

# **History of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1885-1917**

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, 2 January 2015

Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade

Reference: Adjutant General's Office

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized August 1, 1885\*

Mustered into Federal service July 6, 1898\*\*

Mustered out of Federal service February 6, 1899\*\*\*

Reorganized as Fifth Infantry Regiment July 5, 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 September 24, 1917+++++

.oOo.

\*Fifth Infantry Battalion redesignated Fifth Infantry Regiment, August 1, 1885. Special Order No. 44 issued July 30, 1885. Headquarter Papers, Fifth Infantry Regiment. Adjutant General's Office.

\*\*Fifth Infantry Regiment mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War as part of Eighth Infantry Regiment, July 6, 1898. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 6.

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

\*\*\*\*Fifth Infantry Regiment, formerly part of Eighth Infantry Regiment, reentered the National Guard as the Fifth Infantry Regiment, July 5, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 7, par. 6, page 64.

+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 Bulletins 1916, General Order No. 34, page 150.

++++Fifth Infantry Regiment mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War April 7, 1917. History 159th Infantry Regiment, C.N.G. File 314.7. Adjutant General's Office.

\*\*\*\*\*Fifth Infantry Regiment redesignated 159th Infantry Regiment September 24, 1917. Histories, Military Organizations etc. File #314.7 Adjutant General's Office.

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Horace D. Ranlett, Colonel (retired Jan. 10, 1887)	Aug. 4, 1885	Aug. 5, 1885
James M. Donahue, Lieut. Colonel	Aug. 4, 1885	Aug. 5, 1885
Thomas J. Parsons, Major (retired Aug. 7, 1885)	Oct. 15, 1883	Dec. 3, 1883*
Carleton C. Coleman, Major	Sept. 12, 1885	Sept. 19, 1885
Carleton C. Coleman, Captain (promoted to Adjutant Major Sept. 12, 1885)	Aug. 5, 1885	Aug. 13, 1885
Webb N. Pierce, Captain Adjutant (resigned July 16, 1886)	Sept. 30, 1885	Sept. 30, 1885
Edward W. Coleman, Captain Adj.	July 16, 1886	July 16, 1886
William Simpson, Major Surgeon (retired Apr. 26, 1886)	Mar. 3, 1882	Mar. 11, 1882*
Frank P. Gunn, Major Surgeon	Apr. 26, 1886	Apr. 26, 1886
James M. Donahue, Colonel (deceased March 1890)	Nov. 26, 1887	Feb. 3, 1888
Carleton C. Coleman, Lieutenant (resigned Aug. 31, Colonel 1889)	Nov. 26, 1887	Feb. 6, 1888
R. B. Fairbanks, Lieut. Colonel	Oct. 26, 1889	Nov. 29, 1889
R. B. Fairbanks, Major (promoted Lieut. Colonel)	Nov. 26, 1887	Feb. 8, 1888
Albert K. Whitton, Major	Oct. 26, 1889	Dec. 4, 1889
Frank H. Swett, Captain Adjutant (resigned May 2, 1890)	Mar. 22, 1887	Apr. 6, 1887
Dolphus B. Fairbanks, Colonel (reelected May 23, 1894)	Apr. 26, 1890	June 4, 1890
Albert K. Whitton, Lieut. Colonel (reelected May 23, 1894)	Apr. 26, 1890	June 4, 1890

.oOo.

\*Major Parsons retained his rank and commission dates of October 15, 1883 and December 3, 1883, respectively, when he was commanding officer in the Fifth Infantry Battalion, Second Brigade.

\*\*Major and Surgeon Simpson retained his rank and commission dates of March 3, 1882 and March 11, 1882, respectively, when he was surgeon in the Fifth Infantry Battalion, Second Brigade.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers</u> (cont.)	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Frank R. O'Brien, Major (term expired)		Apr. 26, 1890	June 5, 1890
John F. Hayes, Major		May 23, 1894	June 11, 1894
David A. Smith, Captain Adjutant		June 1, 1891	June 11, 1891
James P. Dunn, Major Surgeon		May 17, 1893	May 18, 1893
Dolphus B. Fairbanks, Colonel (retired July 8, 1898)		Apr. 26, 1890	Jan. 4, 1896
Albert K. Whitton, Lieut. Colonel (continued in office)			
John T. Hayes, Major		May 23, 1894	Apr. 4, 1896
L. W. Juilliard, Major (reelected June 29, 1900)		Sept. 16, 1893	Mar. 27, 1896
David A. Smith, Captain Adjutant (reelected May 3, 1901)		June 1, 1891	Mar. 27, 1896
James P. Dunn, Major Surgeon		May 17, 1893	Nov. 22, 1897
Albert K. Whitten, Colonel (resigned Dec. 22, 1902)		July 3, 1899	Aug. 14, 1899
John F. Hayes, Lieut. Colonel (promoted Colonel Jan. 17, 1903)		July 3, 1899	Aug. 14, 1899
William Elliott, Major (discharged)		July 3, 1899	Aug. 14, 1899
Charles T. Poulter, Major (reelected Feb. 24, 1904) (retired Feb. 15, 1905)		Feb. 21, 1900	Apr. 6, 1900
James A. Margo, Captain Adjutant (retired Dec. 6, 1906)		May 31, 1901	June 7, 1901
John Ferdinand Hayes, Colonel (retired May 8, 1906)		Jan. 17, 1903	Mar. 30, 1903
Louis Wm. Juilliard, Lieut. (retired Mar. 18, 1907) Colonel		Jan. 17, 1903	Mar. 30, 1903
Edwin G. Hunt, Major		May 20, 1905	Aug. 12, 1905
Charles E. Haven, Major (retired June 13, 1907)		Jan. 17, 1903	Mar. 30, 1903
David A. Smith, Major (reelected May 20, 1905)		May 11, 1901	May 31, 1901
David Albert Smith, Colonel (reelected Apr. 19, 1909)		June 30, 1906	Aug. 30, 1906
Edward Goddard Hunt, Lieutenant (reelected Apr. 19, 1909) Colonel		Apr. 18, 1907	Sept. 23, 1907
Walter Scott Grattan, Major (retired Sept. 18, 1908)		Aug. 18, 1907	Sept. 23, 1907



<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Henry George Mathewson, Major (transferred to Coast Artillery Corps, Apr. 2, 1909)	Sept. 27, 1908	Oct. 1, 1908
George H. Wethern, Major	July 25, 1909	Aug. 13, 1909
Milton Wm. Simpson, Major (reelected Apr. 19, 1909) (deceased Apr. 30, 1911)	June 30, 1906	Sept. 26, 1906
George Loraine Holtum, Major (reelected Apr. 19, 1909)	Aug. 18, 1907	Sept. 23, 1907
Henry George Mathewson, Captain (promoted to Adjutant Major, Sept. 27, 1908) (deceased Nov. 26, 1912)	June 21, 1907	June 29, 1907
Ralph J. Faneuf, Captain Adjutant	Mar. 27, 1909	Apr. 26, 1909
David Albert Smith, Colonel (retired Jan. 13, 1916)	June 30, 1906	Oct. 15, 1913
Edwin G. Hunt, Lieut. Colonel (promoted to Colonel, Jan. 30, 1916)	Aug. 18, 1907	Oct. 15, 1913
George H. Wethern, Major (promoted to Lieut. Colonel Jan. 30, 1916)	July 25, 1909	Oct. 15, 1903
Leon C. Francis, Major (reelected July 11, 1915)	July 9, 1911	Aug. 9, 1911
Leonard M. Farrell, Major	Feb. 2, 1913	Mar. 11, 1913
Arthur C. Jenney, Captain Adj. (resigned Aug. 10, 1916)	Nov. 25, 1913	Dec. 22, 1913
Edward G. Hunt, Colonel (retired July 27, 1916)	Jan. 30, 1916	Feb. 18, 1916
Wilson B. Burt, Colonel	July 29, 1916	July 29, 1916
George H. Wethern, Lieut. Colonel (retired May 15, 1916)	Jan. 30, 1916	Mar. 27, 1916
Leon C. Chapman, Lieut. Colonel	June 26, 1916	June 26, 1916
Lawrence S. O'Toole, Major	Jan. 30, 1916	Apr. 8, 1916
Joshua B. Dickson, Major	June 26, 1916	June 26, 1916
William K. Carswell, Captain Adjutant	Sept. 5, 1916	Sept. 5, 1916
Leon C. Francis, Colonel (honorably discharged Aug. 3, 1917)	Apr. 3, 1917	Apr. 3, 1917
Leonard M. Farrell, Lieut. Colonel	Apr. 3, 1917	Apr. 3, 1917
Frederick A. Marriott, Major (honorably discharged Aug. 3, 1917)	Apr. 9, 1917	Apr. 9, 1917

## Activities: (continued)

The Fifth Infantry Regiment was organized when in accordance with General Order No. 18 issued July 22, 1885, the Oakland Light Cavalry was reorganized as an infantry company and attached to the Fifth Infantry Battalion as Company F. With the addition of Company F, making six companies in the organization, the Fifth Battalion of Infantry was increased to a regiment. Special Order No. 44 officially recognized the organization as the Fifth Infantry Regiment on and after August 1, 1885. Lieutenant-Colonel Horace D. Ranlett of the Fifth Battalion was promoted to Colonel of the new regiment. James M. Donahue succeeded Ranlett as Lieutenant-Colonel and Thomas J. Parsons, Major in the battalion, continued as such in the new regimental organization.

The regiment consisted of the original six units until June 1, 1893, when a new company was organized at Alameda and mustered in as Company G. In the reorganization of the National Guard in December 1895, former Battery B, Second Artillery Regiment, which was organized in Napa on May 27, 1893, was added to the Fifth Infantry Regiment and designated Company H. Seven years passed before another change was made. On April 20, 1900, a new company was organized in Livermore and mustered in as Company I, Fifth Infantry Regiment. Seven more years elapsed before another change occurred. On May 11, 1907, the regiment was increased to twelve companies when three more units were added to the Fifth. Companies A and D, First Battalion Coast Artillery were consolidated and designated Company K; Company C, First Battalion Coast Artillery became Company L; and Companies E and F, First Infantry Regiment were consolidated and formed Company M of the Fifth Infantry Regiment. / On the same day May eleventh, Company H of the Fifth Infantry was transferred to the Second Infantry and Battery B, First Battalion Coast Artillery reconstituted as Company H, Fifth Infantry Regiment.

The next change in the formation of the Fifth took place on September 30, 1907, when Company C stationed at Petaluma was mustered out because of disobedience of orders and lack of support by the citizens of Petaluma. The lack of support on the part of citizens was caused by many of the employers of members of Company C refusing to permit them leave of absence in order to participate in the Joint Army-Militia Coast Defense exercises of July 5 to 20, 1907. A new company was organized in Berkeley and on December 3, 1907 was mustered in as Company C, Fifth Infantry Regiment.

Activities: (continued)

On April 14, 1909, the Second Brigade ceased to exist in accordance with the operation of United States Militia Law and act of the State Legislature of March 22, 1909. Accordingly, the Fifth Regiment of Infantry, Second Brigade became the Fifth Infantry Regiment, First Brigade on that date. Following this reorganization, the next change in the Fifth occurred on April 21, 1909, when Companies H, K, L, and M, were transferred to the Coast Artillery Corps as First, Second, Third, and Fourth Companies. The four companies were replaced with four new organizations as follows; Company H at Haywards, April twenty-ninth; Company K at Petaluma, May eighth; Company L at Palo Alto, May nineteenth; and Company M at San Jose on May fifteenth.

The only other change in the Fifth Infantry was when Company I located in Livermore, was mustered out on June 15, 1916, for having fallen below the standard of efficiency required by the War Department. Six days later, the unit was reorganized and mustered in again. That change was the last one to take place before the Fifth Infantry finally entered the World War as the 159th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division. The table on the following page indicates the changes made in the Fifth Infantry Regiment during its existence.

The Fifth Infantry Regiment was threatened with disruption in October 1887. Companies A and F, of Oakland, and Company B, of San Jose, adopted resolutions requesting that the regiment be reorganized into battalions. The reasons given for making the request was that the headquarters were located in San Francisco, although no company was stationed in that city; the companies in the regiment were located over a large area of the State and were subject to orders from San Francisco, frequently being ordered to parade on holidays in other cities at quite a distance from home. Another argument was that the regiment was so scattered that they seldom could drill as a regiment.

However, when the matter was placed before the Board of Location and Organization on December 28, 1887, the petition was denied. Of significance was the following statement of the Adjutant-General in denying the petition.\*

.oOo.

\*Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, General Order No. 1, par.2, page 223.



COMPANIES COMPOSING THE FIFTH INFANTRY REGIMENT, SECOND BRIGADE

1885-1917

A	B	C	D	E	F
Company A, Oakland (formerly Co. A, Fifth In- fantry Battal- ion)  <u>1885</u>	Company B, San Jose (formerly Co. B, Fifth In- fantry Battal- ion) <u>1885</u>	Company C, Petaluma (formerly Co. C, Fifth In- fantry Bat- talion) <u>1885</u>	Company D, San Rafael (formerly Co.D, Fifth Infantry Battalion <u>1885</u>	Company E, Santa Rosa (formerly Co. E, Fifth In- fantry Battal- ion) <u>1885</u>	Company F, Oakland (formerly Co.F, Fifth Infantry Battalion) <u>1885</u>
G	H	I	K	L	M
Company G, Alameda  <u>1893</u>	Company H, Napa (formerly Bat- tery B, Second Artillery <u>1895</u> Company H, San Francisco (formerly Com- pany B, First Battalion Coast Artillery <u>1907</u> Company H Haywards <u>1909</u>	Company I, Livermore  <u>1900</u> Company I, Livermore  <u>1916</u>	Company K, San Francisco (Companies A&D, First Coast Artillery, consolidated) <u>1907</u>  Company K, Petaluma  <u>1909</u>	Company L, San Francisco (formerly Co.C, First Battal- ion Coast Artillery) <u>1907</u>  Company L, Palo Alto  <u>1909</u>	Company M, San Francisco (formerly Companies D and F, First In- fantry Regiment consolidated) <u>1907</u>  Company M, San Jose  <u>1909</u>

- Note: 1. The year dates in the table indicates the year the companies were attached to the Fifth Infantry Regiment.  
2. Supply and Machine Gun Companies were provisional organizations, made up of enlisted men detailed thereto, from the other Companies.

Activities: (continued)

"There must be an element of stability in an organization of this kind; when a regiment is once formed there should be as few changes as possible. The officers and members must feel that they are making a history for their organization; they should take a pride in its past history, and strive to build up and make it a regiment that they will be proud to be members of, and others will seek to enter. The numerous changes that have taken place in the National Guard of this State in the past have done more to retard its progress than any other cause, and it will be the policy of this administration to make as few as possible."

The Fifth Infantry from that day began to build a record that was a credit to the organization and the State. The three companies that petitioned to be detached from the Fifth in 1887, continued on in the regiment helping to make its splendid record. The foundation work of the regiment belongs to Colonel Horace D. Ranlett, who spent over twenty years in the National Guard. A letter written to Adjutant-General George B. Cosby on November 29, 1886, by Colonel Ranlett, recalls the Colonel's long service in the National Guard and requests he be retired, reads as follows:

"At end of my leave of absence (if granted) on or about January 10, 1887, I respectfully request to be placed upon the Retired List of the National Guard of California with the rank of Colonel in accordance with paragraph 3, section 1973, of the Codes. I have served continuously since 1869 as Second Lieutenant one year; First Lieutenant two years; Captain seven years; Major, Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel of the Fifth Battalion and Regiment seven years, in all seventeen years commissioned, and previously as an enlisted man as Corporal, Duty Sergeant, Quartermaster Sergeant and First Sergeant three and one-half years, or in all twenty and one-half years in the National Guard of California. My business affairs (being obliged to be absent frequently from the State) compel me to give up active service which I much regret."

On January 21, 1903, Congress passed the so-called "Dick Militia Law" which permitted the Federal Government to furnish and equip the National Guard of the different States with equipment like the regular army. The organization and discipline of the National Guard had to harmonize with the rules and regulations of the War Department, and be inspected annually by an officer of the



Activities: (continued)

United States Army. Under the provisions of the law, Joint Army-National Guard encampments were to be held when conditions permitted. The first encampment held under the new regulations was that of August 13 to 26, 1904, under command of Major-General Arthur MacArthur, United States Army, commanding the Pacific Division.

The encampment proved that the average militiaman could not go from the every day walk of life into a training camp and compare favorably with the Regulars. The strenuous life of a soldier worked a hardship on many of the National Guardsmen. The militia had not yet been supplied with army shoes, and drilling and marching worked havoc with the feet of the members of the Guard. However, those difficulties were adjusted by supplying proper shoes, and allowing the citizen soldiers a few days to become accustomed to the hardships of camp life before entering the maneuvers with the Regulars.

From July 4 to 20, 1907, the Fifth Infantry Regiment attended the Joint Army-Militia Coast Defense exercises. Companies B, C, D, E, I, and M, were ordered to Fort Baker, California where they spent fifteen days drilling in acting as support to the artillery and also defense of the same. The six companies at Fort Baker were under command of Major M. W. Simpson. The other six companies of the regiment, A, F, G, H, K, and L, with a detachment of the Hospital Corps and under the command of Colonel D. A. Smith, went to Fort Rosecrans, San Diego, for their exercises. Colonel Smith believed the benefit derived from the encampment could not be over estimated, but thought his entire command should be kept together instead of being divided.

The following year on July 4 to 15, 1908, another Joint Army-National Guard Encampment was held at Atascadero. This encampment was an improvement over the one held four years previous. An army officer was assigned to each regiment to advise and assist the National Guard officers in a better understanding of the army method of action under the different drills and maneuvers. Colonel Smith of the Fifth Infantry believed the help rendered his regiment by Lieutenant Fitzhugh L. Minnegerode, United States Army, was of the very best. Again in August 1912, Joint Army-Militia Camp and Maneuvers were held between South San Francisco and Salinas. The problem was the defense of San Francisco from an invading army.

Activities: (Continued)  
Activities: (continued)

The reason there was no Fifth Infantry Regiments was that in the intervening years between the maneuvers, either regimental encampments or training schools for officers and men, were held. The schools were instructed by regular United States Army officers, and were very effective in training the National Guard officers. Perhaps the greatest amount of efficiency was obtained in the regimental encampments.

The Encampment of 1903, held near Healdsburg, was typical of the majority of regimental encampments. Colonel Thomas Wilhelm, Inspector General for the National Guard, inspected the regiment at the encampment in 1903. His criticism seems severe, but were made from the military point of view. The Fifth Infantry Regiment band had been discharged in 1902, so they hired the Thirteenth United States Infantry Band to play for the encampment. The Colonel noted that the band was out of uniform at inspection and that the principal musician and three other men absented themselves at the inspection, which he said was a poor example for the Regulars to set before the National Guardsmen. He also thought the music selected was not exactly suited to the occasion. As for the regimental and battalion drills he was satisfied, stating that while a few errors were made, the regiment as such could only drill at the encampments about seven days a year, consequently could not be perfect in the larger formations.

However the companies that fell short while being inspected as such, came in for severe criticism by Colonel Wilhelm. Companies B, F, G, and A, were good, and C, D, E, H, and I were only fair. For the latter companies the Colonel stated there was no excuse for such a poor showing. He also noted that the officers of these companies were men of high standing in their communities, and were naturally absorbed in the important professions and the world of business, still there was no reason why the last mentioned companies should be in a condition inconsistent with the appropriations, property and supplies furnished them by the State. The organizations are made up of good men and deserve the needed attention and improvement. Advantage should be taken of the opportunities afforded in the armories. The Colonel likewise criticised the practice of the regiment in not requiring the First Sergeant to drill. He claimed the First Sergeant was an important factor in a company as a medium of communications between the commanding officer and the men, the Sergeant having much to do with the discipline of the organization, and should be the best drilled man in it. This was the last encampment before the "Dick Militia Law" went into effect and the militia brought under the instructions of the Regular Army.

Activities: (Continued)

The reason there was no Fifth Infantry Regiment Band at the Encampment in 1903, was due to the attitude adopted by the Labor Unions toward the National Guard, which the unions claimed could be and had been used in several states to break up strikes of the unions. A letter of September 15, 1902, by William McBaine, Chief Musician, Fifth Infantry Regiment to Colonel A. K. Whitton, reads as follows:

"Enclosed please find application for discharge of the members of our band from the Fifth Infantry, which we trust will meet with your approval, and that discharges will be forwarded as soon as you can conveniently act upon said application. Our reasons are simple, to wit: First: In order to secure any of the work offering, we must join the Musician's Union of San Francisco.

Two: In order to join said Musician's Union, we must show a discharge from the Guard. Everything is union nowadays, as you know, and the time has come when we, too, must join in order to secure any business. Trusting you will view this in the right light and that discharges will be forth coming at an early date, thus helping us in our purpose."

In forwarding this letter to the Adjutant-General, Colonel Whitton attached the following words:

"I have the honor to hand you herewith copy of letter received this day from Chief Musician of this regiment. I do this, not as asking any action from you but I deem it proper to do so in order to call your attention to the position the unions are taking with reference to the National Guard."

Three days later Colonel Whitton issued discharges to all the members of the band. In 1907, when the First Infantry Regiment was disbanded, their band was transferred to the Fifth Infantry Regiment and redesignated Fifth Infantry Band.

The only other strife in the regiment occurred in 1905 and 1906, the first when Major D. A. Smith was re-elected Major on May 20, 1905. Major Smith's eligibility for re-election was questioned because of the enactment by the State Legislature of a requirement of two years service as a line or company officer. In 1905, Major Smith's record of service was as follows; enlisted in Company D, First Infantry Regiment, August 5, 1872, as private. Served until March 1, 1877, honorable discharged. Enlisted as Sergeant Major, Fifth Infantry, March 20, 1887.



## Activities: (continued)

Promoted to First Lieutenant and Paymaster, Fifth Infantry, April 26, 1888. Promoted to Captain and detailed as Adjutant, Fifth Infantry, June 1, 1891. Appointed to First Lieutenant United States Volunteers, detailed as Adjutant, Eighth California Volunteers, June 29, 1898. Promoted Captain Company B, Eighth California Volunteers, January 6, 1899. On the mustering out of the volunteers, February 1899, reentered Fifth Infantry as Captain and Adjutant. Elected Major, Fifth Infantry Regiment, May 11, 1901, and reelected May 20, 1905. His being commissioned in 1905 was questioned. One year later in 1906, Smith was elected Colonel of the regiment over the protest of Captain O. L. Houts of Company E, Fifth Infantry Regiment and Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. Juilliard. They appealed to Governor George C. Pardee, who decided in favor of Colonel Smith. The Colonel commanded the Fifth Regiment for ten years being retired on January 1, 1916, having been a commissioned officer in the National Guard for twenty-eight years and a private for six years, making a total of thirty-four years devoted to the National Guard, and all his commissions being an officer in the Fifth Infantry Regiment. The splendid record and success of the Fifth Infantry Regiment under the "Dick Militia Law" was due mostly to the splendid ability of the Colonel.

The record of the Fifth Infantry at target practice was only fair in its early history. The newly organized units coming into the regiment helped to keep the regiments average rather low. However, the Fifth Regiment had a majority of the members on the State Rifle teams of 1907, 1909, and 1910. Nine of the fifteen members were from the Fifth in 1907 and 1909, while three each from the Second and Seventh Regiments were on the team. In 1910, eight of the fifteen were from the Fifth Regiment. While the Fifth ranked high in having the greater number of members on the State Rifle team, the Seventh had a great many more medal men than the Fifth.

Before taking up the activities of the Fifth in the Railroad Strike in 1894, the Earthquake and Fire in 1906, and the Mexican Border and World War in 1916 and 1917, the history of parades and social activities will be given. The holiday parades of the units in the Fifth Infantry Regiment were usually in their home town or nearby localities. Only on special occasions the Fifth paraded as a regiment.

The first occasion for parading was during the 20th Annual Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in San Francisco in

## Activities: (continued)

August 1886. On the evening of the second, the Fifth paraded and attended a review in the Mechanic's Pavilion in San Francisco. The next morning, August third, the Fifth paraded in one of the largest parades ever held in San Francisco. The first division was led by the Regulars, numbering about four hundred. Five regiments of the National Guard followed the Regulars, acting as escort to Commander-in-Chief Burdette of the Grand Army of the Republic and its members. The First Infantry led the National Guard, followed by the Fifth, Third, Second Artillery and the Second Infantry with Light Battery A at the rear. The Fifth Infantry paraded its six companies, numbering about three hundred men in line. Great praise was extended to Colonel Ranlett and his regiment for their splendid showing. None of their units were located in San Francisco and most of the companies came at considerable expense in order to pay tribute to the "Boys in Blue" of 1861 to 1865.\*

The next appearance of the Fifth Infantry was at the funeral services of Senator George Hearst on March 15, 1891.\*\* January 27, 1894, witnessed the opening of San Francisco's first Exposition and Midwinter Fair. It was the occasion for the finest civic and military parade ever witnessed in the bay metropolis. In the midst of this parade was the Fifth Infantry and as noted by the news reporter, presented an uniformly handsome appearance.\*\*\* Again on September 9, 1900, the Fiftieth Anniversary of the admission of California into the union of the States was celebrated in San Francisco. The Native Sons and Native Daughters of the Golden West were in charge of the celebration. The main feature was a parade of the military and fraternal organizations of the bay region.

The military parade was very fine and impressive. It headed the long procession. First of all came the dandy artillerymen of the Regulars, the pride of the Presidio, and these were

.oOo.

\*San Francisco Chronicle, August 4, 1886, page 1, columns 1 - 9.

\*\*San Francisco Chronicle, March 16, 1891, page 10, columns 1 - 5

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



FIFTH

Activities: (Continued)  
Activities: (continued)

followed by a battalion of the Eighteenth Infantry, marching like a wall. The marines from the Battleship "Iowa" and "Philadelphia" made a very gallant show as it is not often one sees the men in cross belts, for this is almost the only arm of the service that retains this picturesque relic of military trappings. The trim and white-capped officers of the navy next marshaled a strong body of smart-stepping blue jackets from the men-of-war in the harbor. The "Jackies" were strong favorites with the crowd which does not forget the men behind the guns. Following the Regulars came carriages followed by the First, Fifth, and Sixth Infantries of the National Guard. Also in the parade were many uniformed ranks and drill teams of the fraternal organizations. The bright and showy uniforms added splendor to the procession.\*

The following year, May 14, 1901, President William McKinley visited San Francisco. The President, who a few months later was to be a victim of an assassin's bullet, was given a welcome that exceeded all previous records. A splendid parade in the afternoon was climaxed by a reception at the Ferry Building in the evening. The crowd was estimated at 75,000 people all gathered in or near the Ferry Building. The police were unable to control the throng and assistance was rendered by the First Infantry and a battalion of the Fifth Infantry. Later a troop of cavalry was added and even with this aid the crowd was still too large to hold back. The good judgement of the President in shortening his speech was all that eased what might have been rather disastrous to many listeners. About three score women fainted and several were reported injured.\*\*

Four months later, September 19, 1901, the same battalion of the Fifth Infantry Regiment took part in a McKinley Memorial procession held in Oakland. Memorial services were held throughout the United States on the nineteenth. The procession started at 1:05 P.M., led by two platoons of police. Next came the United States Marine Band and a battalion of marines from the Naval station followed by Naval Cadets. Next came the First Battalion, Fifth Infantry Regiment under command of Major C. T.

Oakland Equivror, September 19, 1901, page 2, columns 1-3.

.000.

Oakland Equivror, August 19, page 3, columns 1,2.

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

\*\*San Francisco Examiner, May 15, 1901, pages 1, 2, 3.

Activities: (Continued)

Poulter, followed by the Veteran Reserves, Company A.

In the second division of the parade was the only carriage in the entire procession. It was a carriage drawn by six black horses, draped in nets of mourning. Each horse was led by an attendant. An American flag was draped over the after part of the vehicle. This was the carriage occupied by the Late President about four months before, when he visited Oakland. On the seat where President McKinley had sat was a large cluster of Japanese lilies, tied with a bow of broad black silk ribbon. On the outer side of each door of the carriage was a chaplet of laurel leaves similarly tied. The pall bearers, accompanying the carriage, wore crepe and marched on either side of the vehicle. The members of the Grand Army of the Republic posts, about 200 strong, completed the second division.

The Fifth Infantry Band headed the third division of the parade which was composed of the Masonic Lodges, Odd Fellows Lodges and the Knights of Pythians. The fourth division consisted of the Native Sons of the Golden West. The A. O. U. W., the Woodmen of the World, the Knights of the Maccabees, the Herman Sons, and the Bohemians of America.\*

In August 1903, the Grand Army of the Republic again held their annual encampment in San Francisco. Once again the Fifth Infantry Regiment journeyed to San Francisco to parade in honor of the Civil War veterans, and it was anticipated that it would be about the last big encampment to be held on the Pacific Coast, as the ranks were beginning to thin out to such an extent that before they returned here again a great many would have answered the last summons.\*\*

On June 20, 1914, the Fifth Regiment journeyed to San Francisco to parade at the funeral of Brigadier-General Edwin A. Forbes, Adjutant-General of the National Guard of California. Governor Hiram Johnson issued the following statement:\*\*\*

.000.

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

\*\*Oakland Enquirer, August 18, 1903, page 8, columns 1,2.

\*\*\*San Jose Mercury Herald, June 20, 1915, page 17, column 5.

## Activities: (continued)

"All of us who have been intimately associated with General Forbes are shocked and grieved at his death. We had learned to have a great respect and affection for him. He was a loyal friend, a man of attainments and the highest character with a personality that won all whom he met. The State has suffered an irreparable loss. General Forbes was the best and most competent adjutant general California ever had. He took command of the California Guard at a time when it was disorganized and little recognized. He developed a guard of the highest efficiency and a citizen soldiery in California, second to that of no other state. The loss of General Forbes is not alone to all of us who knew him and loved him, but is a loss as well to the people of the State of California."

Following the history of parades and social activities of the Fifth Infantry Regiment it is proper that the more serious purpose for which the National Guard is organized should be narrated. The first service was rendered during the Railroad Strike of 1894. The report of Colonel D. B. Fairbanks, commanding the Fifth Regiment, indicates that the regiment was divided and shifted several times during the labor trouble. The record showed that Companies A, C, D, E, F, and G, were assembled at the armories of A and F on July Fourth. On July fifth, Companies A, F, and G, were dismissed. On July sixth, Company D was ordered to San Jose for duty. During July seventh, eighth, and ninth, Companies C and E remained in the Oakland armory. Company B at San Jose was joined by Company D at San Jose and the two companies were under command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. K. Whitton. The two units were held in readiness in the armory at San Jose until the ninth, when the command was moved to the Fair Grounds nearby in order to maintain the men's health, as the confinement in the armory was affecting the Guardsmen.

On June tenth, Colonel Whitton received orders from the Sheriff, of Santa Clara County, to move to the vicinity of the San Jose roundhouse, and protect life and property. The two units remained on duty till July sixteenth, when Company D was relieved and returned to Oakland. Company B was held at the armory in San Jose until July twentieth, when it was dismissed. Meanwhile, Companies A, C, E, F, and G, were ordered into camp at Piedmont on the twelfth, and on the thirteenth were ordered to Alameda Point by the Sheriff of Alameda County. On the fifteenth, Company F was ordered to High Street, Alameda, to guard railroad property. On July sixteenth, Company A was ordered to Port Costa,



## Activities: (continued)

Contra Costa County. On July eighteenth, Company G joined Company A at Port Costa. Company D, that had been stationed in San Jose, reported to Colonel Fairbanks at Alameda Point on July nineteenth.

On July twentieth, the Colonel received orders to remove his camp from Alameda Point to West Oakland. Company A returned from Port Costa and joined the regiment at West Oakland. The next day, July twenty-first, Company F was relieved from duty at High Street station and also joined the regiment at West Oakland. The regiment of five companies was stationed at the foot of Peralta Street, and was designated Camp Peralta. On July twenty-second, Companies C, D, and E were dismissed and returned to their respective homes. On July 23, 1894, the remaining two companies were relieved, thus ending the services of the Fifth Infantry Regiment during the Railroad Strike.\*

Four years elapsed before the Fifth was called into active service again. This time it was the war with Spain in 1898 that saw the splendid Fifth Regiment enter the United States Volunteer service. However, only six of the eight companies composing the Fifth were accepted. Companies B, C, D, E, F, and G, were mustered into the Federal service on July sixth and seventh, as B, C, D, E, F, and G, of the Eighth California Volunteer Regiment. The Eighth Volunteer Regiment was kept in the United States during the war. The regiment was stationed at Camp Barrett, Oakland until September tenth, when the various units were ordered to the following locations: A, F, K, and L to Benicia Barracks; B, C, and E to the Presidio; Company M to Alcatraz Island. On the thirteenth, Companies D, G, H, and I were sent to Vancouver Barracks, Washington. The failure to see service on the battle front created discontent in the regiment and on February 6, 1899, the Eighth Volunteer Regiment was mustered out of Federal service.\*\* On July 5, 1899, the former Fifth Infantry Regiment reentered the National Guard as the Fifth Infantry Regiment.

.oOo.

\*For additional information, refer to the National Guard and the Railroad Strike 1894. Adjutant General's Office.

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

## Activities: (continued)

About seven years later during the Earthquake of 1906, the Fifth Regiment rendered splendid service. Again the companies composing the Fifth Regiment were on duty in several different cities. Company B in San Jose was undoubtedly the first unit of the regiment to go on duty. A hurried survey of the situation in that city led the authorities to call on the militia without usual permission of the Governor. At six A.M., the fire bell on the fire house sounded out eleven quick taps, which was the militia emergency call. Soon after the call was sounded, the members of Company B responded promptly and at the request of the civic authorities, a military watch was placed around the business section and no one permitted to pass without a permit.

At Santa Rosa, Company E rendered splendid service in fighting fire and preserving order. Company C, Fifth Infantry of Petaluma, was ordered to Santa Rosa to help Company E. Company H of the Second Infantry was detailed to assist Company B at San Jose. Companies A, F, and G were stationed at Oakland as part of the First Provisional Brigade. Companies D, H, and I, of the Fifth, were ordered to San Francisco as part of the Second Provisional Brigade. The principal duties of the troops was to assist civil authorities in preserving order in the various locations.

Company C, Petaluma, was the first company to be relieved from duty on May thirteenth. The next was Company G, Alameda, relieved on May sixteenth. The next day, the seventeenth, Companies A and F were dismissed. On May nineteenth Company I, on duty in San Francisco, was relieved, and Company B in San Jose also was dismissed the same day. On May twenty-first, Companies D and H, on duty in San Francisco, were relieved from further service. The last company of the Fifth Regiment to be dismissed was Company E, of Santa Rosa, on May twenty-third. Each unit of the regiment and officers received a word of commendation by Governor George C. Pardee for their efficient and conscientious service rendered the civic authorities during the trying and anxious days of the State's worst catastrophe.

In July 1913, a forest fire on Mt. Tamalpais that appeared harmless at first, soon became threatening to many homes and small towns situated on its slopes and at the mountain's edge. Mill Valley and Ross Valley sent out a call for help on July ninth, and soon assistance was rushed to their aid. The city of San Francisco sent three fire engines and 9,000 feet of fire hose to aid the fire fighters. Approximately 2,000 regular troops were ordered from the Presidio to fight the fire. A like number of sailors and marines from the ships anchored in the bay also



## Activities: (continued)

joined the fire fighters. The Fifth Infantry Regiment sent Companies A, C, D, E, F, H, I, and K to assist. For four days, June tenth to thirteenth inclusive, these companies worked under the leadership of Colonel George Bell Jr., Sixteenth United States Infantry. The towns of Mill Valley and Ross Valley and lesser communities were saved from the fire, which was halted and directed back toward the unoccupied area.\*

Three years later, the territory lying along the Mexican-United States border was troubled by bands of Mexicans crossing into United States Territory and committing acts of degradation. On June 28, 1916, the Fifth Infantry Regiment was mustered into the Federal service and ordered to Nogales, Arizona. For approximately three months the Fifth patrolled and guarded the United States property along the border. The regiment was returned to Sacramento and on October 7, 1916, was mustered out of Federal service.

The members of the Fifth Infantry enjoyed about six months of citizen-soldier life before they were called into the Federal service for duty during the World War on March 26, 1917. The Fifth Infantry spent approximately five months at guard duty in California, guarding munition plants, factories, railroad and bridges, thereby preventing sabotage. On September 24, 1917, the Fifth Infantry Regiment was redesignated the 159th Infantry Regiment at Camp Kearny, California and mustered into the Federal service.

With the redesignation, the history of the Fifth Infantry Regiment as such, comes to a close. This splendid regiment, with thirty-two years of service in the National Guard during which time it had faithfully performed its duties during the serious Labor Trouble of 1894, volunteered for service in national defense in the Spanish-American War, only to be disappointed by having to perform the hardest duty there is, routine guard duty, and finally dismissed with out reaching the battle front. It gave freely and its real value cannot be estimated in those trying days of April 1906. Not only following the Earthquake and its subsequent destruction, the Fifth was on the fighting lines, battling to save the homes of the people during the fire on Mt. Tamalpais in 1913. Three years later in 1916, again they left their homes and went to Nogales, Arizona to fight if

.oOo.

\*Oakland Enquirer, July 11, 1913, page 2, columns 4, 5, 6, 7.

Activities: (continued)

necessary for their country. Then in 1917, as many of the men as could qualify, entered the World War where many of the old Fifth paid the supreme sacrifice. A more fitting climax for the closing of the history of the Fifth Infantry would be hard to find. For additional information concerning the activities of this organization, refer to History of the 159th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division.

OUTLINE HISTORY  
OF THE  
CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD  
MILITIA AND VOLUNTEER FORCES  
18-9-1911  
THE OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
1911  
The Adjutant General