

# **History of the Company K, 5th Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1907-1917**

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COMPANY K

Company K, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly Companies A and D, First Battalion Coast Artillery)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized May 11, 1907\*

Reconstituted April 21, 1909\*\*

Reorganized, mustered in and stationed Petaluma May 8, 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 C, 159th Infantry Regiment September 24, 1917\*\*\*\*\*

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\*Company K, Fifth Infantry Regiment was formed from the consolidation of Batteries A and D, First Battalion Coast Artillery and designated Company K, Fifth Infantry Regiment, May 11, 1907.

General and Special Orders and Circulars 1907, General Order No. 10.

\*\*Company K, Fifth Infantry Regiment redesignated Second Company Coast Artillery Corps, April 21, 1909.

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

\*\*\*A new company organized in Petaluma and designated Company K, Fifth Infantry Regiment, May 8, 1909.

General and Special Orders and Circulars 1909, General Order No. 14, paragraph 9, page 2.

\*\*\*\*Company K, as part of the Fifth Infantry, 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 Bulletins 1916, General Order No. 34, page 150.

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

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

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

COMPANY K (Continued)

<u>Commanding Officers</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>	
Charles Jacob Mund, Captain	May 28, 1907	June 24, 1907	
William Henry Homer, First Lieutenant	May 28, 1907	June 24, 1907	
Joshua Bates Dickson, Captain (reelected Nov. 15, 1913) (promoted to Major, June 26, 1916)	May 8, 1909	June 11, 1909	
James Calvin Pitts, First Lieut. (resigned Feb. 13, 1912)	May 8, 1909	June 11, 1909	
Roy Vestal Kopf, First Lieut. (resigned Oct. 8, 1914)	Mar. 18, 1912	Apr. 29, 1912	
Arthur Edward Matzen, First Lieutenant (resigned Nov. 17, 1915)	Oct. 26, 1914	Dec. 14, 1914	
Theodore Jarvis, First Lieut.	Dec. 15, 1915	Jan. 8, 1916	
Theodore Jarvis, Captain (resigned Mar. 24, 1917)	June 26, 1916	June 26, 1916	
Joseph O. Haran, Captain	Mar. 31, 1917	Mar. 31, 1917	
Frances Joseph O'Neill, First Lieutenant (resigned Nov. 29, 1916)	June 26, 1916	June 26, 1916	
Arthur E. Matzen, First Lieut.	Apr. 1, 1917	Apr. 4, 1917	

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**Activities:**

The history of Company K, Fifth Infantry Regiment began on May 11, 1907. The preamble of General Order No. 10 issued May, 1907, presents a good explanation to-wit: In order to comply with the Act of Congress approved January 21, 1903, commonly known as the Dick Militia Law, which requires, among other things, that, The organization, armament, and discipline of the organized militia in the several States and Territories and in the District of Columbia, shall be the same as that which is now or may hereafter be prescribed for the Regular or Volunteer Armies of the United States, within five years from the date of approval of this act, and for the best interest of the service, the following reorganization of the National Guard of California is directed, and will take effect May 11, 1907:

"First Companies A and D, First Battalion, Coast Artillery, will be consolidated and transferred to the Fifth Infantry Regiment, and will be known and designated thereafter as Company K, Fifth Infantry Regiment."\*

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\*General and Special Orders and Circulars 1907, General Order No. 10.

Activities: (continued)

Thirty-eight members of Company A, and thirty-three of Company D, entered the new organization of Company K. On May 28, 1907, Charles Jacob Mund was elected Captain and William Henry Homer, First Lieutenant of the new unit. Two days later on Decoration Day, Company K paraded at the Presidio in San Francisco and decorated graves of deceased members. The monthly returns indicate that Company K was in possession of a Gatling gun.

On February 13, 1908, the company participated in a Gatling gun drill, also again on February eighteenth. The next evening, February nineteenth, Company K took part in a battalion parade in the Coliseum Rink in San Francisco, and was reviewed by Brigadier-General J. W. Koster and Staff. Company K went on a two day encampment and adopted the following schedule:\*

February 22, 1908

- 7:00 A.M., Left armory
- 7:40 A.M., Reached Ferry
- 8:20 A.M., Entrained at Tiburon
- 10:00 A.M., Detrained at Petaluma. Marched to quarters at Dreamland Rink
- 12:00 Noon, Mess call
- 1:00 P.M., Left Petaluma for Roblar Rifle Range. Target practice 200, 300, 500 yards
- 5:30 P.M., Left Range
- 6:00 P.M., Mess call
- 6:45 P.M., Retreat
- 8:00 P.M., Drill in extended order with Gatling gun at rink
- 10:30 P.M., Tattoo
- 10:45 P.M., Call to Quarters
- 11:00 P.M., Taps

February 23, 1908

- 6:45 A.M., First call
- 6:50 A.M., Reveille
- 7:00 A.M., Assembly
- 7:15 A.M., Mess
- 8:00 A.M., Drill call
- 11:00 A.M., Advance and rear guard, out-post duty, recalls
- 12:00 Noon, Mess
- 3:45 P.M., Assembly
- 4:25 P.M., Entrain for San Francisco
- 7:00 P.M., Arrived at armory

On October 4 to 15, 1908, Company K, as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, attended the Joint Army and National Guard Maneuvers at

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\*Return of Company K, Fifth Infantry Regiment, February 1908.

COMPANY K (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Atascadero. The activities of Company K are given in detail on their Company Return of October 1908, as follows: \*

<u>October 4, 1908</u>		Proceeded with main body and took
5:30	P.M.,	Assembled at Armory
6:00	P.M.,	Left Armory
7:30	P.M.,	Entrained at Third and Townsend Depot
<u>October 5, 1908</u>		
7:40	A.M.,	Arrived at Atascadero Station
8:30	A.M.,	Marched to camp in heavy marching order, distance about one mile
9:30	A.M.,	Baggage arrived
10:50	A.M.,	Camp pitched
	P.M.,	Regular service call
<u>October 6, 1908</u>		
	A.M.,	Battalion drill
	P.M.,	Battalion advance and rear guard, distance marched about 3½ miles
<u>October 7, 1908</u>		
	A.M.,	Battalion drill, close and extended orders
	P.M.,	Outpost and reconnaissance. Company K made attack on defense, then took up position as defense, distanced marched about 5½ miles
<u>October 8, 1908</u>		
	A.M.,	Battalion and regimental drill
	P.M.,	Review in honor of Governor James N. Gillett
<u>October 9, 1908</u>		
	A.M.,	Battalion and regimental drill
	P.M.,	Normal attack and defense, distance marched about 4½ miles
11:20	P.M.,	Night fire call
11:35	P.M.	Recall
<u>October 10, 1908</u>		
3:30	A.M.,	Call to arms. Advance about one mile and formed part of reserves.
6:00	A.M.,	Recall
9:45	A.M.,	Inspection
	P.M.,	Battalion and regimental drill
<u>October 11, 1908</u>		
	P.M.,	Sunday dress parade
<u>October 12, 1908</u>		
	A.M.,	Instruction in entrenchments
2:30	P.M.,	Left camp in heavy marching order. Marched about 4 miles, regiment took position. Company K formed part of outpost with Blue Army, returned to main body.

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\*Company Return of Company K, Fifth Infantry Regiment, October 1908

COMPANY K (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

October 13, 1908

Proceeded with main body and took up position along Atascadero Creek

October 14, 1908

12:30 A.M., Returned to camp  
1:00 P.M., Broke camp  
2:30 P.M., Assembled  
6:10 P.M., Entrained at Atascadero  
6:40 A.M., Arrived in San Francisco

October 15, 1908

8:20 A.M., Arrived at Armory and dismissed

The above schedule appears very complete and affords a good account of the activities of Company K at the Encampment of 1908.

The following year, Company K attended an encampment of the Fifth Infantry Regiment at Seabright, from September eleventh to twenty-second. Their next encampment was a Joint Army-National Guard Maneuver held in the territory between Salinas and San Francisco from August 11 to 21, 1912.

Company K boasted of several crack shots at rifle practice, although the company as a unit at target practice was only average. In 1910, Roy V. Kopf was one of the members of the California team to go to Ohio for the annual rifle shoot.\* In 1913, First Lieutenant Kopf and Sergeant James A. O'Rourke were members of the State team that went east to the National Shoot.\*\* In 1915, Corporal Joseph O. Harn won first prize in the State Shoot in the Adjutant-General's Match.\*\*\*

A careful study of the annual Muster-rolls and Inspection of Company K, reveals that at no time was their military appearance, discipline, instruction, arms and other property and equipment otherwise than good or excellent. Sometimes their attendance and membership was not what it should have been.

\*General and Special Orders and Circulars 1910, General Order No. 16.

\*\*General and Special Orders and Circulars 1913, General Order No. 13.

\*\*\*General and Special Orders and Circulars 1915, General Order No. 27,

COMPANY K (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

On June 27, 1908, Company K was given a so called efficiency test. At six o'clock that evening, Company K was ordered to assemble at their armory fully equipped for field service. By means of the squad system, whereby the company is divided into small squads under a leader, who has addresses, telephone numbers or other means whereby he can quickly notify his squad members to report at the armory for duty, all members of Company K received their notice. By 7:30 P.M., most of the members were at the armory. At nine o'clock, they left the armory, marched three miles, and went into shelter tent camp at Hunters Point, San Francisco, where running guard was maintained for sixteen hours. Next day on June twenty-eighth, the company held a guard mount of the entire company, also advance guard, extended order, and battalion drills.

It should be borne in mind that Company K was stationed in San Francisco for about two years or until May 8, 1909, when the unit was transferred to the newly organized Coast Artillery Corps as Second Company. A new company was organized at Petaluma and mustered in as Company K. This new company proved to be composed of splendid material. In 1910, one year after being mustered in, two of its members had qualified as two of the teams of fifteen men on the State Rifle Team.

In November 1911, Company K received new rules for the National Guard. Among the new rules were signals given by whistle instead of verbal. Also changes in platoon formation and the abolishing of the old blanket roll to be replaced by a new pack. A few months later, Company K received a large consignment of equipment consisting of tents, stakes, ranges, picks and all other necessary utensils for use in the field. The consignment completed the full equipment of Company K for field emergency of any kind.\*

Among the special parades that Company K, as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment participated in, were two held on May 7 and 9, 1908, when the Atlantic Fleet visited San Francisco. The first one was held in San Francisco on the seventh, and was one

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\*Petaluma Courier, November 21, 1911. 1. column 2.

Activities: (continued)

of the largest military parades ever held in that city. The second parade was held in Oakland on the ninth, and also was among the city's largest military celebrations. On the thirtieth of May, the unit acted as part of the escort to the Grand Army of the Republic, Spanish-American War Veterans, and a few of the Mexican War Veterans at the Presidio. The annual parade of the National Guard of California as escorts to the veterans of past wars, exemplified a beautiful spirit of loyalty to the heroes of by-gone days on the part of the Guardsmen.

The next special parade by Company K was when President William Howard Taft visited San Francisco on October 14, 1911. From the press of Petaluma paper, the following lines are taken:\*

"Company K of this city, did itself proud on Saturday in San Francisco, by turning out the largest company of the regiment and winning the praise and commendation of the Regimental Officers and also of the National Guard of the State. The company, in recognition of its large attendance and splendid appearance, was given the right of line and led all the other companies of the regiment in the parade and past the reviewing stand of the President. Of course the boys feel proud and it has stirred them to further efforts."

The article continued by asking the Petalumans how they liked that news, and if they didn't think it worth while to help the company by letting the boys have leave from their work so as to perform their obligations as members of the National Guard?\* The above sentence refers back to July 4 to 20, 1907, when Company C was mustered out of service for failing to report and take part in the Joint Army Militia Coast Defense Maneuvers. Employers of many members of Company C refused to allow the men two weeks off for the maneuvers. Many had to choose between obeying the order to attend camp or lose their positions. The result was that no officer or member of Company C attended, and two months later, Company C was mustered out.

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\*Argus Petaluma, October 16, 1911, page 5, column 2.



COMPANY K (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Frequently, the Fourth of July parades are formal affairs, but occasionally the units are called upon to assist in parades and celebrations. Such a time was July Fourth 1913, in Petaluma. The holiday was celebrated on a scale that surpassed all previous occasions, honoring the Independence of our country. There was a large parade in which nearly all the fraternal organizations of Petaluma and surrounding towns took part. Many of the fraternal units paraded drill teams, while others entered beautiful floats. In the first division of the parade was Company K, the pride of Petaluma, enjoying the hearty support of not only their employers, but the citizens as a whole.

On Monday, May 31, 1915, Petaluma celebrated the laying of the corner-stone for the new High School Building. In a parade preceding the laying of the corner-stone, Company K, with fraternal organizations of uniformed and drilled teams, marched through the streets of the city, then out to the High School grounds. One of the numbers on the dedicatory program was especially beautiful and impressive. Mrs. M. J. Hickey, on behalf of the Grand Army of the Republic, presented a beautiful American flag that measured 25 x 15 feet, to the school. The flag was raised on the building site, and as it unfurled in the gentle breeze, the Choral Society led in singing, "The Star Spangled Banner."\*

On July Fourth 1915, the city of Oakland arranged a celebration that eclipsed all previous celebrations. They even succeeded in having the entire Fifth Infantry Regiment there to assist them. Likewise, there were two battalions of United States Infantry, and some Marines from the Yerba Buena Island. In this parade, Company K and all units of the regiment made a splendid showing. The Regulars and Marines led the Parade, followed by Battery B, National Guard of California. Next in line came the Grand Army of the Republic. The Fifth Infantry Regiment Band headed the Fifth in the parade. Next came carriages, followed by the Spanish-American War Veterans, and more carriages brought up the rear.\*\*

\*Petaluma Courier, June 2, 1915, page 1, column 1.

\*\*Oakland Tribune, July 5, 1915, page 1, column 3.

COMPANY K (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

In the early part of 1912, the editor of the Sonoma County Leader, a weekly newspaper, undertook to berate the National Guard, especially Company K, of Petaluma, by printing attacks against that organization that were described by Adjutant-General E. A. Forbes as treasonous. Captain J. B. Dickson, Captain of Company K, clipped some of the most damaging articles from the Leader and forwarded them to Adjutant-General Forbes, who then decided to send them on to the War Department in Washington, D.C., as treasonable. What action the War Department decided upon was not made known. Adjutant-General Forbes wrote the following letter to Captain Dickson:

"Your letter of January 27, 1912, enclosing the treasonable articles of the editor of the Sonoma County Leader, arrived through channels. I am obliged to you for the information. You have my permission to go after this traitor in any lawful manner that you may see fit to stop his treason. The editor shows himself to be devoid of any patriotism. Any man that attacks one of the most important institutions of our country, with a view of undermining the defense of the flag, is a traitor and is unfit to be a citizen and violates his oath, which everyone actually or impliedly takes, to support the Constitution of the United States. This man is apparently willing to claim the protection of the laws of this great country for his selfish purposes while at the sametime, he stabs its most patriotic institution in the back. He is willing to attack the patriotic young men who offer, without remuneration, their lives to support the flag of their country, and to protect this editor's ungrateful self and his wife and babes, if he has any, from violence and harm in time of war or public danger. His writings show him to be an 'undesirable citizen.' He should be deported for treason.

The militia is as ancient and honorable as this republic. George Washington created it, commanded it, and fought with it. To the militia may be laid the blessings of liberty, which all good citizens enjoy in this free country and which this contemptible, unpatriotic being abuses. It was the militia that fought the Battles of Bunker Hill and Lexington, and fought the battles of the American Revolution. The Tories of the editor of the Leader stripe beat it for Canada. It was Andrew Jackson, then Adjutant-General of Tennessee, and his Tennessee Militia, principally, that went down to New Orleans and

Activities: (continued)

gained the great victory of the War of 1812. The Militia has ever been, and is now, the defender of the Republic. Neither does the editor of the Leader hesitate to lie. He states that enlistments in the National Guard are falling off. This is an absolute lie. The records of this office show that the enlistments increased several hundred during the year just closed.

The rantings of this depraved creature about the militia being called upon to shoot their fellow men are not borne out by history. The militia of this State has only been called out twice in over thirty years in labor troubles. First in 1894, during the railroad strike at Sacramento, where the militia shot no one, but were unmilitary mild to avoid hurting the strikers, that it was severely criticized. The strikers, however, ditched a train and killed the engineer and fireman, two working men, and several United States soldiers that were guarding them. And in the McCloud strike, where a riotous band of fifteen hundred excited and enraged foreigners, over a wage question had taken possession of the town of McCloud and turned out the lights, got beyond the control of the Sheriff, and appeals were made to save the women, children and property of the town from destruction. Not a shot was fired. Some force was used on one striker. He was not seriously hurt. Peace was restored and order maintained. Was this not better than to let the riot run until innocent people were slain?

There is no reason why any working men or union men should not belong to the National Guard and in fact many of our best officers and men belong to and in some cases are officers in labor unions. They are good patriotic citizens and good soldiers and good union men, ready to answer their country call and ready to resist wanton violence and cruel destruction of life and property. This record compares favorably with the idols of your local editor. These idols took the innocent lives of twenty-three working people in Los Angeles with dynamite. No union man and no working men need fear the militia unless he contemplates violence and lawlessness and murder, in which event the true union man who is interested in the legitimate purpose of bettering the conditions of the working man, would assist the militia in preventing the crime.

\*Argus Petaluma, February 15, 1911.

Activities: (continued)

While this editor is beneath the notice of decent men, yet treason cannot go unnoticed and I shall forward your letter and enclosure to higher authority for such action as may be deemed necessary. Keep right on your good work, so that in case of invasion or public danger, patriotic old Petaluma, as she has done before, may send to the front a first class company whose members will know enough not to be killed off like fool hens because of their lack of preliminary training, but who will give a good account of themselves, even in the protection of miserable treasonable creatures. Patriotism is not dead in old Sonoma, even if there does exist there a treasonable canker sore like the Sonoma Leader. Treason has always met its own reward and I see no reason for a change of the result in this case.\*\*

About a month later, March 19, 1912, Company K was inspected and made a very creditable showing considering the recent changes made in the rules of the National Guard. Adjutant-General Forbes was present at the inspection which was held in the skating rink and the public invited to watch the drill and listen to a few remarks by General Forbes. No doubt the recent letter of the General to Captain Dickson which was published in most of the leading papers, created a desire to see and hear the General. At any rate, a good crowd assembled and General Forbes began his talk. He praised the Petaluma boys for their grand showing and complimented the city for having so patriotic body of young men. He dwelt on militarism in other countries where strict military discipline was held, to those where discipline is slack and socialism and anarchism is rampant. During the course of his remarks he spoke of having been challenged to a debate by the editor of a socialist "red rag," but declined, saying that he would as soon debate with Benidict Arnold, as he.

In replying to some of the paper's attacks upon himself and the National Guard, the General said that the author was a traitor. Editor Boyd of that paper was in the house, and when this charge was made, he stood up and called the General "a liar and a dirty coward." He would have perhaps said more, but before he had a chance, many hands were out stretched to avenge the insult, and had not officers of the militia interfered, he probably would have

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\*Argus Petaluma, February 15, 1912.

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Activities: (continued)

received some very rough treatment. Colonel David A. Smith, of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, succeeded in quieting the infuriated spectators and to lead Boyd from the hall. General Forbes continued his address and the close, a dance was in order and continued until about one o'clock.

This practically closed the controversy, but in a little over a year, Company K proved the real value and purpose of the National Guard, when a fire on Mt. Tamalpias got beyond control and after calling out the soldiers and sailors around the San Francisco area and several hundred citizens, a call for the Fifth Infantry Regiment was issued and the regiment did valiant work for four days before the fire was under control.\*

Their next service was during the trouble along the Mexican Border in 1916. On June twenty-eighth, Company K, as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment was mustered into the Federal service and was stationed at Nogales, Arizona until October, when they were returned to Petaluma and dismissed on October 7, 1916.\*\*

They were not destined to remain in private life very long, for on March 26, 1917, Company K, with the Fifth Infantry Regiment was called to service by the President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson. They were assigned to guard duty in the States, guarding bridges, tunnels, and plants that were making munitions and war supplies. In September, the regiment was ordered to Camp Kearny, Linda Vista, California. Companies K and C, Fifth Infantry Regiment was consolidated September 24, 1917 and designated Company C, 159th Infantry Regiment. For additional information concerning this unit refer to History of Company K, 159th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division.

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\*For additional information concerning the fire of Mt. Tamalpias, 1913, refer to the History of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

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

\*\*\*Histories, Military organizations etc. File # 314.7, Adjutant General Files.