

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

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COMPANY D

Company D, Ninth Infantry Regiment, First Brigade (formerly Company D, Seventh Infantry Battalion)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files
Location: Pomona, Los Angeles County
Organized October 28, 1887
Reconstituted May 5, 1888*
Reconstituted February 8, 1890**
Reconstituted December 9, 1895***

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
James A. Driffill, Captain	Nov. 24, 1888	Jan. 5, 1889****
James L. Howland, First Lieut. (promoted Lieut. Col. Seventh Infantry. May 4, 1891)	Nov. 24, 1888	Jan. 5, 1889****
William O. Welch, First Lieut. (promoted Capt.)	Feb. 10, 1891	Mar. 14, 1891
William O. Welch, Captain	May 9, 1891	May 26, 1891
James L. McComas, First Lieut.	May 10, 1891	May 26, 1891
Edwin L. Moore, First Lieut.	Dec. 22, 1891	Jan. 10, 1892
William O. Welch, Captain (reelected June 10, 1893)	_____	_____
Edwin L. Moore, First Lieut. (reelected Feb. 24, 1894) (resigned Oct. 1, 1895)	_____	_____
William O. Welch, Captain (reelected July 21, 1895)	_____	_____
Carl J. Ralph, First Lieut.	Nov. 19, 1895	Dec. 21, 1895

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

**Company D, Seventh Infantry Regiment detached from Seventh Infantry and attached to Ninth Infantry Regiment, February 8, 1890, as Company D. Adjutant General Report 1889-1890, page 4.

***Company D, when the Ninth Infantry disbanded December 7, 1895, was redesignated as Company D, Second Battalion. Two days later, December ninth, Company D was designated Company D, Seventh Infantry Regiment, First Brigade. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, page 28.

****Captain James A. Driffill and Lieutenant James L. Howland, retained their former commissions as of January 5, 1889, when they commanded Company D, Seventh Infantry Battalion.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities:

A military unit was organized in Pomona, October 28, 1887, and attached to the Seventh Infantry Battalion as a provisional company and designated as Company D. On May 5, 1888, the Seventh Infantry Battalion was reorganized and designated Seventh Infantry Regiment with Company D retaining the same letter designation.* The State Legislature having made a sufficient appropriation to maintain the new unit, Company D was mustered in as a regular company of the National Guard. On February 8, 1890, Company D was detached from the Seventh Infantry Regiment and attached to the newly formed Ninth Infantry Regiment in order to constitute the organization of the new regiment. The unit again retained the same designating letter and was known as Company D, Ninth Infantry Regiment, First Brigade.

Among the essential military requirements of the National Guard, were target practices and encampments, which were to be annual affairs. Beginning with the target shoot of 1890, every officer and enlisted man of the various companies were required by law to shoot ten rounds each, during the months of June and September of each year. The members of Company D showed a keen interest in this branch of training and the attendance increased fully ten per cent over the previous year. There were no first class medals issued to members of Company D during 1891. However, Second Lieutenant T. B. Thomas and Private S. D. Winters were awarded second class medals after reaching scores of eighty-one and eighty, respectively, out of a possible 100 shots. There were also thirty-six members who received third class medals during the same year. Evidently there was lack of interest in target practice during the years that followed as during the company's existence there is no further record of medals being issued to any member of Company D.

The first encampment Company D participated in was held at Santa Monica, from August 15 to 24, 1891. This was a brigade encampment, which included the Seventh and Ninth Regiments. Under command of Captain Wm. Welch, Company D won much distinction, both in drilling and shooting. The regiment as a whole, was highly praised by Captain O'Connell of the First United States Artillery. In reviewing the troops the Captain stated that the Ninth Regiment was far superior to all other regiments in the National Guard of California.

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*Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.

Activities: (continued)

The unit participated in the Memorial Day Celebration and parade of 1892, held at Pomona. The procession, followed by ladies of the Relief Corps and citizens generally, was headed by the members of Company D.*

On July Fourth of the same year, the city of Pomona held the greatest celebration the citizens had ever witnessed there. Again the local unit of the National Guard, Company D, was selected to share in leading the parade which was first on the program. This parade would have done credit to a much larger city, the only difference being there was not as many participants in the parade as a larger city might have had. The procession was headed by Grand Marshal D. R. Hardy Smith and directly followed by Company D and the Ninth Infantry Regiment Band. Among the participants of the gala affair were a group of mounted police, a carriage containing the speaker and other officers of the day, and school children gaily attired in red, white and blue. Aside from these, there were numerous other contingents such as the City Fire Department, with the hook and ladder company, Ship of State, bicycle brigade, trades display and many others of importance. After the parade, the city was quite deserted as everyone left for the City Park where a band concert was given. Another attractive feature was the old fashioned basket picnic which was followed by an exciting ball game by Pomona players. The last of the day's outdoor activities, was a dress parade and guard mount by the members of Company D, which climaxed a grand celebration. The unit was commented upon, by all who witnessed the celebration, in performing so splendidly.**

On June 24, 1894, a nationwide railroad strike completely paralyzed the transportation facilities of the State. For some unknown reason, Company D and the other units of the Ninth Infantry were not called into active service. It was during this railroad strike, that a need for a complete reorganization of the National Guard was apparent. The most important result of the reorganization was that many of the 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

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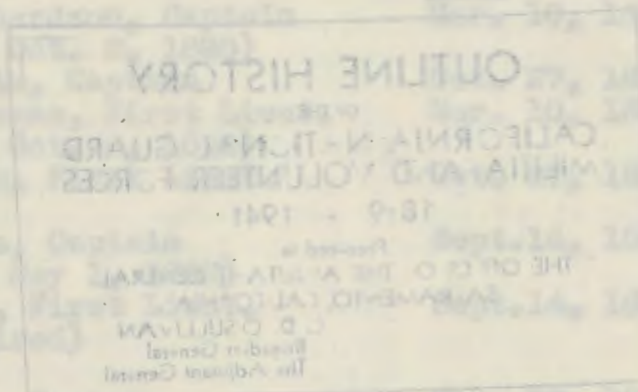
*Los Angeles Times, May 31, 1892, page 7, column 2.

**Los Angeles Times, July 5, 1892, page 7, column 3.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

consolidated the Seventh and Ninth Infantry Regiment into three battalions of infantry with four companies each and Company D was redesignated as Company D, Second Battalion. Two days later, December ninth, General Order No. 18 was issued, which redesignated the three battalions as the Seventh Infantry Regiment.* For additional information concerning the activities of Company D, refer to History of Company D, Seventh Infantry.



*Company D, formerly Company E, Seventh Infantry Regiment, redesignated Company D, Seventh Infantry Regiment, May 14, 1890. Adjutant General Report 1897-1898, page 2.

*Company E, formerly Company E, Seventh Infantry Regiment, redesignated Company E, Seventh Infantry Regiment, February 4, 1890. Adjutant General Report 1897, page 4.

*Company E, when the Ninth Infantry, redesignated December 7, 1890, was redesignated Company E, Second Battalion. Two days later, December 9, Company E was designated Company E, Seventh Infantry. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, 18, pages 21, 22.

*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, page 28.