

History of the 7th Infantry Regiment, Company K, National Guard of California 1895-1917

This history was completed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in conjunction with the California National Guard and the California State Library.

Digitized by the History Office, Camp San Luis Obispo, 24 January 2015

Original document on file at the California State Library

COMPANY K

2411

Company K, Seventh Infantry Regiment, First Brigade (formerly Company E, Ninth Infantry)

Reference: Adjutant General Files

Location: San Bernardino, San Bernardino County

Organized October 28, 1887

Reconstituted December 9, 1895*

Mustered into Federal Service May 9, 1898**

Mustered out of Federal Service December 2, 1898***

Reorganized as Company K, Seventh Infantry Regiment April 30, 1899****

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 9, 1917++++

Redesignated October 14, 1917+++++

.oOo.

*Company K, formerly Company E, Ninth Infantry, redesignated Company K, Second Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December ninth, Company K, Second Battalion designated Company K, Seventh Infantry Regiment.

Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.

**Company K, as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service for duty during the Spanish-American War, May 9, 1898.

Adjutant General Report 1899-1900-, page 6.

***Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.

****Company K as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican Border, June 29, 1916.

Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 64.

+Company K 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 K as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment mustered into Federal service for duty during the World War April 9, 1917. Return Company K, Seventh Infantry Regiment April, 1917.

Adjutant General's Files.

+++++Company K, Seventh Infantry Regiment redesignated Company K, 160th Infantry Regiment 40th Division October 14, 1917.

Adjutant General Report 1920-1926 - p. 28.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William A. Ball, Captain (term expired Jan. 22, 1896)	Dec. 18, 1893	Dec. 23, 1893
Thomas H. Goff, Captain	Jan. 27, 1896	Mar. 21, 1896
Orrin P. Sloat, First Lieut. (reelected Jan. 22, 1896)	Mar. 18, 1895	Apr. 17, 1895
Orrin P. Sloat, Captain (retired Dec. 5, 1902)	Apr. 13, 1898	Apr. 30, 1898
Wm. C. Seecombe, First Lieut.	Apr. 13, 1898	Apr. 30, 1898
Orrin P. Sloat, Captain (reelected May 21, 1900)	_____	_____
John D. Mathews, First Lieut. (resigned May 21, 1901)	May 21, 1900	Aug. 25, 1900
Byron W. Allen, First Lieut.	June 8, 1901	July 2, 1901
Albert B. Gazzolo, Captain	July 7, 1902	Dec. 12, 1902
Byron W. Allen, First Lieut. (reelected July 13, 1903)	_____	_____
S. B. McNabb, Captain	Nov. 1, 1904	Jan. 10, 1905
C. B. Hansen, First Lieut. (resigned Jan. 25, 1907)	Aug. 15, 1905	Oct. 18, 1905
O. R. Crow, Captain (resigned July 21, 1908)	Mar. 19, 1907	Apr. 22, 1907
Clifford J. Baker, Captain (reelected May 4, 1909) (resigned Oct. 26, 1909)	Aug. 11, 1908	Aug. 24, 1908
Jacob W. Smith, Captain (resigned Aug. 20, 1910)	Nov. 23, 1909	Dec. 29, 1909
Phillip D. Swing, First Lieut. (resigned Dec. 26, 1907)	Mar. 19, 1907	Apr. 22, 1907
Clifford J. Baker, First Lieut. (promoted to Captain Aug. 11, 1908)	Jan. 14, 1908	Jan. 31, 1908
Victor B. Berger, First Lieut. (reelected May 4, 1909) (resigned Jan. 8, 1910)	Aug. 11, 1908	May 4, 1908
Byron W. Allen, Captain	Sept. 6, 1910	Sept. 15, 1910
Varian B. Hogue, First Lieut.	Feb. 8, 1910	Mar. 17, 1910
Byron W. Allen, Captain	_____	Nov. 15, 1913
Varian B. Hogue, First Lieut.	_____	Nov. 15, 1913
Varian B. Hogue, Captain (resigned Feb. 17, 1917)	May 18, 1915	May 25, 1915
Leo Albin Stromee, First Lieut. (resigned Jan. 4, 1917)	May 18, 1915	May 25, 1915

2418

COMPANY K (Continued)

Activities:

Company K, Seventh Infantry Regiment, formerly Company E, Ninth Infantry, was organized in San Bernardino, October 28, 1887. On December 7th, 1895, a change was made in the Militia of California. The Seventh and Ninth Infantry Regiments were consolidated into battalions. Company E of the Ninth then became Company K of the Second Battalion. This, however, was not a satisfactory change and on December ninth, the battalions were formed into the Seventh Infantry. Company K of the Second Battalion was redesignated as Company K, Seventh Infantry Regiment, First Brigade.

One of the most essential factors in the training of National Guardsmen was the joint maneuvering held during Brigade and Regimental Encampments. The first brigade encampment Company K participated in was held at Santa Monica from August 4 to 14, 1897. This was an ideal camp as the daily routine pertained strictly to military tactics. The troops gained a knowledge of war maneuvers and discipline such as they had never been taught at previous camps. Very little time was consumed in formal review as reports show there were but three held during the entire encampment. The reviews held were as follows; one honoring the Major General, another in honor of the Adjutant General and the third was a review honoring Major General T. N. James, commanding Major, and seven members of his staff, who visited the encampment for several days, arriving at the camp on August eighth.

This was the first time in the history of the First Brigade that its encampment was graced by the presence of a Divisional Commander and his Staff. It was also the first time in many years that Santa Monica had within her corporate limits a real live Major General, who was there on official business. Upon the close of his first days visit the General remarked, "I am here simply to inspect the work of this Brigade and if all their work is like that of this afternoon, the other commands of National Guard in California will have to look to their laurels."^{*}

Company K spent the remaining days at camp, performing drills and all military requirements in a most exacting manner. Through this preliminary training, Company K was well prepared to go into

.oOo.

*Los Angeles Herald, August 9, 1897, page 8, column 1.

COMPANY K (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

camp the following year and continue their work in practice marches and theoretical drills.

The schedule of Company K was somewhat changed, due to the Spanish-American War and no further encampments were held until 1901. At that time the entire National Guard of California assembled at Santa Cruz from June fourteenth to twenty-third. This encampment under command of Major General John H. Dickinson, was operated on the same basis of camp drills and regimental instruction as that of 1897. Company K participated in a forced march under command of Brigadier-General C. F. A. Last. This event concluded the encampment Saturday, June twenty-second.*

A state of war was declared to exist between the United States and Spain on April 23, 1898. The entire National Guard of California was at that time held in readiness for active duty. Company K, with the remainder of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, left Los Angeles for San Francisco on May 6, 1898, where they were mustered into Federal Service on May ninth. Although these troops did not see active service, they were on continual guard duty for many months at various camps throughout California. They were ordered to Los Angeles on October fourteenth and granted a furlough for one month. The Seventh Regiment reassembled on November twelfth, at Los Angeles and established Camp Pratt. Company K as part of the Regiment was mustered out of service at this point on December 2, 1898.**

Company K as a unit of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, acted as escort to President Theodore Roosevelt, upon his visit to Los Angeles on May 9, 1903. When the presidential train arrived at the La Grande depot, the President was greeted by an immense crowd of patriotic citizens, eager to see the nation's chief executive. After shaking hands with the reception committee, President Roosevelt was escorted to a carriage. As the order was given for the driver to proceed, the President requested him to wait, and directed that the seven mounted "Rough Riders" be permitted to ride alongside his carriage as a personal bodyguard. These seven men had been comrades of Roosevelt at San Juan Hill, Porto Rico, during the war

.ooo.

*Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, pages 8, 137, 142.

**Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.

COMPANY K (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

with Cuba. The Seventh Infantry Regiment and Regimental Band were chosen to lead the parade, followed by the other units of National Guard and after them came a platoon of police. The President's carriage was next in line, which aside from the "Rough Riders," was escorted by a corps of secret service men. The parade, one of the most spectacular of its kind ever held in Los Angeles, also consisted of the Naval Reserve, men from the U.S.S. "Philadelphia," G.I. Veterans, Loyal Legion, Civic League, Army and Navy League, Native Sons and a number of political and commercial clubs. This event was long remembered by the members of Company K, their regiment having been selected as honorable escort to the President.

On the morning of April 18, 1906, the city of San Francisco was practically ruined by a severe Earthquake. Company K and the entire First Brigade left for Oakland on April twenty-first, to assist in maintaining order at the different refugee camps and supply depots. The unit remained on duty until May twelfth, when they were ordered to entrain for Los Angeles.*

Company K participated in no other major activity until called into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican Border. The unit was mustered in on June twenty-ninth and transferred to Nogales, Arizona, where they arrived on July 6, 1916. The troops remained there on patrol duty until October 19, 1916, when they returned to Los Angeles. Company K was mustered out of Federal Service on November 11, 1916.

Four months later, April 9, 1917, Company K was again mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War.** On October 14, 1917, Company K was redesignated Company K, 160th Infantry.*** For further information concerning the activities of this unit refer to the History of Company K, 160th Infantry, 40th Division.

.oOo.

*Adjutant General Report 1906, pages 40, 41, 51, 52.

**Return, Company K, Seventh Inf. Reg., April, 1917, Adjutant Generals' Files.

***Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 28.