

History of the Company B (San Jose Zouaves), 5th Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1885-1917

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Company B, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly
San Jose Zouaves)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Jose, Santa Clara County

Organized September 30, 1862

Reorganized December 30, 1879*

Reconstituted August 1, 1885**

Reconstituted December 9, 1895***

Mustered into Federal Service July 6, 1898****

Mustered out of Federal Service February 6, 1899*****

Reorganized as Company B, Fifth Infantry Regiment May 12, 1899*

Mustered into Federal Service June 28, 1916**

Mustered out of Federal Service October 7, 1916***

Resumption of Service in the National Guard 1916****

Mustered into Federal Service April 8, 1917*****

Redesignated September 24, 1917*****

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*Company B, formerly San Jose Zouaves redesignated Company B, Fifth Infantry Battalion Second Brigade, December 30, 1879.

Adjutant General Report 1880, Special Order Nos. 38, 40, page 72.

**Company B, Fifth Infantry Battalion, Second Brigade designated Company B, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, August 1, 1885. Headquarter Papers Second Brigade, 1885, Special Order No. 44.

***Company B, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade designated Company B, Seventh Infantry Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December 9, Company B, Seventh Infantry Battalion redesignated Company B, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.

****Company B redesignated Company, Eighth Infantry Regiment, and mustered into Federal service during the Spanish-American War, July 6, 1898.

Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, page 6.

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

*Company B, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade re-entered the National Guard as Company B, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, May 12, 1899.

Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59.

**Company B as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment mustered into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican Border, June 28, 1916.

Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 18.

***Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 8.

****General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, General Order No. 34, page 150.

*****Company B, as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War April 8, 1917. History, 159th Infantry Regiment, C.N.G. File #314.7 Adjutant General's Office.

*****Company B, Fifth Infantry Regiment redesignated Company B, 159th Infantry Regiment September 24, 1917.

Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 24.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Commanding Officers		
Name	Rank	Commission
Albert K. Whitton, Captain (Re-elected Mar. 11, 1886)	Dec. 3, 1883	Dec. 19, 1883*
Edwin M. Hills, First Lieut. (Resigned Aug. 27, 1885)	Dec. 20, 1883	Jan. 18, 1884*
Thomas F. Morrison, First Lieut. (Resigned Jan. 3, 1887)	Oct. 1, 1885	Oct. 26, 1885
Charles A. Hagan, First Lieut.	Feb. 24, 1887	April 18, 1887
Charles A. Hagan, Captain	Dec. 26, 1889	Feb. 1, 1890
Edwin B. Lewis, First Lieut.	Dec. 26, 1889	Feb. 1, 1890
Charles A. Hagan, Captain (Continued in office)		
Milton Loryea, First Lieut. (Resigned Sept. 29, 1892)	Mar. 17, 1892	May 6, 1892
Herbert L. Partridge, First Lieut.	Oct. 13, 1892	Nov. 15, 1892
Herbert L. Partridge, Captain	Jan. 4, 1894	Feb. 1, 1894
Jesse J. Adel, First Lieut.	Jan. 4, 1894	Feb. 13, 1894
Herbert L. Partridge, Captain (Re-elected Sept. 14, 1896)		
Jesse J. Adel, First Lieut. (Re-elected Sept. 14, 1896)		
Herbert L. Partridge, Captain (Re-elected Mar. 14, 1898)		
L. A. De Yoe, First Lieut. (Promoted to Bn. Adj., 5th Infantry Regiment Nov. 6, 1899)	Dec. 23, 1897	Feb. 19, 1898
Thomas H. Derby, First Lieut.	Nov. 27, 1899	Jan. 23, 1900
Thomas H. Derby, Captain	Aug. 20, 1900	Oct. 24, 1900
Gary L. Holtum, First Lieut.	Aug. 20, 1900	Oct. 24, 1900
Gary L. Holtum, Captain	Oct. 6, 1902	Dec. 12, 1902
Leonard M. Farrell, First Lieut.	Oct. 6, 1902	Dec. 12, 1902

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*Captain Whitton and Lieutenant Hills retained their former commissions as of December 19, 1883, and January 18, 1884, respectively, when they commanded Company B, Fifth Infantry Battalion, Second Brigade.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)		
<u>Commanding Officers (Continued)</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Gary L. Holtum, Captain (Re-elected Nov. 14, 1904)	_____	_____
Leonard M. Farrell, First Lieut. (Re-elected Nov. 14, 1904)	_____	_____
Gary L. Holtum, Captain (Re-elected Feb. 4, 1907) (Promoted to Major, 5th Infantry Regiment 1907)	_____	_____
Leonard M. Farrell, Captain	Oct. 21, 1907	Nov. 18, 1907
Leonard M. Farrell, First Lieut. (Re-elected Feb. 4, 1907)	_____	_____
Frank B. Kelley, First Lieut.	Oct. 21, 1907	Nov. 18, 1907
Leonard M. Farrell, Captain (Re-elected April 26, 1909) (Promoted to Major, 5th Infantry Regiment Feb. 2, 1913)	_____	_____
Frank B. Kelley, First Lieut. (Re-elected April 26, 1909) (Promoted to Captain, Company M, 5th Infantry Regiment June 24, 1909)	_____	_____
Clarence M. Stout, First Lieut.	July 26, 1909	Aug. 31, 1909
Clarence M. Stout, Captain (Resigned April 2, 1917)	April 28, 1913	May 29, 1913
Lauran L. Lahue, Captain	April 6, 1917	April 6, 1917
John S. Hasen, First Lieut.	June 16, 1913	July 3, 1913

Activities:

Company B, Fifth Infantry Regiment was organized on September 30, 1862, in San Jose and designated San Jose Zouaves. Its history is similar to that of Company A of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, organized one year later than Company A, Company B was destined to join with Company A in 1879 in the formation of the Fifth Infantry Battalion, that on August 1, 1885, became the Fifth Infantry Regiment. The latter date is where this history begins. Like Company A, Company B was never disbanded or consolidated with any other company. Also the history of Company B is still going on today under the designation of Company B, 159th Infantry, 40th Division.

The only apparent dissatisfaction that ever appeared in the ranks of Company B was in the latter part of 1887, when Companies A and F of Oakland joined Company B in requesting that the three companies be detached from the Fifth Infantry Regiment and organized

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COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

into a separate battalion. The Board of Location and Organization denied the request stating that the policy of the National Guard authorities from henceforth would be to make as few changes as possible, recognizing that efficiency in the National Guard could only be maintained through the stability of the different organizations. The Board believed that the efficiency of the Guard had been impaired in the past because of too many changes and reorganizations. Company B accepted the decision against organizing a battalion like good soldiers, and continued their splendid service to their State and Country.

Company B usually always ranked well at inspections. Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Allen, Division Inspector, inspected Company B on June 24, 1886; his report is as follows:

"I find the uniforms of this company both full dress and fatigue in splendid condition. The company quarters and armory well arranged and neatly kept; second to none in the State. The commissioned officers are well posted in their duties and greatly respected by the members of the company. The military appearance of the company was good; condition of arms, good; Company Records complete and neatly kept; Personal excellent."

Ten years later in 1896, Major Charles Jansen, Inspector, made the following report concerning Company B:

Armory of brick, conveniently arranged, consisting of eight rooms and drill hall 59 feet square. State property well taken care of and secure, records excellent, finances \$249.63 on hand. Rent \$55.00 per month, also \$15.00 per month salary for armorer. Drill night on Monday. Officers' meeting once per week, non-commissioned officers' meeting once per month. Eighty-five per cent present at inspection. Company formed on time, formation good, men steady in ranks. Company drill good, manual good, platoon movement fair. Company is a fine body of men, of good physique. Company well managed by Captain Herbert L. Partridge who is also a good and efficient officer.*

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*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, page 162.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Eleven years later, January 29, 1907, another inspection report should be noted. The inspection was Colonel Thomas d. Wilhelm, Assistant Inspector General of the National Guard of California. Company B at this time was at its highest peak in efficiency having won the Brigade Trophy for all-around efficiency in 1906.

Also rules and regulations as prescribed by the War Department were increased in their requirements under the "Dick" Militia Law in 1903. The inspection report will be quoted in full:

"This organization is available for active duty, and the entire strength of the command can be depended upon. This is one of the best companies in the State. The physical appearance of the men of the company is excellent. Both the officers and the men are zealous and efficient. This company had one practice march in the past year, and the required number of drill exercises in the armory, and also performed active duty about a month after the earthquake and fire of April, 1906.

Public property is well cared for and safely stored. The armory is a brick building, well arranged for military purposes, and well taken care of. Size of drill hall, 45 x 50 feet. The company is sufficiently armed, uniformed, and equipped for active service. Target practice at a 500 yard range is had once a month, with a good percentage of attendance and satisfactory results. Gallery practice is had frequently. Ammunition on hand, 1400 rounds ball cartridges, caliber .30.

Instruction in first aid has been had to a limited extent. No first aid packages are on hand. Articles of War are reported to be read according to the regulations. Percentage of attendance at inspection and muster 94.5; promptness at roll-call and company exercises, excellent, 100 per cent; Discipline, 100 per cent; Military appearance, very good, 99.5 per cent; Condition of arms, very good, 98.5 per cent; Condition of equipments, excellent, 100 per cent; Condition of clothing, very good, 99 per cent; company movements, excellent, 100 per cent; manual of arms and other exercises, excellent, 100 per cent; general average, 99.5 per cent."

"San Jose Mercury Herald, July 3, 1910, page 2, column 4.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The record of Company B at target practice was not outstanding when compared with the crack units of the National Guard. As far as can be ascertained, no member of Company B ever qualified as a member of the State rifle team of fifteen members. In comparison with other units of the Fifth, Company B was not as proficient in this field. Company A had one member on the team in 1910, Company C had two members in 1905 and five in 1907. Company D had four in 1907 and one each year in 1908 and 1910. However, Company B often had members qualifying as First, Second or Third-class Marksman.

Company B attended every encampment that the Fifth Infantry Regiment participated in. Some years the regiment would hold a camp of its own, and these encampments helped materially in increasing the efficiency of the regiment in drill and reviews as the encampments afforded the only opportunity the organization had of drilling as a unit. The larger encampments of brigades or divisions gave opportunities not available in a regimental encampment.

As the years went by and the Federal authority over the National Guard was increased, the rules and regulations were gradually changed to conform as much as possible with the Regular Army. Joint Army-National Guard encampments were substituted for the National Guard encampments in 1904, 1908 and 1912. At first the National Guardsmen found the going rather rough, since many of the men were professional or business men and not used to the routine of the regulars, especially in marching.

However, in reading the monthly returns of Company B it is noted that practice marches to nearby outing resorts were frequently made during the first ten years of the twentieth century. These marches were usually ten or fifteen miles, and greatly increased the endurance of the men. Again under the federal regulation the unit organization was that of a battalion, and Company B attended many battalion drills and camps or bivouacs. An idea of the camps will be obtained from the following news item:*

"Under command of Major G. L. Holtom, Battalion Commander Companies B and M will leave San Jose on the 8:10 train for Redwood City, where they will take part in the two day celebration of the Fourth of July in that city. The units left in heavy marching order, carrying upon their backs everything that they would need on

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*San Jose Mercury Herald, July 3, 1910, page 2, column 4.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

the most arduous kind of campaign, shelter tents, blankets, haversacks containing plates, knives, forks and spoons, canteens and other camp necessities. The heavier baggage, wall tents, range and cooking utensils preceded the companies yesterday in charge of Battalion Quartermaster, Lieutenant W. G. Lang who took with him four men from Company M as an advance guard to prepare for camp.

The local companies will be joined by Company L at Palo Alto, and the three will proceed to Redwood City, camp will be pitched in a lot in the heart of town, and the battalion will live under arms for two days. As a feature of the celebration a guard mount will be in the afternoon and a battalion parade will also be given. On the Fourth the battalion will be a feature in the morning parade, and in the afternoon a sham battle will be staged for the benefit of those wishing to see mimic warfare."

Another company camp of eight day duration was held at Capitola on July 16 to 23, 1905. The company went as far as Los Gatos by electric train, and marched from Los Gatos to Capitola, a distance of twenty-three and a half miles in ten hours. Actual marching time was six hours and fifty-nine minutes, the other three hours being time out for rest. The daily schedule of this encampment is not available, but it is assumed that the efficiency which won for Company B the Brigade Trophy the following year, was gained at the camp. The expenses of the camp was borne entirely out of the companies treasury. This unique eight day camp of one company of militia was visited by Brigadier-General J. A. Koster, Colonel J. F. Hayes, commander of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, Major D. A. Smith, Fifth Infantry Regiment, and Lieutenant S. W. Morehead, Fifth Infantry Regiment.

There was very few changes made in the commanding officers of Company B. The first change in captains came in December 26, 1889, when Captain Albert K. Whitton was promoted to Major of the regiment. First Lieutenant Charles Hagan was promoted to captain on December 26, 1889. Captain Hagan paid the following tribute to Major Whitton;*

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*San Jose Daily Herald, December 27, 1889, page 3, column 2.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

"Joining the company at a time when it had little standing in the community, when its wardrobe was filled with uniforms totally unfit to be looked at, much less to be worn, when its meeting room was carpetless, its walls bare, and provided with no furniture save an ordinary table and a few rough benches. Under his direction the company gradually rose to new heights.

The unit moved into new quarters, which were furnished in such a manner as to attract the attention of our inspecting officers; furnished it with new uniforms, which made us at the time the best uniformed company in the state (uniforms far superior to those since furnished us by the State) and managed the company so admirably that today, in percentage of attendance and other qualifications which go to make up a successful military organization, we stand second to no other company in the State. All this has been accomplished through the untiring efforts of our worthy Major Albert K. Whitton."

Major Whitton was elevated to Colonel of the regiment ten years later. Another loss for Company B was when First Lieutenant Milton Loryea tendered his resignation on September 29, 1892, and Herbert L. Partridge was elected in his place. Mr. Loryea moved to Spokane, Washington to engage in business. The members of Company B showed their affection for their officer by presenting the Lieutenant and his bride of a day with a solid silver service on which was engraved "To Lieutenant and Mrs. Loryea from the members of Company B, Fifth Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California - San Jose, September 29, 1892." Mr. Loryea will go away well provided with honors, as he has during his connection with the company won many medals.

At the business meeting on September twenty-ninth, when the service set was presented, the classification of the scores at target practice on the Sunday previous were read. There was close competition between First Lieutenant Loryea and Second Lieutenant Machefert of Company B, for the championship medal. Loryea came out victorious, winning the champion medal and the company's annual gold medal. The win made six in a row for Lieutenant Loryea, thereby, becoming personal owner of the medal.*

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*San Jose Daily Herald, September 30, 1892, page 5, column 6.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

In 1908 Company B won the Second Brigade Trophy. This Trophy was offered for the best all around company in the Second Brigade, and when won three years it became the property of the winners. In 1906 Company B won with a general average of 92.73 per cent, in 1907 the average percentage of Company B was almost perfect, being 99.05 per cent. In 1908 their percentage was 97.11, which was easily the highest score in the brigade. Therefore on July 6, 1908, perhaps the most notable event in the history of Company B took place in San Jose. It was the time when Adjutant General Joseph B. Lauck, National Guard of California was to present the Brigade Trophy to Company B as their permanent property. The place was in the spacious dining room of the Lamolle House in that city where a banquet was enjoyed, after which the diners moved over to the armory for the presentation ceremonies. Present besides the Adjutant General was Colonel D. A. Smith, Fifth Infantry Regiment, former Colonel A. K. Whitton, Joseph T. Brooks of the Chamber of Commerce, and Mayor Charles W. Davison of San Jose.

Captain L. M. Farrell acted as toastmaster and introduced Adjutant General Lauck. The General was very frank in stating his thoughts about the citizens of San Jose. He believed the people should show more appreciation of the sacrifices made by the members of the National Guard on their behalf. Still fresh in the mind of many was the splendid service of Company B during the earthquake of 1906. He also contrasted the National Guard with the Regular Army, pointing out the fact that the Guardsman was handicapped by being only a part time soldier, while the Regulars made it their main business of being a soldier.

The General was followed by Mayor Charles W. Davison who promised the company cooperation of the municipal Government in their further advancement. The Mayor was at one time a member of Company B and had been in the Seventh California Volunteers in the Spanish-American War. The next Speaker was Colonel D. A. Smith, who Captain Farrell introduced in his audience as the "Chronickicker." The Captain probably spoke the word "Chronickicker" very softly and reverently. The Colonel was a strict disciplinarian, and was one of the best loved officers in the National Guard.

The Colonel informed the people of San Jose that their company needed a larger and more adequate armory, and he deplored the fact that when Company B went to target practice they had to

***San Jose Herald, February 11, 1907, page 3, column 4.

IN 1908 COMPANY B WON THE BRIGADE TROPHY
(CONTINUED)
COMPANY B (CONTINUED)

Activities: (Continued)

travel to Livermore at considerable expense because the local folks had failed to support the local company as they should. He closed his remarks by asking the business men present to assist the members of Company B to attend the Joint Army National Guard maneuvers at Atascadero during October.*

Although Company B neither possessed or lived near a rifle range, they never despaired or gave up trying to be among the best on the rifle range. In 1893 Company B challenged Company B of the Third Infantry Regiment, winner of the Tobin Trophy to meet them in competition. The contest took place on May 14, 1893. Company B of the Third Regiment won the contest by the score of 391 to 375. A return match was planned for June eleventh of the same year.** Company B was awarded a medal known as the Sprake Proficiency medal which was to be given to the Private of Company B who in competitive drill proved the most efficient.

In order to get an idea as to how this was accomplished the following item fully explains. The drill was on the evening of February 10, 1887, and only six Privates had confidence enough to enter the contest. The six were A. L. Clark, F. L. Machefert, R. G. Bailey, W. S. Johnson, W. M. Stansbury, and W. S. Hall. R. G. Bailey had won the medal the previous month. The test was in charge of Captain A. K. Whitton and was on the manual of arms and marching. Ten errors ruled any competitor out. Stansbury and Hall were the first two to retire, and they were soon followed by Clark and Machefert, who went down together. The test continued until Bailey and Johnson each had nine errors against them. Private Bailey then made a false step on an order to "mark time" and Johnson was declared the winner.*** No doubt the splendid record of Company B in winning the Brigade Trophy had its foundation in competition.

In 1909 another company of the Fifth Infantry Regiment was organized in San Jose and designated Company M. Many of the new members of Company M were former members of Company B and soon the new unit was entering into active competition with Company B. The speedy rise of Company M in efficiency could be traced to the splendid example and help rendered by Company B. The year 1911, two years after the organization of Company M,

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*San Jose Mercury, July 7, 1908, page 2, column 3.

**San Jose Herald, May 15, 1893, page 3, column 4.

***San Jose Herald, February 11, 1887, page 3, column 4.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

the latter unit was advanced to a position where in an attendance and drill contest with Company B, Company M came within a few points of winning the contest. The prize was a beautiful trophy presented by the W. C. Lean Company, jewelers, of San Jose.

On December 6, 1911, the cup was presented to Company B at a banquet attended by about 200 officers, men and friends of the two companies. The usual speech making was indulged in by Colonel Smith of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, District Attorney Arthur M. Free, Reverend Father Gleason and Captain S. O. Fuqua, 23rd Infantry, United States Army. Captain Fuqua spoke of the relation of the National Guard to the army, recalling the fact that in the few years previous, the two organizations had become parts of the military system of the United States, working together harmoniously in the common defense of the United States. The Captain reminded the assemblage that the standing army was small, about half of which was stationed abroad, thereby making the National Guard the first line of defense in times of National emergency.*

An illustration of the cooperation displayed between the Army and National Guard was apparent in 1912 when the State's Army adopted new small arms firing regulations, which were adopted by the California National Guard and put into practice before the regular army. In fact California was the first to put the new regulations into effect.

Companies B and M of San Jose procured a temporary range in the hills near Edenville and planned a shoot in November of that year. The new course called for timed firing at silhouette targets of 200, 300, 500 and 600 yards. The target represented a man lying down and firing, as seen from the front, and is 22 inches high. The rounds were fired under what as nearly as possible represented actual service conditions at each range. At the 200 yard range the Marksman kneels from a standing start, loads his piece with clips from the belt and fires his ten shots in one minute. At 300 yards he assumes a prone position from a standing start, and fires his ten rounds in 70 seconds. Lying prone on the ground at the command "commence firing," he has 80 seconds for his ten shots at the 500 yard range. With a sand bag rest and from a prone position at 600 yards, he has a minute and a half for his firing.**

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*San Jose Daily Mercury, December 7, 1911, page 12, column 5.

**San Jose Mercury Herald, November 15, 1912, page 7, column 4.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

No military company history would be complete without a few parades to show to the public what the company has accomplished in the art of drilling and parade formations. Space forbids mentioning all of the parades of Company B. However, a few on special occasions and holidays will be given. The first special occasion parade was in San Francisco during the twentieth annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic on August 3, 1886.* The Fifth Infantry Regiment was only a year old then, but they made a splendid showing on that day. A few other occasions will be cited: The reception tendered to President William McKinley in San Francisco on May 14, 1901, and San Jose, May 15, 1901.** Two years later, May 12, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt visited San Francisco and Company B went to the city to do honor to the "Rough Rider" who advanced from Vice-President to President of the United States when President McKinley was assassinated. It is hardly necessary to state that His Excellency received a tremendous and noisy reception wherever he went, as he was very popular figure.***

Still another occasion for military display was the visit of the Atlantic fleet in San Francisco on May 7, 1908. Secretary of the Navy, Victor H. Metcalf was guest of the fleet and the city, and as the distinguished Secretary, seated beside Governor J. N. Gillett of California passed by, the Secretary was accorded unstinted applause by the crowds. But the appearance of Admiral Robert Evans, commander of the fleet, and nick named "Fighting Bob Evans," was the signal for the crowd to really break into a tremendous ovation applause. Flags, hats and handkerchiefs waved frantically and the cheering lasted for several minutes. In the midst of all this patriotism was Company B, parading with the Fifth Infantry Regiment, and described by one newspaper reporter as showing up like regulars.****

On a few occasions Company B was called upon to take part in the funerals of distinguished persons. Only two will be mentioned. Both were Adjutant Generals of the National Guard and died while in office. The first was Adjutant General W. H. Seamans who died in Washington, D. C., January 3, 1902, while there in the interests of the National Guard. General Seamans was buried in the George H. Thomas Post, Grand Army of the Republic plot at the Presidio in San Francisco. The Post had

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*San Francisco Chronicle, August 4, 1886, page 1, columns 1-9.

**San Francisco Examiner, May 15, 1901, pages 1-3.

***San Francisco Chronicle, May 13, 1903, pages 1, 2, 3, Columns 1-7.

****San Francisco Examiner, May 8, 1908, pages 1, 4.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

charge of the services, which were held on January 12, 1902, were preceded by a splendid military cortege.* The second funeral was that of Adjutant General Edwin A. Forbes, who died on June 18, 1915, in San Francisco. Governor Hiram Johnson issued a statement which in part is quoted:

"General Forbes took command of the California Guard at a time when it was disorganized and little recognized. He developed a guard of the highest efficiency and a citizen-soldiery in California second to that of no other State."

The General was buried in San Francisco on June 20, 1915, Companies B and M of San Jose both making the trip to the city to honor their departed Adjutant General.**

The Fourth of July celebration of 1908 will be described as representative of the occasion held each year celebrating the Independence of our nation. Company B paraded in the near by cities frequently on the Fourth. Consequently the unit was in Santa Cruz on July 4, 1908. The usual Independence Day festivities were there but the parade was the important part. With the Beach Band heading the parade and Company B next in line followed by the Naval Reserves, the parade was under way soon after 10:00 A.M. Fraternal Order, Grand Army of the Republic, floats and carriages completed the procession which was followed by literary exercises in the Armory at 11:00 A.M. At the conclusion of the exercises Company B gave an exhibition drill on Pacific Avenue, and new laurels were added to the company from San Jose.***

Company B frequently paraded on Admission Day, the ninth of September. Perhaps their biggest showing was at the 50th Anniversary of the Admission of California into the Union. The parade was in San Francisco and was one of that cities largest military and civic demonstrations. Regulars, sailors, marines, and National Guardsmen made up the military, while thousands of fraternal organizations as well as the Native Sons and Native Daughters of the Golden West furnished the civic portion of the parade.****

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*San Francisco Examiner, January 13, 1902, page 4, column 4.

**San Jose Mercury Herald, June 20, 1915, page 17, column 5.

***San Jose Mercury, July 5, 1908, page 9, column 2.

****San Francisco Examiner, September 11, 1900, page 7, 3, and 4.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Decoration Day, the thirtieth of May, was the occasion when each year Company B in conjunction with the Grand Army of the Republic would honor the dead, usually with a parade that ended at the cemeteries where salutes were fired and flowers placed on the graves of both the blue and the grey. That great benefactor, time, was surely sweetening the bitterness and healing the wounds and scars left by the bitter struggle of 1861-1864.

Leaving the subject of parades this narrative nears the more serious duties of the Guardsman, that of the preservation of order in times of emergency, aiding and assisting in times of catastrophe, and the defense of the country. Before going further, an account of an emergency test call will be given. On November 26, 1896, the fire alarm rang out the militia call of emergency for Company B. The members, hearing their call, hastily reported at the armory, donned their uniforms, and non-commissioned officers were sent out to round up the members that didn't respond to the call. No member, except Captain Partridge knew of the contemplated call. Before 9:00 P.M., seventy-five of the eighty-two members were at the armory in heavy marching order, which means blankets, haversacks, canteens, tin cups, plates, knives, forks and service uniforms and marched to the indicated place, City Hall Park. After a little skirmishing the unit was marched back to the armory where the rifles, uniform and other equipment were inspected by Inspector C. C. Derby, and after roll-call the company was dismissed.*

About ten years later this call was to be repeated immediately following the Earthquake in 1906, and Company B did not return to their armory that day, but were put to a real test and were not found wanting in any respect.

And now turn the pages of history back to July 4, 1894. The gigantic railroad strike of nationwide proportions was on, and because of the interference with the United States Mail, the military forces were called upon to preserve order. Regardless of sympathy or convictions the National Guardsman is supposed to obey orders and assist the civil authorities to maintain peace and order when called upon to do so. Company B was called to their armory on the evening of July 3, 1894, but

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*San Jose Mercury, November 26, 1896, page 5, column 3, and 4.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

were dismissed till 6:00 A.M., July Fourth. Again excused until called by the usual sign of the fire bell. The unit then paraded in the celebration of Independence Day being held in San Jose. That afternoon at 1:00 P. M., Company B was again called to the armory, set up a guard for the armory and waited for further orders. On July sixth the Sheriff notified Lieutenant-Colonel A. K. Whitton, who was placed in command of the situation at San Jose, that he would need assistance to clear the depot and yards of the railroad company. Colonel Whitton asked that Company D, Fifth Infantry Regiment be sent to San Jose to assist in maintaining order and Company D was ordered to San Jose.

On the evening of July tenth, at the order of Sheriff G. Y. Bollinger, the troops were ordered to take possession of the depot and yards. The same evening Company C of the Naval Reserves joined the forces of Lieutenant-Colonel Whitton, and all railroad property was possessed without any trouble, and guards placed at the roundhouse and yards. The companies remained on duty until July sixteenth, when the Sheriff dismissed them, but asked that Company B be held in the armory subject to his orders. However, only a guard was maintained at the armory, the men being permitted to go home each day, but required to remain in uniform ready for duty if called. On July twentieth the unit was relieved from further duty.*

Four years later Company B was mustered into the Federal service for duty during the Spanish-American War on July 6, 1898. Company B was redesignated Company B, Eighth California United States Volunteers. Company B was stationed at Camp Barrett, Oakland, until September sixth when they were ordered to the Presidio in San Francisco. The company remained at the Presidio until they were mustered out February 6, 1899. On May 12, 1899, Company B re-entered the National Guard under their former designation of Company B, Fifth Infantry Regiment.

Seven years passed by before another call to duty came to Company B. On April 18, 1906, the members of Company B and all the residents of San Jose were awakened by a severe earthquake about a quarter past five in the morning. Severe property damage was wrought in the business district. A hurried survey of the situation by the city officials revealed a condition too serious for the local police to handle. Again the fire bell

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*Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, pages 286, 290.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

sounded out eleven quick taps, which was the militia call. Probably many members of Company B were surveying the damage done to their own property and home when the call to duty compelled them to hurry to the Armory. At the request of the city authorities a military ring was thrown around the business district within a few hours after the earthquake, before any pilfering could be perpetuated.

For thirty-one days Company B rendered splendid service in maintaining order, always working in conjunction with the local authorities. No one was permitted to enter the downtown district after dark without a permit from the city authorities. Only one person ran into difficulty with the arrangement, much to his regret. Perhaps the report of Captain G. L. Holtum, Company B to Adjutant General J. B. Lauck best describes the incident which was as follows:*

"On Friday night April 20, 1906, about eleven o'clock a telegraph operator employed by the Western Union Telegraph Company, by the name of C. F. Alexander, left the office and after proceeding but a few yards down the street was fired upon and shot through both knees by a sentinel named Charles C. Carroll, a member of my company. The circumstances surrounding this case I found upon investigation to be as follows:

On leaving the telegraph office and after proceeding a short distance Mr. Alexander refused to halt until challenged the fourth time, and thereafter when ordered to advance to be recognized, refused and became abusive where upon the sentinel fired with the above results. When first seen by the sentinel, Mr. Alexander had just left the sidewalk by the side of the First National Bank, a place the sentinel had received special instructions to watch on account of its unguarded condition. The wound inflicted was not serious as Mr. Alexander was able to resume work again on the twenty-ninth of April."

*Oakland Inquirer, July 22, 1913, page 2, columns 4,5,6,7.

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*San Jose Daily Mercury, May 29, 1906, page 7, column 4.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

About nineteen people lost their lives in San Jose, mostly by buildings that collapsed. Two fires started but were quickly brought under control. Company H, Second Infantry assisted Company B in guard duty until May eighth, when the unit was relieved from further duty. Company B remained on duty until May nineteenth, when they were dismissed, sufficient repairs having been made to business houses and the debris removed so that the local police could handle the situation.*

Another seven years slipped by and again an emergency call came for Company B to come to Mill Valley to help in fighting a brush fire that got beyond control. Thus on July 10, 1913, Company B was rushed to Marin County and for four days assisted the authorities to fight and bring the fire under control.** On June 28, 1916, the situation along the Mexican border required the presence of troops to protect United States property. Company B as part of the Fifth Infantry was mustered into Federal service for duty on the Mexican border on that date and on July sixth was stationed at Nogales, doing guard duty. No hostilities developed and in September the Fifth Regiment was ordered to Sacramento where the regiment was mustered out on October 6, 1916.

Company B, however, was only permitted to remain the citizen-soldier for about six months. On March 26, 1917, Company B as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment was called into Federal service for duty during the World War. After about five months of guarding railroads, factories and Government property, the Fifth Regiment was ordered to Camp Kearney, Linda Vista, and on September 24, 1917, was redesignated Company B, 159th Infantry. The new designation proved to be permanent and thus the history of Company B, Fifth Infantry Regiment was brought to a close.

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*For additional information refer to the National Guard and the Earthquake and Fire, 1906.
Adjutant General's Office.

**Oakland Enquirer, July 11, 1913, page 2, columns 4,5,6,7.

COMPANY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

In its thirty-two years of service in the Fifth Infantry Regiment, Company B had served faithfully and efficiently in labor disputes, in earthquake and in fire, and closes its history by entering for service in the world's greatest conflict, where many of its members would pay the supreme sacrifice, others be maimed and crippled for life, while a few would return well in body, but sick in mind and soul from the awful scenes of the battlefield. For additional information concerning the activities of this unit, refer to history of Company B, 159th Infantry, 40 Division.

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