

History of the 7th Infantry Battalion, Company A (Eagle Corps), National Guard of California 1881-1888

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COMPANY A

Company A, Seventh Infantry Battalion, First Brigade (formerly Eagle Corps)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files
Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County
Organized June 9, 1881
Reorganized July 22, 1885*
Reconstituted May 5, 1888**

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William Russell, Captain (Re-elected June 14, 1883)	June 9, 1881	July 7, 1881***
Charles Ketler, First Lieut.	June 14, 1883	July 26, 1883***
Charles Ketler, Captain (Resigned July 16, 1886)	Jan. 20, 1886	April 12, 1886
Samuel Crawford, Captain (Resigned Mar. 3, 1887)	Sept. 8, 1886	Feb. 9, 1887
Alfred Biles, Captain	April 20, 1887	June 4, 1887
W. H. McNamara, First Lieut. (Resigned Sept. 29, 1886)	Jan. 20, 1886	April 12, 1886
Alfred Chapman, First Lieut.	Nov. 10, 1886	Feb. 9, 1887

Activities:

Company A, Seventh Infantry Battalion was formerly the Eagle Corps an unattached company of the First Brigade, organized on June 9, 1881. On July 22, 1885, the Eagle Corps and the San Diego City Guard another unattached company formed a new battalion known as the Seventh Infantry Battalion, the Eagle Corps to be designated thereafter as Company A.

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*Company A, formerly Eagle Corps, unattached, redesignated Company A, Seventh Infantry Battalion, First Brigade, July 22, 1885. Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, General Order No. 18, page 70.

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

***Captain Russell and Lieutenant Ketler retained their former commissions as of July 7, 1881, and July 26, 1883, respectively, when they commanded the Eagle Corps.

COMPANY A (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

In 1865 the Legislature made an appropriation for a division or general encampment of the National Guard. The encampment was to be held in Santa Cruz, California from August fifteenth to twenty-third of that year. The number of men authorized to be taken to camp owing to limited appropriations was thirty-five men per company. All in excess of that number were to go at their own expense or that of their company. Unfortunately Company A was unable to attend owing to the distance from Los Angeles to the camp, and the lack of funds to provide transportation for more than one-fourth of the company. Captain Russell wrote Adjutant General George Cosby requesting to be excused, and asked permission for Company A to hold their own encampment at Santa Monica from August twentieth to twenty-ninth, which request was granted. Lack of records prevents giving a detailed account of the activities of Company A while in camp.

In 1897, the State Legislature made an appropriation of \$3,500 for the promotion of target practice for the thirty-ninth and fortieth fiscal years, just half the amount allowed by law. It was deemed advisable to devote a part of this amount to the purchase of State decorations to be awarded to those making a certain percentage at the annual target practice, which the law requested to be held in September of each year. A circular bronze medal was adopted having for design, a bear's head in the center, with suitable inscriptions around the margin. On the back was to be attached gold, silver, or bronze bars with the year and the words, "Sharpshooter," "Rifleman" or "Marksman" enscribed thereon, to denote the standing the soldier had attained during that particular year.* Company A in their target practice held in Los Angeles in September of that year had twenty-eight men shooting who scored 770 points for a percentage of 23.33 per cent. Out of that number, three men qualified as "Riflemen," and fifteen as "Marksmen."**

Seven new companies were organized in the First Brigade in 1887, thus completing the number of companies required for a regimental organization. The Seventh Infantry Battalion was reorganized and became the Seventh Infantry Regiment, May 5, 1888.*** For further information concerning Company A refer to History of Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment, First Brigade.

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*Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 14.

**Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 36.

***Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 1.