

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

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COMPANY F

Company F, Ninth Infantry Regiment, First Brigade
Reference: Adjutant General's Files
Location: Santa Ana, Orange County
Organized January 6, 1890*
Redesignated December 9, 1895**

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Charles, S. McKelvey, Captain (prompted Major, Feb. 8, 1890)	Jan. 6, 1890	Jan. 20, 1890
Harry T. Mathews, First Lieut.	Jan. 6, 1890	Jan. 20, 1890
Harry T. Mathews, Captain	Mar. 17, 1890	Mar. 26, 1890
Nathan A. Ulm, First Lieut.	Mar. 17, 1890	Mar. 26, 1890
Parks S. Roper, Captain	Oct. 10, 1892	Oct. 31, 1892
Fred M. Kelly, First Lieut. (resigned Dec. 28, 1893)	Oct. 10, 1892	Oct. 31, 1892
S. Henderson Finley, First Lieut.	Feb. 5, 1894	Feb. 24, 1894
S. Henderson Finley, Captain	Jan. 28, 1895	Feb. 27, 1895
Earl G. Glenn, First Lieut.	Jan. 28, 1895	Feb. 27, 1895

Activities:

Company F, was organized at Santa Ana, January 6, 1890, in response to a call made by a group of patriotic citizens for the organization of a new company of National Guard. The company was in existence one month prior to being attached to the Ninth Infantry Regiment, which was organized on February 8, 1890.**

*Company F. organized January 6, 1890, by General Order No. 1, for the purpose of being attached to the Ninth Infantry, which was to be formed February 8, 1890. General Orders, 1887-1895, page 89.

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

COMPANY F (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

The first activity Company F participated in was a Brigade Encampment held at Santa Monica during August 1891. The troops were encamped from August 18 to 24, during which time they were busily engaged in drilling and maneuvering.* Company F was the largest company in camp, and commanded by Captain Harry T. Mathews, a very strict and tasty officer and as proud of his boys as they were of him. The Ninth Regiment, to which Company F was attached, was highly accredited as being a regiment that the National Guard could well be proud of. This gave the members of the various companies a feeling of being amply repaid for their days of strenuous drilling and maneuvering.*

Although target practice was held twice a year by the various companies in the Ninth Regiment of Infantry, Company F was very inefficient. During its existence which was a period of five years, there is no record of any scores being made. Aside from the regular routine of weekly drills, annual target shoots and encampments, Company D participated in many celebrations and parades. The members of this unit long remembered the "Military Day" of April 19, 1895, held during the La Fiesta celebration in Los Angeles. The coronation of the queen was followed by the grand parade which passed the canopied throne in saluts to Queen Reina and her court. The structure housing the throne was an artistic edifice and lined with broad stripes of red, white and blue bunting. Each of the pillars, supporting the roof, was adorned with handsome banners of red and white striped alike, with a blue velvet field over which golden stars were dotted. Pennants portraying the national colors, were stretched from the front of the roof to the awning poles; and on either side of the stairway entrance, a large and handsome flag was planted to catch what breeze there might be stirring.

Leading the second section of the parade, was Adjutant General C. C. Allen and Brigadier-General E. P. Johnson, who were mounted on finely caparisoned and nettled horses and saluted the queen with drawn swords. Company F and the remainder of the Ninth Infantry Regiment, gave the military salute as they gaily trooped by Her Majesty. Each company, as it passed the royal

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*Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, page 173

** The Daily San Deigan, November 13, 1891, page 4, column 1.

COMPANY F (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

review, came to right shoulder arms and hurried along after the rest. Their gorgeous silk American Flag and the great blue regimental flag, bearing the seal of the State, were dipped before Her Majesty. As the gallant soldiers paced in rhythmic cadence, the enthusiastic spectators burst into cheers. The regiment made a fine showing and as the boys in Company F passed by groups of their admirers, smiles of pride crept over many of the stoical looking chaps.*

In July of 1894, a railroad strike which was nationwide, called into action practically every company of the National Guard in California, but for some unknown reason, the Ninth Infantry Regiment was not called. During this strike it was apparent in military circles that a complete reorganization of the National Guard was necessary. The change went into effect when the regiments were organized into battalions on December 7, 1895. The Ninth Infantry Regiment was organized into three battalions of four companies each. Company F was redesignated Company L, Third Infantry Battalion. Two days later, December 9, 1895, General Order No. 18, was issued which redesignated the three battalions as the Seventh Infantry Regiment, First Brigade. For additional information concerning the activities of Company F refer to History of Company L. Seventh Infantry.**

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

**Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders 17, 18, pages 86, 88.