

# **History of the Company H, 5th Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1895-1917**

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COMPANY H

Company H, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly Battery B, Second Artillery)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Napa, Napa County

Organized May 27, 1893

Reconstituted December 9, 1895\*

Redesignated May 11, 1907\*\*

Reconstituted and stationed San Francisco May 11, 1907\*\*\*

Redesignated April 21, 1909\*\*\*\*

Mustered in and stationed Hayward April 29, 1909\*\*\*\*\*

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 H, 159th Infantry Regiment, September 24, 1917+++++

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\*Company H, formerly Battery B, Second Artillery Regiment redesignated Company H, Eighth Battalion, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December 9, Company H, Eighth Battalion was designated Company H, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

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

\*\*Company H, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade was designated Company H, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, May 11, 1907. General and Special Orders and Circulars, 1907, General Order No. 10, paragraph 3.

\*\*\*Company B, First Battalion Coast Artillery was designated Company H, Fifth Infantry Regiment, May 11, 1907. Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 4.

\*\*\*\*Company H, Fifth Infantry Regiment was redesignated First Company Coast Artillery Corps, April 21, 1909.

General and Special Orders and Circulars 1909, General Order No. 9, paragraph 2.

\*\*\*\*\*A new company organized in Hayward and designated Company H, Fifth Infantry Regiment, April 29, 1909. General and Special Orders and Circulars 1909, General Order No. 14, paragraph 8.

+ Company H, 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 and Circulars 1916, General Order No. 34, page 150.

++++Company H, 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 H, Fifth Infantry Regiment redesignated Company H, 159th Infantry Regiment, September 24, 1917. Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 25.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Frank G. Easterby, Captain	Mar. 15, 1894*	Jan. 22, 1896
Herman H. Muller, First Lieut.	Mar. 15, 1894*	Jan. 22, 1896
F. W. Bush, Captain	July 1, 1896	Sept. 7, 1896
Harry L. Gunn, First Lieut.	July 1, 1896	Sept. 7, 1896
F. W. Bush, Captain (Re-elected July 1, 1898)	Dec. 9, 1915	Jan. 8, 1916
Harry L. Gunn, First Lieut. (Re-elected July 1, 1898)	Dec. 9, 1915	Jan. 8, 1916
F. W. Bush, Captain (Re-elected July 2, 1900)	Apr. 9, 1917	Apr. 9, 1917
Harry L. Gunn, First Lieut. (Re-elected July 2, 1900)		
F. W. Bush, Captain (Re-elected Sept. 22, 1902) (Retired Jan. 10, 1905)		
Harry L. Gunn, First Lieut. (Re-elected Sept. 22, 1902) (Term expired)		
George C. Gardner, First Lieut.	Oct. 3, 1904	Jan. 25, 1905
George C. Gardner, Captain	Mar. 25, 1905	Apr. 26, 1905
Chester C. Treadway, First Lieut.	Mar. 25, 1905	Apr. 26, 1905
Walter Scott Gratton, Captain (Re-elected June 12, 1905) (Promoted to Major Aug. 15, 1907)	June 8, 1903**	Aug. 7, 1905**
John Chas. Nagel, First Lieut.	Mar. 25, 1907**	Apr. 18, 1907**
John Chas. Nagel, Captain	Oct. 21, 1907	Nov. 23, 1907
James A. Davis, First Lieut. (Resigned Jan. 22, 1908)	Oct. 21, 1907	Nov. 23, 1907
William H. Mallett, First Lieut.	Feb. 10, 1908	Apr. 28, 1908
James J. Borree, Captain	Apr. 29, 1909	June 1, 1909
John Henry Holcombe, First Lieut. (Resigned Aug. 11, 1910)	Apr. 29, 1909	June 1, 1909
Henry A. Bradford, First Lieut.	Sept. 1, 1910	Sept. 21, 1910

\*Captain Frank G. Easterby and Lieutenant Herman H. Muller retained their rank dates of March 15, 1894, when they commanded Battery B, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade.

\*\*Captain Walter Scott Gratton and Lieutenant John Chas. Nagel retained their rank dates of June 8, 1903 and March 25, 1907; commission dates of Aug. 7, 1905 and April 18, 1907 respectively when they commanded Co. B, First Battalion Coast Artillery, Second Brigade.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Commanding Officers (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
James J. Borree, Captain (Re-elected Nov. 15, 1913) (Promoted to Major no date)	_____	_____
Harry A. Bradford, First Lieut. (Re-elected Nov. 15, 1913)	_____	_____
Harry A. Bradford, Captain (Resigned April 7, 1917)	Dec. 9, 1915	Jan. 8, 1916
A. H. Morris, First Lieut.	Dec. 9, 1915	Jan. 8, 1916
A. H. Morris, Captain	Apr. 9, 1917	Apr. 9, 1917
Lester E. Banker, First Lieut.	Apr. 9, 1917	Apr. 9, 1917

Activities:

Company H, Fifth Infantry Regiment was formed when the reorganization of the National Guard December 9, 1895, was consummated, and former Battery B, Second Artillery Regiment was redesignated Company H, Fifth Infantry Regiment. Company B of the Second Artillery was organized at Napa on May 27, 1893. The history of Company H consists of three different units, located in different localities. The first was stationed at Napa, the second at San Francisco and the third at Hayward.

Company H at Napa was practically a new company having been in existence about two years when assigned to the Fifth Infantry Regiment in 1895. The first encampment of Company H was a regimental one held at Santa Cruz and known as "Camp Shafter." A few comments by Major Charles Jansen, Inspector Second Brigade, are as follows: that although the drilling space was small, the minor tactics, battalion drills, etc., were splendidly carried out under the supervision of Captain Carrington, United States Army; that discipline was excellent and guard mount, reviews and dress parades were well executed. The Major also highly commended the commissary Sergeant for the efficient conduct of the commissary department. Another notation was the absence of tent decorations in camp and very few social activities, as earlier encampments had been criticized because of unnecessary decorations and excessive social functions, which were branded as detrimental to successful military camp life. Also the general behavior of the men in and out of camp was excellent, with no drunkenness whatever.\*

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\*Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, page 25.

Activities: (continued)

The next encampment Company H participated in with the Fifth Infantry Regiment was a Divisional Encampment held at Santa Cruz in June 1901. In 1902, June nineteenth to twenty-ninth at Ukiah, a second Regimental Encampment of the Fifth Infantry took place. The Regimental Encampments of the Fifth were devoted almost entirely to regimental and battalion movements. This was necessary because the nine units in the regiment were located in eight different cities and opportunity for regimental drills were very few. The camp held at Healdsburg in 1903, was the last regimental one attended by Company H, while stationed at Napa. The year 1904, witnessed the first joint United States Army and National Guard maneuvers. The camp was held at Atascadero, August twelfth to twenty-sixth and the intensive drill and requirements of camp life with the Regulars proved to be very severe on the members of the National Guard. Most of the men were from offices and clerical work, and not used to outdoor life without a little preliminary work in preparation for such arduous exercise. Colonel J. F. Hayes, Fifth Infantry Regiment expressed such views in his report to the Adjutant General, J. B. Lauck, on January 15, 1905.\*

Company H while stationed at Napa, was about average when on the target range. In 1896, three years after their organization, the unit had no first or second class marksmen and only thirteen third class.\*\* No other records are available regarding the target practice of Company H while stationed at Napa.

At the inspection of Company H in 1896, conducted by Major Chas. Jansen, Inspector Second Brigade, the following notations are taken: records excellent, finances none, company formed on time, formation good, men steady in ranks, manual by numbers poor, manual without numbers good, company drill good, platoon movement fair. A good company and well managed by the Captain. Company H was one of the weakest units in the Fifth in enrollment, having only fifty-four men in 1896.\*\*\* On June 30, 1902, Company H had increased the enrollment to sixty-seven men and was the largest unit in the regiment.\*\*\*\*

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\*Adjutant General Report 1905, page 63. Infantry Regiment, Second

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1896-1898, page 87.

\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, pages 157, 163.

\*\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, page 44. Regiment, Second

COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

On several occasions, Company H was called from Napa to San Francisco for parades in which the Fifth Infantry Regiment took part. Perhaps one of the most interesting was when the First California Volunteer Regiment returned to San Francisco, August 25, 1899, after more than a years service in the Philippine Islands during the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection.\*\* Another was on August 19, 1900, when Company H acted as escort at the funeral of Colonel Victor D. Duboce, commander of the First Infantry Regiment, California Volunteers in the Philippine Islands. In General Order No. 8, August 16, 1900, Adjutant General W. H. Seamans, closes a brief history of the Colonel's life with these words:

"His death, coming as a direct result of the arduous campaign in the tropics, is peculiarly sad, and his life was given for his country as truly as if he had met death facing the enemy's bullets."\*\*

A third call was the Fiftieth Anniversary celebration of the admission of California into the United States as a state. The Native Sons of the Golden West had charge of the parade and was a splendid affair.\*\*\* Most of the other parades of Company H were home-town affairs. A fair sample of the holiday exercises is revealed in the following item taken from one of the returns of Company H, May 1906:

"On Sunday May twenty-seventh, the company escorted Kit Carson Post, Grand Army of the Republic to the Baptist Church where memorial services were held. On May thirtieth, the company escorted Kit Carson Post, Grand Army of the Republic to the cemetery where services were held and the graves of members of the Grand Army of the Republic and Company H were strewn with flowers and flags placed upon them."

\*Muster-roll 1900, Company H, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, page 50.

\*\*\*Muster-roll 1900, Company H, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

On April 19, 1906, Company H was ordered to San Francisco for duty in preserving order and assisting the civil authorities in that city during the earthquake and fire. The company remained in San Francisco until May twenty-first, when the unit was returned home and dismissed.\*

On May 1, 1907, the location of Company H was changed from Napa to San Francisco. This was decided upon when Company H at Napa was transferred to the Second Infantry Regiment and redesignated Company H of that organization. On the same day, Company B, First Battalion of Coast Artillery, was transferred to the Fifth Infantry Regiment and redesignated Company H, Fifth Infantry Regiment. The new Company H was not a new company, having served the State and Nation for nearly twenty-eight years. The new unit was destined to be in the Fifth Infantry about two years.

Aside from the usual drills and holiday parades, Company H took part in a funeral parade held for Brigadier-General Hyman P. Bush on January 1, 1908. The unit also paraded twice during the visit of the Atlantic Fleet in 1908; the first in San Francisco on May seventh, and in Oakland on May ninth. On February nineteenth, a battalion exhibition was given in the Coliseum. Company H presented Guard Mount, and sixteen of its members presented a silent manual drill. In the athletic events at the celebration, Company H won all the events. On July third, fourth, and fifth, Company H was in Napa. The unit took part in the parade with Company H, Second Infantry Regiment. After camping and drilling some, on the third, fourth, and fifth, Company H returned to San Francisco on the evening of the fifth.

In 1908, the War Department at Washington, D. C., and the Adjutant General of the National Guard of California arranged for the formation of sixteen Coast Artillery Corps, fourteen to be in San Francisco and two at San Diego. Company H having been a unit in the First Battalion of Coast Artillery as one of the new corps. In accordance with General Order No. 9 on April 21, 1909. Company H was transferred to the Coast Artillery Corps as First Company. A new company was organized in Hayward and mustered into the National Guard and attached to the Fifth Infantry Regiment as

\*Adjutant General Report 1906, pages 10, 11.

COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Company H. The new Captain of Company H, James J. Borree, was destined to rapidly rise in the ranks of the National Guard to the highest office, that of Adjutant General on December 16, 1916.\* In October 1911, while still the commanding officer of Company H, Captain Borree received the distinction of being the first officer of the National Guard to receive a diploma from the Regular Army of Musketry.\*\*

Captain Borree's company entered the National Guard about the time that the Regular Army and State forces were being drawn together under the supervision of the War Department. The new company applied itself to task of drilling and practicing until it was among the best in the regiment.

Two over-night encampments were held in August 1907, one on the seventh, and the second on the twenty-eighth. These over-night company encampments by the various units of the Fifth Regiment, increased the efficiency of the companies in that regiment. The first large encampment participated in by Company H, was the joint Regular Army-National Guard maneuvers held in the territory between San Francisco and Salinas. Besides the joint maneuvers, there were camps of instruction for officers held at Monterey, May 13 to 23, 1912 and at Santa Cruz, July 6 to 16, 1913.\*\*\*

The first parade of Company H at Hayward, was on the thirty-first of May 1909 in conjunction with the Grand Army of the Republic. On October 14, 1911, Company H with the Fifth Infantry Regiment paraded in San Francisco when President William Howard Taft visited that city. A home-town parade and celebration in Hayward was held on March 29, 1913, and Company H paraded. The occasion was the annual Blossom Festival.

Company H was called upon to fight the brush fire that threatened to destroy the towns of Mill Valley and Ross Valley in early July 1913. The company was on duty for four days, July tenth to thirteenth, inclusive.\*\*\*\*

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\*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 7.

\*\*Oakland Tribune, October 21, 1911, page 4, column 4.

\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1910-1914, page 36.

\*\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1910-1914, page 44.

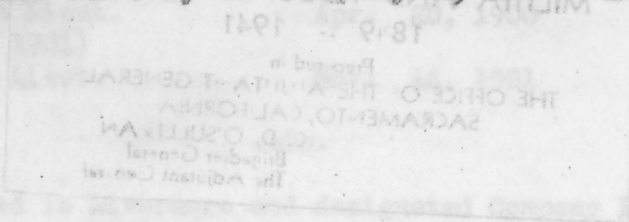


COMPANY H (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Their next call was during the Mexican Border trouble. On June 28, 1916, Company H entered the Federal service and was stationed at Nogales, Arizona until October 7, 1916, when they were mustered out of the Federal service and resumed duties in the National Guard.

About six months later, March 26, 1917, Company H as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, was called into the Federal service for duty during the World War. On entering the Federal service, Company H was redesignated Company H, 159th Infantry Regiment, September 24, 1917.\* For additional information concerning this unit, refer to the History of Company H, 159th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division.



Company H, Fifth Infantry Regiment, National Guard, organized at Sacramento, California, April 28, 1900.  
Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, Special Order No. 1, paragraph 26, page 97.  
General and Special Orders and Circulars 1916, General Order No. 16, page 122.  
Company H, as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, was mustered into Federal service for duty on the Mexican Border, June 28, 1916.  
General and Special Orders and Circulars 1916, General Order No. 21, page 112.  
Company H, 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.  
General and Special Orders and Circulars 1916, General Order No. 14, page 100.  
Company H, as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, was mustered into Federal service for duty during the World War April 7, 1917. History, 1917-1919, Organization, 1917-1919, page 115.  
Company H, as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, was mustered into Federal service for duty during the World War April 7, 1917. History, 1917-1919, Organization, 1917-1919, page 115.  
History, 1917-1919, Organization, 1917-1919, page 115.

\*Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 25.