

California and the War with Spain: 7th Infantry Regiment, California U.S. Volunteers, 1898

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, 10 February 2015

Original document on file at the California State Library

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

AND THE

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Reference: Muster Rolls of the Seventh Regiment of California
Volunteer Infantry, May 9, 1898 to December 2, 1898.

Regimental Headquarters:

Presidio, San Francisco	May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco	May 25, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco	Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Seventh Infantry Armory, Los Angeles	Oct. 14, 1898 to Nov. 12, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles	Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers

John R. Berry, Colonel
William G. Schreiber, Lieutenant-Colonel
Frank C. Prescott, Major
Dana R. Weller, Major
William O. Welsh, Major
Herbert D. Alfonso, Captain and Adjutant
James J. Choate, Major and Surgeon
William W. Roblee, Captain and Assistant-Surgeon
Philip W. Russell, Captain and Assistant-Surgeon
Alfred S. Clark, Captain and Chaplain
Daniel C. Williams, First Lieutenant and Quarter-Master
Harvey E. Higbey, First Lieutenant and Battalion-Adjutant
John D. Fredericks, First Lieutenant and Battalion-Adjutant
Charles P. Fenner, First Lieutenant and Battalion-Adjutant

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

AND THE

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Companies included in the Seventh Regiment of California Volunteer Infantry

Company A, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers:

Robert Wankowski, Captain
Harry A. Bates, First Lieutenant

Company B, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 28, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 28, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers:

Richard V. Dodge, Captain
John C. Mielke, First Lieutenant

.oOo.

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

AND THE

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Companies included in the Seventh Regiment of California Volunteer
Infantry (Continued)

Company C, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers

Samuel R. Langworthy, Captain
Truman Cole, First Lieutenant

Company D, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out December 2, 1898

Commanding Officers

Harry T. Matthews, Captain
John A. Eason, First Lieutenant

.oOo.

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

AND THE

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Companies included in the Seventh Regiment of California Volunteer
Infantry (Continued)

Company G, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers

George S. Biggin, Captain
George M. Smallwood, First Lieutenant

Company H, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers

Albert W. Browne, Captain
John W. Hammons, First Lieutenant

.000.

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

AND THE

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Companies included in the Seventh Regiment of California Volunteer
Infantry (Continued)

Company I, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers:

William L. Lippincott, Captain
Harry La V. Twining, First Lieutenant
(Appointed May 13, 1898)

Company K, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 26, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 26, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers:

Orin P. Sloat, Captain
William C. Secombe, First Lieutenant

.oOo.

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

AND THE

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Companies included in the Seventh Regiment of California Volunteer Infantry (Continued)

Company L, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merritt, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Oct. 13, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers:

Solomon H. Finley, Captain
Walter A. Greenleaf, First Lieutenant

Company M, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 23, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 23, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers:

Charles F. Pann, Captain
Herbert J. Bedwell, First Lieutenant

.000.

Activities of the Seventh Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers:

Prior to its entry into the Volunteer Service after the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, the Seventh Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers was designated as the Seventh Regiment of Infantry, National Guard of California. The Seventh Regiment was made up entirely of companies from the Southern part of the State. It was composed of splendid material, was well disciplined and was commanded by competent officers.*

As soon as Colonel John R. Berry was informed that arrangements had been completed for mustering the volunteers into the Federal Service, he tendered the services of his regiment to Governor James H. Budd. Colonel Berry was promptly notified that the services of his regiment would be accepted. Preparations were immediately begun for the assembly of the troops, and all was in readiness when the order was received for the regiment to leave for San Francisco on Friday, May 6, 1898.**

The Seventh Regiment was organized and ready to be mustered into the Volunteer service the fifth of May, but their orders directed them to leave Los Angeles for San Francisco May sixth. The officers and men of the Seventh Infantry Regiment were jubilant when the order to entrain was received, and all felt confident that if volunteer troops were sent to the Philippines, their regiment would be the first to cross the ocean. The troops from the South were fully justified in feeling that confidence.*** They had a splendid regiment, were well drilled and had an efficient and up-to-date organization.

The volunteers assembled at their armory in Los Angeles at nine o'clock A.M., May sixth, for final inspection and the publication of orders. The special train providing for the transportation of the regiment, left Los Angeles at 11 A.M., May sixth, and arrived at San Francisco at 11:15 A. M. on May Seventh. A cordial reception for the boys from the South had been arranged in San Francisco. An escort composed of a squad of police, the Signal Corps, Troop A of Cavalry, The First Regiment Band, the Naval Reserve and Governor Budd and Staff met the volunteers at the

.oOo.

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

**San Francisco Call, May 4, 1898, page 2, column 4.

***San Francisco Call, May 4, 1898, page 2, column 4.

Activities of the Seventh Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers:

depot and accompanied them to the Presidio where they went into camp beside the First Regiment of California Volunteer Infantry.* The organization was mustered into the service of the United States on the ninth of May, 1898.

The Seventh was the second regiment to land in San Francisco in answer to the President's first call for volunteers. It would have been first, had it not been delayed. As it was, the regiment arrived in camp only half an hour after the First Regiment of California Volunteers.** Keen disappointment was felt throughout the organization when it was not named as one of the units to sail with the first expedition to the Philippines. Greater still was the disappointment when subsequent expeditions were organized and sent to the Islands, leaving the Southern California troops behind.

It was felt that the Seventh Infantry Regiment was treated unfairly and open declarations were made that politicians were having much to do with side-tracking California volunteers in favor of those from some Eastern or Middle-Western States.*** Cases were cited to prove that the men from the Pacific Coast were detained at home while other men were brought across the continent and moved past them on the way to the Philippines. Added to the disappointments endured by the men of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, was the grief felt over the death of twenty of their comrades in San Francisco during the summer. These fatalities equalized nearly half the losses suffered by the First Regiment during more than a year's active service in the Islands.

At any rate, the Regiment remained inactive in San Francisco until October 13, 1898, when they were ordered to Los Angeles and furloughed until November twelfth.**** Three hundred and thirty men of the regiment signed a petition asking for re-enlistment in the regular army, but that movement was not

.oOo.

*San Francisco Bulletin, May 7, 1898, page 2, column 1.

**Los Angeles Daily Times, December 2, 1898, page 16, column 2.

***Los Angeles Daily Times, June 19, 1898, page 3, column 1.

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

Activities of the Seventh Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers

successful as 400 signatures were required in order to organize a full battalion under the army regulations. Consequently, any of the men who desired to enter the United States Army Service must do so through the regular Army recruiting channels.*

The Seventh Regiment reported at their armory in Los Angeles on the twelfth of November 1898 as instructed, and went into camp at Camp Pratt, Los Angeles, where they were stationed until December second, when they were mustered out of the United States Service.

Thus the Seventh Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers retired to private life after approximately seven months in the Federal Service, during which time it had its ups and downs and anticipations and disappointments in plenty.

Following their discharge from the Volunteer Service, Companies A, B, C, F, G, I, L, and M, of the Seventh Regiment reported for duty in the National Guard of California, were recognized and returned to duty therein on the fifth of June, 1899.** Companies D and K reported, were recognized and returned to duty in the National Guard the fifth of July, 1899.*** Companies E and H, of the Seventh Regiment failed to report with the minimum number of members and within the time specified by law. These two companies were ordered disbanded and mustered out of the Service of the State of California, and the officers and members thereof were granted an honorable discharge from the National Guard of California.****

.ooo.

*Los Angeles Daily Times, December 2, 1898, page 16, column 2.

**Adjutant General Report, 1899-1900, General Order No. 6, page 59.

***Adjutant General Report, 1899-1900, General Order No. 7, page 64.

****Adjutant General Report, 1899-1900, General Order No. 7, Sec. 5, page 64.

STATIONS AND LOCATIONS OF THE SEVENTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY

CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

DURING THE PERIOD 1898 - 1901

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Presidio, San Francisco	May 9	to	May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco	May 25	to	Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco	Aug. 24	to	Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles	Oct. 14	to	Dec. 2, 1898

REGIMENTAL COMMANDER

John R. Berry, Colonel

<u>Company</u>	<u>Mustered into United States Service</u>	<u>Stations and Locations</u>	<u>Command- ing of United States Officers</u>	<u>Mustered out of United States Service</u>
A	May 9, 1898	Company A entrained at Los Angeles May 6, 1898. Arrived at San Francisco May 7 and encamped at the Presidio. Moved to Camp Merritt, San Francisco, May 25. Participated in parade at San Francisco, July 4, 1898. Moved to Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco, August 24, 1898. Took part in Division Review at Presidio, San Francisco, August 31, 1898. Broke Camp October 13, 1898, and proceeded to Los Angeles. Arrived at Los Angeles October 14. Furloughed for 30 days. Assembled at Camp Pratt, Los Angeles, November 12, 1898 for muster out.	Robert Wankowski, Captain	Dec. 2, 1898

Company	Mustered into United States Service	Stations and Locations	Commanding Officers	Mustered out of United States Service
---------	-------------------------------------	------------------------	---------------------	---------------------------------------

B	May 9, 1898	Company B enrolled at Los Angeles May 5, 1898. Arrived at Presidio, San Francisco May 7, 1898. Moved to Camp Merritt, San Francisco May 25. Moved from Camp Merritt, to Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco, August 28, 1898. Ordered to Los Angeles, arrived there October 14. On Furlough October 14 to November 12. In quarters at Camp Pratt, Los Angeles November 12, 1898, until mustered out of United States Service.	Richard V. Dodge, Captain	Dec. 2, 1898
---	-------------	---	---------------------------	--------------

C	May 9, 1898	Enlisted at Los Angeles May 5, 1898. Proceeded to San Francisco May 6. Made camp at the Presidio, San Francisco May 7, 1898. Broke camp May 25 and moved to camp Merritt, San Francisco, June 28, 1898, moved camp to a site near Point Lobos. August 24 moved to Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco. Broke camp October 13 and boarded train for Los Angeles. Arrived at Los Angeles October 14. On furlough, October 14 to November 12, 1898, then reported at Camp Pratt, Los Angeles and remained there until Mustered out of the Federal Service.	Samuel R. Langworthy, Captain	Dec. 2, 1898
---	-------------	---	-------------------------------	--------------

.000.

Company	Mustered into United States Service	Stations and Locations	Command- ing Officers	Mustered out of United States Service
---------	---	------------------------	-----------------------------	---

D	May 9, 1898	<p>May 6, 1898, proceeded from Pomona to Los Angeles, thence to San Francisco May 7. Went into camp at Presidio, San Francisco, where the company remained until May 25. Moved to Camp Merritt May 25 and remained in camp there until August 25. Company participated in parade in city of San Francisco July 4 and in Division Review at Presidio Heights, August 31. August 25, 1898, moved camp to Presidio near former location. Remained there until October 13 when camp was broken and company proceeded to Los Angeles where the members of the company were furloughed for 30 days. On November 12 company assembled at Pomona and proceeded to Camp Pratt, Los Angeles. Remained at Camp Pratt until mustered out of the Federal Service.</p>	Harry T. Matthews, Captain	Dec. 2, 1898
E	May 9, 1898	<p>Company left Santa Paula May 6, 1898. Arrived San Francisco and went into camp at Presidio there May 7, 1898. Remained in camp at Presidio until May 25, then moved to Camp Merritt, San Francisco. Participated in parade at San Francisco, July 4. Moved from Camp Merritt to Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco, August 24, 1898. Participated in Review of Division at Presidio Heights, San Francisco, August 31. Broke camp October 13 and proceeded to Los Angeles, where the company arrived October 14. Furloughed for 30 days. Reported at Camp Pratt, Los Angeles, November 12 where the company remained in camp until mustered out of the service of the United States.</p>	Charles H. Fernald, Captain	Dec. 2, 1898

Company	Mustered into United States Service	Stations and Locations	Command- ing Officers	Mustered out of United States Service
F	May 9, 1898	Enrolled at Los Angeles May 5, 1898. Left Los Angeles May 6. Arrived at San Francisco May 7 and went into Camp at Presidio. Remained there until May 25 when company moved to Camp Merritt, San Francisco. On August 24 broke camp at Camp Merritt on account of prevalence of Typhoid Fever there and moved to the Presidio again. Broke camp at Presidio October 13 and proceeded to Los Angeles. Arrived at Los Angeles October 14 and given furloughs until November 12, 1898. Went into camp at Camp Pratt, Los Angeles, where the company remained until mustered out of the service of the United States.	Frank L. Reynolds, Captain	Dec. 2, 1898
G	May 9, 1898	Enrolled at Los Angeles May 5, 1898, arrived at San Francisco May 7 and went into camp at the Presidio there. Ordered to Camp Merritt, San Francisco, May 25. Enrolled 25 additional men in company on June 24, 1898. Participated in parade in San Francisco, July 4, 1898. Moved from Camp Merritt to Camp Merriam in the Presidio, San Francisco, August 24, 1898. Ordered to Los Angeles October 13. Arrived at Los Angeles October 14. On furlough October 14 to November 12. In quarters at Camp Pratt, Los Angeles, November 12, 1898, until mustered out of Federal Service.	George S. Biggin, Captain	Dec. 2, 1898

.000.

Company	Mustered into United States Service	Stations and Locations	Commanding Officers	Mustered out of United States Service
H	May 9, 1898	Company H left San Buena Ventura May 6, 1898. Arrived at Presidio, San Francisco and went into camp there May 7, 1898. Moved from Presidio to Camp Merritt, San Francisco, May 25. Paraded with Regiment at San Francisco July 4, 1898. Moved from Camp Merritt to Camp Merriam at the Presidio, San Francisco, August 24. Participated in Division Review at Presidio Heights August 31, 1898. Broke camp October 13 and proceeded to Los Angeles. Arrived at Los Angeles October 14 and given furlough for 30 days. Reported at Camp Pratt November 12, 1898. Remained stationed there until mustered out of the Federal Service.	Albert W. Brown, Captain	Dec. 2, 1898
I	May 9, 1898	Arrived in San Francisco from Los Angeles, May 7, 1898. In camp at Presidio until May 25 when company moved to Camp Merritt, San Francisco. Participated in parade at San Francisco July 4, 1898. Moved from Camp Merritt to Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco, August 24, 1898. Participated in Division Review at Presidio Heights, San Francisco, August 31, 1898. Broke camp and proceeded to Los Angeles, arrived at Los Angeles October 14. Furloughed for 30 days. Reported at Camp Pratt, Los Angeles, November 12, 1898. Remained at Camp Pratt until Mustered out of the Federal Service.	William L. Lippincott, Captain	Dec. 2, 1898

.000.

Company	Mustered into United States Service	Stations and Locations	Command- ing Officers	Mustered out of United States Service
K	May 9, 1898	<p>Proceeded from San Bernardino to Los Angeles May 6, 1898, thence to San Francisco where company arrived May 7. Went into camp at Presidio, San Francisco same day. Moved to camp Merritt, San Francisco, May 26, 1898. On August 24, 1898, changed station to Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco. On October 13, 1898, the company broke camp and left for Los Angeles. Arrived at Los Angeles October 14. The members of the company were furloughed until November 12, 1898. On November 12 the company went into camp at Camp Pratt, Los Angeles and remained there until mustered out of the Federal Service.</p>	Orin P. Sloat, Captain	Dec. 2, 1898
L	May 9, 1898	<p>May 6, 1898, Company L left Los Angeles for San Francisco. May 7 arrived at San Francisco and went into camp at the Presidio. May 25, 1898, moved from Presidio to Camp Merritt San Francisco. August 24, 1898, moved to Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco. October 13, 1898, left San Francisco for Los Angeles. October 14, arrived at Los Angeles and furloughed for 30 days. November 12, 1898, reported at Camp Pratt, Los Angeles. Remained at Camp Pratt until mustered out of Federal Service.</p>	Solomon H. Finley, Captain	Dec. 2, 1898

.000.

Company	Mustered into United States Service	Stations and Locations	Command- ing Officers	Mustered out of United States Service
M	May 9, 1898	<p>May 5, 1898, Company M left Riverside, California, and arrived at Los Angeles the same day. May 6 left Los Angeles for San Francisco. Arrived at San Francisco May 7 and went into camp at the Presidio. Broke camp at Presidio May 25 and proceeded to Camp at Richmond, San Francisco. Broke camp August 23 and moved to Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco. October 13, 1898, left Camp Merriam for Los Angeles. Arrived Los Angeles October 14. Granted 30 days furlough. Reported at Camp Pratt, Los Angeles, November 12, 1898, where company remained encamped until mustered out of the Federal Service.</p>	Charles F. Pann, Captain	Dec. 2, 1898

•••••