

History of 1st Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard 1917-1918

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FIRST SEPARATE COMPANY

1092 ✓

(LOS ANGELES)

First Separate Company, Infantry, National Guard of California
Reference Adjutant General's Office
Location Los Angeles, Los Angeles County
Mustered in December 3, 1917*
Mustered out October 7, 1918**

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
James L. Irwin, Captain (resigned June 21, 1918)	Dec. 3, 1917	Feb. 13, 1918
Anthony T. Swensen, First Lieut. (resigned August 30, 1918)	Dec. 3, 1917	Feb. 13, 1918
Michael J. Lannon, First Lieut.	(Assigned)	Aug. 30, 1918

Activities:

The First Separate Company was organized in Los Angeles and, on December 3, 1917, was mustered into the California National Guard as Company A, California Infantry. James L. Irwin was chosen Captain, and Anthony T. Swensen, First Lieutenant. The separate units that were organized during the World War encountered considerable difficulty in maintaining strong companies during that period. This condition was due to a lack of interest in the National Guard at that time, as well as to the fact that many members of the separate companies were drafted into Federal Service. Captain Irwin secured a three months leave of absence and left for Washington in March 1918 to try to gain entrance into an officers school. He enlisted in a Remount training school in order to secure a commission in the Army. He tendered his resignation as Captain of First Separate Company on June 21, 1918. Two months later on August 30, 1918, First Lieutenant Anthony T. Swensen also resigned, and the company was without a commanding officer. Lieutenant Michael J. Lannon of the Fourth Separate Company was assigned to the First Company on August thirtieth, and commanded the unit until the First Separate Company was discontinued October seventh. Lieutenant Lannon returned to the Fourth Company October 8, 1918.

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*First Separate Company mustered in December 3, 1917.
General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1918, General Order No. 1.

**The First Separate Company was mustered out on October 7, 1918.
General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1918, General Order No. 7, par. 3.

(LOS ANGELES)

Activities: (Continued)

The First Separate Company participated in one parade, that of May 30, 1918 in Los Angeles. Only 21 enlisted men and one commissioned officer participated. About four months later the following order was issued by the Adjutant General's Office:

"The First Separate Company, California Infantry, National Guard, Los Angeles, California, having been so reduced in numerical strength on account of so many of its officers and enlisted men having been inducted into Federal Service by operation of the selective service law as to make it impracticable to attempt to recruit the company to the required strength, the enlisted men of said company are transferred as privates to the Fourth Separate Company, California Infantry, National Guard, and the First Separate Company is discontinued. This paragraph to take effect October 7, 1918".

One day later October eighth, the twenty-five men of the First Separate Company were transferred to the Fourth Company, and the unit was discontinued as ordered.