

# **History of the Company G, 5th Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1893-1917**

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COMPANY G

Company G, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Alameda, Alameda County

Organized June 1, 1893\*

Reconstituted December 9, 1895\*\*

Mustered into Federal Service July 7, 1898\*\*\*

Mustered out of Federal Service January 31, 1899\*\*\*\*

Reorganized as Company G, Fifth Infantry Regiment May 15, 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 7, 1917\*\*\*\*\*

Redesignated Company G, 159th Infantry Regiment September 24, 1917\*\*\*\*\*

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\*Company G was organized in accordance with General Order No. 7 on June 1, 1893, stationed in Alameda and designated Company G, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade. Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 95.

\*\*Company G, Fifth Infantry Regiment was redesignated Company G, Seventh Infantry Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December 9, Company G, Seventh Infantry Battalion was designated Company G, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, and 18, pages 86, and 88.

\*\*\*Company G was redesignated Company G, Eighth Infantry Regiment and mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War, July 7, 1898. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.

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

+Company G, Fifth Infantry Regiment re-entered the National Guard of California on May 15, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 59.

++Company G, 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 G, 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.

\*\*\*\*\*Companies G, and H, Fifth Infantry Regiment consolidated and designated Company G, 159th Infantry Regiment, September 24, 1917.

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

Charles A. Follvath, First Lieut.

Aug. 4, 1908

Aug. 27, 1908

Rushton McConnell, Captain  
(Placed on retired list  
Oct. 2, 1918)

Aug. 7, 1908

Apr. 29, 1908

Charles A. Follvath, First Lieut.  
(Resigned  
Sept. 6, 1910)

Aug. 4, 1908

Apr. 29, 1908

COMPANY G

| <u>Commanding Officers</u>  |             |          |                   |
|---|-------------|----------|-------------------|
| <u>Name</u>   | <u>Rank</u> |          | <u>Commission</u> |
| William F. Chipmen, Captain<br>(Re-elected June 6, 1895)<br>(Resigned Sept. 21, 1896)               | June        | 1, 1893  | June 10, 1893     |
| Milton W. Simpson, First Lieut.<br>(Re-elected June 6, 1895)  | June        | 1, 1893  | June 10, 1893     |
| Milton W. Simpson, Captain<br>(Re-elected Aug. 3, 1899)<br>(Resigned March 16, 1900)                | Nov.        | 19, 1896 | Dec. 21, 1896     |
| Charles E. Pickett, First Lieut.<br>(Resigned August 28, 1897)                                      | Nov.        | 19, 1896 | Feb. 11, 1897     |
| George H. Wethern, First Lieut.<br>(Re-elected October 19, 1899)                                    | Oct.        | 14, 1897 | Nov. 22, 1897     |
| George W. Wethern, Captain<br>(Promoted to Major 1902)  | Apr.        | 2, 1900  | May 2, 1900       |
| Horatio E. Harvey, First Lieut.<br>(Resigned October 23, 1901)                                      | July        | 26, 1900 | Aug. 25, 1900     |
| William E. Hinds, First Lieut.<br>(Resigned May 16, 1902)   | Nov.        | 14, 1901 | Jan. 24, 1902     |
| Edward R. McDonell, Captain   | Apr.        | 3, 1902  | May 16, 1902      |
| Augustine P. Smiley, First<br>(Promoted to Lieut.<br>Capt., Fth Inf., Reg.,<br>Staff, Dec. 2, 1903) | Sept.       | 25, 1902 | Nov. 26, 1902     |
| James W. Gillogly, Captain  | Apr.        | 19, 1904 | June 9, 1904      |
| George F. Schroeder, First<br>(Resigned Lieut.<br>Feb. 23, 1906)                                    | Apr.        | 19, 1904 | June 9, 1904      |
| Rushton McConnell, Captain  | Aug.        | 7, 1906  | Aug. 30, 1906     |
| Ralph J. Faneuf, First Lieut.<br>(Resigned Sept. 12, 1906)  | Mar.        | 13, 1906 | Apr. 16, 1906     |
| William J. Syms Gillogly, First<br>(Resigned July 16, Lieut.<br>1908)                               | Oct.        | 9, 1906  | Nov. 15, 1906     |
| Charles A. Follrath, First<br>Lieut.  | Aug.        | 4, 1908  | Aug. 27, 1908     |
| Rushton McConnell, Captain<br>(Placed on retired list<br>Oct. 2, 1913)                              | Aug.        | 7, 1906  | Apr. 29, 1909     |
| Charles A. Follrath, First<br>(Resigned Lieut.<br>Sept. 6, 1910)                                    | Aug.        | 4, 1908  | Apr. 29, 1909     |

COMPANY G (Continued)

Commanding Officers (continued)

| <u>Name</u>  | <u>Rank</u>             | <u>Commission</u> |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Chas. Plummer Magagnos, First<br>(Resigned Aug. 17, 1911)    | Lieut<br>Sept. 20, 1910 | Sept. 22, 1910    |
| Joseph Harrison Wilbur, First<br>(Resigned Feb. 18 1914)     | Lieut.<br>Sept. 5, 1911 | Oct. 9, 1911      |
| Chas. P. Magagnos, Captain<br>(Died March 26, 1917)          | Oct. 21, 1913           | Jan. 27, 1914     |
| Alvin Louis Gunn, First Lieut.                               | May 12, 1914            | Sept. 3, 1914     |
| Alvin Louis Gunn, Captain                                    | Apr. 1, 1917            | Apr. 4, 1917      |
| Alexis Von Schmidt, First Lieut.<br>(Resigned July 18, 1917) | Apr. 1, 1917            | Apr. 4, 1917      |
| Edward A. Von Schmidt, First<br>Lieut.                       | Apr. 4, 1917            | Apr. 4, 1917      |

**Activities:**

Company G, Fifth Infantry Regiment was organized on June 1, 1893, in Alameda. William F. Chipman was elected Captain and Milton G. Simpson, First Lieutenant.

The first inspection report of Company G was found on the first muster-roll of the unit on March 15, 1894. Major Frank a Vail, Inspector, stated that discipline was very good; instruction, very good; military appearance, excellent; arms and property, excellent; percentage attendance, 96.61 per cent. Eight years later, the muster-roll of May 20, 1902, the report was practically the same, excepting the attendance which was 92 per cent.

When Company G had been in the National Guard a little over a year, the Railroad Strike of July 1894, occurred. Company G was ordered to assemble in the armory on the evening of July Fourth, but after being under arms all night, were dismissed and sent home. On July twelfth, the company was again called for service and upon orders from headquarters were ordered to Camp Peralta, Alameda, where Companies A and G performed police and guard duty until July twenty-third, when the unit was dismissed from further service.\*

About four years later, July 6, 1898, Company G was mustered into the Federal Service for duty during the Spanish-American War and redesignated Company G, Eighth Infantry Volunteers. The Eighth Regiment was stationed at Camp Barrett, Oakland until September 10, 1898, when Companies D, G, H and I were ordered to Vancouver

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\*Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, pages 281-285.

COMPANY G (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Barracks, Washington, for guard duty. The four companies remained at Vancouver Barracks until February 6, 1899, when the units returned and were mustered out of Federal Service. The disappointment of Company G at their failure to see service on the field of battle, was keen, and not only Company G but the entire Eighth Regiment of Volunteers were glad to be mustered out of the Federal Service. On reentering the National Guard on May 15, 1899, Company G was again designated as Company G, Fifth Infantry Regiment.

The Earthquake and Fire in San Francisco in April 1906, resulted in calling the National Guard into service again. Company G was one of the companies to offer their services to Mayor Frank Mott, of Oakland, soon after the disaster and before receiving orders from the Commander-in-Chief. The company's duty consisted of guard duty for supply trains, maintaining order at refugee camps, and assisting the civic authorities in every way possible. Company G remained in the service from April 18 to May 16, when they were ordered dismissed from the service of the State.\*

Their next call came during the Mexican Border trouble of 1916. The Fifth Infantry Regiment of which Company G was a part, was mustered into the Federal Service on June 28, 1916 at Sacramento, and were stationed in or near Nogales, Arizona, until October, when they were ordered to Sacramento and mustered out on October 7, 1916.\*\*

Most of the activities of Company G were not as serious as the service rendered during the railroad strike, Spanish-American War, earthquake and the Mexican Border trouble. Although the annual encampments which will be discussed next were arduous affairs, there was some social activities associated with them, making them enjoyable. The first encampment attended by Company G after its organization was held at Petaluma, June 10 to 17, 1895.

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\*San Francisco Democrat, January 11, 1899, page 3, column 3.

\*Adjutant General Report 1906, pages 6, 7, and 11.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 18, column 4.

COMPANY G (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

The camp was named "Camp Fairbanks" in honor of the Colonel of the regiment. In the afternoons there were always large numbers of citizens at the camp to see the dress parades and guard mount. Other encampments attended by Company G were four regimental held at Santa Cruz in 1897; Ukiah 1902, Healdsburg 1904 and Seabright in 1909. In 1901 a divisional encampment was held at Santa Cruz, which was very successful and greatly increased the efficiency of the guardsmen.

Three years later, the first joint maneuver of the National Guard and Regular Army was held at Atascadero on August twelfth to twenty-sixth. The work of drilling and maneuvering along side of the Regulars, who are accustomed to such work and hardships proved very difficult for most of the militiamen. After all, the members of the militia are members of the National Guard as a sort of sideline and can only give their spare time to increase their efficiency. Colonel J. F. Hayes of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, reporting the maneuvers to the Adjutant General, stated, "that to take the National Guard, which is composed mostly of men following sedentary occupations and without any opportunity for the hardening process of a few days preliminary training, was in his judgment, an error.\*

Company G was very poor at target practice for several years after entering the National Guard. The comparative scores for the years from 1901 to 1916 are not available, but as target practice became more important, it is assumed that Company G did well enough in that branch of military science to continue in the State militia.

On October 9, 1904, the armory of Company G was burned with a loss of 2,000 arms, besides equipment and company furnishings. On the lower floor was a large amount of commissary supplies belonging to the Fifth Infantry Regiment, which were also destroyed by the blaze. The fire was supposed to have been caused by defective wiring.\*\*

\*Adjutant General Report 1904-1905, page 63.

\*\*Oakland Enquirer, October 10, 1904, page 11, column 4.

COMPANY G (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Company G participated in many parades of annual and special occasions. The usual holiday parades were held on Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Admission Day. Frequently, the battalion consisting of A, F and G, would parade in nearby communities on those holidays. The first special parade in which Company G took part was on January 27, 1894, when a large civic and military parade was held for the opening of the Midwinter Fair.\* Another occasion was the reception tendered to President William McKinley when he visited San Francisco on May 14, 1901. The crowds that greeted the President as the parade made its way through the streets of San Francisco, was the largest that ever had greeted a President of the United States.\*\* Four months later, September 19, 1901, Company G was called upon to parade in Oakland during a memorial cortege in honor of the President who had died from gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin.\*\*\*

A few months later, Company G again honored the distinguished dead when they paraded at the funeral of Adjutant General W. H. Seamans, who had died in Washington, D. C., while there in the interests of the National Guard of California. General Seamans was buried in the George H. Thomas Post, Grand Army of the Republic plot at the Presidio in San Francisco. The Post also conducted the services of the Grand Army of the Republic, which were noted for their simplicity and impressiveness.\*\*\*\*

The closing paragraph of Company G as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, deals with the calling and entrance of the unit into the World War. On March 26, 1917, Governor William D. Stephens ordered the Second, Fifth and Seventh Infantry Regiments to assemble in the armories and begin recruiting for Federal service. The order proved to be the closing chapter of Company G, Fifth Infantry Regiment.\*\*\*\*\* For additional information, refer to Company G, 159th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division.

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\*San Francisco Chronicle, January 28, 1894, page 1, columns 1-9

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

\*\*\*Oakland Enquirer, September 19, 1901, page 2, columns 1-2-3.

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

\*\*\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 21.