

History of the 10th Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard 1918-1919

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(FRESNO)

Tenth Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard
Reference Adjutant General's Office
Location Fresno, Fresno County
Mustered in February 26, 1918*
Mustered out February 20, 1919**

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Bert A. Primrose, Captain	Feb. 26, 1918	Mar. 23, 1918
Fernand Detoy, First Lieut. (resigned Aug. 3, 1918)	Feb. 26, 1918	Mar. 23, 1918

Activities:

The Tenth Separate Company of Infantry was mustered into the State Service at Fresno, February 26, 1918. The roll call was answered by one hundred one men; one more than the required number. While mothers, sisters, sweethearts, and little brothers who wished they were older, looked on, the new company formed into two lines and one hundred one right hands were held aloft as Major L. D. Collins administered the oath. After the men had taken the oath, Mr. M. B. Harris, in the absence of Mayor Toomey, addressed the new soldiers. Briefly he told the men they had now become soldiers, defenders of the flag. Their enlistment by choice, he declared, had contributed more to the service than one hundred one men. They had contributed heroism, patriotism and character, the kind of personalities which give them a supreme right to fight for democracy because they had displayed the qualities that are the strength of democratic institutions.*** Bert A. Primrose was elected Captain and Fernand Detoy, First Lieutenant.

Soon after the organization of the Tenth Company, the Federal authorities began drafting its members while many others enlisted voluntarily. The Government drafted members of the Tenth Company so fast that it was impossible to recruit enough new members to take their places. The result was that in one year's time the Tenth Company was so weak numerically, that the following General Order was issued by Adjutant General J. J. Borree on February 10, 1919:

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*Tenth Separate Company mustered into State Service, February 26, 1918.
Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 116.

**Tenth Separate Company mustered out, February 20, 1919.
General and Special Orders 1919, General Order No. 2, page 5.

***The Fresno Republican, February 27, 1918, page 18, column 2.

TENTH SEPARATE COMPANY (Continued)

1117

(FRESNO)

Activities: (Continued)

"The Tenth Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard, having fallen so far below the required minimum enlisted strength that it is not believed said organization can be recruited to the minimum enlisted strength set by the United States War Department, is ordered disbanded and mustered out of the service of the State, to take effect February 20, 1919".

The Tenth Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard, was organized by the State of California in 1907. It was the only unit of its kind in the State. The company was organized in Fresno, California, and was commanded by Captain J. H. ... The company was disbanded on February 20, 1919, due to insufficient strength. The members of the company were mustered out of the service of the State. The company was reorganized in 1919 as the Tenth Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard. The company was commanded by Captain J. H. ... The company was disbanded on February 20, 1919, due to insufficient strength. The members of the company were mustered out of the service of the State.

Early all the members of the company as well as the officers, had entered the Federal Service and thus reduced the unit until it was necessary for the Adjutant General's Office to order the company mustered out. This was done on September 28, 1918, the same day that the resignation of Lieutenant ... was accepted.

*Eleventh Separate Company mustered into State Service, March 9, 1918. Adjutant General Report 1918-1920, page 118.
*Eleventh Separate Company mustered out, September 24, 1918. Adjutant General Report 1918-1920, page 118.