

# **History of the 3rd Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard 1917-1921**

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THIRD SEPARATE COMPANY

1101 ✓

(LOS ANGELES)

Third Separate, Infantry, National Guard of California  
Reference Adjutant General's Office  
Location Los Angeles, Los Angeles County  
Mustered in December 13, 1917\*  
Mustered out July 25, 1919\*\*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William P. Kelley, Captain		Dec. 13, 1917	Feb. 13, 1918
Charles A. Allen, First Lieut.		Dec. 13, 1917	Feb. 13, 1918

**Activities:**

The Third Separate Company was one of four companies organized and mustered in at Los Angeles during the month of December 1917. The Third Company was designated Company C, and was mustered in December 13, 1917. The new company seemed to be unlucky. It's members were continually being drafted or else they enlisted voluntarily in the Federal Service, thus weakening the unit. At the Memorial Day services of May 30, 1918, only 15 men and officers of the Third Separate Company were present. About a month later, on July 4, 1918, only three officers and eight men appeared for duty at the Independence Day parade.

The condition of the Third Separate Company was made clear in a letter from First Lieutenant Charles A. Allen of that organization. The letter was addressed to Adjutant General J. J. Borree, was dated July 25, 1919, and stated as follows:

"About the seventh day of November 1918, I was advised by William P. Kelley, Captain Third Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard, that he had telegraphed his resignation to the Adjutant General. About the same date, Captain Kelley left Los Angeles, going to Waco, Texas, from which place he communicated with me and advised me that the records and papers of the Third Separate Company were left by him at the Union League Club in Los Angeles.

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\*Third Separate Company designated Company C, and mustered into the service of the State, December 13, 1917.  
Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 116.

\*\*Third Separate Company mustered out, July 25, 1919.  
General and Special Orders 1918, General Order No. 6, page 10.

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Activities: (Continued)

He instructed me in said communication to call at the office of the Union League Club and take charge of said records and company papers. Immediately thereafter I called at the Union League Club but was advised by those in charge that they knew nothing whatever about such records and papers. However, after continued inquiry, I learned that all papers and documents left by Captain Kelley had been destroyed by the Club porters, who had acted under the impression that the same were of no value. In the absence of instructions from those in command, I assumed direction and command of the company. After I assumed command, company drills were suspended, owing to the epidemic of influenza which continued for several months. After the influenza epidemic, an attempt was made to assemble the company but on account of the lack of interest displayed by the members of the organization and the failure of the few remaining members to report for drill, the same was discontinued. Through error or inadvertence, I failed to notify the Adjutant General of the existing condition of the company. In compliance with General Order No. 6, I am forwarding returns of Third Separate Company for October 1918, and ensuing months down to date. In the November return, I am dropping seventy-six men who, since the October return, either enlisted or were drafted into the Army of the United States, and I hereby request that they be discharged as of November 1918. In the December return, I am dropping six men due to removal and request that they be discharged as of December 1918.

There was no surprise therefore, when on July 16, 1919, an order was issued by the Adjutant General's Office disbanding the Third Company as of July 25, 1919.