

History of the 9th Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1890-1895

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453

NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Ninth Infantry Regiment, First Brigade
 Reference: Adjutant General's Files
 Location: San Diego, San Diego County
 Organized February 8, 1890
 Disbanded December 9, 1895*

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Edward B. Spileman, Colonel	Feb. 8, 1890	Feb. 12, 1890
George L. Bryant, Lieut. Colonel (resigned)	Feb. 8, 1890	Feb. 12, 1890
John R. Berry, Lieut. Colonel	June 17, 1893	July 12, 1893
Charles S. Mckelvey, Major	Feb. 8, 1890	Feb. 12, 1890
Thomas L. Magee, Major Surgeon	Mar. 5, 1890	Mar. 26, 1890
Frank C. Prescott, Major	June 17, 1893	July 12, 1893
Rawlins Cadwalader, Captain (resigned) Adjutant	Mar. 8, 1890	Mar. 26, 1890
John R. Berry, Capt. Adjutant (promoted to Lieut. Col.)	Apr. 27, 1891	May 4, 1891
Edward F. Brown, Capt. Adjutant (term expired)	June 19, 1893	July 28, 1893
Arthur Hartley, Capt. Adjutant	Mar. 22, 1894	Mar. 22, 1894

Activities:

On February 8, 1890, a new regiment was organized in the First Brigade and designated the Ninth Infantry Regiment. The San Diego Rifles, an unattached military company, organized in the city of San Diego, September 7, 1889, became Company A of the Ninth Infantry. Company B of the Seventh Infantry stationed in San Diego, Company D of the Seventh, stationed in Pomona and Company E of the Seventh, stationed in San Bernardino, were

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*The Ninth Infantry Regiment under the provisions of General Order No. 17, December 7, 1895, consolidated with the Seventh Infantry to form three battalions of infantry. Two days later December 9, the three battalions were redesignated as the Seventh Infantry Regiment Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.

THE NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

detached from that regiment and became companies B, D and E, respectively, of the new Ninth Infantry Regiment. Also attached to the regiment were the new companies organized in the cities of Riverside and Santa Ana, which received the letters of C and F, respectively. The Ninth Infantry remained a six company regiment until June 3, 1893, when a new infantry company was organized in Redlands, San Bernardino County and designated Company G of the Ninth Infantry. The table on the following page indicates the changes in the Ninth Infantry.

Captain Edward B. Spileman, commanding officer of the San Diego Rifles, whose marked ability as an officer was at once recognized in the organization of the new regiment, was elected Colonel to command the Ninth Infantry. Captain George Bryant, a very active and intelligent young officer, secured the Lieutenant Colonelcy and Captain Charles McKelvey was elected Major. Colonel Spileman exercised the same zeal for the advancement of the regiment that he had manifested for his company. The staff officers being appointed, the work of organization was completed and the companies drilled in their individual armories with no direct connection with each other except through the reports of the adjutant, Captain Rawlins Cadwalader and later, Captain John R. Berry.

The first time the Ninth Infantry assembled together, was during the encampment held at Santa Monica from August 15 to 24, 1891. Captain J. J. O'Connell, First Infantry United States Army, was detailed by the Secretary of War to report to the Governor of California, for duty as Inspecting and Instruction Officer. The following excerpt was taken from his report to the Adjutant General, concerning the encampment of the Ninth Infantry at Santa Monica.*

"The personnel of the Ninth Infantry is above par in military appearance, education and social standing. An intense military spirit actuates this fine regiment and a deep enthusiasm for whatever pertains to the honorable profession of arms seems to pervade both officers and men. The encampment was largely devoted to reviews and parades, which so far as my observation extended, were highly satisfactory in execution and far surpassed in excellence many witnessed by me in other encampments. While I do not consider that the efficiency of troops should be measured by their ability to stand, march and wheel with steadiness and precision, yet if troops are in condition to make a creditable showing on these ceremonious occasions, a similar standard of excellence

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*Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, page 168.

COMPANIES COMPOSING THE NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, FIRST BRIGADE

1890-1895

A	B	C	D
Company A, San Diego (formerly San Diego Rifles) <u>1890</u>	Company B, San Diego (formerly Company B, Seventh Infantry Regiment) <u>1890</u>	Company C, Riverside <u>1890</u>	Company D, Pomona (formerly Company D, Seventh Infantry Regiment) <u>1890</u>
E	F	G	
Company E, San Bernardino (formerly Company E, Seventh Infantry Regiment) <u>1890</u>	Company F, Santa Ana <u>1890</u>	Company G, Redlands <u>1893</u>	

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

NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

will likely prevail in more important and urgent duties."

The Ninth Infantry in their endeavor to become a proficient and well drilled military organization, neglected one of the fundamental principles of a National Guard regiment, that of target practice. In September of each year, the law required that the regiments hold their annual target practice. In 1891 the Ninth Infantry had 16 second class and 127 third class marksmen. In 1892, 14 second class and 123 third class marksmen and in 1893, 8 second class and 128 third class men. In 1894 the regiment had 8 second class and 137 third class marksmen. In 1895 the last year the Ninth Infantry was in existence, they showed a slight improvement with 17 second class and 172 third class men. The number of qualified shooters in the Ninth Infantry was far below standard in comparison to the other regiments in the National Guard.

The Ninth Infantry held an Independence Day celebration in San Bernardino, July Fourth, 1893. As early as six o'clock A. M., vehicles of all kinds commenced to arrive in the city and deposit their loads of humanity. Every motor and train that came in brought a large crowd, who at once commenced to take in the sights. The most interesting event of the day took place on the vacant lot between Fifth and Sixth, and H and I Streets. The boundary lines were thronged with people, while every available foot of space was occupied by vehicles. The military maneuvers by the Ninth Infantry proved a very interesting sight. The soldiers formed in two battalions and were put through the battalion drill by Colonel E. B. Spileman. Although the lot was small and the ground rough, the boys did some excellent work. Many of the movements in the drill had to be abandoned for lack of space. After a short rest, the regiment formed and went through dress parade, passed in review before the Colonel and Staff and marched off the block.*

The Ninth Infantry commemorated their Thanksgiving Day in 1893, by participating in a military parade and Field Day at Pomona. For the regimental parade, the companies of the Ninth Infantry were formed in two battalions, under command of Majors Charles McKelvey and Frank Prescott. The column moved promptly at nine

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*San Bernardino Courier, July 8, 1893, page 1, column 1.

NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

o'clock A. M., headed by the Ninth Infantry Band and presented a fine appearance. The men looked neat and soldierly and responded to commands smartly. The principal streets of Pomona were crowded with citizens, while hundreds of the rural population were on hand to see the display. After covering the leading thoroughfares, the troops marched to the armory of Company D and then dispersed for dinner, which was a typical Thanksgiving feast provided by the citizens of Pomona and served at the different hotels.*

In 1894, there was a possibility that the Ninth Infantry would be called out for emergency duty, when on June twenty-eighth a nationwide railroad strike completely paralyzed the transportation facilities of the State. For some unknown reason the Ninth Infantry was not called into active service. The United States Marshal for the southern district made a request upon General Thomas H. Ruger, commanding the Western Division of the Regular Army, for assistance at Los Angeles, and six companies of Regulars under command of Colonel W. R. Shafter, were dispatched to Los Angeles, 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 September 27, 1894, the companies of the Ninth Infantry assembled in San Diego for a military parade, which was to be held in conjunction with the celebration to commemorate the 352 Anniversary of the discovery of San Diego Bay. On April 19, 1895, the Ninth Infantry paraded in Los Angeles for the fourth annual La Fiesta De Los Angeles. This celebration was a street carnival that was held each year by the merchants of Los Angeles.***

During the activities of the railroad strike, a need for a complete reorganization of the National Guard was apparent. The most important result of the reorganization was that many of the

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*Los Angeles Times, December 1, 1893, page 4, column 6.

**For additional information, refer to History of National Guard and the Railroad Strike. Adjutant General's Office.

***For additional information concerning the San Diego celebration and the La Fiesta, refer to History of Company A, Ninth Infantry.

NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

top officers were placed on the retired list. This corrected a situation that had long existed in the Guard, namely, that the service was "top-heavy" with commanding officers. On December 7, 1895, General Order No. 17, was issued which consolidated the Seventh and Ninth Infantry Regiment of the First Brigade into three battalions of infantry, with four companies each. Companies A and B of the Ninth Infantry, were consolidated to form Company B, Third Battalion. Company C of the Ninth Infantry, was redesignated Company M of, the Third Battalion and Company D of the Ninth, became Company D of the Second Battalion. Company E of the Ninth, became Company K of the Second Battalion and Company F of the Ninth, was redesignated Company L of the Third Battalion. Company G of the Ninth, became Company G of the Third Battalion. Two days later on December ninth, General Order No. 18, was issued which designated the three battalions as the Seventh Infantry and the Ninth was disbanded as a regiment organization.*

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*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.