

History of the 7th Infantry Battalion, National Guard of California 1881-1888

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ON THE HIGH SEA

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SEVENTH INFANTRY BATTALION

Seventh Infantry Battalion, First Brigade
Reference: Adjutant General's Files
Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County
Organized July 22, 1885*
Reconstituted May 5, 1888**

<u>Commanding Officers</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>		<u>Commission</u>
W. H. H. Russell, Major	Aug. 12, 1885		Oct. 5, 1885
Asa Green, Captain Adjutant	Jan. 3, 1886		Aug. 16, 1886
Joseph Hannon, Major Surgeon	Jan. 3, 1886		Aug. 16, 1886

Activities:

On July 22, 1885, the two unattached military organizations of the First Brigade, the San Diego City Guard of San Diego and the Eagle Corps of Los Angeles, formed a new battalion which was designated as the Seventh Infantry Battalion. Thereafter, the Eagle Corps was known as Company A and the San Diego City Guard as Company B of said battalion.*** Captain W. H. Russell of the Eagle Corps, a prominent Los Angeles attorney, was promoted to the rank of Major to assume command of the new battalion. Through Major Russell's untiring efforts in behalf of the military organizations under his command, the battalion was able to expand, in the short space of three years, from a battalion of two companies to a regiment of seven units.

The forming of the Seventh Infantry Battalion caused an increasing interest in militia affairs throughout Southern California, which was especially evident in Los Angeles. It was this increased popularity that brought about the first change in the battalion personnel. On January 20, 1886, a cadet company was organized in Los Angeles to take care of the ever growing membership of Company A, and was attached to the First Brigade as a provisional company. On October 26, 1887, this cadet company was mustered

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*Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, page 6.

**Seventh Infantry Battalion, First Brigade designated Seventh Infantry Regiment, First Brigade, May 5, 1888.
Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.

***Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, General Order No. 18, page 70.

SEVENTH INFANTRY BATTALION (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

into service as a regular unit of the National Guard, and was designated Company C of the Seventh Infantry Battalion. During the years of 1887 and 1888 many changes occurred in the Seventh Infantry Battalion. Company D, stationed in Pomona, was organized October 28, 1887; Company E, stationed at San Bernardino, was organized October 29, 1887; Company F, stationed in Los Angeles, was organized December 20, 1887; and Company G, stationed in Anaheim, was organized March 3, 1888. As no appropriation was made for these units, they were attached to the Seventh Infantry Battalion as provisional companies only. The table on the following page indicates the number of companies and the various changes and designations in the units of the Seventh Infantry Battalion, First Brigade.

On May 5, 1888, the Seventh Infantry Battalion was reconstituted and designated as the Seventh Infantry Regiment.* For further information concerning the activities of this organization, refer to the History of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, California National Guard.

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*Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.

COMPANIES COMPOSING THE SEVENTH INFANTRY BATTALION, FIRST BRIGADE

1885 - 1888

			Provisional Companies*			
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Company A, Los Angeles (formerly Wagle Corps) <u>1885</u>	Company B, San Diego (formerly San Diego City Guard) <u>1885</u>	Company C, Los Angeles (formerly Cadet Co.) <u>1887</u>	Company D, Pomona October 28, 1887	Company E, San Bernar- dino October 29, 1887	Company F, Los Angeles December 20, 1887	Company G, Anaheim March 3, 1888
			*The designation Provisional Companies was given to units attached to battalions or regiments, but not mustered into the service of the National Guard.			

Note: The year dates in the table indicate the year the companies were attached to the Seventh Infantry Battalion, First Brigade.