

# **History of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Company C (Cadets), National Guard of California 1888-1917**

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Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Organized January 1, 1886

Reorganized October 26, 1887\*

Reconstituted May 5, 1888\*\*

Disbanded June 11, 1894\*\*\*

Reorganized and mustered in July 18, 1894\*\*\*\*

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

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

Mustered out of Federal Service December 2, 1898.

Reorganized as Company C, Seventh Infantry Regiment April 30, 1899\*\*

Mustered into Federal Service Jun 29, 1916\*\*\*

Mustered out of Federal Service November 11, 1916\*\*\*\*

Resumption of service in the National Guard, 1916\*\*\*\*\*

Mustered into Federal Service April 9 1917\*\*\*\*\*

Redesignated October 14, 1917.

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\*Company C, formerly Company C Cadets, redesignated Company C, Seventh Infantry Battalion, October 26, 1887.

Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.

\*\*Company C, formerly Company C, Seventh Infantry Battalion designated Company C, Seventh Infantry Regiment, May 5, 1888.

Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.

\*\*\*Company C, Seventh Infantry, disbanded June 11, 1894.

Adjutant General Report 1893-1894. General Order No. 8, page 138.

\*\*\*\*New Company mustered in and designated Company C, Seventh Infantry Regiment, Adjutant General Report 1895-1896. General Order No. 10, page 30.

\*\*\*\*\*Company C, Seventh Infantry redesignated Company C, First Battalion on December 7, 1895. Two days later on December ninth, Company C, First Battalion designated Company C, Seventh Infantry. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 18, 18 pages 88, 88.

\*\*\*\*\*Company C 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 C as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment re-entered the National Guard of California, April 30, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59.

\*\*\*Company C as part of the Seventh Infantry 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. Gen. Order No. 34, page 150.

\*\*\*\*\*Company C as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service April 9, 1917. Monthly Return Company C Seventh Infantry Regiment April, 1917. Adjutant General's Files.

\*Company C Seventh Infantry Regiment consolidated with Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment and designated Company A. 159th Infantry Regiment October 14, 1917. Adjutant General Report 1920-1926 - page 27.



COMPANY C (Continued)  
Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
M. L. Starin, Captain	Apr. 16, 1888	Apr. 30, 1888*
John Bloeser, First Lieut. (Promoted June 18, 1888)	Apr. 16, 1888	Apr. 30, 1888*
William Logan, First Lieut. (Resigned Feb. 7, 1890)	July 11, 1888	Aug. 20, 1888
M. L. Starin, Captain (Re-elected May 21, 1890)		
Theodore Meyer, First Lieut.	May 21, 1890	June 16, 1890
Theodore Meyer, Captain	Apr. 8, 1891	May 10, 1891
Herbert D. Alfonso, First Lieut.	Apr. 8, 1891	May 10, 1891
Theodore Meyer, Captain (Re-elected May 31, 1893) (Resigned July 17, 1893)		
George Glowner, Captain	Aug. 16, 1893	Sept. 23, 1893
Herbert D. Alfonso, First Lieut. (Re-elected May 31, 1893) (Promoted to Captain August 15, 1893)		
Gardner Symms, Captain (Resigned May 3, 1895)	July 18, 1894	July 28, 1894
James Kennedy, First Lieut.	July 18, 1894	July 28, 1894
James Kennedy, Captain (Resigned February 15, 1896)	June 1, 1895	July 13, 1895
Fred H. Teale, First Lieut.	June 1, 1895	July 13, 1895
Fred H. Teale, Captain (Resigned December 29, 1896)	Mar. 11, 1896	Apr. 4, 1896
John Collins, First Lieut. (Resigned January 7, 1897)	Mar. 11, 1896	Apr. 4, 1896
S. R. Langworthy, Captain	Jan. 20, 1897	Feb. 8, 1897
J. W. George, First Lieut. (Resigned June 4, 1897) (Re-elected Sept. 1, 1897)	Jan. 20, 1897	Feb. 8, 1897
Truman Cole, Captain	Jan. 21, 1899	Aug. 14, 1899
Raymond Folimer, First Lieut. (Resigned May 5, 1900)	Aug. 23, 1899	Oct. 9, 1899
John Simms, First Lieut. (Resigned November 30, 1900)	May 23, 1900	June 28, 1900
Samuel Saltmarsh, First Lieut.	Jan. 16, 1901	March 23, 1901

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\*Captain Starin and Lieutenant Bloeser retained their former commissions as of April 30, 1888, when they commanded Company C, Seventh Infantry Battalion, First Brigade.



COMPANY C (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Truman Cole, Captain (Re-elected October 16, 1901) (Re-elected September 16, 1903) (Promoted to Major of Seventh Infantry Regiment February 13, 1904)		
Samuel Saltmarsh, First Lieut. (Re-elected April 8, 1903)		
Samuel Saltmarsh, Captain (Promoted to Major of Seventh Infantry Jan. 26, 1905)	Mar. 23, 1904	Apr. 19, 1904
August Dee, First Lieut.	Mar. 23, 1904	Apr. 19, 1904
Donnell Fisher, Captain August Dee, First Lieut. (Re-elected March 14, 1906)	Apr. 19, 1905	May 10, 1905
August Dee, Captain	Oct. 17, 1906	Nov. 15, 1906
William Flood, First Lieut. (Resigned March 16, 1907)	Oct. 17, 1906	Nov. 15, 1906
Charles Barnett, First Lieut. (Resigned February 4, 1909)	May 1, 1907	May 23, 1907
August Dee, Captain (Re-elected April 29, 1909)		
John Bright, First Lieut.	Mar. 10, 1909	Apr. 9, 1909
John Bright, Captain	Mar. 22, 1911	Apr. 6, 1911
Charles Anderson, First Lieut.	Mar. 22, 1911	Apr. 6, 1911
Charles Anderson, Captain (Resigned December 24, 1913)	Jan. 10, 1912	Jan. 27, 1912
James Irwin, First Lieut.	Jan. 10, 1912	Jan. 27, 1912
James Irwin, Captain (Resigned Feb. 27, 1915)	Jan. 14, 1914	Feb. 5, 1914
Everett Peckham, Captain	Mar. 20, 1915	July 20, 1910*
Edward Marxen, First Lieut.	Jan. 14, 1914	Feb. 5, 1914
Edward Marxen, Captain	Oct. 13, 1916	Oct. 13, 1916
Horace Cutler, First Lieut.	Oct. 13, 1916	Oct. 13, 1916
Arthur King, First Lieut.	Mar. 12, 1917	Mar. 29, 1917

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\*Captain Peckham retained his former commission of July 20, 1910, when he was staff officer of the Seventh Infantry Regiment.



## COMPANY C (Continued)

### Activities:

Company C, Seventh Infantry Regiment was formerly Company C Cadets organized January 1, 1886, and attached to the First Brigade as a provisional company. On October 26, 1887, the Cadet Company was mustered in as a full unit and designated Company C, Seventh Infantry Battalion. The battalion on May 5, 1888, was reorganized and became the Seventh Infantry Regiment, with Company C retaining the same designating letter.

Company C participated in the Independence Day celebration held in Los Angeles July 4, 1888, which was the outstanding social event of the year. Long before the hour announced for the companies of the Seventh Infantry to arrive, the street was crowded with vehicles and the sidewalk lined with people, all anxious to view the maneuvers of the troops.\* Two months later on September 18, 1888, Company C and the various companies of the Seventh Infantry Regiment paraded in Los Angeles as an escort for the members of the Odd Fellows Lodge. The streets of Los Angeles were lined with an almost impassable mass of humanity, more than 150,000 persons witnessing the parade.\*\*

During the year 1889, every organization in the State went into encampment. Company C together with the other units of the First Brigade, went into camp at Pacific Beach, near the city of San Diego, for eleven days, commencing on August third and ending the thirteenth day of the month. This was a Brigade Encampment under the command of Brigadier-General E. P. Johnson, and was the only brigade camp held during the year. The camp which was designated "Camp Dimond," in honor of Major-General W. H. Dimond, was very pleasantly located on a level plateau over-looking the ocean, and was reached from San Diego by the motor line running to Pacific Beach. Through the kindness of Brigadier-General B. H. Grierson, United States Army, commanding the District of Arizona, a company of the Ninth Infantry, United States Army was ordered to camp with the brigade. The camp was well laid out. The tents were entirely new, the headquarters tent being a large one, nearly 150 feet long, divided by board partitions into offices, reception rooms,

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\*For further details of the Independence Day celebration of 1888, refer to History of Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment, First Brigade.

\*\*Record Book of Company B, Ninth Infantry.



## Activities: (Continued)

mess rooms and a large apartment fitted with seats for the convenience of an audience while listening to the music of the regimental band, which played there every day and evening during the encampment. The officers and each company were provided with mess tents, and the messing arrangements were better than any of the other encampments. The troops consisted of the General and staff officers of the First Brigade and the Seventh Regiment of Infantry. Captain Bailey and Lieutenants Robertson and Wittenmyer of Company E, Ninth Infantry Regiment, United States Army, personally superintended the drills of the various companies and the regiment. Through these officers' corrections and instruction and the example set by the regulars, the command made remarkable progress in drill during the time spent in camp.\*

The next record of the activities of Company C was their participation in the First Brigade Encampment held at Santa Monica August 15 to August 24, 1891. The Brigade, consisting of the Seventh and Ninth Infantry Regiments, was commanded by two Colonels W. G. Schreiber and E. B. Spileman, and numbered nearly 600 men. The camp, designated as "Camp Johnson" in honor of Brigadier General E. P. Johnson, Brigade Commander, was situated on Ocean Avenue on the northern boundary of the city, and was within a stone's throw of the ocean, the broad expanse of the Pacific being completely in view. The camp was tastefully and properly laid out. The Adjutant General appointed Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. Cutler as inspector of the Brigade. The encampment was a failure, as Lieutenant-Colonel Cutler in his report to the Adjutant General on August 25, 1891, stated:

"Formations for review were tardy and far from showing the necessary acquaintance with the tactics, particularly by guides and chiefs of subdivisions. March in review was fairly good, alignments and distances fair, salutes of officers generally poor, lacking snap, and failing generally to look to the reviewing officer. The general conduct and aspect of officers and men was orderly and soldierly although too much argument and solicitation took the place of absolute command at company drills, showing the failure of both to recognize the difference between officer and soldier while on duty. The chief faults and omissions that were noticeable were

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\*Adjutant General Report 1889-1890, page 9.



Activities: (Continued)

clearly due to a lack of opportunity for regimental assemblage and a constant acquaintance of field, staff, and line officers, and regimental formations or movements. So long however, as a regimental organization exists its officers must be held responsible for whatever unprofitable results arise, as well as complimented for the good features of their commands. A large proportion of the men in both regiments were unclean and showed lack of personal interest in their appearance, particularly as to gloves, collars and boots. As sufficient notice of the inspection had been given to allow ample time for preparation, the lack of effort to make a more soldier-like appearance was noticeable and should be charged to both officers and men. Colonel Cutler also stated in his report that sanitary arrangements of the encampment were very unsatisfactory. The sinks were poorly built and located, and in a most filthy condition. The garbage was also poorly provided for and would have caused serious medical trouble ultimately, but for the location of the camp on an open bluff, constantly exposed to a strong sea breeze.\*\*

Company C attended the Seventh Infantry Regiment encampment held at Camp Anacapa, Ventura County, from August 17 to 25, 1892. Lieutenant-Colonel Cutler was again division inspector and on this occasion the improvement was so noticeable that in his report to the Adjutant General, Colonel Cutler stated that too much praise could not be given the regiment.\*\*

On June 11, 1894, General Order No. 8 was issued which stated that upon the report of the Inspector and the approval of the Commanding Officer First Brigade, Company C, Seventh Infantry was disbanded. At the annual muster of the company in March only 28 men were present, and for many months owing to dissensions in the company, no elections had been held for First and Second Lieutenants, and these offices were now vacant.

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

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



COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

It was deemed that for the good of the service Company C be disbanded.\* One month later on July 18, 1894, a new company was organized in Los Angeles and mustered into the service of the State. This unit was designated as Company C and attached to the Seventh Infantry Regiment.\*\*

On April 22, 1896, Company C and the other military units of the First Brigade marched in celebration of La Fiesta De Los Angeles, a street carnival held each year by the merchants of Los Angeles. The parade was lead 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 military division, rode at the head of his staff. At the rear of the staff rode Gene Maxwell, quarter-master sergeant of Troop D, carrying the Brigadier-General's 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. The whole regiment was there, 700 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 the soul of anyone with a spark of military fire in him.\*\*\*

Company C and the other units of the Seventh Infantry continued to improve their military standard. The First Brigade Encampment held in Santa Monica from August 4 to 14, 1897, was a model of military efficiency. The camp was strictly speaking a working camp. From reveille, which was sounded at 5 A.M., until evening mess at 6:30 P.M., five and one-half hours was devoted to camp policing, drills and extended order exercises, one hour and a half to dress parades, guard mounting and reviews. While only four and one-half hours were given to meals and recreation. The time actually consumed in formal review was very small, the record showing that only three were held during the entire camp.\*\*\*\*

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\*Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, General Order No. 8, page 128.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 10, page 30.

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

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



COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Company C was destined not to engage in any encampments in 1898, as events were taking shape which were of a more serious nature. On April 23, 1898, the United States declared war with Spain. Company C and the other companies of the Seventh Infantry left Los Angeles for San Francisco, May 6, 1898, where they were mustered into the United States Service on May ninth under the command of Colonel John R. Berry. The regiment 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. The troops were then ordered to Los Angeles arriving on the fourteenth and was furloughed until November twelfth, when the regiment re-assembled and reported for duty at Los Angeles and established Camp Pratt. The regiment was mustered out on December 2, 1898.\*

There is only a limited source of information concerning the activities of Company C for the two years following the close of the Spanish-American War, due to the fact that the various companies of the Seventh Infantry were under-going a period of re-adjustment. 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 the 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 were mustered into the United States Service until they reported back for duty in the Guard, provided that they reported within 150 days after being mustered out of United States Service.\*\*

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\*For further details concerning the activities of Company C, refer to History of Seventh Infantry Regiment, California Volunteers in the Spanish-American War. Adjutant General Office.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 8.



## Activities: (Continued)

Company C together with the First Brigade, attended a camp of instruction in 1901, when the entire National Guard assembled at Santa Cruz from June fourteenth to twenty-third, under the command of Major-General John H. Dickinson. 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 assembling of and caring for of the troops was valuable.\*

In 1903, the National Guard of California was reorganized. It was put upon the basis provided for under the "General Dick Bill" that had been passed by Congress. Adjutant General George Stone of the California National Guard, received a telegram notifying him of the passage of the measure and indicating what must be done with the State troops. The guard units had to be overhauled and a number of superfluous high officers eliminated in order to bring the organization under the same system that governed the Regular Army. This compulsory innovation would affect the troops of every state in the Union and put them all upon a like footing.\*\* The General Dick Militia Act was amended in 1906, and again in 1908, giving the various states until January 21, 1910, to comply with the rules and regulations that governed the Regular Army in times of peace.\*\*\*

On the morning of April 18, 1906, there occurred in San Francisco a catastrophe that changed the whole social and economic life of the city. At 5:13 A. M., there was heard a distinct rumbling deep in the earth, followed by a severe earthquake which laid most of the city in ruins. Buildings collapsed and flames broke out in many places, the broken gas mains contributing added terror. The breaking of the water mains by the earthquake left the city defenseless against the flames and buildings were dynamited to prevent the spread of the fire,

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\*Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, pages 8, 137-142.

\*\*San Francisco Chronicle January 21, 1903, page 14, column 3.

\*\*\*Military Laws of the United States, Section 1,325.



## Activities: (Continued)

but all was futile until broad Van Ness Avenue was reached and a fortunate temporary change in the direction of the wind drove the flames back over the already desolated district. Company C together with the other units of the Seventh Infantry left Los Angeles for Oakland, April 21, 1906. The troops arrived there April twenty-second and were ordered into Camp at Lincoln Park. Company C was placed under the command of Major Truman Cole, and stationed at Adams Point, Oakland. The duty performed by these troops consisted mainly in maintaining order at the different refugee camps, at supply depots, and throughout the towns where they were stationed. At Oakland they assisted the local police, especially during the night time; escorting supply wagons to and from San Francisco, transferring large sums of money from the United States Mint at San Francisco to the local banks in Oakland. They also escorted 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 at any time made of any men conducting themselves in an unsoldierly manner. When one considers that duty of this nature was entirely new to the men and to almost all of the officers, too much praise can not be given the Guard. It was true that the guard duty was faulty, but considering the many calls made upon the men for escort and patrol duty, both day and night, to which the men at all times answered most cheerfully, considerable experience was gained by the troops, both officers and men. Company C and the various units of the Seventh Infantry entrained for their home stations May twelfth, Company C arriving in Los Angeles May 13, 1906.\*

The standard of efficiency maintained by Company C 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 4 to July 21, 1907. The exercises were devoted entirely to military problems and lectures by the United States Army officers. Almost unanimous were the expressions of opinion by officers of the regiment that the exercises were of great benefit and should be repeated another year. The officers and men expressed

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\*Adjutant General Report 1906, pages 40,41, 51,52.



## Activities: (Continued)

their appreciation of the courtesy and painstaking efforts taken by the Artillery troops to make their tour of duty pleasant and instructive.\*

In 1908, from October fourth to October fifteenth, another joint army and militia Camp of Instruction was held at Atascadero, California. This was a duplicate of the encampment held the previous year, but the members of the regiment showed greater zeal in endeavoring to perform the duties allotted to them. It was believed that this encampment had brought the National Guard closer to the Regular Army, and had shown the Guard its shortcomings more than any other encampment in which they had taken part.\*\*

Once every year the highest officers of the National Guard and specially trained experts from the regular army has a Council of War, at which time the men discussed the slow-moving plans of welding the regulars and the vast, unwieldy militia into one compact military machine. In 1909, from September twenty-seventh to twentieth-ninth, Company C was host to the Eleventh Annual Convention of the National Guard Association of the United States, which was held in Convention Hall, Hotel Alexandria, Los Angeles. From the proceedings of the first day of the convention it was evident that great things were afoot, and that the War Department was hammering out a remarkable policy for the defense of the country. All the Regular and National Guard troops in each district would be welded into permanent brigades and divisions and army corps. By thus molding regulars and militiamen into component parts of one big machine it would be possible to mobilize the entire organized fighting force of this country in forty-eight hours.\*\*\*

There is only a meager source of information concerning the activities of Company C, until 1911, when on October sixteenth they paraded in honor of William Howard Taft, twenty-seventh President of the United States. The parade through the city

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\*Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, pages 41-47.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1910, page 34.

\*\*\*Los Angeles Daily Times September 28, 1909, section 11, page 1, column 3.



Activities: (Continued)

was carried out with great promptness. As an escort to the President and preceeding his automobile was Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Saltmarsh and Staff, the Seventh Infantry Regiment Band, eleven companies of the Seventh Regiment, 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 for the President.\*

On June 18, 1916, the President of the United States called for California troops for Mexican Border service. Governor Hiram W. Johnson ordered the California National Guardsmen to immediately assemble in their armories and establish camp. Within twelve hours all commanding officers had reported their organizations ready for entraining.\*\* On June twenty-ninth, Company C was mustered into Federal Service and transferred to Nogales, Arizona, arriving there July sixth. The site selected for the combined camp of the Seventh and Fifth Regiments was a broad, sheltered expanse less than two miles northwest of Nogales and about the same distance from the border. While Mexican troops maneuvered on the crest of a ridge four miles across the border, the California troops put in a long and hard day's work on the camp sites allotted them. At nightfall every tent had been pitched, trenches had been dug around them to guard against sudden heavy rains, and fires crackled merrily under the big cooking ranges.\*\*\* There is no record of Company C having engaged in any actual combat. The only duty they performed was patrol duty on the border until October 19, 1916, when they returned to Los Angeles. Company C was mustered out of Federal Service on November 11, 1916.\*\*\*\*

Four months later Company C was again called into Federal Service to participate in the greatest armed conflict the world has ever known. Governor W. D. Stephens, upon orders from the Secretary of War calling the California National Guard into service, ordered the organizations of the Second, Fifth, and Seventh Infantry Regiments to assemble at their armories, March 26, 1917, and begin

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

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

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

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



**COMPANY C (Continued)**

**Activities: (Continued)**

recruiting.\* Two weeks later, April 9, Company C was mustered into Federal service.\*\* On October 14, 1917, Company C was redesignated Company A, 160th Infantry.\*\*\* For further information concerning the activities of this unit refer to History of Company A, 160th Infantry, 40th Division.

OUTLINE HISTORY

OF THE  
CALIFORNIA  
MILITIA AND VOLUNTEER FORCES

THE OFFICE OF THE  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
OF THE CALIFORNIA  
MILITIA AND VOLUNTEER FORCES  
1914-1920

\*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 22.

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

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