

History of the 7th Infantry Regiment, Company A (Eagle Corps), National Guard of California 1888-1917

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References: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Organized June 9, 1881

Reconstituted July 22, 1885*

Reconstituted May 5, 1888**

Reconstituted Dec. 9, 1895***

Mustered into Federal Service May 9, 1898****

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

Reorganized as Company A, Seventh Regiment April 30, 1899*****

Mustered into Federal Service June 29, 1916

Mustered out of Federal Service November 11, 1916**

Resumption of Service in the National Guard 1916***

Mustered into Federal Service April 9, 1917****

Redesignated October 14, 1917*****

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*Company A, formerly Eagle Corps, designated Company A, Seventh Infantry Battalion on July 22, 1885.

Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, page 6.

**Company A, formerly Company A, Seventh Infantry Battalion designated Company A Seventh Infantry Regiment, May 5, 1888.

Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.

***Company A, Seventh Infantry redesignated Company A, First Battalion December 7, 1895. Two days later on December 9th, Company A, First Battalion designated Company A, Seventh Infantry.

Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders 17, 18, pages 86, 88.

****Company A, as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish American War, May 9, 1898.

Adjutant General Report 1897-1900, page 6.

*****Adjutant General Report 1897-1900, page 6.

*****Company A, as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment reentered the National Guard of California April 30, 1899.

Adjutant General Report 1897-1900, page 59.

*Company A, as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment 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.

****Company A, as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War April 9, 1917. Muster Roll Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment, April 1917. Adjutant General's Files.

*****Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment consolidated with Company C, Seventh Infantry Regiment and designated Company A, 160th Infantry Regiment October 14,

General Report 1910-1926, page 26.

1917. Adjutant

William Schreiber, Captain (relected Nov. 18, 1890) (promoted to Colonel Mar. 4, 1891)	Sept. 11, 1890	Oct. 2, 1891
Bert Williamson, First Lieut. (resigned Oct. 28, 1890)	Nov. 27, 1890	Jan. 6, 1892
Frank A. Martin, First Lieut.	Nov. 18, 1890	Nov. 23, 1890
Frank A. Martin, Captain	Apr. 7, 1891	Apr. 25, 1891
Henry Steere, First Lieut.	Apr. 7, 1891	May 4, 1891
Henry Steere, Captain	May 16, 1892	June 9, 1892
Frank Baldwin, First Lieut.	May 16, 1892	June 9, 1892
Frank Baldwin, Captain (resigned May 22, 1892)	June 25, 1892	July 20, 1892
Samuel Crawford, First Lieut. (resigned May 5, 1892)	June 25, 1892	July 20, 1892
William Schreiber, Captain	June 9, 1892	July 29, 1892
Frank A. Martin, First Lieut. (resigned Nov. 9, 1892)	June 9, 1892	July 29, 1892
Robert Wankowski, Captain	Dec. 17, 1892	Jan. 7, 1897
Henry Bates, First Lieut.	Dec. 12, 1892	Jan. 7, 1897
Robert Wankowski, Captain (relected May 30, 1893)	May 20, 1893	June 24, 1893
Arthur Bradbury, First Lieut.	Apr. 26, 1900	June 10, 1900
Arthur Bradbury, Captain (resigned Feb. 24, 1902)	Apr. 23, 1900	June 16, 1900
George Lockwood, First Lieut.	Mar. 16, 1902	May 21, 1902
George Lockwood, Captain	Mar. 19, 1902	July 8, 1902
Shirley Holt, First Lieut. (resigned Feb. 14, 1904)	May 19, 1902	Sept. 13, 1902
Perry Weidner, First Lieut.	May 10, 1904	July 11, 1904
Perry Weidner, Captain (resigned Apr. 2, 1904)	May 10, 1904	July 11, 1904
Andrew Copp, First Lieut.	Apr. 16, 1905	May 10, 1905
Andrew Copp, Captain	Apr. 16, 1905	May 10, 1905
Orten Holden, First Lieut. (term expired)	Apr. 28, 1905	May 25, 1905
Bert Demmitt, First Lieut.	Oct. 19, 1909	Nov. 4, 1909
Andrew Copp, Captain (relected Apr. 29, 1909) (promoted to Major Sept. 21, 1909)	Aug. 16, 1910	Sept. 8, 1910
Orten Holden, Captain (resigned Aug. 2, 1910)		
Warren Holden, Captain		
Bert Demmitt, First Lieut. (relected Apr. 29, 1909)		
Warren Holden, Captain (relected Oct. 20, 1913) (resigned Feb. 7, 1914)		
Bert Demmitt, First Lieut. (relected Oct. 20, 1913) (promoted to Capt. 7th Inf. Reg. Jan. 11, 1914)	Mar. 6, 1914	Apr. 3, 1914
Harry Underwood, First Lieut.	Apr. 3, 1916	May 22, 1916
Harry Underwood, Captain	June 12, 1916	June 19, 1916
H. P. Unsted, First Lieut.		

Activities:

Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment, was formerly the Eagle Corps, an unattached company of the First Brigade, organized June 9, 1881. On July 22, 1885, the Eagle Corps and the San Diego City Guard, another unattached company, formed a new Battalion known as the Seventh Infantry Battalion. The Eagle Corps was, thereafter, known as Company A. Three years later, on May 5, 1888, the Seventh Infantry Battalion was reorganized and became the Seventh Infantry Regiment, with Company A retaining the same letter designation.

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 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 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 as 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 Regiment was held in the armory May 5, 1888, for the purpose of electing a colonel and a lieutenant-colonel, at which time there was a discussion of General Mathews' resignation. Lieutenant-Colonel 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 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 dealing. In order to prevent serious trouble arising, Captain 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 any further action was taken.*

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

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

There is no record of any investigation and General Mathews, in face of Governor Waterman insistent demands and no alternative but to obey, and on May 26, 1888, he resigned as commander of the First Brigade. Governor Waterman appointed his lifelong friend, H. H. Boyce, of Los Angeles to succeed General Mathews.*

Company A participated in the Independence Day celebration held in Los Angeles, July Fourth, 1888, which was the outstanding social event of the year. Long before the hour announced for the companies of the Seventh Infantry to arrive, the street was crowded with vehicles and the sidewalks lined with people, all anxious to view the maneuvers of the troops. Companies A, C, and F of Los Angeles, Company G of Anaheim, and Company B of San Diego, all of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, passed in review before General H. H. Boyce, commander of the First Brigade, and his staff, who were drawn up mounted to the left. General Boyce and all of his staff sat with heads uncovered while the companies marched past, all saluting their superiors in military style. The companies marched up to the head of the street and after performing some very fancy and well executed movements they drew up in single file directly in front of Colonel Russell, who was in command. The drum corps then trooped the line and the sergeants made their reports to the Adjutant, who in return read some orders from Brigade Headquarters. Colonel Russell then put the regiment through the manual of arms and gave some instructions to the officers and the parade was dismissed.

The celebration was brought to a close by a magnificent display of fireworks at night. It was a great feature, something never before attempted in California. The cannon rockets were the largest ever seen, the shells being thirty inches in diameter. There were many beautiful designs executed in the presence of about five thousand persons. The grand finale was interspersed with monster shells thrown from iron mortars, and rockets of immense caliber. The piece represented the Father of His Country, delivering his farewell address, with right hand lifted and the left holding his manuscript. Above the statue was an arch of colored jets with heavy girds of sunfire, filling the air with bouquets of colored lights, terminating with heavy salutes, and the words "Goodnight."**

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*Adjutant General Report, 1887-1888, page 4.

**Record Book, Company B, Ninth Infantry, page 4.

Activities:(continued)

Two months later on September 18, 1888, Company A was again host to the various companies of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, when they paraded in Los Angeles, as escort for the members of the Odd Fellows Lodge. The streets of Los Angeles were lined with an almost impassable mass of humanity, more than one hundred and fifty thousand persons witnessing the parade. The Seventh Infantry Regiment, was the escort of honor. At the head rode Brigadier-General H. H. Boyce on a Royal horse, escorted by his soldierly and brilliant staff. The Regiment, Colonel W. H. H. Russell, commanding, came along with the swinging step of veterans, having seven full companies and looking like an army itself. The men evinced the effect of strict discipline, of ambition to be all that the name soldier conveys. Their step, alignment and deportment could not have been better. Company A, commanded by William Schreiber, looked very fine in their new uniforms. It was the oldest and one of the best companies in the Seventh Regiment. Taken as a whole the regiment was a great credit to the National Guard, and in its marching won applause without stint from the many veteran officers present. Colonel Russell, his staff, and the regiment made a fine impression all along the line.*

During the year 1889, every organization in the State went into encampment. Company A, together with the other units of the First Brigade went into camp at Pacific Beach, near the city of San Diego, for eleven days, commencing on August 8, 1889, and ending August thirteenth. This was a Brigade encampment, under the command of Brigadier-General E. P. Johnson. It was the only brigade camp held during the year. The camp which was designated "Camp Dimond" in honor of Major-General W. H. Dimond, was very pleasantly located on a level plateau over looking the ocean, and was reached from San Diego by the motor line running to Pacific Beach. Through the kindness of Brigadier-General B. H. Grierson, United States Army, commanding the District of Arizona, a Company of the Ninth Infantry, United States Army, was ordered to camp with the Brigade. The camp was well laid out. The tents were entirely new, the headquarters tent being a large one, nearly one hundred and fifty feet long, divided by board partitions into officers, reception-rooms, mess-rooms and a large apartment fitted with seats for the convenience of an audience while listening to the music of the regimental band, which played there

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*Record Book, Company B, Ninth Infantry, page 10.

Activities: (continued)

every day and evening during the encampment. The officers and each company were provided with mess tents, and the messing arrangements were better than any of the other encampments. The troops consisted of the General and the staff officers of the First Brigade, and the Seventh Regiment of Infantry. Captain Bailey and Lieutenants Robertson and Wittenmyer of Company E, Ninth Infantry Regiment, United States Army, personally superintended the drills of the various companies and the regiment. Through these officers' corrections and instruction, and the example set by the company of regulars, the command made remarkable progress in drill during the time spent in camp. Several companies had their annual target practice, as prescribed by law and general orders, while in camp but with the limited time at their disposal, and the impossibility of providing proper facilities, the practice was not a success. The habit of having companies of the regular service encamp with the National Guard organizations was growing in popularity in the Eastern States, and was one out of which the greatest good would come to both services. The remarkable progress made in drill and discipline in the camp of the First Brigade, was due to two things. First, the presence of the Brigade Commander, General Johnson, and his efficient staff. Secondly, to the presence of the regulars in camp. It was hoped that the practice would be continued, and that hereafter at all encampments there would be present bodies of regular troops.*

Shortly after the close of the Brigade encampment, Company A made a determined effort to increase their military efficiency. At the meeting which the company held on September 7, 1889, a complete reorganization of its civil government was effected. A strong constitution and a vigorous set of by-laws were adopted energetic officers were elected to enforce them, as it was determined by the members to bring this company rapidly to the front. Some of the salient points of the new by-laws were:

1. Monthly dues, fifty cents
2. Absence from drills without excuse, fine, privates fifty cents; non-commissioned officers seventy-five cents; officers one dollar.
3. Absence from parades, fine, privates one dollar; non-commissioned officers two dollars and fifty cents; officers five dollars.**

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*Adjutant General Report, 1889-1890, page 9.

**Los Angeles Herald, September 8, 1889, page 2, column 3.

Activities: (continued)

There is no record of Company A participating in any unusual activities until they attended the First Brigade encampment held at Santa Monica, August 15, 1891, to August twenty-fourth. The Brigade consisting of the Seventh and Ninth Infantry Regiments, was commanded by Colonel W. G. Schreiber and E. B. Spileman, and numbered nearly six hundred men. The camp, designated as Camp Johnson, in honor of Brigadier-General E. P. Johnson, Brigade Commander, was situated on Ocean Avenue, on the northern boundary of the city, and was within a stonethrow of the ocean, the broad expanse of the Pacific being completely in view. The camp was tastefully and properly laid out. The Adjutant General appointed Lieutenant Colonel A. D. Cutler, as inspector of the Brigade. The encampment was a failure, as Lieutenant Colonel Cutler in his report to the Adjutant General, on August 25, 1891, stated.

"Formations for review were tardy and far from showing the necessary acquaintance with the tactics, particularly by guides and chiefs of subdivisions. March in review was fairly good, alignments and distances fair, salutes of officers generally poor, lacking snap, and failing generally to look to the reviewing officer. The general conduct and aspect of officers and men was orderly and soldierly although too much argument and solicitation took the place of absolute command at company drills, showing the failure of both to recognize the difference between officer and soldier while on duty. The chief faults and omissions that were noticeable were clearly due to a lack of opportunity for regimental assemblage and of constant acquaintance of field, staff, and line officers, and regimental formations or movements. So long however, as a regimental organization exists its officers must be held responsible for whatever unprofitable results arise, as well as complimented for the good features of their commands. A large proportion of the men in both regiments were unclean and showed lack of personal interest in their appearance, particularly as to gloves, collars and boots. As sufficient notice of the inspection had been given to allow time for preparation, the lack of effort to make a more soldier-like appearance was noticeable and should be charged to both officers and men."

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Colonel Cutler also stated in his report that the sanitary arrangements of the encampment were very unsatisfactory. The sinks were poorly built and located, and in a most filthy condition. The garbage was also poorly provided for and would have caused serious medical trouble ultimately, but for the location of the camp on an open bluff, constantly exposed to a strong sea breeze.*

The members of Company A were displeased over the report of Lieutenant Colonel Cutler. It was stated that he was only in camp a few hours, and therefore not able to judge properly. There was some dispute about the officers salute, and it was generally regarded that he allowed his personal feelings to color his report. The matter was to be brought to the attention of the Governor, and an investigation demanded.** There is no record of any investigation being held but Colonel Cutler's report was officially published in the Adjutant General's Report for 1891.

Company A attended the Seventh Regiment encampment held at Camp Anacapa, Ventura County, from August 17 to 25, 1892. Lieutenant Colonel Cutler was again division inspector and on this occasion the improvement was so noticeable that he sent in the following report to the Adjutant General.

"Camp well located. General appearance of the camp streets very good. Kitchen and mess tents exceptionally clean and in splendid order. General health excellent, very few cases of sickness being reported. Military courtesy very good. Officers and men alike seem to use every effort to conduct themselves as soldiers, and bring the regiment up to a high standard. The regimental drum and bugle corps deserve special mention for military bearing and courtesy. The tents were models of neatness. Uniforms and equipment in first class condition. Improvements in the regiment generally had been very great during the past few months, and the officers are entitled to a large amount of credit considering the disadvantages they have been laboring under during the past few years."***

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*Adjutant General Report, 1891-1892, pages 162-164.

**San Francisco Chronicle, September 21, 1891, page 2, column 5.

***Adjutant General Report, 1893-1894, page 153.

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

In accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Location and Organization, General Order No. 17, was issued December 7, 1895, which consolidated the Seventh and Ninth Infantry Regiments into three battalions of Infantry with four companies each.* On December 9, 1895, General Order No. 18 organized the three new battalions in the First Brigade into one regiment to be known as the Seventh Infantry.** Company A retained the same designating letter.

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 Company A and the other units of the Seventh Infantry were not called into active service. The United States Marshal for the south 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 (three hundred and twenty men) under command of William R. Shafter were dispatched from San Francisco to the southern city at 10:30 P. M. 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.***

On April 22, 1896, Company A and the other military units in the First Brigade marched in celebration of the La Fiesta De Los Angeles, a street carnival held each year by the merchants of

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- *Adjutant General Report, 1895-1896, General Order No. 17, page 86.
- **Adjutant General Report, 1895-1896, General Order No. 18, page 88.
- ***For further details refer to National Guard and the Railroad Strike. Adjutant General's Office.

Activities: (continued)

Los Angeles. The parade was led by Marshal Madison T. Owens. Just behind rode Colonel William Spencer and M. A. Costerisan, chief trumpeter to the Marshal. Brigadier General C. F. A. Last, commanding the military division, rode at the head of his staff. At the rear of the staff rode Gene Maxwell, quartermaster sergeant of Troop D, carrying the Brigadier General's banner. The beautiful silken flag flaunted in the breeze triumphantly, a shimmering banner of blue, edged with silver lace, with a solitary star in the center. One of the most pleasing sights included in the procession was the Seventh Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California. The whole regiment was there, seven hundred men swept along the street, marching with measured tread. There was the flutter of flags, the tramp of hundreds of feet and the crash and blare of the military band. It was a spectacle to delight the soul of anyone with a spark of military fire in him.*

Company A and the other units of the Seventh Infantry continued to improve their military standard. The First Brigade encampment held in Santa Monica from August 4 to 14, 1897, was a model of military efficiency. The camp was strictly speaking, a working camp. From reveille, which was sounded at 5 A. M., until evening mess at 6:30 P. M., five and one half hours was devoted to camp policing, drills and extended order exercises, one hour and a half to dress parades, guard mounting and reviews. While only four and one half hours were given to meals and recreation. The time actually consumed in formal review was very small, the record showing that only three were held during the entire camp. They were as follows: one in honor of the Major General, another in honor of the Adjutant General, and the third, a review of the Brigade by the General commanding. It was the policy of this encampment to devote as little time to these purely ceremonial matters as was consistent with the necessities of the occasion and it was preferable to devote every moment to actual work in practical drill instruction. To this end, every man not actually engaged in other work or in the hospital, was required to drill. And while the work was considerable, it was cheerfully done, and with an apparent endeavor to accomplish something. The officers of the Seventh Infantry, which formed the bulk of the camp, especially the battalion commanders, were hard working and very efficient. In some instances the personnel of the line officers

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

Activities: (continued)

might have been improved upon. Ignorance and lack of experience were the principal faults, faults which were materially remedied by the camp experience. Great interest was taken by officers and men in the problem of minor tactics. The only regret expressed being that the lack of time in camp precluded the possibility of having more of them. Should the Brigade go into camp in 1898, with the preliminary work they had in 1897, there was no doubt but what it would be ripe for continued work and plenty of it, along the line of practice marches and theoretical engagements. The men had taken great interest in these drills as being entirely different from the ordinary evolutions of drill regulations and savoring so much of actual service.*

Company A was destined not to engage in any theoretical warfare in 1898, as events were taking shape which were of a more serious nature. On April 23, 1898, the United States declared war with Spain. Company A and the other companies of the Seventh Infantry left Los Angeles for San Francisco, May 6, 1898, where they were mustered into the United States Service on May ninth under the command of Colonel John R. Berry. The Regiment was ordered to Camp Merritt, San Francisco, May twenty-fifth, and returned to Camp Merriam at the Presidio, August twenty-fourth, where it remained until October thirteenth. The troops were then ordered to Los Angeles, arriving on the fourteenth, and was furloughed until November twelfth, when the regiment reassembled and reported for duty at Los Angeles and established Camp Pratt. The Regiment was mustered out on December 2, 1898.**

There is only a limited source of information concerning the activities of Company A for the two years following the close of the Spanish American War, due to the fact that the various companies of the Seventh Infantry were undergoing a period of readjustment.

In recognition of the patriotism and sacrifices made by the members of the National Guard, who volunteered and entered the service of the United States in the Spanish American War of 1898,

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*Adjutant General Report, 1896-1898, pages 17-19.

**Adjutant General Report, 1899-1900, page 6. For further details refer to History of Seventh Infantry Regiment, California Volunteers in the Spanish American War. Adjutant General's Office.

Activities: (continued)

the State Legislature in 1899, passed a law giving to the companies and members of the National Guard who were mustered into the service of the United States and subsequently discharged therefrom, the privilege of reporting back and returning to duty. The men were to be given full credit for continuous service from the time they were mustered into the United States Service until they reported back for duty in the Guard, provided that they reported within 150 days after being mustered out of the United States Service.*

Company A, together with the First Brigade, attended a Camp of Instruction in 1901, when the entire National Guard assembled 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. The camp, designated Camp Gage, in honor of Governor Henry T. Gage, was situated upon what was called Laveaga Heights, about two and one half miles from the town of Santa Cruz, and about three miles from the Pacific Ocean. It was a table-land or plateau having an elevation of about three hundred feet above the sea. Company A and the other units of the First Brigade had their camp laid out upon the northeasterly portion of the plateau lying north of the main road through the reservation, and just east of and adjoining the Division Camp gate. The company streets were laid off at right angles to the road, each company having an entire street. There were five tents on each side of the street, spaced fifteen feet, center to center, with the streets twenty feet wide, at the head of which were two tents for the company officers, facing north down the street and at right angles to the other tents. The companies were separated by a ten foot alley and the battalions by a twenty foot alley from each other. The Major's and Adjutant's tents were placed on the right of their battalions. On the side farthest from the company offices a thirty foot street ran parallel to the road, and the kitchens were placed upon the north side of this street. Regimental headquarters was on the right of the First Battalion and faced west down the thirty foot street, the regimental staff being to

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*Adjutant General Report, 1899-1900, page 8.

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

the left, and the band, and non-commissioned staff being to the rear and parallel thereto. To the rear of the non-commissioned staff, and twenty feet from the road, was the hospital tent facing regimental headquarters and parallel thereto, and to the right of the hospital and in line with the front were the surgeons. One hundred feet to the rear of regimental headquarters, and facing the thirty foot street, was brigade headquarters, with the staff placed on either side; the orderlies tents being placed in the rear. To the rear of the brigade headquarters street near the road, facing east, was the guard-house tents. The regimental officers mess was on the right flank of the regimental headquarters street, just below the crest of the slope. Brigade officers' mess was on the right of the brigade street and a little to the rear. Company A participated in the usual camp drills and regimental instructions, climaxing the encampment by a forced march under Brigadier-General C. F. Last, commander of the First Brigade. On Saturday, June twenty-second, the First Brigade broke camp, having properly cleaned up and burnt the refuse of the camp site, and about three P. M. proceeded to the Southern Pacific Railroad Company depot at Santa Cruz where it took the train. Company A arrived in Los Angeles the following day.*

In 1905, the National Guard of California was reorganized. It was put upon a new basis provided for under the General Dick Bill that had been passed by Congress. Adjutant General Stone of the California National Guard, received a telegram notifying him of the passage of the measure and indicating what must be done with the State troops. The Guard units had to be overhauled and a number of superfluous high officers eliminated in order to bring the Guard under the same system that governed the regular Army soldiers. This compulsory innovation effected the troops of every state in the Union and put them all upon a like footing. In the change California dropped one Major-General, two Brigadier-Generals, and a few other supernumerary officers that had been carried principally for display purposes at reviews. The position occupied by Major-General John H. Dickinson was abolished. The high positions held by Brigadier-General R. H. Farfield of San Francisco, Brigadier-General M. W. Muller of Fresno, and Brigadier-General C. F. Last of Los Angeles were combined into one, and there was

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*Adjutant General Report, 1901-1902, pages 8, 137, 139, 140, 142.

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

only one Brigadier-General in California's State soldiery. Whether all three of the present brigadiers were to be dropped from the service or some one of them be retained for the highest place in the California Guard was a question that set the State troops to thinking. California was to have a National Guard on a Brigade basis. That meant that instead of about twenty-eight hundred available men being formed into a division commanded by a Major General, there would be one substantial brigade. It would also mean that instead of there being seven infantry regiments of small numerical strength and a number of battalions of cavalry and artillery, there would be fewer infantry regiments and consequently fewer colonels and majors. However, every regiment was to be recruited to the size of a regular army command. One of the principal changes noticed was the raising of the regiments to twelve company organizations. This meant larger companies and four more captains and eight more lieutenants to each regiment. This increase of companies helped to make places for the officers crowded out by the plan of reorganization upon a brigade basis. The General Dick Bill permitted the States five years in which to make the change to the regulations. But at the end of that time every part of the National Guard must conform with the national law, making the State troops as nearly like regulars as possible. Adjutant General Stone expected to rush matters and get the plan before the California Legislature, which was then in session, for immediate adoption. The change would then go formally into effect with California's State troops by the first of July. If the necessary act passed the Legislature at that session a whole year's time would be saved and that much would be gained in advancing California's military. The State made the change in order to get the National Government's allowance of about twenty thousand dollars for the State Troops. With the adoption of this Militia Bill by the State, there was also a corresponding revision of the State militia code.*

The General Dick Militia Act was amended in 1906, and again in 1908, giving the various states until January 21, 1910, to comply with the rules and regulations that govern the regular army in

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*San Francisco Chronicle, January 21, 1903, page 14, column 3.

Activities: (continued)

times of peace.*

On the morning of April 18, 1906, there occurred in San Francisco a catastrophe that changed the whole social and economic life of the city. At 5:18 there was heard a distinct rumbling deep in the earth, followed by a severe earthquake which laid most of the city in ruins. Buildings collapsed and flames broke out in many places, the broken gas mains contributing added terror. The breaking of the water mains by the earthquake left the city defenseless against the flames and buildings were dynamited to prevent the spread of the fire; but all was futile until broad Van Ness Avenue was reached, and a fortunate temporary change in the direction of the wind drove the flames back over the already desolated district. Company A together with the other units of the Seventh Infantry left Los Angeles for Oakland, April 21, 1906. The troops arrived in Oakland April twenty-second, and were ordered into camp at Lincoln Park. Company A was placed under the command of Major Truman Cole, and stationed at Adams Point, Oakland. The duty performed by these troops consisted mainly in maintaining order at the different refugee camps, at supply depots, and throughout the towns where they were stationed, and at Oakland, assisting the local police, especially during the night time; escorting supply wagons to and from San Francisco, transferring large sums of money from the United States Mint at San Francisco, to the local banks in Oakland, and escorting civil prisoners, temporarily in confinement at Alcatraz Island, to the several county jails in and around Oakland. The discipline and general morals of the troops was excellent and no complaint was at any time made of any men conducting themselves in an unsoldierly manner. When one considers that duty of this nature was entirely new to the men and to almost all of the officers, too much praise could not be given the Guard. It was true that the Guard duty was faulty, but considering the many calls made on the men for escort and patrol duty, both day and night, to which the men at all times answered most cheerfully, considerable experience was gained by the troops, both officers

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*Section 1325 of the Military Laws of the United States, on file Adjutant General's Office.

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

and men. Company A and the various units of the Seventh Infantry entrained for their home stations May twelfth, Company A arriving in Los Angeles, May 13, 1906.*

The standard of efficiency maintained by Company A was brought to a new high level in 1907, when 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 July 21, 1907. The exercises were devoted entirely to military problems and lectures by the United States Army officers. The Seventh Infantry arrived in San Francisco, July sixth, and were met by officers and men, detailed for this purpose, who conducted the different companies to the points to which they had been assigned. July seventh was devoted to the preparation of camp by the various units. July eighth, Sunday, was spent in recreation and completing of camp arrangements. The officers of the regiment were conducted through the various batteries, and the mechanism and operation of the guns and mortars thoroughly explained by officers of the United States Artillery. July ninth was spent in acquainting the enlisted men of the regiment with the batteries and imparting to them artillery instructions by the non-commissioned officers of the various batteries. July 10, the problem of "Outposts and Patrols" was conducted by Captain J. P. Ryan, Sixth Cavalry, United States Army. July eleventh was spent in discussing the problem of "Occupation of a Defensive Position" by Captain Ryan. On July twelfth a lecture was given by Captain G. A. Nugent on "Position Finding Service," and "Instruments." July thirteenth, a lecture was given by Lieutenant A. E. Beebe on "Field Map Working." July fourteenth, a parade was held followed by a review tendered to Colonel J. A. Lundeen. July fifteenth, target practice by the mortar battery was engaged in, which was witnessed by officers and men of the Seventh Infantry. July sixteenth, target practice by heavy gun batteries was held, which officers and men were permitted to witness. No exercises were held on the seventeenth. On July eighteenth, the day was spent in theoretical warfare. On July nineteenth, the Seventh Infantry entrained for Los Angeles, arriving there July twentieth. Almost unanimous were the expressions of opinion by officers of the regiment that the exercises were of great benefit, and should be repeated another year.

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*Adjutant General Report, 1906, pages 40, 41, 51, 52.

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

The officers and men were unanimous in expressing appreciation of the courtesy and painstaking efforts taken by the Artillery troops to make their tour of duty pleasant and instructive.*

A joint army and militia camp of instruction was again held in 1908, at Atascadero, California, from October 4, to October 15. Company A and the other units of the Seventh Infantry arrived in Atascadero in two sections on the Southern Pacific Railroad on the morning of October 5, 1908. The total strength of the regiment was forty-four officers and four hundred eighty-four men, fully equipped and clothed for field service, each man was equipped with shelter half, pins and poles, two blankets, one poncho, one olive-drab and one blue shirt, khaki coat, trousers, leggings, canteen, haversack, meat can knife, spoon, fork, and tin cup, rifle, bayonet and belt. As soon as the camp equipage arrived, the camp ground tents were immediately put up, guard established and the regiment made its self as comfortable as possible. Mess tables and benches which had been promised were not received for several days thereafter, which however, made little difference, as the men accommodated themselves to conditions as they found them. The sanitary officers of the regiment were instructed by the medical department at the field hospital in regard to regulations governing latrines, ditches, and they continually worked in a faithful manner to cause the regiment to comply with such instructions and were fairly successful in maintaining a sanitary camp. There was some delay in the issue of rations, some not being issued until nearly dark, but as the members of Company A and the other units had provided themselves with subsistence on leaving their home station, no particular discomfort was experienced. Four cooks from the Regular Army cooking school reported to the Seventh Infantry and were distributed throughout the regiment to the best advantage possible. Great benefit was received from their instruction. The battalions were drilled in close order during the forenoons, and solved minor problems under very competent instructors detailed from the regular army. From the reports received from the battalion commanders, considerable progress was made by each battalion in field work, both officers and men exhibiting great zeal in endeavoring to perform the duties allotted to them to the best of

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*Adjutant General Report, 1907-1908, pages 41-47.

Activities: (continued)

their ability. The lectures held at general headquarters were attended by the officers of the regiment whenever possible, strict orders being issued that all these lectures must be attended by all officers, including medical officers. The regiment as a organization took part only in one maneuver, being the advance guard of a blue force operating against a red force. In this maneuver all officers and men showed great interest, responded promptly to any orders issued, and, while some confusion occurred at the different stages of the operation, owing to the dense underbrush, and this being the first maneuver of this kind during the camp, the regiment did fairly well under the circumstances. Perhaps more ammunition was used than would warrant the supply on hand, but the expenditure of ammunition on the firing line was always a serious one with raw troops, and only time and experience would remedy such expenditure. The officers and men of the Seventh Infantry expressed their sincere appreciation of the different departments with whom they came in contact. The heads of these various departments spared no pains in assisting the companies in performing their duties, and great benefit was derived by such courteous and painstaking treatment. By having close order drills, the battalions which during the year had no opportunity to drill as such, were given a chance to be handled as a unit, and by having close order drills in the morning and field exercises in the afternoon, neither drills were too long nor too strenuous and the men took to both very kindly. The officers also expressed their sincere thanks to the Commanding Officer of the camp for the kind consideration always exhibited to their regiment, and believed that this encampment had brought the National Guard closer to the regular army, and had shown the Guard its shortcomings more than any other encampment in which they had taken part.*

Once every year the highest officers of the National Guard and specially trained experts from the regular army had a council of war, at which they discussed the slow-moving plans for welding the regulars and the vast, unwieldy militia into one compact military machine. In 1909, from September 27 to 29, Company A was host to the eleventh annual convention of the National Guard Association of the United States, which was held in Convention Hall, Hotel Alexandria, Los Angeles. From the proceedings of

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*Adjutant General Report, 1910, page 24.

Activities: (continued)

the first day of the National Guard convention, it was evident that great things were afoot, and that the War Department hammering out a remarkable policy for the defense of the country. Colonel E. M. Weaver of the General Staff, and head of the Bureau of Militia Affairs read a paper, briefly sketching an idea of this policy, the first real "Military Policy" this country has produced. It was the hope of the War Department to divide the United States into geographical military districts. All the regular and National Guard troops in each district would be welded into permanent brigades and divisions and army corps. By thus molding regulars and militia men into component parts of one big machine it would be possible to mobilize the entire organized fighting force of this country in forty-eight hours. In addition to this paper, which would attract attention from military men all over the world, General James A. Drain, presented an important report as chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Guard Association. It was principally a discussion of the demands that should be made upon Congress in behalf of the militia. The morning of the twenty-seventh, was taken up with business, in the afternoon the delegates visited San Pedro Harbor in special trains and had dinner at the Hotel Virginia, Long Beach. The convention opened with a picturesque incident. The officers were all in uniforms; the assembly room was dazzling with gold lace and shoulder straps; at the door stood a sergeant of cavalry in full dress uniform to act as usher. The convention had been called to order by General Stewart of Pennsylvania and the announcement had been made that the Governor of California was about to arrive. In the expectant silence that followed this announcement, an old soldier with the shoulder strap of a brigadier-general, stood up and said he wanted to call attention to the fact that no flag was among the decorations. The arrival of Governor J. N. Gillett was picturesque. When it came time for his speech, the chairman detailed General Dill of Maine, the most easterly State, and General J. B. Lauck of California, to escort him to the platform. So the Governor arrived with the Atlantic general on his right arm and the Pacific general on his left. Governor Gillett spoke briefly and pleasantly. After a few gracious words of welcome he spoke of the object of the convention. The Governor spoke of the small standing army and of the hope of the nation lying in the militia. The reply of General Stewart of Pennsylvania, the chairman, to this address was delightful. He proved to be an orator of great charm and eloquence. On account of the presence of Governor Gillett, Colonel E. M. Weaver was asked to read a part of the important paper which was virtually the authorized message of the War Department to the militia of the nation. It was considered important that

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Governor Gillett should hear it. Colonel Weaver read portions of it, the balance of the papers, the more technical details, would be read by him the following day. Colonel Weaver was regarded by professional soldiers as one of the finest officers in the army and his paper had not only the weight of his own experience and authority, but had been read and approved by the War Department. For sometime, he stated by way of preface, the War College had been making an intricate study of a military policy for this country. In this scheme of defense, the National Guard had come to the front as a prominent feature. The question involving the National Guard was fundamental and far-reaching. General Oliver, the Assistant Secretary of War, had made an important suggestion, that the country be divided up into geographical military districts. Following the business meeting, the delegates were to take a trip to Pasadena and Mt. Love. At 11 o'clock on September twenty-eighth, the Signal Corps, in honor of the convention, gave the only military balloon ascension on the Pacific Coast, and the first one by a National Guardsman. The ascension was made from Chutes ball park. The balloon basket was the same one in which Lieutenant Lahn broke the world's record.*

Company A was called to Santa Monica, California, September 3, 1912, when that city was placed under martial law, during the fire at Ocean Park. The fire was believed to have started from a cigarette thrown carelessly into a heap of bedding, and the loss incurred estimated at three million dollars. The flames swept through the heart of Ocean Park and roared its way so swiftly through a city of painted castles, amusement resorts and business blocks that nearly a dozen persons were forced to leap into the sea to escape from the fiery furnace which had trapped them, one man losing his life in the water. Hundreds of others were driven pell-mell from their homes by the sudden rush of the flames. Arriving at the beach the people swelled the crowds to a veritable mob. People poured in from Santa Monica, Redondo, and the smaller settlements, until Ocean Park on the day of its disaster probably had more people within its borders than any previous time in its history. No cases of looting were reported, though the city was for three hours under martial law.**

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- *Los Angeles Times, September 23, 1903, Section 11, page 1, column 3.
- **Los Angeles Times September 4, 1912, page 1, columns 1-7.

Activities: (continued)

There is no record of Company A participating in any unusual activities until the call by the President of the United States for California troops for Mexican border service was received by Governor Hiram W. Johnson, June 18, 1916. Upon the Governor's orders, California National Guardsmen were immediately directed to assemble in their armories and establish camp. Within twelve hours, all commanding officers had reported their organizations ready for entraining.* On June twenty-ninth, Company A was mustered into Federal service and transferred to Nogales, Arizona, arriving there July 6, 1916. The site selected for the combined camps of the Seventh and Fifth Regiments was a broad, sheltered expanse less than two miles northwest of Nogales and about the same distance from the border. While Mexican troops maneuvered on the crest of a ridge four miles across the border, the California troops put in a long and hard day's work on the camp sites allotted them. At nightfall, every tent had been pitched, trenches had been dug around them to guard against sudden heavy rains, and fires crackled merrily under the big cooking ranges.** Company A remained on duty patrolling the border until October 19, 1916, when they returned to Los Angeles. Company A was mustered out of Federal Service on November 11, 1916.

Four months later, Company A was again called into Federal Service to participate in the greatest armed conflict the world has ever known. Governor W. D. Stephens, upon orders from the Secretary of War, calling the California National Guard into service, ordered the organizations of the Second, Fifth and Seventh Infantry Regiments to assemble at their armories, March 26, 1917, and begin recruiting.*** Two weeks later, April 9, Company A was mustered into Federal service.**** On October 14, 1917, Company A became part of the 160th Infantry.***** For further information concerning the activities of this unit refer to History of Company A, 160th Infantry, 40th Division.

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*Adjutant General Report, 1914-1920, page 13.

**Los Angeles Tribune, July 7, 1916, page 2, column 1.

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

****Mustering Roll, Company A, Seventh Inf. Reg., April, 1917, Adjutant Generals' Files.

*****Adjutant General Report, 1920-1926, page 26.