

# **History of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Company D, National Guard of California 1887-1917**

This history was completed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in conjunction with the California National Guard and the California State Library.

Digitized by the History Office, Camp San Luis Obispo, 24 January 2015

Original document on file at the California State Library

References: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Pomona, Los Angeles County

Organized October 28, 1887.

Reconstituted May 5, 1888\*

Redesignated February 8, 1890\*\*

Reorganized, mustered in and stationed Ventura Dec, 30, 1889\*\*\*

Redesignated December 9, 1895\*\*\*\*

Reconstituted December 9, 1895\*\*\*\*\*

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

Mustered out of Federal Service December 2, 1898\*

Reorganized as Company D, Seventh Infantry Regiment April 28, 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 5, 1917\*\*\*\*\*

Redesignated October 14, 1917\*\*\*\*\*

.ooo.

\*Company D, formerly Company D Seventh Infantry Battalion redesignated Company D, Seventh Infantry Regiment, May 5, 1888. Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.

\*\*Company D, Seventh Infantry redesignated Company D Ninth Infantry Regiment, Feb. 8, 1890. Adjutant General Report 1889-1890, page 4.

\*\*\*A new company organized in Ventura and designated Company D, Seventh Infantry, December 30, 1889. Adjutant General Report 1889-1890, page 32.

\*\*\*\*Company D, Seventh Infantry redesignated Company H, Seventh Infantry Regiment, December 9, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.

Company D, formerly Company D, Ninth Infantry Regiment redesignated Company D, Second Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later Dec. 9, Company D designated Company D, Seventh Infantry. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, (page 28, (General Order No. 17, series of 1895 is erroneous).

\*\*\*\*\*Company D as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War, May 9, 1898. Adjutant General Report 1897-1900, p. 61.

Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.

\*\*Company D as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, re-entered the National Guard of California, April 28, 1899.

Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 64.

\*\*\*Company D 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.

\*\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 19.

\*\*\*\*\*General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916. General Order No. 34, page 150.

\*\*\*\*\*Company D Seventh Infantry Regiment mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War April 5, 1917. Return Company D, Seventh Infantry Regiment April 1917, Adjutant General Files.

\*\*\*\*\*Company D, Seventh Infantry Regiment consolidated with Company B Seventh Infantry Regiment and designated, Company B 160th Infantry Regiment 40th Division, October 14, 1917.

Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, p. 27.

Commanding Officers

2373

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Arthur Palmer, Captain (Promoted to Lt. Col. May 5, 1888)	Oct. 28, 1887	Apr. 30, 1888
Walter Bratt, First Lieut.	Oct. 28, 1887	Apr. 30, 1888
Walter Bratt, Captain	June 30, 1888	Aug. 30, 1888
James Driffill, First Lieut.	June 30, 1888	Aug. 30, 1888
James Driffill, Captain	Nov. 24, 1888	Jan. 5, 1889
James Howland, First Lieut.	Nov. 24, 1888	Jan. 5, 1889
Charles Elwell, Captain (Resigned March 23, 1889)	Dec. 30, 1888	Jan. 20, 1890
William Stone, First Lieut.	Dec. 30, 1888	Jan. 5, 1890
Samuel Black, Captain	Apr. 28, 1891	May 21, 1891
Albert Brown, First Lieut.	Dec. 7, 1890	Jan. 26, 1891
Albert Brown, Captain	July 10, 1894	July 28, 1894
John Hammonds, First Lieut.	July 10, 1894	July 28, 1894
Warner Winters, Captain (Resigned Dec. 29, 1896)	Aug. 11, 1896	Sept. 7, 1896
Carl Ralph, First Lieut.	Nov. 13, 1895	Dec. 21, 1895
T. B. Thomas, Captain	Jan. 25, 1898	Feb. 16, 1898
Ernest Reynolds, First Lieut.	Jan. 25, 1898	Feb. 16, 1898
<hr/>		
T. B. Thomas, Captain (Re-elected May 31, 1900)		
Alba Hurff, First Lieut. (Resigned Dec. 31, 1900)	May 31, 1900	June 18, 1900
Wilnot Midgley, First Lieut.	Feb. 5, 1901	Mar. 15, 1901
Wilnot Midgley, Captain	Apr. 1, 1902	May 13, 1902
Charles Dudley, First Lieut.	Apr. 1, 1902	May 13, 1902
<hr/>		
Wilnot Midgley, Captain (Re-elected June 7, 1904)		
Leon Beckett, First Lieut.	June 7, 1904	Aug. 4, 1904
John Henjum, Captain (Resigned Dec. 16, 1905)	July 18, 1905	Sept. 30, 1905
William Stevens, Captain (Resigned Jan. 3, 1907)	Feb. 13, 1906	Feb. 28, 1906
Leon Beckett, First Lieut. (Re-elected Sept. 15, 1906) (Resigned June 17, 1907)		
<hr/>		
Wilnot Midgley, Captain	Feb. 12, 1907	Mar. 20, 1907
Maurice Ludden, First Lieut. (Resigned Jan. 17, 1908)	Aug. 13, 1907	Sept. 16, 1907
Ralph Clark, First Lieut.	Feb. 11, 1908	Apr. 28, 1908

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Willmot Midgley, Captain (Re-elected April 29, 1909) (Promoted to Major Sept. 24, 1909)	_____	_____
Homer Duffy, Captain	Oct. 19, 1909	Nov. 11, 1909
Ralph Clark, First Lt. (Re-elected April 29, 1909) (Resigned March 10, 1910)	_____	_____
Hugh Ludden, First Lt. (Resigned Sept. 27, 1910)	March 29, 1910	April 25, 1910
Edgar Stevens, First Lt.	Nov. 22, 1910	Dec. 22, 1910
Homer Duffy, Captain (Re-elected Nov. 15, 1913)	_____	_____
Edgar Stevens, First Lt. (Re-elected Nov. 15, 1913)	_____	_____
Charles Rowe, Captain	March 14, 1916	April 20, 1916
Edgar Stevens, First Lt. (Re-elected 1916)	_____	_____

**Activities:**

On October 28, 1887, a military unit was organized in Pomona, Los Angeles County and attached to the Seventh Infantry Battalion as a provisional company designated as Company D. The unit uniformed themselves at their own expense, elected competent and enthusiastic officers, and strived by good attendance at drills to render themselves efficient members of the State Military Force. On May 5, 1888, the Seventh Infantry Battalion was reorganized and designated the Seventh Infantry Regiment with Company D retaining the same designating letter.\* As the State Legislature had made sufficient appropriations to maintain the new unit, Company D, was mustered in as a regular company of the National Guard.

Company D attended the First Brigade Encampment held at Pacific Beach near San Diego from August 3 to August 13, 1889. This was the only brigade camp held during the year and was under the command of Brigadier-General E. P. Johnson. The camp which was designated "Camp Diamond" in honor of Major General W. H. Diamond, was located on a level plateau overlooking the ocean, and was reached from San Diego by a motor line running to Pacific Beach. Captain H. K. Bailey and Lieutenants Robertson and Wittenmyer of Company E, Ninth Regiment of Infantry, United States Army, personally superintended the drills of the various companies and the regiment. Through their corrections and instructions the command made remarkable progress in drill during the time spent in camp.\*\*

-oOp-

\*Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1889-1890, pages 9,10.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

On February 8, 1890, a new regiment was organized in the First Brigade and designated the Ninth Infantry Regiment. Company D was transferred to this regiment, retaining the same designating letter. A new unit that had been organized in the city of Ventura on December 3, 1889, was attached to the Seventh Infantry Regiment as Company D, to take the place made vacant by the transfer of the original company.\*

Company D attended the First Brigade Encampment held at Santa Monica from August 15 to 24, 1891. The camp site was designated "Camp Johnson," in honor of E. P. Johnson, Commander of the First Brigade. Due to a lack of interest in their drills, and personal appearance this encampment was a disgrace to the regiment.\*\* The following year Company D attended the Seventh Infantry Encampment held at "Camp Anacapa," Ventura County from August 17 to 25, 1892. The members of the regiment made a determined effort to atone for their encampment record of the previous year. Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. Cutler, the Division Inspector, in his report to the Adjutant General stated that officers and men alike seemed to be using every effort to conduct themselves as soldiers and bring the regiment up to a high standard, and that too much credit could not be given the men.\*\*\*

On June 25, 1894, the entire transportation facilities of the State was 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. The United States Attorney General sent instructions to United States Marshals whose territory was affected by the strike, to execute the processes of the courts and prevent any hindrance to the free circulation of the mails. For some unknown reason the National Guard units of Southern California were not called out. 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 the command of Colonel W. R. Shafter, were dispatched from San Francisco to Los Angeles, arriving there at 4:30 P.M. July second. The Regular troops experienced little difficulty in the South

-000-

\*Adjutant General Report 1889-1890, page 3.

\*\*For further details refer to History of Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment, First Brigade.

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

Activities: (Continued)

and without meeting any serious resistance took possession of all railroad property in Los Angeles.\*

On December 7, 1895, upon the receipt of General Order No. 17 the Seventh and Ninth Infantry Regiments were consolidated into three Battalions of four companies each. The three Battalions were then combined and designated the Seventh Infantry Regiment, with Company D of the Seventh Infantry designated as Company H, Seventh Infantry. Company D of the Ninth Regiment was then designated as Company D of the Seventh Infantry.\*\* The only record of Company D's activities for the next two years was the units participation in the usual regimental drills and encampments.

On April 21, 1898, the United States declared war with Spain. In answer to the President's call for volunteers Company D with the Seventh Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service, May 9, 1898, at San Francisco. It 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, then ordered to Los Angeles and was furloughed. The regiment re-assembled on November twelfth in Los Angeles and established Camp Pratt, where it was mustered out on December 2, 1898.\*\*\*

The State Legislature in 1899, enacted a law giving the members of the National Guard, who volunteered in the Spanish-American War, credit for continuous service. The only stipulation being made was that the members report back to their companies within 150 days after being mustered out of Federal Service.\*\*\*\*

-000-

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

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

\*\*\*For further details refer to History of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, California National Guard and the Spanish-American War.

\*\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1900, page 8.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Company D and the various units of the Seventh Infantry Regiment attended the encampment of the entire National Guard held at Santa Cruz from June 14 to 23, 1901. The camp site was named "Camp Gage," in honor of Governor H. T. Gage. 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.\*

Owing to the limited appropriation for encampment purposes, during 1902 and 1903, the various organizations of the National Guard were assembled separately for regimental discipline and drill at points convenient to their home stations. Company D with the Seventh Infantry Regiment encamped at Long Beach, from September 6 to 12, 1902. They also held an encampment at Coronado Beach from August 6 to 15, 1903.\*\* A series of field exercises was held by the National Guard companies together with the troops of the Regular Army from August 13 to 26, 1904, at Atascadero, San Luis Obispo County. The camp established was under the command of Major General Arthur MacArthur, United States of America, commander of the Pacific Division.\*\*\*

At a meeting held at Pomona September 26, 1904, by members of Company D, it was informally decided to disband the organization and the necessary steps toward that action was to be taken at the regular meeting on Tuesday night. The reason for this action was that the company had not met with sufficient encouragement in its effort to raise the last \$1000.00 necessary for the erection of an armory, for which the contract had been let. A lot had been purchased and a loan of \$5000.00 had been arranged on the proposed \$6500.00 armory. Captain Midgley of the company said the guardsmen, who have been looking forward to a building for two years, were disheartened at their ill success in raising the necessary money and had determined to disband.\*\*\*\*The formal motion to disband the company at the regular meeting failed, and Company D remained in active service.

-oOo-

\*For further details of the Encampment refer to History of Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1903-1904, page 6.

\*\*\*For further details of the Encampment at Atascadero 1904, refer to History of Company A, Seventy Infantry Regiment.

\*\*\*\*San Francisco Chronicle, September 26, 1904, page 4, column 5.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

On the morning of April 18, 1906, a severe earthquake occurred in San Francisco, which laid most of the city in ruins. Company D together with the other units of the Seventh Infantry Regiment left Los Angeles for Oakland, April 21, 1906. The troops arrived in Oakland, April twenty-second and were ordered into camp at Lincoln Park. The duties of the various companies consisted mainly of aiding the civil authorities in maintaining law and order in the bay area.\*

The standard of efficiency maintained by Company D 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 fourth to twenty-first. The exercises were devoted entirely to military problems and lectures by United States Army officers.\*\* In 1908, another joint army and Militia Camp of Instruction was again held at Atascadero, California from October fourth to fifteenth. This encampment was a duplicate of the one held the previous year, the only exception being that the troops engaged in field maneuvers.\*\*\*

On May 21, 1908, Company D marched in the parade of the Arrowhead Festival, at Los Angeles, led by Mayor Hanford. The parade was a brilliant success, as it wound its way through the streets amid the plaudits of the people who crowded the sidewalks along the line of march. The many entries were not only artistic in conception, but original in design, and a revelation in the possibilities of floral effects. The choicest roses and carnations were utilized as well as the brilliant yellow blossoms of the California springtime. Crowds gathered at the grandstand, where Queen Lola and her court were ready to review this beautiful feature. When it came in sight of her Majesty it was heralded by a platoon of police. Next came the Catalina Band playing

-000-

\*For further information concerning the Earthquake refer to History of Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, pages 41, 42.

\*\*\*For further details of the Encampment at Atascadero 1908, refer to History of Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment.



COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

a stirring selection. Company D left its position in the procession and lined upon each side of the street in front of the Queen's pavillion to preserve the right of way. The marshals of the procession rode ahead of Mayor Hanford. Behind him came the city officials in cars decked in carnival and patriotic colors.\*

Company D did not participate in any unusual activities outside of the regimental encampments and drills until October 16, 1911, when they paraded in Los Angeles in honor of William H. Taft, twenty-seventh President of the United States. Promptly on schedule time the Presidential train arrived from San Francisco at 9:35 A.M. Dr. Edwards, the President's brother-in-law, was the first to board the train and greet the nation's chief. He was followed by Mayor Alexander and Captain H. Z. Osborne, acting president of the Chamber of Commerce. The President was immediately escorted to his automobile, followed by his party and the press representatives accompanying him. The police arrangements were perfect and continued so throughout the day, under the personal direction of Chief of Police Sebastian. The parade through the city was carried out with great promptness. As an escort to the President and preceding his automobile were Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Saltmarsh, Commander of the Seventh Infantry, the Seventh Regiment Band, and eleven companies of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, including Company D.\*\*

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.\*\*\*

-000-

\*Los Angeles Times, May 22, 1908, page 7, column 1.

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

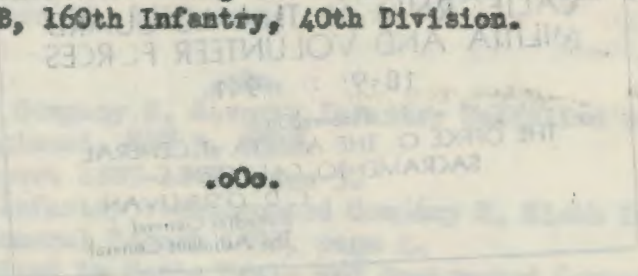
\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 13.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Company D arrived in Sacramento June 26, where they were mustered into Federal Service June 29. The company left Sacramento for Nogales Arizona, July 3, arriving there July 6. Company D did guard and patrol duty along the border until October 18, when they entrained for Los Angeles. Arriving there, Company D established camp in Exposition Park, where they were mustered out of Federal Service, November 11, 1916.

Four months later, on April 5, 1917, Company D, as part of the Seventh Infantry was again mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War.\* Company D, on October 14, 1917, was redesignated Company B, 160th Infantry.\*\* For further information concerning the activities of this unit, refer to History of Company B, 160th Infantry, 40th Division.



\*Return, Company D, Seventh Inf. Reg., April, 1917, Adjutant Generals' Files.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 27.