr. 19, 1909) (promoted to Major Apr. 13, 1910)	_____	_____
E. W. Peckham, Captain Adjutant	July 20, 1910	Aug. 2, 1910
P. A. Adams, Major Surgeon (reelected Mar. 23, 1909) (resigned Nov. 8, 1909)	_____	_____
C. W. Decker, Major Surgeon (promoted to Field Hospital No. 1. Jan. 7, 1910)	Nov. 26, 1909	Jan. 7, 1910

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Commanding Officers (cont.)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
W. G. Schreiber, Colonel (reelected Oct. 15, 1913)	_____	_____
S. M. Saltmarsh, Lieut. Colonel (reelected Oct. 15, 1913)	_____	_____
Truman Cole, Major (reelected Oct. 15, 1913) (retired Dec. 17, 1913)		
Harry B. Light, Major (resigned Feb. 7, 1916)	Jan. 11, 1914	Feb. 2, 1914
Frank C. Prescott, Major	June 28, 1916	June 28, 1916
H. E. Kunkel, Captain Adjutant	Mar. 22, 1915	Apr. 2, 1915
H. W. Seager, Major Surgeon (resigned July 13, 1914)	Jan. 24, 1913	Mar. 11, 1913
F. C. Wiser, Major Surgeon	July 13, 1914	July 24, 1914

Activities:

The Seventh Infantry Regiment was formerly the Seventh Infantry Battalion composed of three companies, Company A, Los Angeles, Company B, San Diego and a Cadet Company at Los Angeles. On October 26, 1887, the Cadet Company was organized as a regular unit. Company D stationed in Pomona, was organized October 28, 1887. Company E stationed at San Bernardino, was organized October 29, 1887. Company F stationed at Los Angeles, was organized December 20, 1887 and Company G stationed in Anaheim, was organized March 3, 1888, thus completing the number of companies required for a regimental organization. The battalion therefore, was reorganized as the Seventh Infantry Regiment, with headquarters in Los Angeles, May 5, 1888.

The Seventh Infantry Regiment retained its strength of seven companies until 1895, when it absorbed the units of the disbanded Ninth Infantry Regiment. From 1895 to 1917, the Seventh Infantry was composed of twelve companies, the only variations being three provisional units which were attached to the Regiment. These provisional companies were attached to the Seventh Infantry as follows: Machine Gun Company 1913, Regimental Headquarters Company 1916, and Regimental Supply Company, 1916. The table on the following page indicates the various changes in the designation of the Companies in the Seventh Infantry Regiment.

In May of 1888, dissension arose among the officers of the Seventh Infantry Regiment and it was feared for a time that these petty jealousies would result in the disruption of the newly organized

COMPANIES COMPOSING THE SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, FIRST BRIGADE 1888-1917

A	B	C	D	E	F
Company A, Los Angeles (formerly Eagle Corps) <u>1888</u>	Company B, San Diego (formerly San Diego City Guard) <u>1888</u> Company B, Pasadena <u>1889</u> Company B, San Diego (formerly Companies A, B, 9th Inf.) <u>1895</u> Company B, Los Angeles <u>1908</u>	Company C, Los Angeles (formerly Company C, 7th Inf. Battalion) <u>1888</u> Company C, Los Angeles <u>1894</u>	Company D, Pomona (formerly Company D, 7th Inf. Battalion) <u>1888</u> Company D, Ventura <u>1889</u> Company D, Pomona (formerly Company D, 9th Inf. Reg.) <u>1895</u>	Company E, San Bernardino (formerly Company E, 7th Inf. Reg.) <u>1888</u> Company E, Santa Paula <u>1893</u> Company E, Anaheim <u>1900</u> Company E, Santa Monica <u>1912</u>	Company F, Los Angeles (formerly Company F, 7th Inf. Bat.) <u>1888</u> Company F, Los Angeles <u>1906</u>
G	H	I	K	L	M
Company G, Anaheim (formerly Co. G, 7th Inf. Battalion) <u>1888</u> Company G, Redlands, (formerly Co. G, 9th Inf. Reg.) <u>1895</u>	Company H, Ventura (formerly Co. D, 7th Inf. Regiment) <u>1895</u> Company H, Talbert <u>1900</u> Company H, Long Beach <u>1904</u>	Company I, Pasadena (formerly Company B, 7th Inf. Regiment) <u>1895</u>	Company K, San Bernardino (formerly Company E, 9th Inf. Regiment) <u>1895</u>	Company L, Santa Ana (formerly Company F, 9th Inf. Reg.) <u>1895</u> Company L, Santa Ana <u>1904</u>	Company M, Riverside (formerly Company C, 9th Inf. Regiment) <u>1895</u>

Note: 1. The year dates in the table indicates the year the companies were attached to the Seventh Infantry Regiment.

2. Regimental Headquarters Company, Regimental Supply Company and Machine gun Company were provisional organizations, made up of enlisted men detailed thereto, from the other Companies.

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

regiment and revert it back as a battalion. It had been known for sometime past that there had been more or less internal discord, and the officers had divided into two factions, but the men had kept their grievances for the most part to themselves and it was thought that perhaps these differences had been adjusted.

Consequently when it was reported that Brigadier-General J. R. Mathews, commander of the First Brigade, had received a very peremptory letter from Governor R. W. Waterman, requesting his resignation, it created quite a sensation and protests against the Governor's action were heard on all sides. It was known that much of the success of the Regiment was due to the efforts of that officer. General Mathews, although taken completely by surprise, at once wrote out his resignation and was about to forward it to Headquarters, when a number of his brother officers heard of it and demanded that he withhold it, as they were satisfied that there was some scheme behind the matter which they wanted investigated. Acting on their advice, the General withheld the resignation for the time being.

A meeting of the line officers of the Seventh Infantry Regiment was held in the armory, May fifth, for the purpose of electing a Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel, at which time there was a discussion of General Mathews' resignation. Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Kurtz presided over the meeting, the Captains and Lieutenants of the seven companies composing the Regiment being present. Major W. H. H. Russell was elected Colonel, Captain A. T. Palmer of Pomona, Lieutenant Colonel and Lieutenant Isaac Benjamin of San Bernardino, Major in place of Russell who had been promoted to Colonel. There was a little tiff between Lieutenant Daniels of Pomona and Captain Palmer, growing out of the election, during which there was talk of unfair dealings. In order to prevent serious trouble from arising, Captain Samuel O. Wood brought the meeting to a close by calling the members attention to the fact that General Mathews' resignation had been requested by the Governor, and moved that a vote of thanks be tendered the General for his valuable and efficient service.

General Mathews had been an able and efficient officer and had done much for the Guard in the southern part of the State. The interested parties did not propose to allow his resignation to be sent in without some cause being shown. The Governor had exceeded his authority in sending so peremptory a letter in demanding General Mathews' resignation, and the public wanted an investigation before

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

any further action was taken.* However, there is no record of any investigation and General Mathews in face of Governor Waterman's insistent demands had no alternative but to obey, and on May 26, 1888, he resigned as commander of the First Brigade.

The Seventh Infantry Regiment was imbued with a spirit of civic responsibility and cooperated in every way to make public demonstrations, whether military or social, a success. On July Fourth, 1888, the regiment paraded in the Independence Day celebration held in Los Angeles. Long before the hour announced for the regiment to arrive, the streets were crowded with vehicles and the sidewalks crowded with people, all anxious to view the maneuvers of the troops. Two months later on September eighteenth, the Seventh Infantry Regiment again paraded in Los Angeles as escort for the Odd Fellow's Lodge. The streets of Los Angeles were lined with an almost impassable mass of humanity, more than 150,000 persons witnessing the parade.** On April 23, 1896, the Seventh Infantry marched in celebration of La Fiesta De Los Angeles, a street carnival held each year by the merchants of Los Angeles. One of the most pleasing sights included in the procession was the Seventh Infantry, the whole Regiment was there, 700 men sweeping along the street, marching with measured tread.***

Not all of the parades in which the Seventh Infantry participated, however, were marked with a spirit of gayety and color. On March 17, 1898, the regiment marched in the funeral procession of Major General W. S. Rosecrans, a retired United States Army officer. It was a soldier's funeral in the truest and tenderest sense of the word. There had been pageants more extensive and imposing in the larger cities when the other great Union Generals were laid to rest, but never was there one more simply beautiful, more tender, and sympathetic, than was that of General Rosecrans. After the requiem mass, a brief sermon was given and the funeral procession moved at once without any delay, break or halt. Preceding the hearse was Brigadier-General C. F. A. Last, commander of the First

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*Los Angeles Times, May 6, 1888, page 2, column 5.

**Record Book, Company B, Ninth Infantry.

***Los Angeles Daily Times, April 23, 1896, page 9, column 1.

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Brigade and his Staff, when followed Troop D cavalry and the Seventh Infantry Regiment Band with muffled drums. Colonel John R. Berry, commander of the Seventh Infantry and his Staff, preceded the companies of the Seventh Infantry Regiment.*

On May 8, 1903, the Seventh Infantry marched in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt at Los Angeles. President Roosevelt arrived at La Grande depot promptly at one o'clock P. M. Upon alighting from his car he was greeted by the cheers of the Terrora and Cleveland Greys, drawn up in line on the platform and the people packed into a dense mass beyond the station limits. After shaking hands with the gentlemen of the reception committee, the President was escorted to a carriage. As the order to proceed was given the driver, Mr. Roosevelt commanded him to wait, and in a loud voice directed that the seven mounted "Rough Riders," who had been his comrades at San Juan Hill, be permitted to ride alongside his carriage as a personal body guard. At the signal the procession started between the lines of people who crowded the entire distance up First Street to Main, and from there to the Westminster Hotel. The parade was led by the companies of the Seventh Infantry Regiment and Troop D, under command of Captain John D. Fredericks. The Signal Corps followed, preceding a platoon of police. Colonel Diss' "Teddys Terrors" marched near the curb on each side of the carriages as a guard of honor. In addition to the "Rough Riders," a corps of secret service men kept close to the President's carriage. Following the carriages were the Naval Reserve and men from the U. S. S. "Philadelphia." The veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic joined the parade on Main Street. The Military Order of the Loyal Legion, the Civic League, the Army and Navy League, Native Sons, Union League and a half dozen political and commercial clubs were represented in the parade, formed to impress the nation's chief executive that the welcome of the people of Los Angeles was sincere and their loyalty heartfelt.**

There is no record of the Seventh Infantry participating in any civic celebration other than minor parades until October 16, 1911, when the Regiment paraded in honor of William H. Taft, twenty-

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*Los Angeles Herald, March 17, 1898, page 7, column 1.

**Los Angeles Herald, May 9, 1903, page 1, column 3.

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

seventh President of the United States. The parade through the city of Los Angeles was carried out with great promptness. As an escort to the President and preceding his automobile was Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Saltmarsh and Staff, the Seventh Infantry Band, eleven companies of the Seventh Regiment, a company of the Signal Corps, the Los Angeles Band, two divisions of Naval Militia, a company of Field Artillery with guns and a troop of cavalry acting as personal escort for the President.*

Although actively engaged in these civic affairs, the Seventh Infantry did not lose sight of the fundamental principles of the National Guard, which demanded that through the medium of discipline and drill each regiment and company should strive to become efficient military organizations. With this objective in view the Seventh Infantry Regiment attended many encampments during the twenty-nine years it was in existence. The first was in 1889, when every organization in the State went into encampment. The Seventh Infantry held a Camp of Instruction at Pacific Beach, near the city of San Diego, for eleven days commencing on August third and ending August thirteenth. In 1891, the Seventh Infantry attended the First Brigade encampment held at Santa Monica, August fifteenth to twenty-fourth. The Brigade consisting of the Seventh and Ninth Infantry Regiments was commanded by Colonels W. G. Schreiber and E. P. Spileman and numbered nearly 600 men. The Seventh Infantry also held a Regimental Encampment in 1892, at Camp Anacapa, Ventura County from August seventeenth to twenty-fifth.

The Seventh Infantry failed to hold any encampments the following five years, but in 1897 they attended the Camp of Instruction held at Santa Monica, from August fourth to fourteenth. In 1901, the Seventh Infantry with the First Brigade went into camp at Santa Cruz from June fourteenth to twenty-third, under the command of Major General John H. Dickinson. This was the first time in many years that the Guard had been assembled in one encampment, and the instruction imparted to general and staff officers in the assembling of and caring for the troops was valuable.

In returning to Los Angeles from this encampment, the Seventh Infantry participated in an unfortunate incident which caused much

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*Los Angeles Times, October 17, 1911, part 2, page 1, column 3.

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

criticisms of the National Guard. When the train made a brief stop in Santa Barbara, the members of the Seventh Infantry made a rush to E. C. Webster's lunch stand near the depot for coffee. Without provocation, other than that they could not be served as promptly as they demanded, the soldiers began a raid on the lunch stand. First they pulled down the canvas, then after stripping the tables of everything they contained, they stole and carried away or broke up the tables, dishes, all crockery, forks and spoons and even the tablecloths. They overturned and destroyed everything in the kitchen, completely demolishing the place. After five months investigation by the Adjutant General and Brigadier-General C. F. A. Last, commander of the First Brigade, the Seventh Infantry was ordered to raise \$120.00 to reimburse Mr. Webster.

In 1907, there began a series of joint Army and Militia Encampments for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of the National Guard. The Seventh Infantry was invited to attend the joint army and militia coast defense exercises held at the Presidio in San Francisco from July 4 to 21 1907. The Seventh Infantry again attended a joint army and militia Camp of Instruction held at Atascadero, California, from October 4 to 15 1908.*

The State Legislature in 1887, appropriated \$3,500.00 for the promotion of target practice which was half the amount allowed by law. The Seventh Infantry Regiment having been organized early in 1888, benefited from this appropriation. The military authorities decided to use part of the amount for the purchase of State decorations to be awarded to those making a certain percentage. The law required that practice shoots be held annually in September. A circular bronze medal with a bear's head in the center, with suitable inscriptions around the margin and on back was adopted. To denote the standing the soldier had attained during the year the words "Sharpshooter," "Rifleman," or "Marksman" was inscribed on the gold, silver or bronze bars, which were attached to the medal. The percentage required to entitle the soldier to one of the decorations was purposely placed low in order to encourage those who had not given much attention to target practice.

In 1889, the system of holding target practice was changed by a legislative act. By this enactment, two days practice a year was

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*For additional information concerning the above mentioned Encampments, refer to History of Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment.

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

required instead of one, each officer and enlisted man being required to fire ten shots, as an inducement for the men to come out and take part in both days practice. A prize consisting of a silver medal, struck with a die similar to what the State decoration for marksmanship was made with, was awarded. The medal was also to have a pin and ribbon attached and other additional ornamentations.

During the period from 1896 to 1898, the distance of ranges had been increased from 200 yards ranges to 300 and 500 yards. Practical results had also been realized from skirmish firing at silhouette targets. In 1901, the firing regulations for small arms was changed. The most important change was in the adoption of the figure targets as used by the United States Army, instead of the Blunt target previously used. The following year even more stringent requirements were necessary for qualification for target shooting. Difficulty was experienced in promoting target practice due to insufficient appropriation by the Legislature. Previous to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War the number of rounds required to be used by each man firing with the rifle was increased from twenty to sixty-five and for those firing with a revolver from twenty to forty. This ruling increased the amount of ammunition to be used more than three times the former amount for which no appropriation had been made. In 1902, the firing regulations for small arms was amended. The classification for those firing with a rifle was as follows. A "distinguished" "Sharpshooter" had to make a total annual score at the three ranges of 200, "Rifleman" 160, "Marksman" 130.

With the passage of the "Dick" Militia Law in 1903, the Springfield Rifles, caliber 45, owned by the National Guard, were exchanged for the regular 30 caliber, United States magazine rifle. The exchange was responsible for the lowered scores in target practice and the exchange also necessitated different ranges. The United States Government required that the National Guard have sufficient practice in the use of the new arms to enable them to shoot with a fair degree of accuracy at from 200 to 1,000 yards. The Seventh Infantry maintained a steady average of eight, second class and eighty, third class marksmen until 1901, when the increased amount of target practice and better equipment caused an increase in the number of marksmen. In 1905, Colonel W. G. Schreiber and four members of the Seventh Infantry were part of the rifle team that represented the California National Guard at the National Rifle Match held at Sea Girt, New Jersey.

During the target practice of Company A, Seventh Infantry in 1901, there occurred the first tragedy of the regiment's rifle practice.

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Bert Shedenhelm, an experienced marker, was accidentally shot and killed by George Parks, a fellow guardsman, whose target he was attending. Parks, the company sharpshooter, had scored five consecutive "bulls eyes" at the 200 yard range that morning and was preparing to fire from the 300 yard range. When it came his turn to fire again, stepped out from the group of guardsmen and sat on the ground to take aim as the regulations required. By reason of his reputation as a marksman, much interest was taken by the other men as he drew a careful bead and his Springfield cracked out a report. After he had fired, no flag was shown by the marker. Parks called Supervisor Thaxter's attention to the omission and refused to have a miss marked to his score for the shot. Thereupon, the Lieutenant and Parks proceeded to the pit where Shedenhelm was found mortally wounded, lying on his face. The character of the markers injuries put the theory of a ricochet shot out of the question. Although no one saw the accident, everything pointed to the theory that Shedenhelm climbed on a chair which he had in the trench and that just as the top of his head appeared above the danger line, Parks discharged his rifle and the bullet found a target in the marker's skull.*

On June 28, 1894, a nationwide Railroad Strike completely paralyzed the transportation facilities of the State. Delayed United States mail piled up on every hand and it was this fact which caused the Strikers to come into conflict with "Uncle Sam." On July 1, 1894, the United States took a definite stand in the matter when the United States Attorney-General sent instructions to United States Marshals, whose territory was affected by the strike to execute the processes of the courts and prevent any hindrance to the free circulation of the mails. For some unknown reason, the Seventh Infantry was not called into active service. The United States Marshal for the southern district, made a request upon General Thomas H. Ruger, commanding the Western Division of the Regular Army, for assistance at Los Angeles, and six companies of Regulars, under command of Colonel W. R. Shafter, were sent from San Francisco to the southern city, July second. The Regular Troops experienced little difficulty in the south and without meeting any serious resistance took possession of all railroad property in Los Angeles.**

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*Los Angeles Times, November 19, 1901

**For further details, refer to National Guard and the Railroad Strike. Adjutant General's Office.

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

During the activities of the Railroad Strike, a need for a complete reorganization of the National Guard was apparent. The most important result of the reorganization was that many of the top officers were placed on the retired list. This corrected a situation that had long existed in the Guard, namely, that the service was top-heavy with commanding officers. On December 7, 1895, the Seventh and Ninth Infantry Regiments of the First Brigade, were consolidated into three battalions of infantry with four companies each. Two days later on December ninth, the three battalions were redesignated as the Seventh Infantry.

On November 14, 1896, an unusual and consequently a severe test was put upon the Seventh Infantry to prove the efficiency of the State militia in replying to an emergency call. Emergencies were few and far between, but were likely to arise at any moment and if a militia is good for anything at all, it is expected to be ready for a frolic or a fight at the drop of a hat. Some doubt had been expressed regarding the ability of the State militia to assemble on short notice for active duty, to repel an enemy, for instance, and the experiment was intended to refute the insinuation. In conformity with orders from Division Headquarters, Brigadier-General C. F. A. Last, about eleven A. M., issued orders to the officers of his brigade to assemble the troops at three P. M., at their respective armories. This order was issued to the captains of each company of the Seventh Infantry signed by Colonel John R. Berry and Adjutant H. D. Alfonso, in the following terse form: "Assemble command, heavy marching order, blankets, ball cartridges, one day's rations at armory, three P. M., to day."

This order caused some confusion among the guardsmen. Messengers were sent out by bicycle and horse to notify the members of each company, and that they did well is shown by the roll call, when nearly every member responded. The companies of the Seventh Infantry were then ordered to make a forced march to a point one mile south and half a mile east of Ramona Convent, about nine miles from Los Angeles and there made camp. The following day was passed in going through war maneuvers under rigorous rules. The soldiers were given various drills as though they were actually in the field of war with an enemy in sight.*

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*Los Angeles Herald, November 15, 1896, page 4, column 1.

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued) ✓

Activities: (continued)

The application of Major General N. T. James, Division commander for ammunition and inspection blanks for the emergency drill was not allowed, it being the opinion of Governor Budd that the law made no provision for such a call as the troops received on that occasion. As for the blanks, the only blanks known to the Militia were the annual inspection blanks and they could not legally be furnished for any other purpose. Governor Budd was considerably disquieted over the fact that General James took it upon himself to call out the troops, the Governor claiming that as long as he was in the State, he and he alone had power to issue such a call. The whole thing seemed to have been an immense fiasco without authority from headquarters, and it was certain that if James had gone to any expense in the matter, his claim for remuneration would not meet with the approval of the Board of Examiners.*

The Seventh Infantry was destined not to engage in any encampments or theoretical warfare in 1898 as on April twenty-third, the United States declared war with Spain. The Seventh Infantry left Los Angeles for San Francisco May sixth, where they were mustered into Federal Service May ninth, under the command of Colonel John R. Berry. The regiment did not engage in active service doing only guard duty at the various military camps throughout the State until December 2, 1898, when they were mustered out of Federal Service. It was a great disappointment to the Regiment which was composed of splendid material and commanded by competent officers that they did not get to the front for active service.

The State Legislature in 1899, passed a law giving to the members and companies of the National Guard who volunteered for service in the Spanish-American War, the privilege of reporting back for duty in the National Guard and receiving credit for continuous service. The Legislature stipulated however, that they must return to duty in the National Guard within 150 days after being mustered out of Federal Service. The Seventh Infantry reentered the Guard during the months of April and May 1899.

On April 18, 1906, there occurred a severe earthquake in San Francisco that laid most of the city in ruins. The entire First Brigade was rushed to Oakland for emergency duty April twenty-first.

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*San Diego Sun, November 26, 1896, page 5, column 4.

Activities: (continued)

The companies of the Seventh Infantry assisted the local authorities in maintaining law and order at the various districts in and around Oakland where they were stationed until May 12, 1906, when they returned to Los Angeles.

During the month of May 1907 a Street Car Railroad Strike broke out in San Francisco with several men being killed and scores more or less seriously injured, as a result of bloody riots between strike breakers and strike sympathizers. Chief of Police Denan of San Francisco, stated that in case the strike breakers shoot down any more innocent men their volleys would be answered by well directed rifle shots fired by the police. But in spite of this alleged threat the President of the United Railroads declared that his cars would be running on May ninth and that his men would be armed to protect the company's property. The whole city was practically paralyzed owing to the reoccurrence of strikes which seriously menaced the city's business interests. Thousands of employers, as well as those who depended upon their daily earnings for the necessities of life, were hoping that the clouds in the labor horizon would clear away and that normal conditions would then assert themselves. Unless conditions changed for the better within a short time, it was likely that a demand would be made for State Troops, as the protection afforded by the police was inadequate.*

The companies of the Seventh Infantry were under orders to report to their armories within a half hour's notice prepared to go to San Francisco in case it should be found necessary to call in armed men to stop the strike. The Southern Pacific Railroad Company was notified of the expected orders, and sent word that a special train would be held in readiness to carry the soldiers to San Francisco.** On the sixteenth of May the Geary Street Railroad granted the demands of the striking carmen and operations were resumed the following day on a basis of three dollars for an eight hour day.*** When this agreement was reached the companies of the Seventh Infantry were released from their emergency orders.

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*Los Angeles Herald, May 8, 1907, page 1, column 1.

**Los Angeles Herald, May 9, 1907, page 7, column 2.

***Los Angeles Herald, May 16, 1907, page 1, column 5.

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

There is no record of the Seventh Infantry participating in any unusual activities until June 29, 1916, when they were mustered into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican Border and transferred to Nogales, Arizona. The regiment encamped at a site less than two miles northwest of Nogales, and about the same distance from the border. The Seventh Infantry did not engage in active service but only did patrol duty until October nineteenth, when they returned to Los Angeles. The regiment was mustered out of Federal Service November 11, 1916.*

Four months later, on March 26, 1917, the Seventh Infantry was again called into Federal Service for duty during the World War.** On October 14, 1917, the Seventh Infantry was mustered into Federal Service and designated 180th Infantry.*** For further information concerning the activities of this regiment refer to the History of 180th Infantry 40th Division.

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*For further information concerning the Spanish-American War, The Earthquake and Mexican Border Service, refer to the History of Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment.

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

***Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, pages 27, 28, 29.