

# **History of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Company E, National Guard of California 1887-1917**

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Company E, Seventh Infantry Regiment, First Brigade (formerly Company E, Seventh Infantry Battalion)

- Reference: Adjutant General's Files
- Location: San Bernardino, San Bernardino County
- Organized October 29, 1887
- Reconstituted May 5, 1888\*
- Redesignated February 8, 1890\*\*
- Reorganized, mustered in and stationed Santa Paula July 22, 1893\*\*\*
- Reconstituted December 9, 1895\*\*\*\*
- Mustered into Federal Service May 9, 1898\*\*\*\*\*
- Mustered out of Federal Service December 2, 1898\*\*\*\*\*
- Mustered out July 5, 1899#
- Reorganized, mustered in and Stationed Anaheim April 28, 1900##
- Mustered out July 15, 1910###
- Reorganized, mustered in and stationed Santa Monica Mar. 1, 1912####
- Mustered into Federal Service June 29, 1916#
- Mustered out of Federal Service November 11, 1916##
- Resumption of Service in the National Guard 1916###
- Mustered into Federal Service April 10, 1917####
- Redesignated October 14, 1917\*\*\*\*\*

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- \*Company E, formerly Company E, Seventh Infantry Battalion redesignated Company E, Seventh Infantry Regiment, May 5, 1888.
- Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 3.
- \*\*Company E, Seventh Infantry redesignated Company E, Ninth Infantry Regiment, February 8, 1890. Adjutant General Report 1890, page 4.
- \*\*\*A new company organized in Santa Paula and designated Company E, Seventh Infantry, July 22, 1893. Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, General Order No. 8, page 98.
- \*\*\*\*Company E, Seventh Infantry redesignated Company E, Second Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later Dec. 9, Company E, Second Battalion designated Company E, Seventh Infantry. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, 18, pages 86-87.
- \*\*\*\*\*Company E, as part of the Seventh Infantry was mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War, May 9, 1898.
- Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.
- \*\*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.
- Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 7, page 64.
- \*\*\*A new company organized in Anaheim and designated Company E, Seventh Infantry, Apr. 28, 1900. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, G. O. No. 6, p 85.
- \*\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1910-1914, page 9.
- \*\*\*\*\*A new company organized in Santa Monica and designated Company E, Seventh Infantry, March 1, 1912. Adjutant General Report 1910-1914, page 9.
- Company E as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican Border June 29, 1916.
- Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 19.
- \*\*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 19.
- \*\*\*General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, General Order No. 34, page 150.
- \*\*\*\*Company E, as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War April 10, 1917. Return Company E, Seventh Infantry Regiment April 1917. Adjutant General Files.
- \*\*\*\*\*Company E, Seventh Infantry Regiment consolidated with Company G, Seventh Infantry Regiment and designated Company C, 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division, October 14, 1917. Adjutant General Report 1920-1926 - page 27.



Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William Wilsey, Captain* (Promoted to Lieut.-Colonel Governor's Staff, Feb. 7, 1888)	Oct. 29, 1887	Jan. 4, 1888
George Bryant, First Lieut.*	Oct. 29, 1887	Jan. 4, 1888
George Bryant, Captain	Mar. 10, 1888	Mar. 30, 1888
Alfred Brown, First Lieut. (Resigned Aug. 7, 1888)	Mar. 10, 1888	Mar. 30, 1888
N. A. Richardson, First Lieut.	Oct. 29, 1888	Jan. 5, 1889
Charles Fernald, Captain	July 22, 1893	Aug. 10, 1893
Charles Metcalf, First Lieut.	July 22, 1893	Aug. 10, 1893
Charles Metcalf, Captain	Sept. 30, 1895	Nov. 5, 1895
Harrison Say, First Lieut. (Resigned Nov. 9, 1896)	Sept. 30, 1895	Nov. 5, 1895
James Capito, First Lieut. (Resigned Nov. 3, 1897)	Dec. 21, 1896	Jan. 14, 1897
W. E. Richardson, Captain (Resigned Apr. 11, 1898)	Nov. 15, 1897	Dec. 7, 1897
C. H. Fernald, Captain	Apr. 25, 1898	May 8, 1898
Malcom Say, First Lieut.	Nov. 15, 1897	Dec. 7, 1897
John Ahlborn, Captain	Apr. 28, 1900	June 18, 1900
Charles Fay, First Lieut. (Resigned Aug. 30, 1902)	Apr. 28, 1900	June 18, 1900
John Ahlborn, Captain (Re-elected Oct. 13, 1902)	_____	_____
Herman Stern, First Lieut.	Oct. 13, 1902	Dec. 12, 1902
Herman Stern, Captain	Dec. 22, 1902	Jan. 23, 1903
E. A. Zeus, First Lieut.	Dec. 22, 1902	Jan. 23, 1903
Herman Stern, Captain (Re-elected Jan. 5, 1905) (Resigned Sept. 4, 1908)	_____	_____
H. A. Schindler, Captain	Jan. 7, 1909	Feb. 9, 1909
John Kellenberger, First Lieut. (Re-elected June 25, 1908)	Feb. 23, 1905	Apr. 3, 1905
H. A. Schindler, Captain (Re-elected May 4, 1909)	_____	_____
John Kellenberger, First Lieut. (Re-elected May 4, 1909)	_____	_____
Ellis Bashore, Captain (Resigned Jan. 22, 1913)	Mar. 1, 1912	Mar. 27, 1912
W. H. Carter, First Lieut. (Resigned May 9, 1912)	Mar. 1, 1912	Mar. 27, 1912
G. P. Frazer, First Lieut. (Resigned Oct. 29, 1914)	July 23, 1912	Aug. 7, 1912

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\*Captain Wilsey and Lieut. Bryant retained their commissions of Jan. 4, 1888, when they commanded Company E, Seventh Infantry Battalion.



Commanding Officers (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
H. F. Palmerston, Captain (Resigned Mar. 18, 1916)	Oct. 7, 1913	Oct. 21, 1913
O. O. Penn, First Lieut. (Resigned July 19, 1915)	Nov. 17, 1914	Dec. 14, 1914
H. J. Simon, Captain	Apr. 4, 1916	May 22, 1916
G. W. White, First Lieut.	Apr. 4, 1916	June 16, 1916

**Activities:**

Company E, formerly Company E, Seventh Infantry Battalion, was organized in San Bernardino, San Bernardino County, October 29, 1887. On May 5, 1887, Company E was redesignated as Company E, Seventh Infantry Regiment, when the Battalion was reorganized as a Regiment.

On September 18, 1888, Company E with the various companies of the Seventh Infantry, paraded in Los Angeles as escort for the members of the Odd Fellows Lodge. The streets of Los Angeles were lined with an almost impassable mass of humanity more than 150,000 persons witnessing the parade. The Seventh Infantry Regiment was the escort of honor. At the head rode Brigadier-General H. H. Boyce, escorted by his soldierly and brilliant staff. The Seventh Infantry Regiment, Colonel W. H. Russell commanding, came along with the swinging step of veterans, having seven full companies and looking like an army itself. Taken as a whole the Regiment was a great credit to the National Guard, and in its marching won applause from the many veteran officers present.\*

During the year 1889 every organization in the State went into an Encampment. Company E together with the other units of the First Brigade went into camp at Pacific Beach, near the city of San Diego, for eleven days, beginning August 3, 1889, and concluding August thirteenth. This was a Brigade Encampment, under the command of Brigadier-General E. P. Johnson, and was the only Brigade Encampment held during the year.\*\*

On February 8, 1890, when the Ninth Infantry Regiment was organized in the First Brigade, Company E was detached from the Seventh Infantry, and designated Company E of the newly organized Regiment. The vacancy in the Seventh Infantry Regiment caused by the detachment of Company E remained for three years. On July 22, 1893, a new company was organized in Santa Paula with one hundred members and designated Company E, Seventh Infantry Regiment.

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\*Record Book of Company B, Ninth Infantry, National Guard of California

\*\*For further information concerning the Encampment of 1889 refer to History of Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment.



## Activities: (Continued)

On June 28, 1894, a nationwide Railroad Strike completely paralyzed the transportation facilities of the State. Delayed United States mail piled up on every hand, and it was this fact which caused the strikers to come into conflict with Uncle Sam. On July 1, 1894, the United States Government took a definite stand in the matter when the United States Attorney-General sent instructions to United States Marshals, whose territory was effected by the Strike, to execute the processes of the courts and prevent any hindrance to the free circulation of the mails. For some unknown reason Company E and the other units of the Seventh Infantry, were not called into active service. The United States Marshal for the Southern District made a request upon General Thomas H. Ruger, commanding the Western Division of the Regular Army, for assistance at Los Angeles, and six companies of regulars, 320 men, under command of William R. Shafter were dispatched from San Francisco, to the Southern City, July second. The Regular troops experienced little difficulty in the South, and without meeting any serious resistance took possession of all railroad property in Los Angeles.\*

On April 22, 1896, Company E and the other military units in the First Brigade marched in celebration of La Fiesta De Los Angeles, a street carnival held each year by the merchants of Los Angeles. The parade was led by Marshal Madison T. Owens. Just behind rode Colonel William Spencer and M. A. Costerisan, chief trumpeter to the Marshal. Brigadier-General C. F. A. Last, commanding the military division, rode at the head of his staff. Following them came the entire Seventh Infantry Regiment, 700 men, marching with measured tread.\*\*

Company E and the other units of the Seventh Infantry continued to improve their military standard. The First Brigade Encampment held in Santa Monica from August 4 to 14, 1897, was a model of military efficiency. The camp was strictly speaking, a working camp. From reveille, which was sounded at 5 A.M., until evening mess at 6:30 P.M., five and one-half hours were devoted to camp policing, drills, and extended order exercises, one hour and a half to dress parades, guard mounting and reviews. While only four and a half hours were given to meals and recreation.\*\*\*

On April 25, 1898, the United States declared war against Spain. Company E and the other companies of the Seventh Infantry left Los Angeles for San Francisco, May 6, 1898, where they were mustered .oOo.

\*For further details refer to National Guard and the Railroad Strike, Adjutant General's Office.

\*\*For further details of La Fiesta refer to History of Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment.

\*\*\*For further details concerning the Encampment of 1897 refer to History of Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment.



Activities: (Continued)

into the United States Service on May ninth under the command of Colonel John R. Berry. The Regiment was ordered to Camp Merritt, San Francisco, May twenty-fifth, and returned to Camp Merriam at the Presidio, August twenty-fourth, where it remained until October thirteenth. The troops were then ordered to Los Angeles, arriving on the fourteenth, and were furloughed until November twelfth, when the Regiment reassembled and reported for duty at Los Angeles, and established Camp Pratt. The Regiment was mustered out on December 2, 1898.\*

The State Legislature in 1899 enacted a law giving to the companies and members of the National Guard who were mustered into the service of the United States during the Spanish-American War, and subsequently discharged therefrom, the privilege of reporting back and returning to duty. The men were to be given full credit for continuous service from the time they were mustered into the United States Service, until they reported back for duty in the Guard, provided that they reported within 180 days after being mustered out of the United States Service.\*\* Company E failed to report within the required time with the minimum number of members. As a result General Order No. 7, was issued which disbanded the company July 5, 1899.\*\*\*

Adjutant General W. H. Seaman, on March 30, 1900, received a petition for the organization of a company of the National Guard at Anaheim, Orange County. This petition was signed by seventy residents, and had been approved by Brigadier-General C. F. Last, in command of the First Brigade, and Major-General John H. Dickinson, Division Commander. The Adjutant-General stated that a vacancy existed in the Seventh Infantry, caused by the disbandment of Company E, and ordered the new company at Anaheim to be mustered in and designated Company E, Seventh Infantry Regiment. This order was complied with on April 28, 1900.

Company E together with the First Brigade, attended a Camp of Instruction in 1901, when the entire National Guard assembled at Santa Cruz from June fourteenth to twenty-third, under the command of Major-General John H. Dickinson. This was the first time in many years that the Guard had been assembled in one encampment and the instruction imparted to the general and staff officers was valuable.\*\*\*\*

On the morning of April 18, 1906, there occurred in San Francisco a catastrophe that changed the whole social and economic life of the city. At 5:13 A.M. there was heard a distinct rumbling deep in the earth  
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\*For more detailed information concerning the activities of the Seventh Infantry refer to History of the Seventh Infantry Regiment California Volunteers, Spanish-American War.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 8.

\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900. General Order No. 7, page 64.

\*\*\*\*For further details of the Encampment of 1901 refer to the History of Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment.



**Activities: (Continued)**

followed by a severe earthquake which laid most of the city in ruins. Company E with the Seventh Infantry left Los Angeles for Oakland, April 21, 1906. The troops arrived in Oakland April twenty-second and were ordered into camp at Lincoln Park. The duty performed by these troops consisted primarily of maintaining order at the different refugee camps, at supply depots, and throughout the districts where they were stationed, and at Oakland, assisting the local police, especially during the night time.\*

The standard of efficiency maintained by Company E was brought to a new high level in 1907 when the Seventh Infantry was invited to attend the joint army and Militia coast defense exercises held at the Presidio in San Francisco from July 4 to 21, 1907. The exercises were devoted entirely to military problems and lectures by United States Army officers. The officers and men of the Seventh Infantry Regiment were unanimous in expressing appreciation of the courtesy and painstaking efforts of the Artillery troops to make their tour of duty pleasant and instructive\*\*

A joint army and militia Camp of Instruction was again held in 1908 at Atascadero, California, from October fourth to fifteenth. Company E and the other units of the Seventh Infantry arrived at Atascadero in two sections aboard the Southern Pacific Railroad on the morning of October 5, 1908. The total strength of the regiment was forty-four officers and 484 men fully equipped and clothed for field service. By having close order drills the battalions, which during the year had no opportunity to drill as such, were given a chance to be handled as a unit. Also by having close order drills in the morning and field exercises in the afternoon, neither drills were too long nor too strenuous and the men took to both very kindly. The officers of the Seventh Infantry expressed their sincere thanks to the Commanding Officer of the camp for the kind consideration always exhibited to their regiment. They believed this encampment had brought the National Guard closer to the Regular Army and had shown the Guard its shortcomings more than any other encampment in which the Seventh Infantry had taken part.\*\*\*

The membership of Company E fell below the standard of efficiency and upon the recommendation of Brigadier-General Robert Wankowski, commander of the First Brigade, General Order No. 14 was issued

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\*For further details concerning the Earthquake refer to History of Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, pages 41-47.

\*\*\*For more detailed information concerning the Encampment of 1908 refer to History of Company A, Seventh Infantry Regiment.



Activities:

which disbanded the company July 15, 1910.\* Two years later on March 1, 1912, a new company was mustered in at Santa Monica and designated Company E, Seventh Infantry.\*\*

Company E was called out for emergency duty in Santa Monica, September 3, 1912, when the city was placed under martial law, during the fire at Ocean Park. The loss by fire was estimated at \$3,000,000 and started, it was believed, from a cigarette thrown carelessly into a pile of bedding. The flames swept through the heart of Ocean Park, and roared its way so swiftly through a city of painted castles, amusement resorts and business blocks, that nearly a dozen persons were forced to leap into the sea to escape from the fiery furnace which had trapped them. One man lost his life in the water while trying to escape from the flames. Hundreds of others were driven pell-mell from their homes by the sudden rush of the flames. Arriving at the beach, the people swelled the crowds to a veritable mob. People poured in from Santa Monica, Redondo, and the smaller settlements, until Ocean Park on the day of its disaster probably had more people within its borders than any previous time in its history. No cases of looting were reported, though the city was for three hours under martial law.\*\*\*

There is no record of Company E participating in any unusual activities until the call by the President of the United States for California Troops for Mexican Border service. This order was received by Governor Hiram W. Johnson, June 18, 1916. Upon the Governor's orders, California National Guardsmen were immediately directed to assemble in their armories and established camp. Within twelve hours all commanding officers had reported their organizations ready for entraining. On June twenty-ninth Company E was mustered into Federal Service, and transferred to Nogales, Arizona. Arriving there July sixth, the unit did not engage in any warfare, but merely remained on duty patrolling the border until October 19, 1916, when they returned to Los Angeles. Company E was mustered out of Federal Service November 11, 1916.\*\*\*\*

Four months later Company E was again called into Federal Service for duty during the World War. Governor W. D. Stephens, under orders from the Secretary of War calling the California National Guard into Service, ordered the organizations of the Second, Fifth, and Seventh Infantry Regiment to assemble at their armories, March 26, 1917, and begin recruiting. † Two weeks later, April 10, 1917, Company E was mustered into Federal Service. On October 14, 1917, Company E was redesignated Company C, 160th Infantry. †† For further information concerning the activities of this unit refer to History of Company C, 160th Infantry, 40th Division.

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\*General and Special Orders 1910. General Order No. 14

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1910-1914, page 9.

\*\*\*Los Angeles Times September 4, 1912, page 1, columns 1-7.

\*\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 19.

† Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 22.

†† Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 27.