

# **History of the Company E (Cadets), 5th Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1885-1917**

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COMPANY E

Company E, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly Cadets)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Organized June 28, 1887\*

Reconstituted December 9, 1895\*\*

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

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

Reorganized as Company E, Fifth Infantry Regiment May 4, 1899\*\*\*\*\*

Mustered into Federal Service June 28, 1916+

Mustered out of Federal Service October 7, 1916++

Resumption of Service in the National Guard of California 1916+++

Mustered into Federal Service April 7, 1917++++

Redesignated Company E, 159th Infantry Regiment September 24, 1917+++++

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\*Company E, (Cadets) organized at Santa Rosa 1885, designated Company E, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, June 28, 1887.

Special Order No. 53. Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 262.

\*\*Company E, Fifth Infantry Regiment designated Company E, Eighth Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later on December 9, Company E, Eighth Battalion designated Company E, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, pages 87, and 88. General Orders No. 17, and 18.

\*\*\*Company E redesignated Company E, 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 E, Eighth Infantry Regiment, re-entered the National Guard of California as Company E, Fifth Infantry Regiment, May 4, 1899.

Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59.

+Company E, as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, was 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 1916. General Order No. 34, page 150.

++++Company E, as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War, April 7, 1917. Histories, military, organizations etc. File No. 314.7. Adjutant General's Office.

\*\*\*\*\*Company E, and Company L, Fifth Infantry Regiment consolidated and redesignated Company E, 159th Infantry Regiment, September 24, 1917.

Histories, military, organizations etc. File No. 314.7. Adjutant General's Office.

COMPANY E (Continued)

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Frank H. Swett, Captain	Jan. 1, 1886	Feb. 6, 1886
Louis W. Juilliard, First Lieut.	Nov. 16, 1885	Nov. 23, 1885
L. W. Juilliard, Captain	May 30, 1887	June 22, 1887
H. W. Hudson, First Lieut.	May 30, 1887	June 22, 1887
L. W. Juilliard, Captain (reelected June 3, 1889)	_____	_____
H. W. Hudson, First Lieut. (reelected June 3, 1889)	_____	_____
L. W. Juilliard, Captain (reelected Oct. 19, 1891)	_____	_____
John Dunbar, First Lieut.	Oct. 19, 1891	Nov. 2, 1891
John Dunbar, Captain	Nov. 13, 1893	Dec. 23, 1893
Charles H. Holmes, Jr. First Lieut.	Nov. 13, 1893	Dec. 23, 1893
Chas. E. Haven, Captain	Jan. 27, 1896	Apr. 4, 1896
Charles H. Holmes, Jr. First Lieut. (reelected Jan. 27, 1896)	_____	_____
Chas. E. Haven, Captain (reelected Apr. 4, 1898)	_____	_____
Charles H. Holmes, Jr. First Lieut. (reelected Apr. 4, 1898)	_____	_____
Chas. E. Haven, Captain (reelected May 21, 1900)	_____	_____
Charles H. Holmes, Jr. First Lieut. (reelected May 21, 1900)	_____	_____
Chas. H. Holmes, Jr. Captain (resigned Mar. 13, 1903)	July 15, 1901	Sept. 14, 1901
Jerry W. Claypool, First Lieut.	July 15, 1901	Oct. 8, 1901
Orrie Leonard Houts, Captain	Apr. 20, 1903	June 19, 1903
Frederick A. Haven, First Lieut. (deceased Sept, 12, 1904)	July 18, 1904	Aug. 9, 1904
Eugene G. Bronson, First Lieut.	Nov. 21, 1904	Apr. 24, 1905

Commanding Officers (cont.)

Name	Rank	Commission
Orrie Leonard Houts, Captain (reelected May 29, 1905) (resigned June 10, 1907)		
Thomas Virgil Butts, Captain	Aug. 5, 1907	Sept. 3, 1907
Claud H. Sanborn, First Lieut.	Aug. 5, 1907	Oct. 7, 1907
Thomas Virgil Butts, Captain (reelected June 29, 1909)		
Claud H. Sanborn, First Lieut. (reelected June 29, 1909)		
Thomas Virgil Butts, Captain (resigned June 29, 1910)		
Claud H. Sanborn, Captain	July 18, 1910	Aug. 12, 1910
Edward W. Beatty, First Lieut.	July 18, 1910	Aug. 12, 1910
Claud H. Sanborn, Captain (resigned July 11, 1912)		
Edward W. Beatty, Captain	July 22, 1912	Aug. 5, 1912
Leland M. Britton, First Lieut.	July 22, 1912	Aug. 5, 1912
Edward W. Beatty, Captain (resigned Dec. 10, 1914)		
Comstock Hilliard, Captain	Dec. 28, 1914	Feb. 23, 1915
Leland M. Britton, First Lieut. (reelected July 21, 1916) (resigned Feb. 17, 1917)		
Donald Geary, First Lieut.	Apr. 1, 1917	Apr. 4, 1917

**Activities:**

Company E (Cadets) was organized in Santa Rosa on June 10, 1885, and was attached to the Fifth Infantry Battalion as a Cadet unit. They were a part of the battalion for about a month and a half, when on August 1, 1885, the Fifth Infantry Battalion was increased to a regiment, Company E remaining as Company E (Cadets). On June 28, 1887, the Cadet Company was increased to a regular unit in the Fifth Regiment and retained its letter E.

Activities: (continued)

Apparently the company did not improve very much in the next two years, as is evident from the following comments made by Inspector William Cluff, Second Brigade, on July 22, 1889:

"This company has the material for a number one company but is poorly drilled, some of the Sergeants and Corporals show an inexcusable lack of knowledge of their duties. The formation of the company was poor and the manual of arms was executed badly. The general military appearance of the men was fair. The State property kept in good order."

In 1891, Major Victor D. Duboce, Inspector Second Brigade, reported the unit good in discipline; instruction, arms, property, and military appearance very good. From that report, on down through the years until 1917, the company has maintained a "very good to excellent rating."

The first encampment attended by Company E, was the one held by the Second Brigade at Healdsburg in 1887. Five encampments were held at Santa Cruz, the first in August 1889; then one in 1891, 1895, 1909; and a divisional encampment held in June 1901.

Many news correspondents in the nineties were of the opinion that an encampment was like going to a picnic. One reporter in June 1894, published the following item:

"Company E think life in camp will be a picnic. Major Juilliard and Captain Dunbar will have a cheerful lot of men to lead to Santa Cruz. No better place can be found for encampment. No less than seven companies will go into encampment on July seventh. The companies will form a regiment, and it will have field drill, marching, countermarching, skirmishing and charging on the 'enemy'. The battalions will form lines of battle and rush against imaginary

\*Sonoma Democrat, Santa Rosa, June 30, 1894, page 5, column 3.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, pages 4, 5.

Activities: (continued)

foe hidden in the neighboring woods, firing volleys until the surrounding hills echo back the confusion. It will be a realistic spectacle in spite of the fact that the cartridges will be all blanks, and it will serve to greatly interest a large crowd of persons who will come from all directions to see the soldier boys.\*\*

The following year, Company E, with the Fifth Infantry, encamped at Ukiah; then at Healdsburg in 1903; Atascadero in 1904 and 1908; and at Atascadero again in 1910.

In 1912, Company E, with the National Guard participated in joint militia and army maneuvers that took place in the country, between the towns of Coyote and Salinas. This was not however, the first joint maneuvers and camp held by the State and Federal troops. The first took place at Atascadero in 1904, under the command of Major General Arthur MacArthur, United States Army, commanding the Pacific Division.

The maneuvers were the result of the enactment of the Dick Militia Act, enacted by Congress January 21, 1903. The new law allowed more Federal money for the militia, but also increased the authority of the Federal government over the militia. The new regulations resulted in the National Guard being organized, uniformed, armed and equipped similar to the Federal Army. It also increased the minimum number of enlisted members from forty-seven to fifty-eight. The new law and regulations, especially the joint maneuvers of the Militia and Federal troops, resulted in a very marked increase in the discipline and efficiency of the National Guard. Another important provision permitted the President of the United States to call the Militia into Federal service in time of war, thereby making the National Guard the first reserve line of troops in time of hostilities.\*\*

The marksmanship of Company E during the early years was about average, but as years passed, Company E greatly improved at

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\*Sonoma Democrat, Santa Rose, June 30, 1894, page 5, column 3.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, pages 4, 5.

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: Continued)

target practice. The Fifth Infantry Regiment claimed to be the best regiment in the State at target practice in 1895.

Company E participated in the usual holiday parades as ordered by the Commander-in-Chief, also several on special occasions, such as the Twentieth National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, held in San Francisco on August 3, 1886. The Fifth Infantry Regiment made a splendid appearance as they paraded before the throngs gathered along the line of march.\* Another occasion was that of the opening of the Midwinter Fair in San Francisco on January 27, 1894.\*\* A third was when the Atlantic Fleet, commanded by "Fighting Bob Evans," visited San Francisco on May 5, 1908. Company E traveled from Santa Rosa to San Francisco to participate in all these parades.

On March 23, 1906, the armory of Company E was destroyed by fire. The unit carried no insurance and not only the property of Company E, but considerable property belonging to the Government was lost also. However, in less than a month, April 18, 1906, the business district of Santa Rosa was destroyed by earthquake and fire. Almost six years elapsed before a new armory replaced the old one. The new armory was the occasion for a public reception and dance. The splendid arrangement of the company's new quarters was a revelation to the citizens of Santa Rosa and visiting officers of the National Guard of California. Colonel D. A. Smith, Fifth Infantry Regiment; Major Louis, of the Fifth; former Colonel L. W. Lilliard, of the Fifth Regiment, who was the first commissioned officer of Company E; and former Captains O. L. Houts, Virgil Butts and Eugene Bronson were among the guests. Colonel Smith was highly pleased with the armory and spent a good part of the afternoon consulting with Captain Claud H. Sanborn, First Lieutenant Edward W. Beatty and Second Lieutenant Ernest W. Cornett.\*\*\*

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

\*\*San Francisco Chronicle, January 28, 1894, page 1, columns 1-7.

\*\*\*The Press Democrat, Santa Rosa, February 16, 1912, page 5, column 1.

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The remaining paragraphs of this narrative relate to the real purpose for which the National Guard is maintained to help preserve law and order in the State, and for National defense in time of war.

The first call to active duty was during the Railroad Strike in 1894. Newspaper clippings of that date, indicate that Santa Rosa was very proud of her soldier boys, and although many sympathized with the strikers, they gathered at the depot at 3:30 p.m., on July fourth, and gave the boys a rousing sendoff. The Company went to Oakland where they were stationed till July 22, 1894, when they were relieved of further strike duty. The return home of Company E was the occasion of another demonstration of spirit of pride that Santa Rosa held for the guardsmen. Captain Dunbar stated that only one member of his company did not go to Oakland, and that not one instance of disobedience took place among his men.\*

The next call to duty proved more serious and far reaching than the railroad strike. On April 21, 1898, war was declared between the United States and Spain. President William McKinley issued a call for 75,000 troops, of which California was asked to recruit 1,943 officers and men. Company E, as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, was one of the volunteer companies selected for the service, became a part of the Eighth California Volunteer Regiment, being designated Company E, Eighth Infantry Regiment. The Regiment remained at Camp Barrett until September 10, 1898, when Companies B, C, and E were ordered to Fort Point, San Francisco to relieve the First Washington Volunteer Infantry Regiment of garrison duty. Company E remained at Fort Point until November 1, 1898, from which place they went to the Presidio of San Francisco, where they remained until February 2, 1899, when they were mustered out of the Federal Service. The only casualty during the service in the Volunteers was the death of Private Gus. L. Ward, who died of pneumonia contracted in line duty.\*\*

From the very first the history of the Eighth Volunteer Regiment was of disappointments. First they were to go to Manila. Next they were to go to Honolulu. When it became known that the Seventh California would not go to the Philippines on account of so many men being sick, the Eighth was told they were to go instead. When it was learned that they were not to go, and would not see service overseas, they asked to be mustered out.

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\*Sonoma Democrat, July 28, 1894, page 1, column 3.

\*\*Muster Roll of Company E, Fifth Infantry Regiment, June 15, 1899, California Volunteers, on file Adjutant General's Office.



Activities: (continued)

Instead, the Eighth Volunteer Regiment was split up into battalions and ordered into camp and garrison duty.\*

The earthquake that shook the San Francisco Bay region on April 18, 1906, was another occasion that called for the services of Company E. Santa Rosa, according to size, suffered a greater loss of life than San Francisco and also endured unusual hardships as the result of the entire destruction of the business district of Santa Rosa. Few, if any, suburban stores were left to furnish the surviving residents with the actual necessities of life.\*\* Company E went on duty on April eighteenth and Company C, of Petaluma was also ordered to Santa Rosa to assist the local authorities and preserve order. The companies were under command of Lieutenant Colonel L. W. Juilliard, and remained on duty until May thirteenth, when Co. C was ordered home to Petaluma and dismissed. Company E remained until July twenty-third, when it was likewise dismissed. Adjutant General J. B. Lauck in issuing Field Order No. 15, said:

"To this organization, the Commander-in-Chief is pleased to express his thanks for the efficient and conscientious performance of the important and difficult duties imposed upon it in Santa Rosa as a result of the earthquake of April 18, 1906."

Company E's next service was during the Mexican Border trouble in 1916. Company E as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, was mustered into the Federal Service on June 28, 1916. Their chief duty was patrol duty at the border. On October 7, 1916, the Fifth Regiment was mustered out of the Federal Service.\*\*\*

Their respite from Federal Service was of short duration however, for on March 26, 1917, Co. E, as part of the Fifth Infantry Reg, was ordered into the Federal Service again for duty during the World War\*\*\* On September 24, 1917. Company E, Fifth Infantry Regiment and Company L, Fifth Infantry Regiment was consolidated and designated Company E, 159th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division. For additional information, refer to Company E, 159th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division.

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\*Oakland Tribune, January 6, 1899, page 8, column 5.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1906, pages 54, 55.

\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 18.