

History of the 9th Infantry Regiment, Company B (San Diego City Guard), National Guard of California 1890-1895

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COMPANY B

Company B, Ninth Infantry Regiment, First Brigade (formerly San Diego City Guard)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Diego, San Diego County

Organized October 12, 1881

Reconstituted July 22, 1885*

Reconstituted May 5, 1888**

Reconstituted February 8, 1890***

Consolidated and Redesignated December 7, 1895****

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Harry M. Schiller, Captain	Feb. 14, 1890	Mar. 3, 1890
Harry C. Daniels, First Lieut	Feb. 14, 1890	Mar. 3, 1890
Richard V. Doge, Captain	Mar. 18, 1892	Apr. 15, 1892
Harry C. Daniels, First Lieut. (reelected Mar. 18, 1892)	_____	_____
Richard F. Dodge, Captain (reelected Apr. 27, 1894)	_____	_____
Harry C. Daniels, First Lieut. (reelected Mar. 27, 1894) (resigned Mar. 8, 1895)	_____	_____
Edward F. Brown, First Lieut.	Apr. 12, 1895	May 22, 1895

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*Company B, formerly San Diego City Guard, designated Company B, Seventh Infantry Battalion, July 22, 1885.
Adjutant General Report, 1885-1886, page 6.

**Company B, formerly Company B Seventh Infantry Battalion, designated Company B Seventh Infantry Regiment, May 5, 1888.
Adjutant General Report, 1887-1888, page 3.

***Company B, Seventh Infantry Regiment detached from Seventh Infantry and attached to Ninth Infantry Regiment as Company B, February 8, 1890. Adjutant General Report 1890, page 4.

****Companies A and B, when the Ninth Infantry Regiment disbanded December 7, 1895, consolidated and redesignated Company B, Third Battalion. Two days later, December ninth, Company B was Designated Company B, Seventh Infantry Regiment, First Brigade.
Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities:

Company B, Ninth Infantry Regiment was formerly the San Diego City Guard organized October 12, 1881. On July 22, 1885, the unit was redesignated Company B of the Seventh Infantry Battalion. During 1888, the Seventh Infantry Battalion was reorganized as the Seventh Infantry Regiment in which Company B retained its same designating letter. On February 8, 1890, Company B was detached from the Seventh Infantry and attached to the Ninth Infantry Regiment as Company B.

The unit had been attached to the Ninth Infantry for a period of two months only, when it participated in an outstanding celebration. The city of San Diego for the first time was honored by having as a visitor, the President of the United States. Benjamin Harrison and his cabinet officers were welcomed to the city on April 23, 1881. San Diego enjoyed the distinction of being the first southern California city to be visited by the Chief Executive on his presidential tour. This fact placed the city among the more important ones of the land, giving cause for a reasonable amount of pride. When the presidential train arrived at the D Street station at six-thirty A. M., it was met by a group of local citizens and the City Guard Band. After a trip around the bay, a procession was formed and when assembled, was the longest ever seen in San Diego. Company B in conjunction with Company A of the Ninth Infantry and under command of Colonel Edward B. Spilleman, was an important feature of the spectacular parade.*

Another brilliant affair held in San Diego and participated in by Company B was the Cabrillo Celebration of October 4, 1894. This was the second year that San Diego paid tribute to Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, the discoverer of San Diego Bay and a portion of the California coast. Cabrillo was a native of Portugal, although he was sailing under a Spanish flag on a voyage of exploration. He arrived with his men at the mouth of San Diego Harbor on the evening of September 27, 1542, and landed on the morning of the twenty-eighth.

It was not until the 350 Anniversary that the event was first celebrated. For this, the 352 Anniversary, the citizens of San Diego did not attempt to have a studied exposition. They offered to all who visited the city, a season of entertainment and merry

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*The Daily San Diegan, April 25, 1891, page 1, column 4.

Activities: (continued)

making, a play spell, a rest from the too continuous burdens and cares of the world. The widest welcome was extended to all to share in the festivities and with a sincerity extending beyond formality, each visitor was invited to make himself at home.

In accordance with the spirit of the celebration, the discoverer, Cabrillo and his crew, landed from caravels early on the morning of the fourth, after being anchored in the bay all night. The landing ceremonies were made an important feature and as the small boats left the caravels, the U. S. S. "Thetis" fired a salute of twenty-one guns, while all the ships anchored in the bay saluted with flags and steam whistles shrieked a welcome. Cabrillo and his crew were impersonated by Juan Cabrillo, a Portugese fisherman and seven men. Wearing a black hat with plumes, velvet coat trimmed in gold braids, high top boots and blue trunks, Cabrillo looked very handsome and his co-discoverers were similarly dressed. The group was greeted by Major Carlson who briefly sketched the improvements made in San Diego since 1542. Cabrillo was then presented with a huge gilt key and freedom of the city. The reception was also attended by a band of real Indians, decendants of the originals who met the first Cabrillo.

The culminating event of the day's celebration was the parade that formed at the wharf and wound its way through the city. It presented a spectacle exceeding anything of its kind ever to be seen in San Diego; a spectacle at once imposing and brilliant. Company B as part of the Ninth Infantry, one of the nine divisions of the military section of the parade, made a grand showing while marching and was excellently handled by its officers. Great care had been taken in the formation of the nine divisions and after the order to march was given, the troops moved off like a well trained army. The line of march was over the decorated route to the Plaza as arranged and was witnessed by approximately 20,000 delighted spectators. The troops were then reviewed by the Grand Marshal and his distinguished guests, which brought to a close an entirely successful parade.*

The activities of Company B not only pertained to celebrations, as the troops drilled and paraded one night of each week aside from

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*The San Diegan Sun, October 4, 1894, page 3, column 1.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

annual rifle practice and encampments. The company's efforts to gain a high rating of efficiency were rewarded by the results of a target practice held in October 1890. Captain H. M. Schiller and Private G. R. Breese tied for high score and the members of Company B showed a keen interest in this 200 yard rifle shoot as there were but three absentees. The following year, 1891, a suggestion was made by officers of the Regular Army to change the method of practice used by the National Guardsmen. Therefore, instead of striving for individual scores, the companies trained en masse and more attention given to short range firing. The few records of Company B that are on file, fail to show if a company improvement was attained.

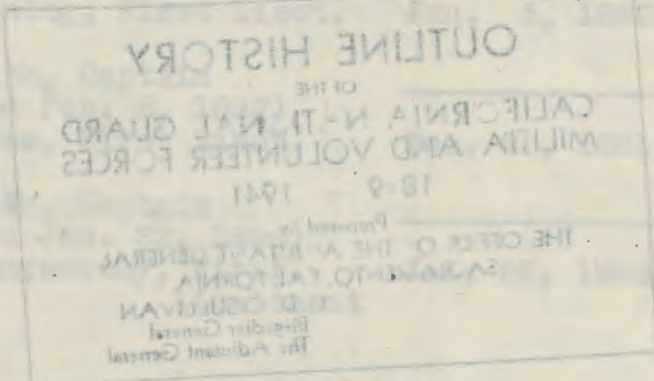
Company B as a unit of the Ninth Infantry, participated in an encampment held jointly with the Seventh Infantry at Santa Monica, from August 15 to 24, 1891. Company B, the oldest company in the regiment, was under command of Captain H. M. Schiller who was accredited as being a man of fine bearing and a splendid company commander. The troops were thoroughly drilled in both battalion and regimental formations. The company also participated in a number of target shoots during the encampment. Through the ability of Corporal Laven, the unit was awarded one of the prizes offered the regiment. Company B and the remaining companies of the Ninth Infantry were highly spoken of by Captain O'Connell, United States Army. He stated that the Ninth Infantry was far superior to all other regiments of the National Guard of California. The members of Company B felt they had been amply repaid for their long hours of steady drilling and maneuvering and resolved to strive to retain their splendid rating.

Throughout the short existence of Company B, the records show an average yearly attendance of not less than 80.38%. The annual muster and inspection for March 1894, and June 1895, show a 100 per cent attendance. At the annual inspections for Company B from 1891 to 1895, an average of "very good" was held in discipline, instruction, military appearance and care of arms and other property. Captain R. V. Dodge, commander of Company B from 1892 until mustered out in 1895, was given a ten year service medal on March 12, 1895, for services in the National Guard of California.

During the Railroad Strike of 1894, a need for a complete reorganization of the National Guard was apparent. The most important result of the reorganization was that many of the top officers were placed on the retired list. This corrected a situation that had long existed in the Guard, namely, that the service was top-

Activities: (continued)

with commanding officers. On December 7, 1895, General Order No. 17, was issued which consolidated the Seventh and Ninth Infantry Regiments into three battalions of infantry with four companies each. Companies A and B of the Ninth Infantry, consolidated to form Company B of the Third Battalion. Two days later on the ninth, General Order No. 18, was issued, which redesignated the three battalions as the Seventh Infantry Regiment.* For additional information concerning the activities of Company B, refer to History of Company B, Seventh Infantry.



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