

History of the 9th Infantry Regiment, Company C, National Guard of California 1890-1895

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COMPANY C

Company C, Ninth Infantry Regiment, First Brigade

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Riverside, Riverside County

Organized January 3, 1890

Reconstituted December 7, 1895*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
James N. Keith, Captain	Jan. 3, 1890	Jan. 20, 1890
Harry L. Twining, First Lieut.	Jan. 3, 1890	Jan. 20, 1890
James N. Keith, Captain (reelected Feb. 8, 1892)	_____	_____
Bradford Morse, First Lieut.	Dec. 21, 1891	Jan. 9, 1892
James N. Keith, Captain (reelected Jan. 22, 1894)	_____	_____
Samuel R. Langworthy, First Lieutenant	Jan. 22, 1894	Feb. 7, 1894

Activities:

Company C was organized in Riverside, Riverside County, January 3, 1890, and attached to the Ninth Infantry Regiment, when it was formed February 8, 1890.

The first record of the activities of Company C, was on May 30, 1890, when they participated in the Memorial Day celebration in Los Angeles. A large number of people thronged the principal streets of the city for fully an hour before the time set for the parade. Many of the windows of the buildings along the line of march were crowded by ladies and children, who were desirous of watching the veterans pass. The procession formed on South Main Street shortly before two o'clock, and marched down to the

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*Company C, when the Ninth Infantry disbanded December 7, 1895, was redesignated Company M, Third Battalion. Two days later, December 9, Company M was designated Company M, Seventh Infantry. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.

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COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Pico House, thence countermarching up Main to Spring as far as Fifth Street, whence it turned up to the pavillion and disbanded.*

The next recorded activity of Company C was on December 16, 1890, when the unit participated in the Corner Stone laying celebration of the State Insane Asylum at San Bernardino. Three trains carrying military companies, Knights Templar, State Officers, Masons and invited guests, left Los Angeles for the asylum grounds. Thousands of people also went in carriages to witness the corner-stone ceremonies. It was estimated that the assemblage on the grounds would number from 8,000 to 10,000 people.**

On April 24, 1891, Company C welcomed President Benjamin Harrison to Riverside. The presidential party was received with great enthusiasm. They left the train at Arlington Station, six miles distant and drove to town in flower-bedecked carriages, through a continuous lane of orange groves and the celebrated Magnolia Avenue. On reaching the high school, they were received by a large crowd, including hundreds of children, with waving flags. A formal reception took place at the Glenwood Hotel, where the President was introduced by Governor H. H. Markham and made a short address. He was then escorted through the principal streets by a procession composed of Company C and civic organizations to the station where the special train was in waiting.***

Company C attended the encampment of the First Brigade at Santa Monica, from August 15 to 24, 1891. Captain J. J. O'Connell, of the First United States Infantry, Inspector of the California National Guard, made the following statement concerning the encampment. "The personnel of the Ninth Infantry is above par in military appearance, education and social standing. An intense military spirit actuates this fine regiment and a deep enthusiasm for whatever pertains to the honorable profession of arms, seems to pervade both officers and men. This encampment was devoted largely to reviews and parades, which so far as my observation extended, were highly satisfactory in execution and far surpassed in excellence many witnessed

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*Los Angeles Herald, May 31, 1890, page 2, column 1.

**Los Angeles Herald, December 16, 1890, page 7, column 2.

***Los Angeles Herald, April 24, 1891, page 2, column 1.

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COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

by me in other encampments. While I do not consider that the efficiency of troops should be measured by their ability to stand, march and wheel with steadiness and precision, yet if troops are in condition to make a creditable showing on these ceremonious occasions, a similar standard of excellence will likely prevail in more important and urgent duties.**

Company C was never able to maintain a high standard at target practice. In September 1891, at the annual target practice required by law, Company C had two, second class and twenty, third class marksmen making a total of twenty-two qualified shooters in the company. This number of marksmen was on an average with the other units of the Ninth Infantry, but was below standard when compared with the National Guard as a whole.

On September 2, 1893, the city of Redlands was in a wild state of excitement over the threats of an organized committee which appeared in Chinatown and ordered the occupants of that quarter to depart at once. The town was almost under martial law. Major Frank C. Prescott, commanding the Second Battalion of the Ninth Infantry, Lieutenant Colonel L. S. Butler, Chief of Staff of the Brigade commander of Los Angeles and Lieutenant H. H. Sinclair, Ordinance Officer of the Ninth Infantry, had their headquarters in the city and had three companies of the National Guard in their armories ready to be placed in the field. A large quantity of ammunition had been issued and the troops could be placed in the field immediately. Company C, of Riverside and Company E, of San Bernardino, were the other companies under arms at their armories and arrangements had been perfected whereby they could be transferred to Redlands, or the Redlands Guard could be landed at San Bernardino, should trouble occur there, which was not unlikely.

The City Marshal had seventy men armed with double-barreled shot-guns sworn in as deputies. Fifty of these were patrolling Chinatown, while the remainder were mounted and covered the entire city. Sheriff Booth, accompanied by a number of deputies, arrived from San Bernardino at six-thirty A. M., and was placed in command

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*Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, page 168.

Activities: (continued)

of the civil officers, doing all in his power to protect the lives and property of the Chinamen should an attack be made. On the night of September second, the Sheriff telegraphed the Governor that no demonstration against the Chinese had been attempted at Redlands and that he had notified the National Guard that he did not need their assistance.* The members of Company C were dismissed from their armory.

On May 30, 1894, Company C journeyed to Los Angeles for the observance of Memorial Day. All places of business in Los Angeles were closed and the city had the appearance of Sunday, outside the limits of the parade. The parade formed on Seventh Street, the right resting on Main Street and at one-thirty o'clock, the procession moved toward the cemetery. The order in which the parade was formed was as follows, the uniformed bodies of all appearing in full uniform: Platoon of Police, City Marshal Wilson in command; Riverside Band, City Marshal C. T. Rice and aides; Company C, Ninth Infantry, J. N. Keith commanding, Riverside Cadets, under Sergeant Will Thompson and a number of other city and civic organizations.**

On June 28, 1894, a nationwide railroad strike completely paralyzed the transportation facilities of the State. For some unknown reason, Company C and the other units of the Ninth 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 under command of Colonel W. 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.***

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*Stockton Evening Mail, September 2, 1893, page 8, column 3.

**Los Angeles Times, May 31, 1894, page 9, column 4.

***For additional information, refer to National Guard and the Railroad Strike. Adjutant General's Office.

COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

On September 27, 1894, Company C journeyed to San Diego to participate in the week celebration to commemorate the 352 Anniversary of the discovery of San Diego Bay, by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo. Cabrillo arrived at the mouth of the bay on the evening of September 27, 1542, on the morning of the twenty-eighth, he entered the harbor and came to a landing. The informalities of the celebration began the night of September twenty-seventh, with the arrival of a special train from Los Angeles. It brought the members of the Seventh and Ninth Regiments, together with bands from Los Angeles, Pomona, Riverside and Santa Ana, the Golden Gate Park Band of San Francisco, the Los Angeles Naval Reserve and one or two other organized bodies. On the morning of the twenty-eighth, at nine o'clock, a strictly military parade, not on the program, was held under command of Colonel E. B. Spileman. The procession was composed of the Seventh and Ninth Regiments National Guard of California, the Los Angeles and San Diego Naval Reserve, San Diego Cadets and a detachment of the United States Regulars from the post, together with the bands attached to the several companies.*

On April 20, 1895, Company C marched in the parade of La Fiesta De Los Angeles, a street carnival held each year by the merchants of Los Angeles. Exactly at two o'clock, the platoon of police heading the fourth grand pageant to pass before La Reina, appeared rounding the corner and marching gallantly into the parade past the canopied throne. The Burbank Theater Band marched at the head of the next section of the parade that was led by Adjutant General C. C. Allen, from Sacramento and Brigadier-General E. P. Johnson of the First Brigade, mounted on finely caparisoned horses. They saluted her majesty with drawn swords and gave way to their staff that trooped by also giving the military salute. Then Green's Santa Barbara Military Band swung by, leading the Ninth Infantry at the head of which rode the bugle corps and Colonel E. B. Spileman. The Ninth Infantry tramped along in splendid array and following their officer's sword salutes. Each company as it passed in the royal review, came to the right shoulder arms and hurried along after the rest. Their handsome silk American flag and the great blue regimental flag bearing the seal of the State, were dipped before Her Majesty and as the soldiers paced by in rhythmic cadence, the enthusiastic spectators burst into cheers of applause.**

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*San Diegan Sun, September 27, 1894, page 5, column 5.

**Los Angeles Herald, April 20, 1895, page 1, column 1.

COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

During the activities of the railroad strike, 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-heavy with commanding officers. On December 7, 1895, General Order No. 17, was issued which consolidated the Seventh and Ninth Infantry Regiment into three battalions of four companies each. Company C was redesignated Company M of the Third Battalion. Two days later on December 9, 1895, General Order No. 18, was issued which redesignated the three battalions as the Seventh Infantry, with Company C designated as Company M.* For additional information concerning the activities of this unit, refer to History of Company M, Seventh Infantry.

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