

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

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COMPANY E

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

Reference: Adjutant General's Files
Location: San Bernardino, San Bernardino
Organized October 29, 1887
Reconstituted May 5, 1888*
Reconstituted February 8, 1890**
Redesignated December 7, 1895***

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Noble A. Richardson, Captain (resigned Oct. 2, 1890)	Mar. 10, 1890	Apr. 2, 1890
Isaac Benjamin, Captain	Oct. 27, 1890	Nov. 22, 1890
George W. Thomas, First Lieut. (resigned Oct. 2, 1890)	Mar. 10, 1890	Apr. 2, 1890
Earl M. Ducoc, First Lieut.	Oct. 27, 1890	Nov. 22, 1890
Earl M. Ducoc, Captain (resigned May 1, 1893)	Sept. 14, 1891	Oct. 3, 1891
Fred Muscott, First Lieut. (term expired)	Sept. 14, 1891	Oct. 3, 1891
Alex E. Frye, Captain (resigned Nov. 17, 1893)	May 29, 1893	June 9, 1893
William A. Ball, Captain	Dec. 18, 1893	Dec. 23, 1893
Harry L. Twining, First Lieut. (resigned Jan. 10, 1895)	Apr. 9, 1894	May 1, 1894
Orrin P. Sloat, First Lieut.	Mar. 18, 1895	Apr. 17, 1895

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

**Company E, formerly Company E, Seventh Infantry Regiment, redesignated Company E, Ninth Infantry, February 8, 1890. Adjutant General Report 1890, page 4.

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

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities:

Company E was organized in San Bernardino, San Bernardino County, October 29, 1867, as a provisional company of the Seventh Infantry Battalion. When the Seventh Infantry Regiment was organized on May 5, 1868, Company E was mustered in as a regular company of that regiment. On February 8, 1890, when the Ninth Infantry was organized in the First Brigade, Company E was detached from the Seventh and redesignated Company E, Ninth Infantry.

The first recorded activity of Company E was on July 4, 1891, when they participated in the parade held in Los Angeles. At nine A. M., as advertised, the parade commenced to form on Broadway. The various divisions got together in good order and little difficulty was experienced in forming. It worked east on Seventh Street to Main Street, north to the Plaza, then it marched south to Spring Street and on Spring to Fifth Street, where the parade was dismissed. The parade was headed by Chief of Police Glass, mounted, leading a squad of mounted police. The next thing to attract admiring attention was the National Guard companies, headed by Colonel W. G. Schreiber. The companies marching twenty men abreast, showed the result of long and patient drill in perfect step and correct alignment.*

From August 15 to 24, 1891, Company E, with the other units of the Ninth Infantry, attended the First Brigade Encampment held at Santa Monica. Captain J. J. O'Connell, First Infantry United States Army, was detailed by the Secretary of War to report to the Governor of California, for duty as Inspecting and Instructing Officer to the National Guard. Captain O'Connell made the following statement concerning the encampment of the Ninth Infantry:**

"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. The encampment was largely devoted to reviews and parades, which so far as my observation extended, were highly satisfactory in execution and far surpasses in excellence many witnessed by me in other encampments. While I do not consider that the

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*Los Angeles Herald, July 5, 1891, page 2, column 1.

↓ **Adjutant General Report 1891-1898, page 173.

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

efficiency of troops should be measured by their ability to stand, march, 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."

In the annual target practice held each September, Company E maintained a steady average. In 1891, the company had five, second class and seventeen, third class marksmen. In 1892, four, second class and twelve, third class marksmen. In 1893, one, second class and seventeen, third class marksmen. In 1894, the company had one, second class and twenty-four, third class marksmen, making a total of twenty-five qualified shooters, a rating the company was never able to better. This number of qualified marksmen was on a par with the other units of the Ninth Infantry, but was below standard when compared with the National Guard as a whole.

On July 4, 1893, Company E sponsored the Independence Day celebration in San Bernardino. The celebration would be remembered for some time, as it proved to be one of the most successful ever held in the city. The success of the affair was entirely due to the push and energy of Company E, and the citizens were proud of an organization that could make the day pass so enjoyably. They overcame obstacle after obstacle and arranged every detail so that there was no hitch to mar the pleasure of the 15,000 sightseers who thronged the thoroughfares along the line of march. The most interesting event of the day took place on the vacant lot between Fifth and Sixth, and H and I Streets. The boundary lines were thronged with people, while every available foot of space was occupied by vehicles. The military maneuvers by the Ninth Infantry proved a very interesting sight. The soldiers formed in two battalions and were put through the battalion drill by Colonel E. B. Spilman. Although the lot was small and the ground rough, the companies did some excellent work. Many of the movements in the drill had to be abandoned for lack of space. After a short rest, the regiment formed and went through dress parade, passed in review before the Colonel and staff and marched off the block.*

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*San Bernardino Courier, July 8, 1893, page 1, column 1.

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

On September 2, 1893, the city of Redlands was in a wild state of excitement over the threats of an organized committee which had appeared in Chinatown and ordered the occupants of that quarter to depart at once. The town was almost under martial law. Company G, Ninth Infantry, commanded by J. W. F. Diss, was under arms in Redlands ready for action. Major Frank C. Prescott, commanding the Second Battalion, Ninth Infantry, Lieutenant Colonel L. S. Butler, Chief of Staff of the Brigade, commander of Los Angeles and Lieutenant H. H. Sinclair, Ordnance Officer of the Ninth Infantry, had their headquarters in the city and had three companies of the Ninth Infantry 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 E and Company C, of Riverside, were the other companies under arms at their armories and arrangements had been made, whereby they could be transferred to Redlands, or Company G 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 James P. Booth, accompanied by a number of his deputies, arrived from San Bernardino at six-thirty A. M., and was placed in command of the civil officers and did everything in his power to protect the lives and property of the Chinamen, should an attack be made. On the night of September second, Sheriff Booth telegraphed the Governor that no demonstration against the Chinese had been attempted and that he had notified the National Guard companies that he did not need their assistance.*

During the month of April 1894, Company E was ordered out for emergency duty at Colton to aid the civil authorities in dispersing a group of organized unemployed workers known as the United States Industrial Army. While the citizens of San Bernardino were in session on the night of April 13, 1894, forming a committee of safety, the United States Industrial Army, which had been encamped in the city for a week, folded their tents

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

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

and struck out for Colton. When they reached that city, they attempted to take possession of the trains and as a consequence no trains left Colton from eleven o'clock Friday night until Saturday about noon. Saturday morning, the Safety Committee took the 8:05 train to Colton, under the leadership of Deputy Reeves. Arriving in Colton, it was found that the Industrial Army had taken possession of a freight train. The Safety Committee numbered sixty men armed with Winchesters and shotguns. When Sheriff James P. Booth commanded the men to leave the train and they refused to do so, the San Bernardino delegation marched alongside the train and were ordered to load with ball and shot. The army still refused to move. At this juncture, the fire department turned the hose on them and drenched quite a number of them. Still they did not move and the sheriff and several deputies boarded the cars and arrested all the men who were on the train and placed them under guard. While assisting the people of Colton, the deputy sheriffs were subjected to many indignities from some of Colton's people. The editor of the Chronicle spoke in very harsh terms. He said, "You fellows had better go home and attend to your own business." When the City Marshal of Colton turned on the hose, some of the Colton people turned off the hydrant and cut the hose. This stopped the wetting process. The army then raised a cheer that resounded for miles around, but it was of short duration as the order came for the deputies to load their guns and sixty barrels flashed in the sunlight, some of the men commenced rolling off the cars. These fellows were afterwards discharged from the ranks.

After placing the entire army under arrest, the leaders, eight in number, were taken to San Bernardino and landed in the county jail. The arresting of the leaders seemed to discourage the men and after awhile they advanced the proposition that if their leaders were turned loose they would all leave the county. They also wanted rations for what had been destroyed in the wetting part of the program. This they were refused as at ten o'clock Saturday morning, the citizens of Colton held a joint meeting with the Safety Committee from San Bernardino. At the meeting it was resolved not to give the Industrial Army any more rations nor allow them to buy any as long as they remained organized as they were. Consequently, the members were in a predicament as they were short of rations and could not get out of the city of Colton without walking, as it was impossible for them to take a train at that point.

The deputy sheriffs remained at Colton until six-thirty P. M., Saturday when they were relieved by Company E, who upon arriving in Colton, established quarters at the City Hall and placed

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

pickets around the army.* Company E remained on duty until the night of April fifteenth, when they were dismissed and allowed to return to San Bernardino.

There was a possibility that Company E would twice be called for emergency duty in 1894, when on June twenty-eighth, a nationwide railroad strike completely paralyzed the transportation facilities of the State. For some unknown reason, Company E 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 to Los Angeles, 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 September 27, 1894, Company E journeyed to San Diego to participate in the celebration to commemorate the 352 Anniversary of the discovery of San Diego Bay by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo. Cabrillo, a native of Portugal, but sailing under the Spanish flag, arrived with his ships at the mouth of San Diego 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 the twenty-seventh with the arrival of a special train from Los Angeles at nine o'clock. It brought members of the Seventh and Ninth Infantry 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. The following morning, 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 Regiment, the Los Angeles and San Diego Naval Reserves and a detachment of United States Regulars from the post, together with the bands attached to the several companies.***

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*San Bernardino Courier, April 21, 1894, page 7, column 3.

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

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

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

On April 19, 1895, Company E participated in La Fiestas 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 Colonel E. B. Spileman. The Ninth Infantry tramped along in splendid array and followed 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 gallant soldiers paced by in rhythmic cadence, the enthusiastic spectators burst into cheers of applause.*

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 Regiments into three battalions of four companies each. Company E was redesignated as Company K, of the Second Battalion. Two days later on December ninth, General Order No. 18 was issued, which redesignated the three Battalions as the Seventh Infantry with Company K, retaining the same designating letter.** For additional information concerning this unit, refer to History of Company K, Seventh Infantry.

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

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