

History of Company L, Infantry, California National Guard 1920-1921

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

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COMPANY L

Company L, Infantry

Reference: Adjutant General Files

Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Mustered in August 24, 1920*

Redesignated August 23, 1921**

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
James C. Doorley, Capt. (resigned May 21, 1921)	Aug. 31, 1920	Sept. 8, 1920
Hewitt Callender, Capt.	May 24, 1921	June 9, 1921
Thad V. Ferris, First Lieut. (resigned Oct. 22, 1920)	Aug. 31, 1920	Sept. 8, 1920
Malcom S. Boylan, First Lieut.	Nov. 27, 1920	Dec. 13, 1920

Activities:

Company L, Infantry was organized at Los Angeles and mustered into the service of the State, August 24, 1920. On August 31, 1920 James C. Doorley was elected commanding officer of the unit and Thad V. Ferris was elected First Lieutenant. Captain Doorley commanded the Company until May 17, 1921, when he was relieved. His resignation was accepted May 21, 1921.***Lieutenant Fred W. Nichols of First Separate Company, Infantry was temporarily assigned to the command of Company L, and retained that position until the unit was redesignated on August 23, 1921. Lieutenant Thad V. Ferris who resigned his commission on October 22, 1920, was succeeded by Malcom S. Boylan on November 27, 1920.

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*Company L, Infantry, mustered in as a unit of the California National Guard, August 24, 1920.

General and Special Orders 1920. General Order No. 14, Par. 4, Page 28.

**Company L, Infantry, redesignated Company D, 160th Infantry, August 23, 1921.
General and Special Orders 1921. General Order No. 15, page 32.

***General and Special Orders 1921. Special Order No. 46, page 92.

COMPANY L (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

The company returns for December, 1920, show that the members took an active interest in their work. The record of events reads as follows:

"Infantry drill Tuesday night each week, attended by good percentage of enlisted men and by all officers. Drill was of one and one half hours duration, under the supervision of Major E. K. Kirk, and was very instructive to all. Drills consisted of school of the squad, platoon, company and physical exercise. Officers school every Monday evening was attended by all officers and four or five enlisted men. Three new men enlisted during the month, but lost one man by transfer to Company A, Second Separate Battalion, California National Guard. Three men were discharged to accept commissions in the California National Guard."

The chief activity of Company L, prior to its redesignation, was attendance at the encampment held at Yosemite National Park July 10 to 25, 1921. That encampment was the first powderless military encampment ever held. When the War Department proposed that the camp be held at Yosemite National Park, objection was raised by the Department of the Interior. The officials of that Department maintained that the National Parks were almost the only remaining sanctuaries for wild animal life and that they were visited annually by thousands of people who wished to see bear, deer and other wild animals in their natural environment. The Park officials insisted that the noise of the guns at sunrise and at sunset, the rattle of musketry at target practice and during a sham battle would do untold damage and would probably drive the animals from the Park altogether.

The War Department recognized the validity of the argument and agreement was reached that no ammunition would be taken into the Park.

The troops encamped at Ahwahnee, on the Bridal Veil road, one mile west of Yosemite village toward El Portal.

Company L, was in existence as an unattached unit for about a month after the encampment. On August 23, 1921, the unit was redesignated as Company D, 160th Infantry.*

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General and Special Orders 1921, General Order No. 15, page 32.