

# **The California Volunteers and the Civil War: 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Infantry 1865-1866**

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, 23 January 2015

Original document on file at the California State Library

SEVENTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY

Reference: "Record of California Troops in War of the Rebellion" (1890)  
Adjutant General's Office

Regimental Headquarters:

Presidio, San Francisco	Jan. 1865
Tubac, Arizona Territory	Mar. 1865
Fort Mason, Arizona Territory	May 1866

Mustered in January 24, 1865  
Mustered out May 22, 1866

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Charles H. Lewis, Colonel	_____	Jan. 7, 1865
Madison Bülware, Lieut. Col.	_____	Dec. 14, 1865

Companies Included in Seventh Regiment of Infantry.

Company A.

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
James P. Olmstead, Captain	_____	Oct. 24, 1864
William J. Perkins, First Lieut.	_____	Oct. 24, 1864
James H. Bye, Captain	_____	Sept. 19, 1865

Location of Company

Camp Union, California	Oct. 1864
Presidio, San Francisco	Nov. 1865
Fort Yuma, California	Mar. 1865
Fort McDowell, Arizona Territory	Mar. 1866
Presidio, San Francisco	Apr. 1866

Mustered in January 5, 1865  
Mustered out April 13, 1866

Companies Included in Seventh Regiment of Infantry. (Cont.)

Company B.

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Alexander B. Gibson, Captain	_____	Oct. 31, 1864
M. R. Parks, First Lieutenant	_____	Oct. 24, 1864

Location of Company

Presidio, San Francisco	Nov. 1864
Tucson, Arizona Territory	May 1865
Presidio, San Francisco	Apr. 1866

Mustered in November 1, 1864  
Mustered out April 26, 1866

Company C:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Walter S. Coledge, Captain	_____	Oct. 20, 1864
James W. Bye, First Lieutenant	_____	Oct. 20, 1864
Palmer G. Wood, First Lieutenant	_____	Sept. 19, 1865

Location of Company

Presidio, San Francisco	Nov. 1864
Fort Mjave, Arizona Territory	Mar. 1865
Presidio, San Francisco	Apr. 1866

Mustered in October 27, 1864  
Mustered out April 26, 1866

Company D.

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Martin H. Calderwood, Captain	_____	Dec. 20, 1864
Lee Allen, First Lieutenant	_____	Dec. 24, 1864

Location of Company

Presidio, San Francisco	Jan. 1865
Tubac, Arizona Territory	Apr. 1865
Fort Mason, Arizona Territory	Sep. 1865
Presidio, San Francisco	Mar. 1866

Mustered in January 28, 1865  
Mustered out May 22, 1866

Companies Included in Seventh Regiment of Infantry (Cont.)

Company E.

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
H. A. Messenger, Captain	_____	Nov. 18, 1864
William H. Broad, First Lieut.	_____	Dec. 3, 1864

Location of Company

Presidio, San Francisco	Nov. 1864
Tubac, Arizona Territory	Mar. 1865
Fort Mason, Arizona Territory	Sep. 1865
Presidio, San Francisco	May 1866

Mustered in November 29, 1864  
Mustered out June 28, 1866

Company F.

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
John W. Owen, Captain	_____	Nov. 30, 1864
Richard M. Apagar, First Lieutenant.	_____	Nov. 30, 1864

Location of Company

Presidio San Francisco	Dec. 1864
Fort Yuma, California	June 1865
Maricopa Wells, Arizona Territory	Sep. 30, 1865
Camp McDowell, Arizona Territory	Oct. 1865
Presidio, San Francisco	Apr. 1866

Mustered in December 25, 1864  
Musted out April 13, 1866

Company G.

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Thomas J. Heminger, Captain	_____	Oct. 24, 1864
Adam Ernst, First Lieutenant	_____	Nov. 27, 1864

Location of Company

Presidio, San Francisco	Oct. 1864
Tubac, Arizona Territory	May 1865
Fort Mason, Arizona Territory	Sep. 1865
Presidio, San Francisco	June 1866

Musted in October 30, 1864  
Mustered out June 28, 1866

Company H.

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
John W. Smith, Captain	_____	Apr. 6, 1865
John H. Worth, First Lieutenant	_____	Dec. 27, 1864

Location of Company

San Francisco, California	Jan. 1865
Fort Yuma, California	May 1865
Drum Barracks, California	Mar. 1866

Mustered in January 10, 1865

Mustered out March 1, 1866

Company I:

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
George D. Kendall, Captain	_____	Nov. 18, 1864
William McNeil, First Lieut.	_____	Nov. 18, 1864

Location of Company

Presidio, San Francisco	Nov. 1864
Fort Whipple, Arizona Territory	May 1865
Presidio, San Francisco	Feb. 1866

Mustered in November 25, 1864

Mustered out March 31, 1866

Company K.

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
James H. Sheppard, Captain	Nov. 18, 1864	Nov. 25, 1864
George Lohman, First Lieutenant	Nov. 18, 1864	Nov. 25, 1864

Location of Company

Presidio, San Francisco	Nov. 1864
Fort Yuma, California	Mar. 1865
Fort McDowell, Arizona Territory	Aug. 1865
Presidio, San Francisco	Mar. 1866

Mustered in November 25, 1864

Mustered out April 26, 1866

Activities of the Seventh Regiment of Infantry:

The Seventh Regiment of Infantry was formed during January of 1864. The first in command was Charles W. Lewis, who was commissioned Colonel of the regiment of January 11, 1865. Madison Bulware was given the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in December of 1864. This regiment was formed supposedly to afford the necessary protection over the Overland Mail Route, as there were a number of companies located in various places along the route. This unit of men was also scheduled to help maintain peace among the warring tribes of Indians.

In recruiting these companies, there was as a rule much difficulty involved in obtaining the required number of men within the allotted time established by the Government. James Shepard was given permission to recruit company K of this regiment as he had a previous record of organizing a company known as the Templar Guard of San Francisco (the only temperance company in the state).\* A commission of Second Lieutenant was conditionally granted Lieutenant Shepard for recruiting purposes while he was organizing his company. He had one hundred and ten men ready to be mustered into service on the tenth of November, regardless of the opposition he met with through a military company stationed at Downieville endeavoring to discourage the recruits. After obtaining the necessary recruits, Lieutenant Shepard left at once by steamer with his men to muster them into the United States Service at the Presidio. After boarding the steamer, "Yosemite", there apparently arose some unsolicited trouble, as will be illustrated by the following petition sent to the Governor after the troops arrived at the Presidio. Quote:\*\*

Presidio, San Francisco  
November 19, 1864

Honorable F. F. Low  
Governor

We understand that the Captain of the "Yosemite" steamer threatened to use all his influence to prevent Lieutenant James H. Shepard of Company K, Seventh Infantry, California Volunteers, from getting a commission as captain of our company, because of some little misunderstanding between the two men in regard to the quarters to be occupied by the company on board the boat.

-oOo-

\*Extract from a letter written by J. H. Shepard to Governor F. F. Low September 26, 1864, on file in State Archives, State Capitol.  
\*\*Petition on file in State Archives, State Capitol.

Activities of the Seventh Regiment of Infantry: (Cont.)

The captain of the boat charges Lieutenant Shepard of trying to raise a mutiny by calling out to the men to give three groans for the officers of the boat and three cheers for himself, but that is false, some proposed three groans for the Steam Navigation Company and the Lieutenant ordered them not to do it. One man requested him to come out of the cabin and receive three cheers but he said he wanted no such thing, and ordered that no demonstration be made against the captain on boat.

When we went on board the boat at Sacramento nothing was said in regard to the part we should occupy. Some went on the upper and some on the lower decks and were allowed to race about over the boat, thinking everything all right for nearly two hours.

When they collected the tickets our men were in a rough and ungentlemanly manner, and were almost kicked down on the lower decks with horses and cattle. Lieutenant Shepard talked with the captain for doing this, as there seemed to be plenty of deck room above that we might have occupied without having hurting any one, and even offered to pay the difference for a cabin passage, this the captain would not comply with, saying he did not want soldiers near him. At the same time the captain gave some of our men permission to remain in the First Cabin. What cause the captain of the "Yosemite" can have for wishing to injure one whom we consider a very fine man in every sense of the word, we cannot conceive.

He (Lieutenant Shepard) enjoined us to be orderly upon the boat previous to going aboard, and used his authority in maintaining order all the way down and should be entitled to the thanks of the captain, as our boys got very unfavorably impressed toward the officers of the boat, some of them at least.

All the men of our company respect Lieutenant Shepard and heartily wish that he may be successful in getting his commission as Captain of our company as yet every man takes pleasure in obeying him and believe that we shall continue to do so throughout the whole term of three years.

We have to request that your Honor will use your influence in making Lieutenant Shepard Captain of company K. (The petition closes with signatures of forty-five men.)

Activities of the Seventh Regiment of Infantry: (Cont.)

Evidently the accusations were without foundation since Lieutenant Shepard was mustered in the United States Service as Captain on November 25, 1864.

There has been no records kept of the activities of the companies in this regiment except for a remark on Company E, which was found on one of the Muster Rolls on file which stated that Captain Messenger with thirty men from this company, left Tubac, Arizona Territory, on the thirteenth of July 1865, on a scout in the Guachuca Mountains. On the twenty-second of that month, Captain Messenger with fifteen of these men were surrounded and attacked by nearly two hundred hostiles. The encounter had lasted about an hour, when the Indians were driven off with a heavy loss of warriors. The troops, however, lost but two men, and the unit returned to Tubac on August 4, 1865.

Headquarters of the regiment was at the Presidio, San Francisco, from the time of Organization until March 1865, when it moved to Tubac, Arizona Territory. During June of 1865, regimental headquarters was at Fort Mason, Arizona Territory, remaining there until ordered to return to the Presidio for the purpose of being mustered out of service which took place on May 22, 1866.