

History of the 7th Infantry Regiment, Company B (San Diego City Guard), National Guard of California 1888-1917

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Referenced Adjutant General's Files
Location: San Diego, San Diego County

(City Guard)

2343

Organized October 12, 1881
Reconstituted July 22, 1885*
Reconstituted May 5, 1888**
Redesignated February 8, 1890***
Reorganized, Mustered in, and Stationed Pasadena, February 8, 1890****
Redesignated December 9, 1893*****
Reconstituted December 9, 1895*****
Mustered into Federal Service May 9, 1898*****
Mustered out of Federal Service December 2, 1898*
Reorganized as Company B, Seventh Infantry Regiment, April 21, 1899**
Redesignated June 1, 1909***
Reorganized, Mustered in, and Stationed Los Angeles, August 4, 1909****
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 11, 1917*
Redesignated October 14, 1917 **

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- Company B, Seventh Infantry Regiment, Formerly San Diego Guard, designated Company B, Seventh Battalion, July 22, 1885.
Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, page 6.
- **Company B, Seventh Infantry Battalion, designated Company B, Seventh Infantry Regiment, May 5, 1888. Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.
- ***Company B, Seventh Infantry redesignated Company B, Ninth Infantry regiment, February 8, 1890. Adjutant General Report 1890, page 4.
- ****A new company organized in Pasadena December 23, 1889, designated Company B, Seventh Infantry Feb. 8, 1890. Adjutant General Report 1890, page 4.
- *****Company B, Seventh Infantry redesignated Company I, Seventh Infantry Regiment, December 9, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, page 28. (General Order No. 17, series of 1895, is erroneous.)
- *****Company B, formerly Companies A and B, Ninth Infantry was redesignated Company B, Third Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later Company B, designated Company B, Seventh Infantry Regiment Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.
- ** Company B, as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War, May 9, 1898. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.
Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.
- **Company B as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment reentered the National Guard of California, April 21, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59.
- ***Company B, Seventh Infantry Regiment, transferred to Coast Artillery June 1, 1909.
General and Special Orders and Circulars 1909. General Order No. 14.
- ****A new company organized in Los Angeles, and designated Company B, Seventh Infantry Regiment, August 4, 1909. Adjutant General Report 1909-1910, page 21.
- ****Company B as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican Border, June 29, 1916. Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 19.
- ****Company B mustered out of Federal Service November 11, 1916. Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 19.
- ****General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, General Order No. 34 page 150.
- Company B as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War April 11, 1917. Return Company B, Seventh Infantry Regiment April, 1917. Adjutant General's Files.
- **Company B, Seventh Infantry Regiment consolidated with D Seventh Infantry Regiment and designated Company B. 160th Infantry Regiment Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, p. 22

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
T. A. Nerney, Captain	Jan. 13, 1888	May 15, 1888
Harry Schiller, First Lieut.	Jan. 13, 1888	May 15, 1888
Laurence Buckley, Captain (resigned Oct. 14, 1889)	Dec. 23, 1889	Jan. 20, 1890
Arthur Hamilton, First Lieut.	Dec. 23, 1889	Jan. 20, 1890
Arthur Hamilton, Captain (resigned Sept. 8, 1891)	Dec. 1, 1890	Jan. 10, 1891
James Campbell, First Lieut. (resigned Aug. 31, 1891)	Dec. 1, 1890	Jan. 10, 1891
Newton Bangham, Captain (resigned May 20, 1891)	Oct. 5, 1891	Oct. 17, 1891
Virgil Sutliff, First Lieut.	Oct. 5, 1891	Oct. 17, 1891
Philip Cook, Captain (resigned Jan. 24, 1895)	Nov. 6, 1893	Nov. 29, 1893
Francis McGowan, First Lieut. (resigned Dec. 31, 1895)	Nov. 6, 1893	Nov. 29, 1893
Newton Bangham, Captain	Feb. 18, 1895	Mar. 1, 1895
Robert Callingwood, First Lieut.	Feb. 18, 1895	Mar. 1, 1895
Richard V. Dodge, Captain (reelected April 27, 1896)	_____	Apr. 15, 1892*
Edward F. Brown, First Lieut. (reelected April 12, 1897)	_____	May 22, 1895*
Richard V. Dodge, Captain (reelected June 9, 1899)	_____	_____
George T. Lemon, First Lieut. (resigned Feb. 18, 1900)	June 9, 1899	June 24, 1899
John Smith, Captain	Apr. 27, 1900	June 18, 1900
Harry S. Griffith, First Lieut.	Apr. 27, 1900	June 18, 1900
John Smith, Captain (reelected June 27, 1902)	_____	_____
C. T. Tichborne, First Lieut.	June 9, 1899	June 24, 1899
John Smith, Captain (reelected June 6, 1904)	_____	_____
C. T. Tichborne, First Lieut. (reelected June 6, 1904)	_____	_____
Edward Fletcher, Captain	June 20, 1906	July 26, 1906
H. R. Fay, First Lieut.	June 20, 1906	July 26, 1906

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*Captain Dodge and Lieutenant Brown retained their former Commissions as when they commanded Company B, Ninth Infantry Regiment, First Brigade

Commanding Officers (cont.)		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
H. R. Fay, Captain	Dec. 23, 1907	Jan. 30, 1908
Herman Schlegel, First Lieut.	Dec. 23, 1907	Jan. 30, 1908
H. R. Fay, Captain*		
(reelected Apr. 29, 1909)	_____	_____
Herman Schlegel, First Lieut.*		
(reelected Apr. 29, 1909)	_____	_____
Harry B. Light, Captain		
Aug. 6, 1909	Aug. 6, 1909	Sept. 11, 1909
Charles McLachlan, First Lieut.		
(resigned Mar. 23, 1910)	_____	_____
Everett W. Peckham, First Lieut.		
(promoted Capt. July 20, 1910)	Apr. 11, 1910	Apr. 23, 1910
Charles O. Barnett, First Lieut.		
(enlistment expired)	Aug. 29, 1910	Sept. 8, 1910
Edwin G. Mettler, First Lieut.		
Apr. 15, 1912	Apr. 15, 1912	May 23, 1912
Harry B. Light, Captain**		
(reelected Nov. 15, 1913)	_____	_____
(promoted to Major 7th Inf. Reg.)	_____	_____
Edwin G. Mettler, Captain		
Feb. 23, 1914	Feb. 23, 1914	Mar. 19, 1914
C. J. Nix, First Lieut.		
(resigned Feb. 7, 1916)	Feb. 23, 1914	Mar. 19, 1914
Howard S. Tracy, Captain		
Apr. 10, 1916	Apr. 10, 1916	May 22, 1916
James S. McKnight, First Lieut.		
Apr. 10, 1916	Apr. 10, 1916	May 22, 1916

Activities:

Company B, Seventh Infantry Regiment, was formerly the San Diego City Guard. On July 22, 1885, the unit was redesignated Company B of the newly formed Seventh Infantry Battalion. In 1888 the Seventh Infantry Battalion was reorganized as the Seventh Infantry Regiment with Company B retaining the same designating letter.

Company B met in their armory May 25, 1888, to discuss several important matters, the principal one being the re-election of officers. Captain T. A. Nerney, and Lieutenant Harry Schiller, had been elected commanding officers sometime before, and had received their commissions from the Governor. George Dannals who had been First Lieutenant for several years, in his endeavor to become Captain was defeated by Captain Nerney. Dannals had served nearly seven years in the militia of San Diego and was anxious to be promoted to the Captaincy of Company B, since he desired to obtain an exemption certificate, and an honorable discharge at the end of his term. At the election held May 25, 1888,

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*Captain Fay and Lieutenant Schlegel transferred to Coast Artillery, June 26, 1909.

**Captain Light promoted to Major, Seventh Infantry Regiment, January 11, 1914.

Activities: (Continued)

Captain Nerney, and Lieutenant Schiller were again elected commanding officers.*

Company B assisted by the Grand Army Post, Women's Relief Corps and various civic and military societies observed Memorial Day, May 30, 1888, in San Diego. The program consisted of details of Grand Army veterans strewing flowers on the graves of soldiers buried in Mount Hope cemetery, and at Point Loma. At noon the Grand Army post, with Company B, assembled at Sixth and H Streets. A procession was formed and the line of march taken up to the pavilion where literary and musical exercises were held for the remainder of the day.**

Company B went to Los Angeles on July 4, 1888, to celebrate Independence Day, where military exercises and a mammoth street carnival was held throughout the day, and climaxed by a magnificent display of fireworks at night. The military display was the feature of the day, and attracted the attention of thousands of admiring eyes. Long before the hour announced for the companies of the Seventh Infantry to arrive, the streets were blockaded by an excited populace, all anxious to view the maneuvers of the troops. Company B of San Diego, Companies A, C, and F of Los Angeles and Company G of Anaheim, participated. It was the grandest and most imposing spectacular affair ever witnessed in Los Angeles. Colonel W. H. Russell was in command in the forenoon, and at the dress parade in the afternoon General H. H. Boyce was at the head of the column. Company B commanded by Captain Nerney, was the finest body of uniformed soldiers in the regiment. Everybody watched and admired their movements, and many encouraging remarks were made of the company. They took the ribbon over everything and marched gallantly through the streets, with proud steps and heads erect, their bayonets gleaming in the sun.***

On September 13, 1888, Colonel W. H. Russell, commander of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, wrote Captain Nerney, stating that the Seventh Infantry Regiment, had been invited to act as escort on the occasion of the "Odd Fellows" parade to be held in Los Angeles September eighteenth. It was Colonel Russell's desire that as many men of the Seventh Infantry Regiment come as possible..

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*Record Book Company B, Ninth Infantry, California National Guard.

**Record Book Company B, Ninth Infantry, California National Guard.

***Record Book Company B, Ninth Infantry, California National Guard.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Company B held the post of honor in Los Angeles on the eighteenth. Never before did the officers and men of the unit look more soldier-like and trim, never did their accouterments look brighter and to better advantage, and never did the band of San Diego discourse better music. The rank and file was about forty strong, the band numbered twenty-four. Lieutenant Harry Schiller was in command of the company until Los Angeles was reached, where Captain Nerney met his men at one o'clock and conducted them to the Armory Hall, and afterward to the St. Elmo Hotel for lunch. The company then returned to the Armory Hall and joined the regiment, nearly four hundred strong. The Seventh Infantry Regiment acted as escort to the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows which with the various cantons and lodges formed a procession fully two miles in length. At the head of the column was the magnificent band of Company B, whose music was many times applauded as the procession was en route. The entire column was reviewed on Spring street, and after this the various lodges was dismissed, and the Seventh Infantry Regiment drawn up for dress parade, under Colonel W. H. Russell. Brigadier-General H. H. Boyce and staff were present, as well as the numerous staff of mounted officers of Odd Fellows, and an immense concourse of spectators. The spectacle during the parade was spoken of as one of the grandest ever witnessed in Los Angeles. Company B, by special order of the officer commanding, was allotted the position of honor at the right of the line, their excellent appearance eliciting many complimentary remarks from those who had the good fortune to be present. The regiment was dismissed at six o'clock, and at midnight the train left with Company B for San Diego, arriving there at four-fifteen A. M. September nineteenth.*

On October 12, 1888, Company B gave a banquet at the Hotel del Coronado. Over one hundred plates were spread and the bright electric light shone on many a gilded epaulet and glass of sparkling wine. The occasion was the Seventh Anniversary of the unit which was formerly the San Diego City Guard. In addition to the members of the company there was present many distinguished military men from all parts of the State. Company B attended in a

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*Record Book of Company B, Ninth Infantry Regiment, California National Guard.

Activities: (Continued)

body and at eight o'clock formed a line of two's and marched into the hotel. At nine o'clock the company, led by the distinguished visitors, marched into the banquet-room. At ten-thirty, Captain Nerney introduced Colonel W. H. Russell, commander of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, as master of ceremonies. Colonel Russell acknowledged the honor bestowed upon him, and said he would perform the duties to the best of his abilities. "The duties so far have been arduous," he said, "but the strain has been principally upon my belt, and I wish I was as well prepared for the present duties as those just passed." Colonel Russell then introduced Brigadier-General H. H. Boyce, of Los Angeles, and proposed the toast "National Guard of California." The response was an able one, and General Boyce expressed his regret that Governor R. W. Waterman, the Commander-in-Chief, was absent. He further stated that the National Guard had no truer friend than Governor Waterman. He complimented the guard, and said "there was an unwritten law which said that none but gentlemen could enter that organization." He complimented Company B very highly, and called it the banner company of the State. Colonel Russell then spoke of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, and said he had always loved it and spoke of it as the crack regiment of the National Guard of the State. He briefly recited the history of the organization of the regiment and of the two oldest companies, the Eagle of Los Angeles and the San Diego City Guard, which was now Company B of the Seventh Infantry Regiment. He spoke at length upon the motive which prompts men to join the National Guard. Generally speaking he said, "The public regarded that motive as one of self-admiration and a desire to appear in a gorgeous uniform with brass buttons. He denied that such a motive existed among the members, but attributed their desire to become connected with the military organization of the State, to loyalty and patriotism."

Mayor Hunsaker was next introduced, he said that he had never before participated in a military engagement, and hence felt that same timidity which he imagined the soldier felt when he engaged in his first battle. He then briefly recited the history of Old and New San Diego, and brought forth local applause by a reference to the old school days in the barracks. He called attention to the days when Colonel Douglas Gunn published the Union, and the only organizations in the vicinity consisted of the M. E. Church, the Public Schools, the Odd Fellows, and Masons. The town then had 2,500 inhabitants, to over 25,000 now, and with its multiplicity of organizations today none were more worthy the pride of the people than Company B. The unit was composed of the young men of San Diego who were physically fit and eligible for military duty. Colonel Russell called Colonel Douglas Gunn to speak next. Colonel Gunn spoke of the incidents connected with Company B of San Francisco, which he joined in 1861, and in which company he served nine years. He said that

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COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

in those days it cost something to be a member of the National Guard as the Civil War had then broken out, and as an illustration of the benefit of a company he related an incident which occurred just after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. The news reached San Francisco on the following day and the city went wild with excitement. All the business houses were closed, except the saloons which were kept wide open and almost everybody drank freely. Finally an alarm, which had been agreed upon in case of trouble, was sounded, and Company B of the National Guard, marched out of their armory, and without the least doubt prevented the loss of millions of dollars and many lives. He spoke of the organization of the San Diego City Guard, and said that out of honor to the old San Francisco company to which he belonged, it was also named Company B. He then called upon all who were in the room who were also present seven years ago at the organization of the company to stand up, and seven members rose to their feet.

Captain Nerney was the next speaker. He recited his experience at the Cincinnati, Ohio, riot, when the company he then belonged to was fired upon by the mob, and a number of his comrades being killed. He stated that he was proud to be Captain of Company B, and was sure that the members would always be ready for duty when called upon. When Captain Nerney concluded, the company rose and gave him three cheers, and then repeated it for Colonel Gunn. After a few more speeches by the other guests, Captain Nerney announced that the one o'clock motor was waiting and the banquet closed.*

The activities of Company B were not entirely taken up with social engagements and parades. Upon receipt of General Order No. 6, the First Brigade was to rendezvous at Pacific Beach, near San Diego, from August 3 to 13, 1889, for the purpose of instruction and drill. Major A. W. Barrett, Brigade-Quartermaster, was to proceed to the ground selected for the encampment on August first, and superintend the preparation of the camp. Colonel W. H. Russell, commanding the Seventh Infantry Regiment was to detail the Regimental Quartermaster, and one non-commissioned officer and three men from each company to proceed to Pacific Beach August first, and report to Major Barrett for duty. Transportation was to be provided by Colonel Russell. In all ceremonies and parades throughout the encampment, Company B was to occupy the right or post of honor, being entitled to this place through Captain Nerney, who was senior Captain of the regiment. The camp of instruction, designated as Camp Dimond, in honor of Major

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*Record Book of Company B, Ninth Infantry Regiment, California National Guard.

Activities: (Continued)

General W. H. Dimond, had about four hundred men rank and file, and everybody had entered enthusiastically upon the work. The most noticeable feature of the encampment was that officers and privates alike were willing and anxious to learn, and there was scarcely a man on the ground, but what would be a better soldier for having spent ten days in camp. Company B was perhaps as thoroughly drilled as any company in camp, but it was to the discredit and disgrace of San Diego that it was the smallest company in camp. Out of seventy-five men, but thirty were present. Captain Nerney went to San Diego to see some of the employers of members who couldn't be present and insisted that the guardsmen be excused from work during encampment. Captain Nerney's efforts were to no avail, however, and Company B remained the smallest unit in Camp.* The remarkable progress made in drill and discipline in the camp of the First Brigade was due to two factors: First, the presence of the Brigade Commander, General E. P. Johnson and his efficient staff; and Second to the presence of regular United States Army troops in camp.**

In 1889 several new companies were organized in the First Brigade and mustered into State service. On February 8, 1890, a new regiment was organized and designated the Ninth Infantry Regiment, of the First Brigade. Company B of the Seventh Infantry Regiment stationed in San Diego was transferred and became Company B of the new Ninth Infantry Regiment. One of the new companies which had been organized on December 23, 1889, in the City of Pasadena was designated Company B of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, to take the place made vacant by the transfer of the San Diego unit.***

The First Brigade held a camp of instruction at Santa Monica from August 15 to 24, 1891. The camp site was designated Camp Johnson, in honor of General E. P. Johnson, commander of the First Brigade. Company B and the other units of the Seventh Infantry went into camp August fifteenth. Camp Johnson was located on Ocean Avenue, on the northern boundary of the city, and within a stone's throw of the ocean, the broad expanse of the Pacific being completely in view. On August twenty-second, Lieutenant Colonel A. D. Cutler, Division Inspector, visited the camp

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*Record Book of Company B, Ninth Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California.

**Adjutant General Report 1890, page 10.

***Adjutant General Report 1890, pages 3 and 4.

Activities: (Continued)

to make his tour of inspection. Colonel Cutler in his report to the Adjutant General stated that " the only redeeming feature of the encampment was its location. Sanitary conditions were very poor, drains, and garbage were not properly looked after. Formations for review was tardy and far from showing the necessary acquaintance with tactics, particularly by guides and chiefs of subdivisions. A large proportion of men in both the Seventh and Ninth Regiments were unclean, and showed lack of personal interest in their appearance, particularly as to gloves, collars, and boots. As sufficient notice of this inspection had been given to allow ample time for preparation, the lack of effort to make a more soldier-like appearance was noticeable, and was charged to both officers and men."*

Company B and the other units of the Seventh Infantry made a determined effort to vindicate themselves the following year, when a regimental encampment was held at Camp Anacapa, Ventura County, from August 17 to 25, 1892. Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. Cutler was again the inspector, this time he sent the following report to the Adjutant General: "Camp well located. Ground somewhat rough. 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 seemed to use every effort to conduct themselves as soldiers and bring the regiment up to a high standard. Uniforms, arms, and equipments in very good condition. Regiment should receive new blouses and trousers, the ones in use showing the result of long service. Their tents were models of neatness. Improvement in the regiment generally had been very great during the past few months, and its officers were entitled to a large amount of credit, considering the disadvantages they have been laboring under during the past few years."**

On June 28, 1894, the transportation facilities of the State of California were paralyzed by a nation wide railroad strike. Delayed United States mail was piling up on every hand, and it was this fact which caused the strikers to come into conflict with Uncle Sam. On July first, 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

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

**Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, pages 150-153.

Activities: (Continued)

courts and prevent any hindrance to the free circulation of the mails. For some unknown reason the companies of the Seventh Infantry Regiment were not called into active service during the Strike. The United States Marshal for the southern district made a request upon General T. H. Ruger, commanding the Western Division of the United States Army for assistance at Los Angeles, and six companies of Regulars (320 men) under command of Colonel W. R. Shafter, was dispatched from San Francisco to the southern city at ten-thirty 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.*

Upon the receipt of General Order No. 17, dated December 7, 1895, the entire National Guard was reorganized on December ninth. Company A and Company B of the Ninth Infantry consolidated and became Company B of the Seventh Infantry Regiment and was stationed at San Diego.** During the year 1896 following the reorganization there was a thorough general inspection of the Guard and its equipments. Major J. W. F. Diss, Inspector of the First Brigade, submitted an excellent extended report of his inspections of the First Brigade, which consisted of the twelve companies of the Seventh Infantry stationed in Los Angeles, San Diego, and vicinity. In the Seventh Infantry Company B, graded 4.80, which was the highest in order of merit of any company in the State. It was also largest in numerical strength, the maximum being 103 members. Out of that number ninety-eight percent were present at inspection. Company B showed the result of careful attention to duty and harmony, the officers and men appeared to work in thorough accord with each other.***

On April 22, 1895, the business men of Los Angeles held the third annual La Fiesta De Los Angeles. This Fiesta was a form of Mardi Gras or street carnival, lasting a week. The opening day was marked by a magnificent parade. For an hour there was marching and counter-marching of men, quick, sharp cries of command, the scurrying to and fro of orders. For blocks in every direction from the corner of Seventh and Hope streets, there was a confusion of soldiers, sailors, horsemen, floats and what not. But Major Madison T. Owens, grand marshal of the parade, kept calm and collected through it all. At last he ordered his chief trumpeter to sound the assembly. Next he ordered the call for attention, and in a moment the parade

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

**Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 17, page 86. General Order No. 18, page 88.

***Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, page 179.

Activities: (Continued)

was under way, the long, imposing line sweeping onward in stately fashion. First of all rode Marshall Owens, his handsome horse champing at the bit and moving onward with a dignity befitting the occasion. Directly behind rode Colonel William Spencer and M. A. Costerisan, chief trumpeter to the marshall. Brigadier-General C. A. Last, commander of the First Brigade, rode at the head of his staff, the high officers of the brigade all aglitter with gold lace. At the rear of the staff rode Gene Maxwell, quarter-master sergeant of Troop D carrying the brigadier-generals' 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, full 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 anyone with a spark of military fire in his soul. Company B was the largest unit in the parade, as it was also the largest in the State.*

On the night of April 16, 1896, Company B was mustered and inspected at their armory by Adjutant-General A. H. Barrett and Colonel Currier, the division inspector, assisted by Captain F. D. L. Carrington, the National Guard inspector for the State, and Brigade Inspector Diss and Major Arnt. During the day the inspectors took in the armory and everything contained there in, the uniforms, guns, equipment. The record here was perfect and General Barrett remarked to Captain Dodge, "if your company personally will show up like this, I will have to give you a very high rating in my report." The inspection that night went beyond the "high rating". It went away up to the word "perfect", something that was rarely ever seen on a military report of inspection. Company B had 108 officers and men or 103 men "inline." At the inspection 101 of these came to "order arms", and answered "here" to roll call.

Long before the last name was called the crowd of visitors realized that something unusual was going on for the inspecting officers began to look at each other in surprise as the end of the list on the roll began to show that as many men stood ready to say "here" as names remained. And when the last name was called and the last man brought his gun down with an apparent whack of pride, the audience broke out into applause. The roll call was marked "perfect" because the two absentees were excused. One was in Sweden and the other at sea.**

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

**San Diegoan-Sun April 18, 1896, page 5, column 5.

Activities: (Continued)

The First Brigade, from August 4 to 14, 1897, held an encampment at Santa Monica, Los Angeles County. Major J. F. Doss, inspector of the First Brigade, stated that without question, this camp was the best he had ever seen. The discipline of officers and men was excellent. The former vied with each other in furnishing examples for the latter to emulate, while the men clearly established the fact that they realized that there was a serious importance attached to the service. The camp was, strictly speaking, a working camp. From reveille, which was sounded at five A.M., until evening mess at six-thirty P.M., five and one-half hours were devoted to camp policing, drills and extended order exercises; one hour and a half to dress parades, guard mounting, reviews, while only four and one half hours was given to meals and recreation. The time actually consumed in formal reviews was very small, only three were held during the entire encampment, 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 being General C. F. Last's policy to devote as little time to these purely ceremonial matters as was necessary. He preferred rather to devote every moment to actual work in practical drill instruction. Captain W. L. Carrington of the regular United States Army gave problems of minor military tactics which was received with great interest by the officers and men. The only regret expressed being that the lack of time in camp precluded the possibility of having more of them. The men took great interest in the new form of drills, as they were entirely different from the ordinary evolutions of drill regulations.*

On April 21, 1898, the United States declared war with Spain. President William McKinley, on the twenty-third of April, ordered all National Guard units to be mustered into Federal Service. Company B and the other companies of the Seventh Infantry rendezvoused at Los Angeles, and were ordered to San Francisco on May sixth where they were mustered into the United States service at the Presidio, May 9, 1898, under the command of Colonel John R. Berry. The regiment was then ordered to Camp Merritt, San Francisco, May twenty-fifth and returned to Camp Merritt at the Presidio, August twenty-fourth where it remained until October thirteenth. From there the troops were ordered to Los Angeles, where they arrived on the fourteenth and were furloughed until November twelfth, when the regiment reassembled and reported for duty at Los Angeles and established Camp Pratt, where Company B with the remainder of the Infantry was mustered out December 2, 1898.**

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

**Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.

Activities: (Continued)

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, the State Legislature in 1899 passed a law giving to the companies and members of the National Guard who were mustered into 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 mustered into United States service until they reported within 150 days after being mustered out of the United States service.*

Company B accompanied the Seventh Infantry Regiment when the entire National Guard held an encampment at Santa Cruz, June 15 to 23, 1901. The camp of instruction was designated Camp Gage in honor of Governor Henry T. Gage. This was the first time in many years that the entire Guard had been assembled in one encampment, and the instruction imparted to the general and staff officers, in the assembling of and caring for the troops, was valuable.**

On March 18, 1905, the State Legislature passed a law which stated that "No association or corporation shall by any constitution, rule, by-law, resolution, vote or regulation, discriminate against any member of the National Guard of California because of his membership therein. Any person who willfully aids in enforcing any such constitution, rule, by-law, resolution, vote or regulation against any member of said National Guard is guilty of a misdemeanor.*** This law, passed to enable members of various labor unions to belong to the National Guard, was due to an incident that had occurred in San Diego the previous year. C. F. Tichborne, First Lieutenant of Company B, a plumber by profession was expelled from the San Diego Local Union No. 230, United Association of Journeymen Plumbers. This action was taken by the plumbers in pursuance of Article twenty-five Section twenty-one of their constitution which read "No member of the association shall enlist in any military organization on or after January 1, 1903, under penalty of expulsion." Lieutenant Tichborne had served continuously in the National Guard since September 12, 1891, and had reached his present office June 27, 1902, being reelected June 6, 1904. He was expelled from the union because of his continued military service. Had he wished to retire from the National Guard, his superior officers would not have accepted the demand of the union as justifying his retirement from the National Guard. That he was a competent workman, three firms in San Diego attested and declared they would give him work, but for the action of the union. Lieutenant Tichborne refused to resign his commission in the Guard, believing that Colonel Solomon H. Finley, Commander of the Seventh Infantry, would succeed in getting the Governor to compell the union to reinstate him. He was to receive

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*Adjutant-General Report 1899-1900, page 6.

** Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, page 8.

***California Statutes 1905, Chapter CXCV, page 190.
(California Penal Code 1905, Section 421.)

Activities: (Continued)

no help from that quarter, as Governor George C. Pardee, stated that he had been unable to find any statute under which expulsion and subsequent boycotting could be made a public offence. The Governor stated no one could be punished for a conspiracy to do something unless the law had made that act a public offence, or had particularly named the action as a criminal conspiracy. Furthermore there was no law in California which stated that efforts made to intimidate a person from belonging to the National Guard was a crime, or had designated acts of such a nature as a criminal conspiracy. Lieutenant Tichborne did not give up his commission and continued working for non-union plumbing shops, he refused to believe that he could not obtain redress from the State.*

On the morning of April 18, 1906, there occurred in San Francisco a devastating Earthquake that rendered some 300,000 persons homeless. Buildings collapsed and flames broke out in many places, the broken gas, and watermains contributing to the added terror. The breaking of the watermains by the Earthquake left the city defenseless against the fire, and buildings were dynamited to prevent the spread of the flames. When the news of the great catastrophe reached Los Angeles, the Seventh Infantry, left for San Francisco immediately. Arriving in Oakland about five P.M. April twenty-second. Company B was under the command of Colonel S. H. Finley and stationed at Lincoln Park, Oakland. The duties performed by the Seventh Infantry Regiment consisted mainly in maintaining order at the different refugee camps and supply depots. The guardsmen from Company B also saw service at Oakland and assisted the local police, especially during the night time in escorting supply wagons to and from San Francisco, transferring large sums of money from the United States Mint, 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 morale of the troops was excellent and no complaint was made at anytime of the men conducting themselves in an unsoldierly manner. When one considers that duty of this nature was entirely new to the men and most of the officers, too much praise cannot be given them. Company B and the Seventh Infantry entrained for Los Angeles on May twelfth, leaving Oakland about twelve o'clock noon on that day, arriving in Los Angeles about ten A.M. May 13, 1906.**

Company B from July 4 to July 20, 1907, participated in the Joint Army and Militia Coast defense exercises held at the Presidio of San Francisco. The exercises consisted of a discussion of minor

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*Record Book Company B, Ninth Infantry Regiment, California National Guard.

**Adjutant General Report 1906, page 40-41.

Activities: (Continued)

military problems and artillery practice. The instructions were of great benefit and it was felt that they should be repeated another year.*

Upon the receipt of General Order No. 14, Company B, on June 1, 1909, became the Fifth Company, Coast Artillery, National Guard.** Two months later, on August 4, 1909, a new company was organized in Los Angeles and mustered into service as Company B, Seventh Infantry Regiment.*** One of the first activities Company B participated in, subsequent to its reorganization was a parade held at Los Angeles on October 18, 1911, in honor of President William H. Taft. Promptly on schedule time the Presidential train arrived from San Francisco at nine thirty-five A.M. The President was greeted at the station by Dr. Edwards, his brother-in-law, Mayor Alexander, and Captain H. Z. Osborne, acting president of the Chamber of Commerce. The parade through the city was carried out with great promptness. As an escort to the President and preceding his automobile was Lieutenant-Colonel S. M. Saltmarsh, and staff, the Seventh Regiment Band, eleven companies of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California, a company of the Signal Corps, the Los Angeles band, two divisions of Naval Militia, field artillery with guns and a troop of cavalry, acting as personal escort to the President.****

On June 18, 1916, the President requested Governor Hiram W. Johnson to equip the California National Guard for duty on the Mexican Border. Upon the Governor's orders the Guardsmen were immediately directed to assemble in their armories and establish camp. Within twelve hours all commanding officers reported their organizations ready for entraining. On June twenty-ninth, the Seventh Infantry, including Company B, was mustered into Federal Service.***** The Seventh Infantry arrived at Nogales, Arizona, July 6, 1916, and while Mexican troops maneuvered on the crest of a ridge, four troops put in a long and hard days work on the camp site allotted them. At night-fall every tent had been pitched, trenches dug around to guard against sudden heavy rains, and fires crackled under the big cooking ranges. The site selected for the camp of the Seventh Infantry Regiment was a broad, sheltered expanse, a little less than two miles northwest of Nogales and about the same distance from the border.***** The Seventh Infantry Regiment

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*Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, pages 41-49.

**General and Special Orders and Circulars 1909, General Order No.14, page 2.

***Adjutant General Report 1909-1910, page 4.

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

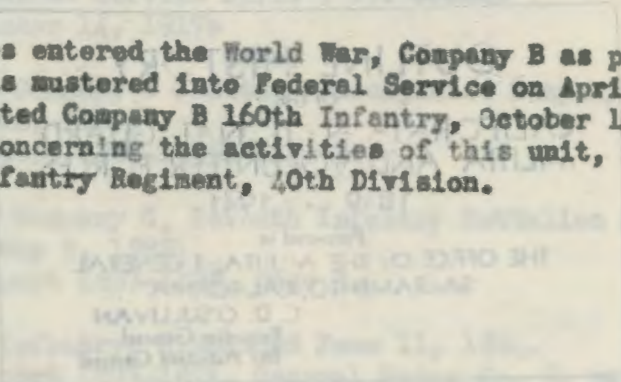
*****Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, pages 13,19.

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

Activities: (continued)

patrolled the Mexican border until their return to Los Angeles, October 20, 1916. The Regiment, Colonel William G. Schreiber, commanding, with Brigadier-General Robert Wankowski and his staff, arrived from Nogales on three Southern Pacific trains. The first one pulling into Clement Station at twelve-fifteen A.M. o'clock, the second at twelve-thirty, and the last at twelve forty-five. The troops were immediately switched to the Pacific Electric Railway and pulled to the Exposition Park Siding.* Company B remained encamped at Exposition Park until they were mustered out of Federal Service November 11, 1916.**

When the United States entered the World War, Company B as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, was mustered into Federal Service on April 11, 1917.*** Company B was designated Company B 160th Infantry, October 14, 1917.**** For further information concerning the activities of this unit, refer to History of Company B 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division.



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- *Los Angeles Tribune - October 20, 1916, page 1, column 3.
- **Adjutant General Report - 1914 - 1920 - Page 19.
- ***Return, Company B, Seventh Inf. Reg., April, 1917 - Adjutant Generals' Office.
- ****Adjutant General Report - 1920 - 1926, Page 27.