

**HISTORY OF COMPANY K - SEVENTH INFANTRY**



**D**URING the early part of 1887 there was formed in the City of San Bernardino, an independent company of infantry, which was known as the Waterman Rifles, named in honor of R. W. Waterman, a prominent citizen of San Bernardino, who had been elected lieutenant-governor of California in November, 1886, and who, on the death of Gov. Washington Bartlett, September 12, 1887, took the gubernatorial chair. In the spring of 1887 the Legislature provided for an increase of the National Guard, and the efforts of Governor Waterman resulted in the formation of the Waterman Rifles, it being his aim that they eventually be mustered into the state service. The company was mustered in as Company E, Seventh Infantry, October 29, 1887, and remained with the original Seventh Infantry until the formation of the Ninth Infantry, N.G.C., to which Company E was transferred with its original letter. Upon the disintegration of the Ninth Infantry Regiment, G.O. 17, A.G.O., on December 7, 1895, Company E was assigned provisionally to the Second Battalion of Infantry of the First Brigade, N.G.C., and G.O. 18, A.G.O., two days later, December 9, was designated as Company K and transferred to the First Battalion, Seventh Infantry, N.G.C. Company K rendezvoused at San Bernardino, May 5, 1898, and with the rest of the regiment was mustered into the Seventh California Infantry, United States Volunteers, Independent Division, Eighth Army Corps, U.S.A., May 9, 1898, at the presidio of San Francisco.

This company saw service in the Philippines, where several of its members met death, and was always regarded as an exceptionally well-trained body of men, reflecting in their conduct the spirit and discipline that have always characterized California Troops whether in battle or in the performance of the less dangerous but more arduous duties necessary of discharge during times of peace.

...From: History of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties by Brown & Boyd

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**Editor's Note:** A National Guard unit, known as Company G, was also formed in Redlands in 1892. They were also mustered into the Seventh California Infantry on May 9, 1898 at the Presidio of San Francisco and served alongside Company K in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. The Editor watched members of both these companies march in local parades during the early 1930's.

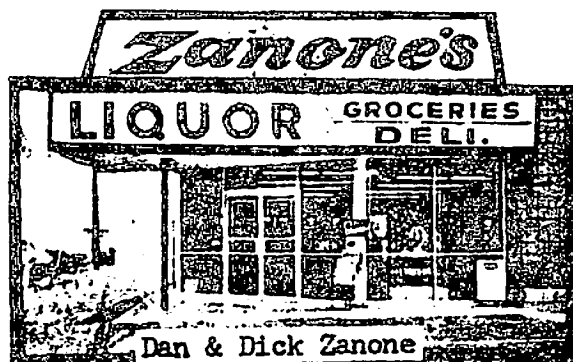
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