

# **History of the Machine Gun Company, 5th Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1915-1917**

This history was completed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in conjunction with the California National Guard and the California State Library.

Digitized by the History Office, Camp San Luis Obispo, 6 January 2015

MACHINE GUN COMPANY \*

Machine Gun Company, Fifth Infantry Regiment, California National Guard

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Mustered in December 28, 1915\*

Mustered into Federal Service June 28, 1916\*\*

Mustered out of Federal Service October 7, 1916\*\*\*

Resumption of Service in National Guard 1916\*\*\*\*

Mustered into Federal Service April 7, 1917\*\*\*\*\*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Frederick A. Marriott, Captain	May 19, 1909	June 10, 1914
Walter A. Scott, First Lieutenant	Sept. 15, 1916	Sept. 18, 1916

.oOo.

\*Machine Gun Company, Fifth Infantry Regiment organized and mustered in December 28, 1915.

General and Special Orders and Bulletins, 1916, General Order No. 2, page 12.

\*\*Machine Gun Company, Fifth Infantry Regiment mustered into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican Border June 28, 1916.

Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 18.

\*\*\*Machine Gun Company, Fifth Infantry Regiment mustered out of Federal Service October 7, 1916.

Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 18.

\*\*\*\*General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, General Order No. 34, page 150.

General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1917, General Order No. 1, page 5.

\*\*\*\*\*Machine Gun Company, Fifth Infantry Regiment mustered into Federal Service April 7, 1917.

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

## Activities

Due to the extraordinary extent to which the European War had emphasized the importance of the machine-gun as an agency for the delivery of fire in action, the policy of the War Department during the latter part of 1915 was to encourage the organization of machine-gun units in the National Guard whenever a reasonable prospect was afforded of successful maintenance. The organization of these units was at first as provisional companies, due to the fact they had not as yet been sanctioned by Federal law. Under the then existing regulations, when machine-gun units were formed and reported as meeting standard requirements, equipment was issued as a charge against the \$400,000 annually set aside by the Secretary of War, under Section 13 of the Militia Law, for the purpose of equipping new organizations.

On November 30, 1915, Major Ralph J. Faneuf, First Battalion Field Artillery was detailed to enlist the necessary number of persons for a machine-gun company, of the National Guard of California, to be known and designated as "Machine-Gun Company, Fifth Infantry Regiment, California National Guard," stationed in San Francisco, San Francisco county, California.

Major Faneuf was instructed to forward enlistment papers (in duplicate) to the commanding officer of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, who was officially informed by the office of the Adjutant General that the enlistment had been accepted.\* As a result of this order Machine-Gun Company, Fifth Infantry was organized and mustered into the service of the National Guard of California on December 28, 1915, as a provisional unit and enlisted members were transferred to standard companies of the battalion.\*\*

In the organization of provisional machine-gun companies a requirement of the table of organization was that the regimental commissary should take command, due to the fact that in the consolidation of the quartermaster and subsistence departments the regimental commissary was practically a supernumerary officer. Under that ruling, Captain Frederick A. Marriott was assigned to command the Machine-Gun unit.

About six months after the Machine-Gun Company, Fifth Infantry Regiment was organized they were called into Federal Service. On June 26, 1916, this unit entrained at Oakland, California, enroute to the mobilization camp at Sacramento, arriving there the same day. Lieutenant Walter A. Scott was in charge of the Company from Oakland to Sacramento. Captain Frederick A. Marriott, who was in command of the Machine-Gun Company, made the trip by automobile and was awaiting the arrival of his men, who proceeded by train.

.cOo.

\*General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1915, Special Order No. 28, Page 5.

\*\*General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, General Order No. 2, page 12.

## Activities

After the arrival of the Company in Sacramento, they were busy preparing for the trip to the Mexican border. On June 28, 1916, the Machine-Gun Company was mustered into the Federal Service at Sacramento, California.

On July 3, 1916, at 5:15 p.m., the Machine-Gun Company entrained at Sacramento for Nogales, Arizona, arriving there at 10:00 p.m. July 5, 1916, and established camp one and one half miles from the city. The distance traveled from Sacramento to Nogales, Arizona was one thousand, one hundred and seventy-one miles. The Unit arrived at Nogales in excellent condition.

The Machine-Gun Company remained on the Mexican border from July Fifth to September First, and during that time performed guard and garrison duty. The Company was inspected by Lieutenant M. G. Farris, United States Army, who was Inspector-Instructor for the Fifth Infantry Regiment, and the result of the inspection justified the citizens of San Francisco in feeling proud of the organization. The highest commendation accorded to any of the fourteen companies in the regiment went to the Machine-Gun Company, which was the only company of the Fifth Infantry supplied by San Francisco. "All the companies in the regiment made a good showing," said Lieutenant Farris, "but the Machine-Gun Unit was the prize company, and no machine-gun company in the Regular Army would make a better showing."

The unit entrained at Nogales, Arizona, 8:50 p.m., September 1, 1916; arrived at Sacramento, California at 9:10 p.m., September Third. They established camp at McKinley Park, in Sacramento. The distance traveled on the return trip was one thousand, one hundred and seventy-one miles. Only routine camp and garrison duties were performed from the time of the arrival of the Machine-Gun Company in Sacramento, until the Organization was mustered out of the Federal Service, October 7, 1916.

Under a provision of the National Defense Act of June 3, 1916, Machine-Gun Company, Fifth Infantry Regiment was changed from a provisional to a permanent organization. Armory drills, instructions, and target practice were carried on in addition to the work of reorganizing the Company under the National Defense Act until April 8, 1917, when the Organization was mustered into the Federal Service to serve in the World War.