

# **History of the Company D (Vallejo Rifles), 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1885-1917**

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COMPANY D  
Company D, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly  
Vallejo Rifles)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Vallejo, Solano County

Organized September 8, 1861

Reorganized March 22, 1882\*

Mustered out April 7, 1885\*\*

Reorganized, mustered in and stationed San Rafael April 29, 1885\*\*\*

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 D, Fifth Infantry Regiment May 10, 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 D, formerly Vallejo Rifles redesignated Company D, Fifth Infantry Battalion, Second Brigade, March 22, 1882.

Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 6, page 93.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, General Order No. 9, page 63.

\*\*\*A new company organized in San Rafael and designated Company D, Fifth Infantry Battalion, Second Brigade, April 29, 1885.

Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, Special Order No. 24, page 112.

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

†Company D, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade designated Company D, Eighth Infantry Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December 9, Company D, Eighth Infantry Battalion redesignated Company D, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 87, 88.

++Company D redesignated Company D Eighth Infantry Regiment, and mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War. July 6, 1898.

Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, page 8.

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

++++Company D, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade re-entered the National Guard as Company D, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, May 10, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59.

††Company D 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 18.

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

†††††Company D, 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 D, Fifth Infantry Regiment redesignated Company D, 159th Infantry Regiment September 24, 1917. Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 24.

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COMPANY D (Continued)

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Joseph B. Lauck, Captain (Resigned Sept. 22, 1886)	May 14, 1885	June 9, 1885*
J. D. Lawton, First Lieut. (Resigned May 14, 1887)	May 14, 1885	July 30, 1885*
James J. O'Reilly, Captain (Resigned Aug. 20, 1889)	Nov. 19, 1886	Dec. 15, 1886
John L. Austin, First Lieut.	June 3, 1887	June 22, 1887
John L. Austin, Captain (Resigned Aug. 4, 1890)	Sept. 13, 1889	Sept. 28, 1889
William Elliott, First Lieut.	Nov. 15, 1889	Dec. 19, 1889
William Elliott, Captain	Oct. 3, 1890	Nov. 10, 1890
John P. Davenport, First Lieut.	Oct. 3, 1890	Nov. 10, 1890
William Elliott, Captain (Re-elected Nov. 4, 1892)	Nov. 14, 1892	Dec. 22, 1892
John P. Davenport, First Lieut.	July 8, 1892	Aug. 6, 1892
William Elliott, Captain (Re-elected Oct. 11, 1895)	_____	_____
John P. Davenport, First Lieut. (Re-elected Aug. 31, 1894)	_____	_____
William Elliott, Captain (Re-elected Nov. 18, 1897)	_____	_____
F. J. Murray, First Lieut.	Nov. 18, 1897	Dec. 28, 1897
V. J. B. Cheda, Captain	June 30, 1899	Aug. 14, 1899
Joseph J. Barrow, First Lieut. (Resigned Oct. 8, 1901)	Dec. 8, 1899	Jan. 23, 1900
V. J. B. Cheda, Captain (Re-elected July 26, 1901)	_____	_____
E. W. Smith, First Lieut.	Nov. 8, 1901	Feb. 11, 1902
Newell Vanderbilt, Captain	Aug. 28, 1903	Sept. 24, 1903
Edwin B. Gardner, First Lieut.	Jan. 22, 1904	Mar. 2, 1904

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\*Captain Lauck and Lieutenant Lawton retained their former commissions as of June 9, 1885, and July 30, 1885, respectively, when they commanded Company D, Fifth Infantry Battalion.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Newell Vanderbilt, Captain (Re-elected Sept. 22, 1905)		
J. K. Hawkins, First Lieut. (Resigned Aug. 21, 1906)	May 12, 1905	Aug. 12, 1905
R. J. Johnson, First Lieut.	Sept. 14, 1906	Nov. 15, 1906
R. J. Johnson, Captain (Resigned Dec. 31, 1909)	June 26, 1908	Aug. 3, 1908
Arthur W. Studley, Captain	Jan. 28, 1910	Feb. 17, 1910
Edwin I. Butler, First Lieut. (Resigned Mar. 9, 1911)	June 26, 1908	Aug. 3, 1908
C. R. Marshall, First Lieut.	Mar. 31, 1911	June 5, 1911
C. R. Marshall, Captain (Resigned Oct. 27, 1913)	July 26, 1912	Aug. 5, 1912
E. M. Knight, Captain	Nov. 14, 1913	Dec. 22, 1913
H. H. Hearfield, First Lieut.	July 26, 1912	Aug. 7, 1912
Archie W. Deubery, Captain (Resigned Feb. 27, 1917)	Oct. 15, 1915	Dec. 7, 1915
H. H. Hearfield, Captain	April 1, 1917	April 4, 1917
Phillip E. Benjamin, First Lieut.	April 30, 1915	June 3, 1915

Activities:

The history of Company D, Fifth Infantry Regiment starts with a company that is only three months old, having been mustered into the Fifth Infantry Battalion as Company D, April 29, 1885, and August first, was redesignated Company D, Fifth Infantry Regiment. It succeeded to the place that was formerly occupied by the Vallejo Rifles, an old unit in the National Guard, having been organized September 8, 1861, in Vallejo. Unfortunately the members of this old and hitherto dependable company became involved in a quarrel within their ranks that eventually led to their being mustered out of the National Guard April 7, 1885, after having rendered twenty-four years of service to their State.

A new company was then organized in San Rafael and mustered in as Company D. The new Captain of the San Rafael company was Joseph B. Lauck, who later on advanced to become Adjutant General of the National Guard. Captain Lauck was only with Company D about a year and a half when he resigned on account of changing his residence.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Company D soon became a real contender for first place in their regiment in target practice. In 1887, Company D was only out ranked by Company A, Fifth Infantry in target practice. Company D found great pleasure in shooting matches with other units of the National Guard. The unit won most of their matches, though frequently by very close margins, especially when shooting against some of the stronger units of the National Guard. The monthly returns of their activities show that they also held shooting matches with private companies and rifle clubs. In 1895, Company D boasted of one First-class marksman, 21 Second-class and 23 Third-class, a total of 45 medal men. This was very near the top in the number of medal men in anyone unit in the National Guard.

Twelve years later in 1907 four of the fifteen best shots in the National Guard, that each year made up the State team that went back East to compete with other teams, were from Company D, Fifth Infantry Regiment. In 1908 and 1910 only one member each year qualified for the State team. Company D continued to make unusually good records at target practice till 1913, when new firing regulations caused the unit to decline in their averages.

The first annual inspection and muster of Company D on July 24, 1885, just a short while after being mustered in showed that their discipline was good, military appearance good, and arms and other property in good order. The inspection was conducted by Major T. J. Parsons, National Guard of California. Ten years later, 1895 Major and Inspector Victor D. Duboce reported: Discipline excellent, instruction excellent, military appearance very good, arms and other property very good. Percentage present at muster 95 per cent. After twelve years in 1907, Company D was inspected by Major Thomas Wilhelm, Inspector General, National Guard of California who reported as follows:\*

"This company is available for active duty and could be depended upon in its entirety. Property, stores, and equipments are well kept and safely stored. The armory exercises have been kept up generally as required. The armory is a wooden building; drill hall 55 x 65 feet. Storerooms are as safe as the kind of building will permit. Target practice has been had twice a month throughout the target season. Gallery practices are frequently participated in. No practice marches are reported as having been had by this organization. Active duty was performed for about a month in April and May 1906. The men have

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\*General and Special Orders and Circulars 1907, General Order No. 20.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

had no instruction in first aid, and there are no first aid packages on hand. The men are drawn from a good class and are of good physical appearance, and from their rating they are zealous in their military work.

The required number of drills were had during the year. Percentage of attendance at inspection and muster, very good 90.69 per cent; promptness at roll-call and company exercises, very good 95 per cent; discipline, very good 95 per cent; military appearance, very good 96 per cent; condition of arms, very good 98 per cent; condition of equipment, very good 92 per cent; condition of clothing, very good 90 per cent; condition of records, very good 91 per cent; company movements, good 88 per cent; manual of arms and other exercises, good 88 per cent; general average 92.36 per cent."

The three inspection reports given are a fair indication of the general efficiency of this unit over the thirty-one years it was in the Fifth Infantry Regiment. During these thirty-one years Company D as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment attended five regimental, two brigade, three divisional and four Joint Army-National Guard encampments and maneuvers. Each type had its advantages. The regimental encampment afforded an opportunity for drill and formations, and especially helpful for instruction. The larger encampments and maneuvers presented the problems of the formation of larger numbers of troops into either an invading, attacking, or defensive army, and helped to round out a well balanced and trained National Guard.

The increased authority of the Federal Government in the making of rules and regulations for the National Guard, resulted in the increasing of the efficiency of the militia of the States. The entering wedge for this authority was in the passage of the "Dick" Militia Law in 1903. Amendments of later years increased its value to the National Guard still more. Each year after the adoption of the "Dick" Militia Law the National Guard of California steadily but surely advanced nearer the standard of efficiency set by the Regular Army. This was brought about by schools of instruction for officers and also for the men in the ranks. The instructors in the schools were officers of the Regular Army, and the results were very gratifying. Another help was the holding of over night camps by companies or battalions of three or four companies.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Such a camp was held by Company D on July 26, 1908. The following is a report of First Lieutenant R. J. Johnson, commanding Company D: "I have the honor to submit this report of two days overnight camp of this command held on the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth of July in accordance with permission granted July 17, 1908." The report is as follows:

"A detail of a corporal and three men were sent out on Saturday, twenty-fifth with instruction to pitch camp on the old Remalliard Brick Yard, about four miles east of San Rafael. This command left the armory at 8:45 P.M., with field service equipment, arriving at camp site at 10:45 P. M. Shelter tents were then pitched, after which coffee and bread were served. Quarters at twelve o'clock and taps at 12:15 P.M. The following exercise was taken up on Sunday, twenty-sixth; 6:00 A.M. reveille, 6:10 A.M. assembly, 6:20 A.M. setting up exercises, 7:00 A.M. mess call, 8:00 A.M. guard mount, 9:30 A.M. posting the guard. Instructions in general duties, both day and night; 11:00 A.M. extended order, 12:00 M. advance and rear guard, 1:00 P.M. mess call. The afternoon was given over to base ball games 3:45 P.M., recall 4:00 P.M., tents were struck 4:30 P.M. Company left camp site for home station arriving at 6:15 P.M. The attendance was two officers and 34 men; majority of men in rank were recruits. Expense was about \$45.00. The company marched to and from camp in service uniform, heavy marching order."

Over night camps and marches such as the foregoing helped to overcome one of the weak spots in the National Guard, that of actual duties and hardship of army camp life.

One of the outstanding regimental encampments was the one held at the Fair Grounds on the outskirts of Petaluma on June 8 to 15, 1895. At least it was for Company D who won at target practice the following trophies: 10 man team trophy, 20 man team trophy and the individual trophy won by Private F. B. Moulton. At eight o'clock, June eighth, Companies B, C, and E that had arrived earlier in the day, were at the depot to greet companies A, D, F, and G. The regiment under command of Colonel Fairbanks then marched through Main Street to the camp grounds where guards were placed and the camp closed to strangers. The afternoons attracted large crowds of citizens, especially the afternoon of Tuesday when Brigadier-General R. H. Warfield, Major General William H. Dimond, and Adjutant General A. W. Barrett were present and reviewed the troops.

COMPANY D (CONTINUED)  
Activities: (Continued)

Perhaps the most trying encampment for the National Guard was that of August 1904. It was the first Joint Army-National Guard Encampment, and the strenuous pace set by the Regulars proved to be somewhat hard on the militiamen. The Federal Government had not as yet furnished the Guardsmen with the army shoes, and the part time soldiers suffered considerable pain because of sore feet. However, the first get together could not help but reveal weaknesses in the National Guard. The joint encampment of 1908 proved to be very satisfactory, as the mistakes and omissions of 1904 were corrected and the National Guardsman knew and had drilled under the rules and regulations of the United States Army.

Among the duties of the citizen soldiers is that of parade. Company D participated in many parades as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment. They paraded in the reception of King Kalakaua of the Hawaiian Islands on December 12, 1900, for Presidents Benjamin Harrison, April 25, 1891, Theodore Roosevelt, William McKinley in 1901 and William Howard Taft in 1911. Then there were the parades for special occasions such as the reception to the Atlantic Fleet in 1908, Midwinter Fair opening in 1894, and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the admittance of California into the Union of the United States. The holiday of February twenty-second was always observed, also May thirtieth when the young soldiers would join with the veterans of days gone by. With the young acting as escort to their elders, together they would pay tribute to the dead in solemn ceremonies at the cemeteries, then place flowers upon the graves of the departed soldiers.

The Fourth of July always was a parade day if not in San Rafael then in some neighboring city. Only one such parade will be mentioned, that of July 4, 1901. It was the well known small town celebration so dear to the people at the turn of the twentieth century. First there was the Grand Marshall and his aids, followed by members of the Native Sons on horse back. Next came the Sausalito Band and Company D, Fifth Infantry Regiment. Next in order came the Native Sons of the Golden West, San Rafael Fire Department, Trustees in carriages, representatives of the press afoot, citizens in carriages and decorated floats. The parade led to San Rafael Park where patriotic exercises and races were held. A Grand Ball in the evening closed a perfect day's celebration of the American Independence day.\*

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\*Marin Journal, July 4, 1901, page 10, column 3.

\*Marin Journal, October 31, 1912, page 1, column 3.



COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

A special home town celebration parade in which Company D took part will be given space here. It was San Rafael Day at the Marin Carnival in San Rafael and the date was October 24, 1912. The first division of that parade was composed of the Second Battalion Coast Artillery Corps, United States Army and Company D, National Guard of California. Following the military division came the division that told to some extent the history of San Rafael from the landing of the first white man up to the then present date of 1912.

The procession took nearly two hours to pass. The Marshall and his aids were garbed in the gorgeous costume of olden times, and mounted upon prancing steeds, were an imposing feature in the line of the glories of the days gone by. The lady equestrians were a strictly modern product, and as they cantered on with ease, grace and perfect security, the spectator thought pitifully of Queen Elizabeth and other women of yore, perched behind some real rider on a pillion. The military companies marching to the strains of martial music were most formidable, and the fair ladies smiled proudly as she imagined the fate of any foreign host that should rashly invade our shores. This parade was by far the most spectacular and largest that San Rafael had ever witnessed.\*

The first call to arms of Company D was on July 4, 1894. A strike of railroad employees on July first had practically stopped all trains in California, and on July Fourth the National Guard was ordered into service, when an attempt to break the strike was to be made. Striking employees were in possession of most of the property of the railroad yards. Company D remained in the armory at Oakland where Colonel D. B. Fairbanks had assembled the Fifth Regiment on July Fourth until July sixth, when in response to a request from the Sheriff of Santa Clara for more troops the unit was ordered to San Jose.

Company D remained under arms with Company B in that city until July tenth when orders were received for the two companies to take possession of the Depot and roundhouse. That evening Company C of the Naval Reserve joined Companies B and D of the Fifth under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. K. Whitton. On July sixteenth, the troops were withdrawn from railroad property, and on July nineteenth, Company D returned to Alameda Point and joined Colonel Fairbank's command. The next day,

\*For additional information -000- to the National Guard and the

\*Marin Journal, October 31, 1912, page 1, column 3.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

July twentieth, Colonel Fairbanks moved his command to west Oakland. Companies C, D and E established camp at the foot of Peralta Street where they remained until the twenty-second when they were returned to their home stations and were dismissed.\*

Their next call came during the Spanish-American War in 1898. The second call for volunteers on May 25, 1898, enabled Company D as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment to enter the service. Company D was mustered into Federal service on July 6, 1898, and redesignated Company D, Eighth California Infantry Regiment. The regiment remained in Camp Barrett, Oakland until September 10, 1898, when the regiment was ordered to various stations and barracks to perform Guard duty. Company D was one of four companies to be ordered to Vancouver Barracks, Washington. Company D remained at Vancouver Barracks until February when the unit was returned home and mustered out February 6, 1899. Three months later, May 10, 1899, Company D as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment re-entered the National Guard of California.

Seven years passed before Company D received another call to arms. The occasion was the disastrous Earthquake and Fire in San Francisco, April 18, 1906. On the evenings of April eighteenth and nineteenth, Company D assembled in their armory in anticipation of a call for duty in the San Francisco Bay area, and each evening was dismissed about midnight. But at 9:40 A.M., on the twentieth the emergency call was given and by 12:30 Company D was in San Francisco ready to perform such duty as should be assigned to them. From April 20 to May 21, 1906, Company D was in the camp in Jefferson Square in that city.\*\*

The next call for active service of Company D was also to control a fire, this time on the slopes of Mt. Tamalpais. For four days July 10 to 13, 1913, Company D assisted a large force of fire fighters in their fight to control the blaze and save the towns of Ross Valley and Mill Valley. Regular soldiers, marines, sailors, and citizens assisted citizens and fire wardens in the fight, which proved to be successful. The towns and other valuable residences were safe from the fire.

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

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

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Time rolled by for nearly three years and then on June 28, 1916, Company D was again called into service, this time by the Federal Government United States citizens' property along the Mexican border were being seized by Mexican bands of outlaws and otherwise terrorizing the Americans along the border. For practically three months Company D as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment was stationed at Nogales. No fighting was done as the presence of United States troops at the border caused all such outlaws to stay on Mexican territory. Company D returned to Sacramento in September and on October 7, 1916, was mustered out of the Federal service.

Only a few months intervened between the mustering out in 1916 and the call of President Wilson in 1917 for troops for the World War. The call came on March 26, 1917, and soon after Company D was doing guard duty over property and factories in the State. This continued until September, when Company D as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment was ordered to Camp Kearney, and on September 24, 1917, was redesignated Company D, 159th Infantry 40th Division. On that date the history of Company D, Fifth Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California came to an end. The close of the World War and the reorganization of the National Guard decreed that the designation of the 159th Infantry should remain. For additional information concerning this unit, refer to Company D, 159th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division.

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