

History of the Company I, 5th Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1900-1917

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COMPANY I

Company I, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Livermore, Alameda County

Organized and mustered in April 20, 1900*

Mustered out June 15, 1916**

Reorganized and mustered in June 21, 1916***

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

Commanding Officers

Name	Rank	Commission
Carl M. Warner, Captain	Apr. 20, 1900	June 18, 1900
John F. Summers, First Lieut. (Resigned Oct. 21, 1901)	Apr. 20, 1900	June 18, 1900
John R. Hunter, First Lieut.	Nov. 14, 1901	Jan. 24, 1902

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*A new company organized in Livermore and designated Company I, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, April 20, 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.

***A new company organized in Livermore and designated Company I, Fifth Infantry Regiment, June 21, 1916.

General and Special Orders and Circulars 1916, General Order No. 21, page 132.

****Company I, 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 Circulars 1916, General Order No. 34, page 150.

+++Company I, 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 I, and A, Fifth Infantry Regiment consolidated and designated Company A, 159th Infantry Regiment, September 24, 1917.

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

Activities:

Company I, Fifth Infantry Regiment was organized in Livermore and mustered into the National Guard on April 20, 1900. Its organization resulted from the desire of the Fifth Regiment to become a three battalion regiment under the provisions of the law then

COMPANY I (Continued)

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Joseph Oscar McKown, Captain (Re-elected Nov. 22, 1904) (Resigned July 31, 1905)	May 17, 1902	Aug. 29, 1902
Mike Schoenfeld, First Lieut. (Resigned Oct. 20, 1904)	Jan. 7, 1904	Mar. 2, 1904
Charles Wesley Beck, First Lieut. (Deceased Oct. 18, 1906)	Nov. 22, 1904	Mar. 28, 1904
Earl J. Inman, Captain (Resigned May 10, 1909)	Nov. 21, 1905	Dec. 26, 1905
Chester Young, First Lieut. (Re-elected April 29, 1909)	Nov. 27, 1906	Jan. 3, 1907
Chester Young, Captain (Resigned Sept. 12, 1911)	June 1, 1909	July 12, 1909
Newton Wesley Armstrong, First Lieut. (Resigned Oct. 27, 1910)	June 1, 1909	July 12, 1909
Ervin Valentine Waggoner, First Lieut. (Resigned Dec. 26, 1912)		
Louis John Nissen, Captain (Resigned Mar. 4, 1914)	Oct. 3, 1911	Nov. 6, 1911
Bruce Hinckley Painter, Captain (Resigned Mar. 10, 1915)	Mar. 24, 1914	April 27, 1914
Anthony Edward O'Donnell, First Lieut. (Resigned Sept. 22, 1915)	Jan. 14, 1913	Mar. 11, 1913
Carl J. Inman, Captain	Mar. 30, 1915	April 22, 1915
Henry Albert Mehrmann, First Lieut.	Feb. 14, 1916	April 14, 1916
Joseph Stephen Concannon, Captain (Resigned Sept. 7, 1916)	June 21, 1916	June 22, 1916
Henry Albert Mehrmann, First Lieut.	Feb. 14, 1916	June 22, 1916
Henry Albert Mehrmann, Captain	April 1, 1917	April 4, 1917
Chester Young, First Lieut.	April 1, 1917	April 4, 1917

Activities:

Company I, Fifth Infantry Regiment was organized in Livermore and mustered into the National Guard on April 20, 1900. Its organization resulted from the desire of the Fifth Regiment to become a three battalion regiment under the provisions of the law then

COMPANY I (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

pending in the Legislature and finally approved March 23, 1901.* Under this law all nine company regiments would be organized into three battalion regiments, while an eight company regiment would be organized into two battalions of four companies each.

The mustering in of Company I was delayed until finances permitted the addition of another company. The Board of Location and Organization met on March thirtieth at Divisional Headquarters and decided that if Company I would agree to accept an allowance of \$50.00 a month until more money was available, the unit could be mustered in and attached to the Fifth Infantry Regiment. The arrangement evidently was satisfactory for three weeks later April twentieth, they entered the National Guard. A lease on property on file in the Adjutant General's Office between P. H. McVicar as owner and Captain Carl M. Warner of Company I provided that a rental of \$25.00 a month would be paid for the use of a building for an Armory. Mr. McVicar agreed to repair and alter the building to meet the requirements of the military company. The unit then had \$25.00 allowance left for all other expenses. The citizens of Livermore wanted a company of the National Guard and they loyally supported the unit financially.

From the first annual muster roll and inspection report of November 30, 1900, seven months after entering the service, the following report was taken: Attendance, good; promptness, very good; discipline, good; military appearance, very good; condition of arms, good; condition of equipment, very good; condition of clothing, very good; condition of records, very good; company movements, good; manual of arms, fairly good; other exercises, good. The total average was 85.80 per cent. Captain Carl M. Warner, commanding Company I apparently had laid the foundation for a very efficient company in the National Guard. Captain Warner's regular vocation in life was that of a preacher and pastor in the Methodist Church at Livermore. The muster roll of May 30, 1902, showed an average general percentage of 86.60 per cent, a still further improvement. The first target practice report of Company I was for 1906 and shows 2 distinguished "Marksmen," 1 first-class "Rifleman" and 13 "Riflemen." In 1907 there were 7 distinguished "Marksmen," 6 first-class "Riflemen" and 14 "Riflemen." In the target report of 1915 there were only three men qualified for medals. It is no surprise that less than a year later Company I was mustered out for inefficiency. There are no comparative figures on target practice available.

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*Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, General Order No. 4, page 63.

COMPANY I (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The first parade that Company I took part in was on May 30, 1900, in Livermore as escort to the Grand Army of the Republic. On September tenth, of the same year in San Francisco a celebration commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Admission of California in the Union as a State was held. The main attraction was a civic and military parade that was no doubt the most successful pageant ever held in that city. The first division was entirely military, composed of regulars from the Presidio, sailors and marines from the battle-ships "Iowa" and "Philadelphia," and the First, Fifth and Sixth Regiments of Infantry National Guard of California marching with the National Guard was 800 State University Cadets. They marched well, and whenever a halt occurred in the line, they let out college yells that would have made an Apache die of envy. Following the military came the Pioneers of the Golden West and Native Sons of the Golden West, while various fraternal and social organizations brought up the rear.*

Another parade, very sad and sympathetic attended by Company I was the funeral of Colonel Victor D. Duboce on August 19, 1900. On May 12, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt's visit to San Francisco was the occasion for the parading of Company I. On August eighteenth of the same year Company I with the Fifth Infantry Regiment paraded in San Francisco during the encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic. Another of the many special parades in which Company I participated in was the one held in San Francisco when President William Howard Taft visited the city.

The first regular encampment attended by Company I was the Divisional held at Santa Cruz, June 14 to 23, 1901. In 1902 and 1903 regimental encampments were held at Ukiah and Healdsburg, respectively. In as much as the units of the Fifth Infantry were located in eight different cities it was not often that the entire regiment could get together for regimental tactics and drills. Therefore, the regimental encampments greatly improved the efficiency of the Fifth Infantry. In 1904 and 1908 Joint Army-National Guard encampments were held at Atascadero.

along the Mexican border. Company I was stationed near Nogales and was on patrol duty most of the time. On October seventh, Company I was mustered out of general service and returned to duty in the National Guard.

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*San Francisco Examiner, September 11, 1900, page 7, column 2,3,4.

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*Livermore Herald, September 30, 1911.

COMPANY I (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

In 1907 Company I with all other infantry regiments were assigned to Coast Defense exercises from July fifth to twentieth. Company I was stationed at Fort Baker as supports for the defense of the fort. The Artillery service was entirely new and novel to Company I and proved very interesting and helpful. A regimental encampment was held at Seabright near Santa Cruz from September 11 to 22, 1909. Then in 1912 a joint maneuver was participated in by Company I in the territory between San Francisco and Salinas from August twelfth to twenty-first. For the next few years Camps of Instruction for officers of various branches of the guard were held, and several company camps of overnight duration. In 1914 battalion encampments were ordered.

On June 15, 1916, Company I had fallen below the standard of efficiency required by the War Department at their inspection and was ordered mustered out of service. Once before in 1911 the membership of Company I was considerably below the number required of a National Guard unit and was fearful of being mustered out. The expiration of enlistments and removals from the community had caused a loss of approximately twenty-five men in eight months. Captain Chester Young had resigned several months before his resignation was acted upon by the Governor. On September 1911, the newspapermen and business men in Livermore attended a tamale supper given by Company I, and ways and means of saving the company for Livermore were discussed. One newspaper reported that no less than four towns had units already organized and waiting for some company to be mustered out so they could get in their place. Prizes ranging from \$25.00 down to \$5.00 cash were offered to the person securing the most new members. One enthusiastic barber of Livermore hung up a prize of two months free shaving. It was stated that at least twenty-five new enlistments would be necessary to save the company. Evidently the new members were obtained because Louis John Nisson was elected Captain on October 3, 1911, and the company continued on until June 15, 1916.*

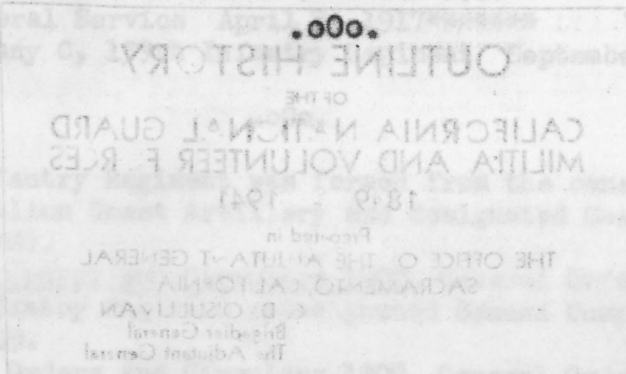
On June 21, 1916, a newly organized company was mustered in. One week later Company I as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal service for duty during the trouble along the Mexican Border. Company I was stationed near Nogales and was on patrol duty most of the time. On October seventh, Company I was mustered out of Federal service and returned to duty in the National Guard.

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*Livermore Herald, September 30, 1911.

Activities: (continued)

About six months later on March 26, 1917, Company I as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment was called into Federal service for duty during the World War.* Companies I and A, Fifth Infantry Regiment was consolidated and redesignated Company A, 159th Infantry Regiment September 24, 1917** For further information refer to Company I, 159th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division.



*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 21.

**Histories Military organization etc. File #314.7. Adjutant General Files.