

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

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Company L, Seventh Infantry Regiment, First Brigade (formerly Company F, Ninth Infantry Regiment, First Brigade)

References: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Santa Ana, Orange County

Organized January 6, 1890

Reconstituted December 9, 1895*

Mustered into Federal Service May 9, 1898**

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

Reorganized as Company L, Seventh Infantry Reg. April 13, 1899****

Mustered out June 15, 1904*****

Reorganized and mustered in December 19, 1904*

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 6, 1917*****

Redesignated October 14, 1917*****

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*Company L, formerly Company F, Ninth Infantry, redesignated Company L, Third Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December ninth, Company L, Third Battalion designated Company L, Seventh Infantry Regiment.

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

**Company L 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 L as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, reentered the National Guard of California. April 13, 1899.

Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59.

**Adjutant General Report 1903-1904, page 3.

▲A new company organized, mustered in, and designated Company L, Seventh Infantry, Dec. 19, 1904. Adjutant General Report 1905, page 3.

**Company L 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 L, as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment mustered into the Federal Service for duty during the World War April 6, 1917. Return Company L, Seventh Infantry Regiment April 1917, Adjutant General Files.

*****Company L, Seventh Infantry Regiment re-designated Company L, 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division October 14, 1917.

Adjutant General Report 1920-1926 p, 28.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers</u>	
	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
H. S. Finley, Captain	Jan. 28, 1895	Mar. 27, 1895*
Earl C. Glenn, First Lieutenant	Jan. 28, 1895	Mar. 27, 1895*
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H. S. Finley, Captain (reelected Mar. 15, 1897) (reelected June 12, 1899)		
Harvey W. Graham, First Lieut. (resigned June 15, 1897)	Mar. 15, 1897	Mar. 29, 1897
William D. Johnson, First Lieut. (resigned Feb. 2, 1898)	Nov. 15, 1897	Dec. 16, 1897
Walter A. Greenleaf, First Lieut. (reelected Apr. 27, 1900)	Mar. 20, 1898	Apr. 20, 1898
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Walter A. Greenleaf, Captain	May 20, 1901	June 7, 1901
Louis L. Vestal, First Lieut.	May 20, 1901	June 7, 1901
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Walter A. Greenleaf, Captain (reelected July 13, 1903)		
Clyde L. Bishop, First Lieut.	July 13, 1903	Sept. 28, 1903
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Louis L. Vestal, Captain	Dec. 19, 1904	Jan. 13, 1905
Charles A. Waffle, First Lieut.	Dec. 19, 1904	Jan. 13, 1905
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Louis L. Vestal, Captain (reelected Mar. 18, 1907) (promoted to Major)		
Walter A. Greenleaf, Captain (resigned Jan. 11, 1909)	Aug. 12, 1907	Sept. 21, 1907
Robert C. Howe, First Lieut. (resigned Apr. 28, 1908)	Mar. 18, 1907	Apr. 8, 1907
H. A. Wassum, First Lieut. (reelected May 4, 1909) (resigned Nov. 26, 1909)	June 1, 1908	June 27, 1908
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Nathan Allen Elm, Captain	Feb. 8, 1909	Mar. 5, 1909
J. L. McBride, First Lieut. (reelected Nov. 15, 1913)	Dec. 27, 1909	Feb. 14, 1910
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J. L. McBride, Captain	Feb. 2, 1914	Mar. 13, 1914
R. F. Knight, First Lieut.	Feb. 2, 1914	Mar. 13, 1914
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B. M. Holderman, Captain	Sept. 2, 1916	Sept. 5, 1916
A. K. Ford, First Lieut.	Sept. 2, 1916	Sept. 5, 1916

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*Captain Finley and Lieutenant Glenn, retained their former commissions as of January 28, 1895, when they commanded Company F, Ninth Infantry Regiment, First Brigade.

COMPANY L (Continued)

Activities:

Company L, Seventh Infantry Regiment was formerly Company F of the Ninth Infantry. On December ninth, the unit was redesignated as Company L, Seventh Infantry, retaining that designation until mustered into Federal Service in 1917.

One of the most essential factors in the training of National Guardsmen were the joint maneuvers held during Brigade and Regimental Encampments. The first encampment that Company L participated in was held at Camp Santa Monica during August of 1897. The entire Seventh Infantry, estimated at about one thousand men, were present. A regimental mascot was taken to the camp by the Los Angeles companies which included Company L. The troops agreed the mascot should be a small boy whom they gave the name of Hyde. Hyde was fiercely armed for the fray with miniature uniform, bristling cartridge belt and a kindergarden rifle. The members of Company L spent ten days in drilling and maneuvering with the regiment in both battalion and regimental formation. The last evening at camp was spent around a "Campfire" over which Major Frank C. Prescott presided and introduced General C. F. A. Last, commanding officer of the First Brigade. In his course of remarks, General Last expressed himself as being greatly pleased with the manner in which the men and officers had entered into the spirit of drill and routine camp life. The General held hopes of there being another encampment of this type the following year and worked hard to have it brought about.*

There were, however, no encampments held during 1898, due to the Spanish-American War. The next encampment participated in by Company L, was held at Santa Cruz during June of 1901. The entire National Guard of California was assembled at the encampment. This was the first time in many years the Guard assembled as a body to attend a Camp of Instruction. The benefits derived were of great value to both officers and enlisted men. Throughout the life of Company L encampments prevailed as the ideal method of training the troops.

The entire National Guard of California was called into Federal Service on May 2, 1898, in compliance with a call issued by the President for troops in the Spanish-American War. Company L as

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*Los Angeles Herald, August 5, 1897, page 5, column 2.

COMPANY L (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment was ordered to San Francisco on May 6, 1898 and mustered into Federal Service at the Presidio on May ninth. The unit remained at San Francisco until October 13, 1898, when it was ordered to Los Angeles. The troops were then given a one month's furlough, reporting for duty November twelfth. The Seventh Infantry Regiment reassembled and established Camp Pratt, where Company L was stationed until mustered out of service on December 2, 1898.*

The National Guard of California was again called into active service during 1906. This was caused by the Earthquake of April 18, 1906, which affected certain portions of the State and particularly in and around San Francisco. Company L with several other companies in the Seventh Infantry Regiment arrived in Oakland on April twenty-second, where they remained on duty for several weeks. The services performed by the members of Company L were guarding relief camps in addition to patrolling streets and guarding various public buildings, banks and storehouses. They also assisted the local authorities in preserving order. Company L received orders on May ninth to entrain for Santa Ana as assistance from the Guardsmen was no longer needed.**

Company L also participated in many civic affairs. When President Theodore Roosevelt visited Los Angeles on May 9, 1903, Company L as part of the Seventh Infantry was selected to lead the huge parade through the business section of the city. Again in 1911, the unit paid tribute to the President of the United States. William Howard Taft paid his second official visit to the western coast, and upon arriving in Los Angeles, was welcomed by the largest crowd the city had ever witnessed. The parade given in the President's honor was spectacular in every detail and was carried out with great promptness. As an escort to the President and preceding his automobile were Lieutenant Colonel Saltmarsh and Staff, the Seventh Infantry Band and eleven companies of the Seventh Infantry, including Company L. There were also numerous other organizations of the National Guard represented in the parade. Directly following the many different units of the Guard were the notables of the city and officials of both the United States Army and National Guard of California. The streets were completely

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*Adjutant General Report 1898-1900, page 6.

**Adjutant General Report 1906, pages 10, 11.

COMPANY L (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

lined with cheering crowds of citizens and upon reaching Washington Park, the President was greeted by 15,000 school children. The parade and reception given President Taft was one well remembered by the members of Company L and all units of Guardsmen that participated in it.

Company L was called into Federal Service on June 29, 1916, for duty on the Mexican Border. The unit, as part of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, arrived at Nogales, Arizona, on July sixth. They were on patrol duty at this location until October 20, 1916, when orders were received for them to return to Santa Ana.

Four months later, on March 26, 1917, the California National Guard was again called into active service for duty in the World War. In compliance with orders from Governor William D. Stephens, the Second, Fifth and Seventh Infantry Regiments assembled at their armories for recruiting purposes.* Two weeks later, April 6, 1917, Company L was mustered into Federal service.** On October 14, 1917, Company L was mustered into Federal Service and designated Company L, 160th Infantry.*** For further information concerning the activities of this unit refer to the History of Company L, 160th Infantry, 40th Division.

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*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 22.

**Return, Company L, Seventh Infantry Reg., April, 1917, Adjutant Generals' Files.

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