

History of the 9th Infantry Regiment, Company G, National Guard of California 1893-1895

This history was completed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in conjunction with the California National Guard and the California State Library.

Digitized by the History Office, Camp San Luis Obispo, 24 January 2015

Original document on file at the California State Library

COMPANY G

Company G, Ninth Infantry Regiment, First Brigade
Reference: Adjutant General's Files
Location: Redlands, San Bernardino County
Organized June 3, 1893
Reconstituted December 7, 1895*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
J. Wallace F. Diss, Captain	June 3, 1893	June 9, 1893
Frank C. Prescott, First Lieut. (promoted to Major June 17, 1893)	June 3, 1893	June 9, 1893
Harvey E. Higbey, First Lieut.	Sept. 20, 1893	Oct. 19, 1893

Activities:

Company G, Ninth Infantry was organized in Redlands, San Bernardino County, June 3, 1893 and attached to the Ninth Infantry Regiment.

The first record of the activities of Company G was on September 2, 1893, when 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. Company G, under command of Captain J. W. Diss, was under arms, ready for action. Major F. C. Prescott, 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, located at Riverside and Company E at San Bernardino, were the other companies under arms at their armories and arrangements had been perfected whereby they could be transferred to

.ooo.

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

COMPANY G (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Redlands or Company G could be landed at San Bernardino, should trouble occur there which was not unlikely.

The City Marshal of Redlands had seventy men armed with double-barreled shotguns, sworn in as deputies. Fifty of these men were patrolling Chinatown, while the remainder were mounted and covered the entire city. Sheriff James P. Booth, accompanied by a number of deputies, arrived from San Bernardino at six-thirty in the morning and was placed in command of the civil officers and did all in his power to protect the lives and property of the Chinamen should an attack be made. 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.*

Company G, like the other units of the Ninth Infantry, were below standard in target practice. In September 1894, at the annual target practice which was required by law, Company G had three, second class and twenty, third class marksmen, making a total of twenty-three qualified shooters in the company.

The number of marksmen in Company G was on a par with the other units of the Ninth Infantry, but was below average when compared with the National Guard as a whole. Company G did not attend any regimental or brigade encampments, so there is no record of their proficiency in drill.

On June 28, 1894, a nationwide railroad strike completely paralyzed the transportation facilities of the State. For some unknown reason, Company G 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.**

.oOo.

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

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

COMPANY G (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Company G, on September 27, 1894, 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 arrived in the mouth of the bay on the night of September 27, 1542, the following morning he entered the harbor and came to a landing. The informalities of the celebration began with the arrival of a special train from Los Angeles. It brought 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 September 28, 1894, 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, the Los Angeles and San Diego Naval Reserves, San Diego Cadets and a detachment of United States Regulars from the post, together with the bands attached to the several companies.*

On April 19, 1895, Company G participated in 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 Regiment, 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,

.ooo.

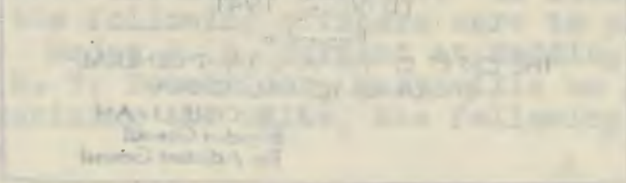
*San Diegan Sun, September 27, 1894, page 5, column 5.

COMPANY G (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

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



•••••

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

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