

History of the 7th Infantry Regiment, Company M, National Guard of California 1895-1917

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COMPANY M

Company M, Seventh Infantry Regiment, First Brigade (formerly Company C
Ninth Infantry Regiment)

References: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Riverside, Riverside County

Organized January 3, 1890

Reconstituted December 9, 1895*

Mustered into Federal Service May 9, 1898**

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

Reorganized as Company M, Seventh Infantry Regiment, April 30, 1899****

Mustered into Federal Service June 29, 1916+

Mustered out of Federal Service November 11, 1916++

Resumption of Service in National Guard, 1916+++

Mustered into Federal Service, April 8, 1917++++

Redesignated October 14, 1917+++++

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*Company M, formerly Company C, Ninth Infantry, designated Company M, Third Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, Company M designated Company M, Seventh Infantry Regiment.

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

**Company M as part of the Seventh Infantry mustered into Federal Service for duty during the Spanish-American War, May 9, 1898.

Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.

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

****Company M as part of the Seventh Infantry re-entered the National Guard of California April 30, 1899.

Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59.

+Company M as part of the Seventh Infantry mustered into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican Border, June 29, 1916.

Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 19.

++Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 19.

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

++++Company M as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War April 8, 1917. Return Company M, Seventh Infantry Regiment, April 1917.

Adjutant General Files.

+++++Company M, Seventh Infantry Regiment redesignated Company M 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division October 14, 1917.

Adjutant General Report 1920-1926 p. 28.

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers</u>	
	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
J. A. Eason, Captain	Feb. 3, 1896	Mar. 3, 1896
H. J. Bedwell, First Lieut.	Feb. 3, 1896	Mar. 3, 1896
C. F. Pann, Captain (term expired)	Mar. 21, 1898	Apr. 20, 1898
C. F. Huse, Captain	Apr. 30, 1900	June 18, 1900
H. J. Bedwell, First Lieut. (reelected Mar. 21, 1898) (resigned Sept. 2, 1899)	_____	_____
H. E. Mitchell, First Lieut.	Oct. 23, 1899	Dec. 13, 1899
H. E. Mitchell, Captain	Jan. 7, 1901	Feb. 27, 1901
E. A. Meacham, First Lieut.	Jan. 7, 1901	Feb. 27, 1901
H. E. Mitchell, Captain (reelected February 1903)	_____	_____
E. A. Meacham, First Lieutenant (reelected February 9, 1903)	_____	_____
F. M. Heath, Captain	Jan. 30, 1905	Mar. 23, 1905
P. J. Bollinger, First Lieut. (reelected December 30, 1907)	Jan. 30, 1905	Mar. 23, 1905
P. J. Bollinger, Captain	Mar. 9, 1908	Apr. 28, 1908
H. O. Higgins, First Lieutenant	Mar. 9, 1908	Apr. 28, 1908
P. J. Bollinger, Captain (reelected May 4, 1909) (resigned Aug. 23, 1911)	_____	_____
Miguel Estudillo, Captain (resigned November 18, 1913)	Dec. 11, 1911	Jan. 20, 1912
R. W. Russell, Captain	Dec. 6, 1913	Jan. 7, 1914
H. O. Higgins, First Lieut. (reelected May 4, 1909) (resigned April 25, 1912)	_____	_____
F. A. Thomas, First Lieut.	July 22, 1912	Aug. 5, 1912
W. C. Davison, Captain (resigned February 17, 1917)	May 4, 1916	May 27, 1916
Harry G. Pattie, Captain	Mar. 27, 1917	Mar. 28, 1917
F. F. Horton, First Lieut. (retired March 24, 1917)	May 4, 1916	June 7, 1917
Harry L. Carner, First Lieut.	Mar. 27, 1917	Mar. 27, 1917

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COMPANY M (Continued)

Activities:

Company M, formerly Company C, Ninth Infantry Regiment, was organized in Riverside, January 3, 1890. On December 7, 1895, when the Seventh and Ninth Infantry Regiments consolidated and formed three Battalions of Infantry with four companies each, Company C was redesignated Company M of the Third Battalion. Two days later on December ninth, the three battalions formed the Seventh Infantry with Company M retaining the same designating letter.

Company M, in attempting to increase its military proficiency, attended many Brigade and Regimental Encampments, the first of which was at Santa Monica, from August 4 to 14, 1897. In 1901, Company M together with the First Brigade, attended a Camp of Instruction at Santa Cruz, from June fourteenth to twenty-third, when the entire National Guard assembled under the command of Major General John H. Dickinson. In 1907, there began a series of Joint army and militia encampments. Company M was invited to attend the one held at the Presidio, in San Francisco from July 4 to 21, 1907. In 1908, Company M again attended a joint army and militia Camp of Instruction held at Atascadero, from October fourth to fifteenth.*

Company M as part of the Seventh Infantry, often participated in civic affairs. On April 22, 1896, the Company marched in celebration of La Fiesta De Los Angeles, a street carnival held each year by the merchants of 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 First Brigade, rode at the head of his Staff and was followed by the Seventh Infantry. The entire Regiment, which was composed of 700 men, swept along the street marching with measured tread.**

On November 14, 1896, an unusual and consequently a severe test was put upon Company M and the Seventh Infantry to prove the efficiency of the State Militia in replying to an emergency call. Emergencies were few and far between, but were likely to arise at any moment, and if a militia is good for anything at all it is

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

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

COMPANY M (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

expected to be ready for a frolic or a fight at the drop of a hat. Some doubt had been expressed regarding the ability of the State Militia to assemble on short notice for active duty to repel an enemy, for instance, and the experiment was intended to refute the insinuation. In conformity with orders from Division Headquarters, Brigadier-General C. F. A. Last, about eleven A. M., issued orders to the officers of his brigade to assemble the troops at three P. M., at their respective armories. This order was issued to the captains of each company of the Seventh Infantry in this terse form, signed by Colonel John R. Berry and Adjutant H. D. Alfonso. "Assemble command, heavy marching order, blankets, ball cartridges, one day's rations at armory three P. M. to day." This order caused some confusion among the guardsmen. Messengers were sent out by bicycle to notify the members of each company and that they did well is shown by the roll call, when nearly every member responded. Company M then made a forced march to a point one mile south and half a mile east of Ramona Convent, about nine miles from Los Angeles, where it joined the other companies of the Seventh Infantry. The following day was passed in camp going through war maneuvers under strict rules. The soldiers were given various drills as though they were actually in the field of war with an enemy in sight.*

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

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

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

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COMPANY M (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

On April 23, 1898, the United States declared war with Spain. Company M as part of the Seventh Infantry, was mustered into Federal Service, May 9, 1898, under the command of Colonel John H. Berry. The Regiment did not engage in active service, doing only Guard duty at the various military camps throughout the State, until December 2, 1898, when they were mustered out of Federal Service.* The State Legislature in 1899, passed a law giving to the companies and members of the National Guard, who volunteered for service during the Spanish-American War, and subsequently discharged therefrom, the privilege of reporting back and returning to duty with full credit for continuous service. The Legislature stipulated, however, that they must return to duty within 150 days after being mustered out of Federal Service.** Company M returned to duty in the National Guard, April 30, 1899.***

On May 9, 1903, Company M marched in Los Angeles, honoring Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States. President Roosevelt arrived at La Grande depot promptly at one P. M. Upon alighting from his car, he was greeted by the cheers of the Terrora and Cleveland Greys, drawn up in line on the platform, and of the people, packed into a dense mass beyond the station limits. After shaking hands with the gentlemen of the reception committee, the President was escorted to a carriage. As the order to proceed was given the driver, Mr. Roosevelt commanded him to wait and in a loud voice directed that the seven mounted "Rough Riders" who had been his comrades at San Juan Hill, be permitted to ride alongside his carriage as a personal body guard. At the signal the procession started between lines of people who crowded the entire distance up First Street to Main, and from there to the Westminster Hotel. The parade was led by the troops of the Seventh Infantry and Troop D, under command of Captain John D. Fredericks. The Signal Corps followed, preceding a platoon of police. In addition to the "Rough Riders" a corps of Secret Service men kept close to the Presidents carriage. Following the carriages were the Naval Reserve and men from the U. S. S. "Philadelphia". The veterans

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*Adjutant General Report 1898-1900, page 6.

**Adjutant General Report 1898-1900, page 8.

***Adjutant General Report 1898-1900, page 59.

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COMPANY M (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

of the Grand Army of the Republic joined the parade on Main Street. The Military Order of the Loyal Legion, the Civic League, the Army and Navy League, Native Son's Union League and a half-dozen political and commercial clubs were represented in the parade, formed to impress the nation's chief executive that the welcome of the people of Los Angeles was sincere and their loyalty heartfelt.*

Company M, in attempting to increase their efficiency on July 14, 1903, adopted the following By-Laws:

Article 1. "The Company shall assemble on each Monday night in the year at eight o'clock, such assemblages shall be known as the Regular Meetings of the Company. It shall also assemble according to law and orders for parades and encampments on the order of the commanding officer and if not directed to do so by orders from Superior Headquarters, it shall parade each year on Decoration Day and Independence Day and once to attend divine service. None but members of the Company shall be admitted to any business meetings of the Company without the permission of the presiding officer.

Article 2. The order of business at meetings shall be as follows; Roll call, reading minutes, reading communications, reading applications for membership, balloting on applications for membership, reports of officers and committees, unfinished business, new business.

Article 3. In parliamentary usages, the Company shall be governed by "Cushing's Manual," in case said rules do not conflict with the By-Laws of the Company.

Article 4. The following standing committees shall be appointed by the President at the annual meetings of the Company. They shall serve for

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

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COMPANY M (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

one year or until their successors are appointed. The President may, at his discretion, vacate any appointment on these committees and fill any vacancies thereon.

The Recruiting Committee shall be composed of five members. Its duty shall be to receive applications for membership, to use care and diligence in becoming acquainted with each applicant and to judge from all knowledge they can gain whether he would make a desirable member of the Company. They shall report to each monthly business meeting, their recommendations on each application before them. It shall also be the duty of this committee to file such applications on the company bulletin board as soon as received and to publish the same at any meeting of the Company as soon as possible after its receipt.

The Auditing Committee shall examine all bills or charges presented to the Company and shall report to the Company their action on each. Such reports shall be made at the regular monthly business meetings or on the order from the Company. It shall also be the duty of this committee to examine the records and files of the Secretary, Financial Clerk and Treasurer and to report to the Company at their annual business meeting their findings as to correctness of the records and their neatness. This committee may also make recommendation for the performance of any such record work. The Secretary, Financial Clerk and Treasurer are hereby directed to allow the auditing committee access to their records at all times.

The Range Committee shall have direct charge of the equipments and maintenance of the firing ranges and are authorized to contract such charges against the

COMPANY M (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Company as are necessary to keep the ranges in serviceable condition. This committee shall also have the power to classify the members of the Company and shall have general charge of all matters relating to practice firing.

The Social Committee shall have general charge of all social gatherings under the auspices of the Company. It shall be its duty to recommend to the Company from time to time such forms of entertainment as are appropriate for various occasions. Each Standing Committee shall present a written report of its actions to each monthly business meeting. All special committee reports shall be made to the Company in writing.

Article 5. Any officer or enlisted man who absents himself from any regular meeting of the Company or from any parade or encampment or from any assemblage of the Company authorized by law or orders without previously securing from the commanding officer a leave of absence, shall be fined for each absence, one dollar and for each absence after having been notified of delinquency in attendance by the commanding officers, he shall be fined two dollars additional and also he shall be fined such amount as shall cover the cost to the commanding officer of collecting in the civil courts of California the amounts charged against him. Mailing a written notice to any member to the address furnished by the member, shall constitute service of such notice. The commanding officer may grant leave of absence at his discretion. Any members who have not been notified of delinquency by the commanding officer may have his fines remitted by vote of the Company, provided he personally appears before the Company and declares that he was absent on account of sickness of himself or a member of his family, or that he was unavoidably working, or that he was out of town and unable to ask for leave of absence from the commanding officer. Any member who knows that

COMPANY M (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

a wilful misstatement has been made to an officer of the Company or to the Company for the purpose of securing a leave of absence or remittance of fine and who does not make it known to the officers or the Company, shall be fined five dollars.

Article 6. These By-Laws maybe amended, suspended or revoked by a vote of two-thirds of the membership of the Company."

Company M enjoyed a steady increase in the proficient use of the rifle at target practice. In 1897, they won custody of the Silhouette Trophy with a percentage of 22.6, which was 7.3 per cent more than was made by any other company in the State. In 1905, four members of the Company won places on the rifle team that was to represent California at the National Rifle Match to be held at Sea Girt, New Jersey. Although the California team did not win, the individual high scores made by these men were an inspiration for other California guardsmen to follow.

On April 18, 1906, there occurred in San Francisco a severe earthquake that laid most of the city in ruins. Company M and the entire First Brigade was rushed to Oakland, April twenty-second, for emergency duty. The companies of the Seventh Infantry were stationed at various districts in and around Oakland, aiding the civil authorities in maintaining law and order, until May 13, 1906, when they returned to Los Angeles.*

There is no record of any unusual activities of Company M until October 18, 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 nine thirty-five in the morning. Doctor Edwards, the President's brother-in-law, was the first to board the train and grasp the hand of the nation's chief. He was closely followed by the 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

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*For additional information concerning the Earthquake, 1906, refer to History of Company A, Seventh Infantry.

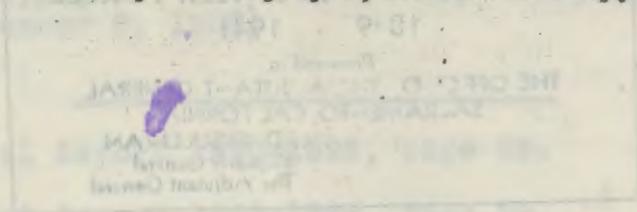
COMPANY M (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

continued so throughout the day under the personal direction of Chief Sebastian. The parade through the city was carried out with great promptness. As an escort to the President and preceding his car were Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Saltmarsh and Staff, the Seventh Infantry Band and eleven companies of the Seventh Infantry Regiment.*

On June 29, 1916, Company M, as part of the Seventh Infantry was mustered into Federal Service and transferred to Nogales, Arizona, for duty on the Mexican Border. The troops did not engage in active service, doing only patrol duty until October nineteenth, when they returned to Los Angeles. Company M was mustered out of Federal Service, November 11, 1916.**

Four months later, on April 8, 1917, Company M as part of the Seventh Infantry was again mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War.*** On October 14, 1917, Company M was redesignated Company M, 160th Infantry.**** For further information concerning the activities of this unit refer to the History of Company M, 160th Infantry, 40th Division.



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

**For additional information concerning the Mexican Border Service, 1916, refer to History of Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment.

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

****Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 29.