

California and the War with Spain: 7th Infantry Regiment, California U.S. Volunteers, 1898

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SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

AND THE

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Reference: Muster Rolls of the Seventh Regiment of California
Volunteer Infantry, May 9, 1898 to December 2, 1898.

Regimental Headquarters:

Presidio, San Francisco	May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco	May 25, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco	Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Seventh Infantry Armory, Los Angeles	Oct. 14, 1898 to Nov. 12, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles	Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers

John R. Berry, Colonel
William G. Schreiber, Lieutenant-Colonel
Frank C. Prescott, Major
Dana R. Weller, Major
William O. Welsh, Major
Herbert D. Alfonso, Captain and Adjutant
James J. Choate, Major and Surgeon
William W. Roblee, Captain and Assistant-Surgeon
Philip W. Russell, Captain and Assistant-Surgeon
Alfred S. Clark, Captain and Chaplain
Daniel C. Williams, First Lieutenant and Quarter-Master
Harvey E. Higbey, First Lieutenant and Battalion-Adjutant
John D. Fredericks, First Lieutenant and Battalion-Adjutant
Charles P. Fenner, First Lieutenant and Battalion-Adjutant

SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

AND THE

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Companies included in the Seventh Regiment of California Volunteer Infantry

Company A, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers:

Robert Wankowski, Captain
Harry A. Bates, First Lieutenant

Company B, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 28, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 28, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers:

Richard V. Dodge, Captain
John C. Mielke, First Lieutenant

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SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

AND THE

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Companies included in the Seventh Regiment of California Volunteer
Infantry (Continued)

Company C, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers

Samuel R. Langworthy, Captain
Truman Cole, First Lieutenant

Company D, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out December 2, 1898

Commanding Officers

Harry T. Matthews, Captain
John A. Eason, First Lieutenant

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SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

AND THE

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Companies included in the Seventh Regiment of California Volunteer
Infantry (Continued)

Company G, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers

George S. Biggin, Captain
George M. Smallwood, First Lieutenant

Company H, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers

Albert W. Browne, Captain
John W. Hammons, First Lieutenant

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SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

AND THE

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Companies included in the Seventh Regiment of California Volunteer
Infantry (Continued)

Company I, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers:

William L. Lippincott, Captain
Harry La V. Twining, First Lieutenant
(Appointed May 13, 1898)

Company K, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 26, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 26, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers:

Orin P. Sloat, Captain
William C. Secombe, First Lieutenant

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SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

AND THE

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Companies included in the Seventh Regiment of California Volunteer Infantry (Continued)

Company L, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 24, 1898
Camp Merritt, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 24, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Oct. 13, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers:

Solomon H. Finley, Captain
Walter A. Greenleaf, First Lieutenant

Company M, Seventh Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry:

Headquarters: Presidio, San Francisco
May 9, 1898 to May 25, 1898
Camp Merritt, San Francisco
May 25, 1898 to Aug. 23, 1898
Camp Merriam, Presidio, San Francisco
Aug. 23, 1898 to Oct. 13, 1898
Camp Pratt, Los Angeles
Nov. 12, 1898 to Dec. 2, 1898

Mustered in May 9, 1898
Mustered out Dec. 2, 1898

Commanding Officers:

Charles F. Pann, Captain
Herbert J. Bedwell, First Lieutenant

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Activities of the Seventh Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers:

Prior to its entry into the Volunteer Service after the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, the Seventh Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers was designated as the Seventh Regiment of Infantry, National Guard of California. The Seventh Regiment was made up entirely of companies from the Southern part of the State. It was composed of splendid material, was well disciplined and was commanded by competent officers.*

As soon as Colonel John R. Berry was informed that arrangements had been completed for mustering the volunteers into the Federal Service, he tendered the services of his regiment to Governor James H. Budd. Colonel Berry was promptly notified that the services of his regiment would be accepted. Preparations were immediately begun for the assembly of the troops, and all was in readiness when the order was received for the regiment to leave for San Francisco on Friday, May 6, 1898.**

The Seventh Regiment was organized and ready to be mustered into the Volunteer service the fifth of May, but their orders directed them to leave Los Angeles for San Francisco May sixth. The officers and men of the Seventh Infantry Regiment were jubilant when the order to entrain was received, and all felt confident that if volunteer troops were sent to the Philippines, their regiment would be the first to cross the ocean. The troops from the South were fully justified in feeling that confidence.*** They had a splendid regiment, were well drilled and had an efficient and up-to-date organization.

The volunteers assembled at their armory in Los Angeles at nine o'clock A.M., May sixth, for final inspection and the publication of orders. The special train providing for the transportation of the regiment, left Los Angeles at 11 A.M., May sixth, and arrived at San Francisco at 11:15 A. M. on May Seventh. A cordial reception for the boys from the South had been arranged in San Francisco. An escort composed of a squad of police, the Signal Corps, Troop A of Cavalry, The First Regiment Band, the Naval Reserve and Governor Budd and Staff met the volunteers at the

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*Adjutant General Report, 1899-1900, page 6.

**San Francisco Call, May 4, 1898, page 2, column 4.

***San Francisco Call, May 4, 1898, page 2, column 4.

Activities of the Seventh Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers:

depot and accompanied them to the Presidio where they went into camp beside the First Regiment of California Volunteer Infantry.* The organization was mustered into the service of the United States on the ninth of May, 1898.

The Seventh was the second regiment to land in San Francisco in answer to the President's first call for volunteers. It would have been first, had it not been delayed. As it was, the regiment arrived in camp only half an hour after the First Regiment of California Volunteers.** Keen disappointment was felt throughout the organization when it was not named as one of the units to sail with the first expedition to the Philippines. Greater still was the disappointment when subsequent expeditions were organized and sent to the Islands, leaving the Southern California troops behind.

It was felt that the Seventh Infantry Regiment was treated unfairly and open declarations were made that politicians were having much to do with side-tracking California volunteers in favor of those from some Eastern or Middle-Western States.*** Cases were cited to prove that the men from the Pacific Coast were detained at home while other men were brought across the continent and moved past them on the way to the Philippines. Added to the disappointments endured by the men of the Seventh Infantry Regiment, was the grief felt over the death of twenty of their comrades in San Francisco during the summer. These fatalities equalized nearly half the losses suffered by the First Regiment during more than a year's active service in the Islands.

At any rate, the Regiment remained inactive in San Francisco until October 13, 1898, when they were ordered to Los Angeles and furloughed until November twelfth.**** Three hundred and thirty men of the regiment signed a petition asking for re-enlistment in the regular army, but that movement was not

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*San Francisco Bulletin, May 7, 1898, page 2, column 1.

**Los Angeles Daily Times, December 2, 1898, page 16, column 2.

***Los Angeles Daily Times, June 19, 1898, page 3, column 1.

****Adjutant General Report, 1899-1900, page 6.

Activities of the Seventh Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers

successful as 400 signatures were required in order to organize a full battalion under the army regulations. Consequently, any of the men who desired to enter the United States Army Service must do so through the regular Army recruiting channels.*

The Seventh Regiment reported at their armory in Los Angeles on the twelfth of November 1898 as instructed, and went into camp at Camp Pratt, Los Angeles, where they were stationed until December second, when they were mustered out of the United States Service.

Thus the Seventh Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers retired to private life after approximately seven months in the Federal Service, during which time it had its ups and downs and anticipations and disappointments in plenty.

Following their discharge from the Volunteer Service, Companies A, B, C, F, G, I, L, and M, of the Seventh Regiment reported for duty in the National Guard of California, were recognized and returned to duty therein on the fifth of June, 1899.** Companies D and K reported, were recognized and returned to duty in the National Guard the fifth of July, 1899.*** Companies E and H, of the Seventh Regiment failed to report with the minimum number of members and within the time specified by law. These two companies were ordered disbanded and mustered out of the Service of the State of California, and the officers and members thereof were granted an honorable discharge from the National Guard of California.****

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*Los Angeles Daily Times, December 2, 1898, page 16, column 2.

**Adjutant General Report, 1899-1900, General Order No. 6, page 59.

***Adjutant General Report, 1899-1900, General Order No. 7, page 64.

****Adjutant General Report, 1899-1900, General Order No. 7, Sec. 5, page 64.