

# **History of the 4<sup>th</sup> Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard 1917-1919**

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FOURTH SEPARATE COMPANY

1103

(LOS ANGELES)

Fourth Separate Company, Infantry, National Guard of California  
Reference Adjutant General's Office  
Location Los Angeles, Los Angeles County  
Mustered in December 15, 1917\*  
Mustered out February 18, 1919\*\*

Commanding Officers

| <u>Name</u>  | <u>Rank</u>   | <u>Commission</u> |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| Arthur C. Jewell, Captain  | Dec. 15, 1917 | Feb. 13, 1918     |
| Benjamin E. Seeley, First Lieut.<br>(resigned February 26, 1918) | Dec. 15, 1917 | Feb. 13, 1918     |
| Michael J. Lannon, First Lieut.<br>(resigned February 14, 1919)  | Feb. 26, 1918 | Mar. 23, 1918     |

Activities:

The Fourth Separate Company was organized in Los Angeles and mustered into the new California National Guard on December 15, 1917. Arthur C. Jewell was selected Captain and Benjamin E. Seeley First Lieutenant. The Fourth Company encountered the same difficulty that caused the disbanding of several other National Guard units that had been organized about the same time, and it likewise met the same fate.

At the Memorial Day exercises held in Los Angeles on May 30, 1918, 15 enlisted men and 3 officers of the Fourth Separate Company reported to take part in the parade. There were only 76 names on the roll at that time, whereas there were 96 when the unit was mustered in. One month later, on July 4, 1918, there were but 68 men on the company roster, 26 of whom paraded in the Independence Day parade, July 4, 1918. Thus the unit was gradually weakened by the enlistments and drafting of its members into the United States Army.

The life of the Fourth Company was extended when on October 8, 1918, 25 members of the former First Separate Company were transferred to the Fourth Company, but the additional 25 men were insufficient to enable the unit to meet the requirements of the Federal authorities at the annual muster.

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\*Fourth Separate Company designated Company D, and mustered into the service of the State, December 15, 1917.  
Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 116.

\*\*Fourth Separate Company mustered out, February 18, 1919.  
General and Special Orders 1919, General Order No. 3, page 7.

FOURTH SEPARATE COMPANY (Continued)

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(LOS ANGELES)

Activities: (Continued)

Therefore on February 14, 1919, the Fourth Separate Company was ordered mustered out. The order read:

"All the officers of the Fourth Separate Company, California Infantry, National Guard, Los Angeles, California, having tendered their resignations, and the enlisted strength of said company having fallen so low as to make it impracticable to recruit the organization to the required enlisted minimum strength; and upon the recommendation of the commanding officer of said company the enlisted men thereof are transferred as Privates to the Second Company, California Infantry, National Guard, said transfer to take effect February 18, 1919, on which date the Fourth Separate Company will stand discontinued".

Captain Jewell continued to act as an unassigned Captain, National Guard of California, until September 3, 1919, at which time all financial transactions of the Fourth Company having been satisfactorily adjusted, his resignation was accepted.