

History of the Company M, 5th Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1907-1917

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COMPANY M

Company M, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly Company D, First Infantry Regiment, Company F, First Infantry Regiment)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

- Organized May 11, 1907*
- Redesignated April 21, 1909**
- Reorganized, mustered in and stationed San Jose May 15, 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 G, 159th Infantry Regiment September 24, 1917*****

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*Company M, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, formed from the consolidation of Companies D and F, First Infantry Regiment, May 11, 1907.

General and Special Orders and Circulars 1907, General Order No. 10, paragraph 2.

**Company M redesignated Fourth 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 San Jose and designated Company M, Fifth Infantry, May 15, 1909.

General and Special Orders and Circulars 1909, General Order No. 14, paragraph 10.

****Company M, as part of the Fifth Infantry, 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 M, 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 M and G, Fifth Infantry Regiment consolidated and designated Company G, 159th Infantry Regiment, September 24, 1917.

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

COMPANY M (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Homer George Stindt, Captain (resigned Jan. 24, 1908)	Mar. 2, 1905	Apr. 17, 1905*
William Grant Hyde, First Lieut.	Jan. 4, 1906	Feb. 6, 1906**
William Grant Hyde, Captain	Feb. 13, 1908	Apr. 28, 1908
Henry R. de Fiennes, First Lieut. (resigned July 21, 1908)	Feb. 13, 1908	Apr. 28, 1908
Richard E. Mittelstaedt, First Lieutenant	Aug. 13, 1908	Sept. 24, 1908
Frank Bennett Kelley, Captain (resigned June 7, 1910)	May 15, 1909	June 15, 1909
Russell B. Tripp, First Lieut.	May 15, 1909	June 15, 1909
Russell B. Tripp, Captain	Jan. 28, 1910	Aug. 11, 1910
Robert Kelty Kennedy, First (resigned Mar. 1, 1911) Lieutenant	July 12, 1910	Aug. 18, 1910
Byron Wilson Gray, First Lieut. (resigned June 25, 1914)	Mar. 21, 1911	May 15, 1911
Russell Butler Tripp, Captain (resigned Mar. 17, 1916)	June 28, 1910	Dec. 5, 1913
Clarence L. Mitchell, First Lieutenant	July 14, 1914	Sept. 14, 1914
Clarence L. Mitchell, Captain	Apr. 18, 1916	May 31, 1916
Willia Lanham Howe, First Lieut. (honorably discharged Sept. 5, 1916)	Apr. 18, 1916	May 31, 1916
Walter Budd Robinson, First Lieutenant	Sept. 5, 1916	Sept. 5, 1916

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*Captain Stindt retained his rank and commission as of March 2, 1905, and April 17, 1905, respectively, when he commanded Company F, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

**Lieutenant Hyde retained his rank and commission as of January 4, 1906, and February 6, 1906, respectively, when he commanded Company F, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

COMPANY M (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Company M was formed from the consolidation of Company D, First Infantry Regiment and Company F, First Infantry Regiment, and designated Company M, Fifth Infantry Regiment. This change was one of many that occurred as a result of the passage of the "Dick" Militia Law. One provision of this act increased the minimum number of enlisted men from forty-seven to fifty-eight for each unit. The annual Inspection and Muster of 1907, under the new law, found several companies of the First Infantry Regiment with ranks below the required number of men. This condition no doubt was due to the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906, which caused the removal of many men to other localities. Only the two companies that consolidated as Company M survived the inspection. Company D, First Infantry Regiment, which was organized on February 15, 1862, as the Wolfe Tone Guard, was one; and Company F, organized as San Francisco Light Guard, November 12, 1858, the other. The Wolfe Tone Guard was mustered out in 1866, reconstituted as Company C, Third Infantry Regiment, March 11, 1871, and redesignated Company D, First Infantry Regiment on December 9, 1895. The Light Guard was designated Company F, First Infantry Regiment, May 8, 1861, redesignated Company L, First Infantry Regiment, December 9, 1895, redesignated Company F, First Infantry Regiment, April 12, 1901.

The commanding officers of Company F, Captain Homer G. Stindt and First Lieutenant William G. Hyde were retained as the officers of the newly designated Company M. When the War Department and National Guard authorities decided to establish a Coast Artillery Corps in 1909, Company M was one of the companies selected for that branch of the service. With the transfer of Company M to the Coast Artillery Corps, April 21, 1909 as the Fourth Company, a new company was organized in San Jose on June 15, 1909, and mustered in as Company M. Frank Bennett Kelley was elected Captain and Russell Butler Tripp, First Lieutenant.

Company M was fortunate in having Company B, Fifth Infantry Regiment in the same town. Company B was an old established unit and one of the best companies in the National Guard, having been organized on September 30, 1862, as the San Jose Zouaves. A friendly rivalry between the two units resulted in Company M soon becoming a very efficient company. Several members of Company M were formerly of Company B. In two years time, Company M was crowding Company B for the title of the most efficient, all around company of the two. One of the local

COMPANY M (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

jewelers offered a beautiful silver cup in a contest between the two companies. Company B was awarded the cup, but had no walk-away in winning it. As soon as the W. C. Lean Cup had been awarded, another jeweler, T. F. Sourisseau, offered a second cup for a contest of two months duration. At the end of every two months, the cup would be awarded to the best all-around company. The unit winning the cup twice would hold it permanently as their property.

Company M was rather slow in making progress on the target range. Not till 1913, did Company M accomplish very much on the range. At that time there was one marksman, two First class men, one Third and forty-nine Fourth class men. The previous year there was one marksman and fifty-seven Fourth class men. In 1914, there were two marksmen, two Second class men. No other records are available on target practice.

Company M, while stationed in San Francisco attended two encampments, the first at Fort Baker, which was a Joint Army and Militia Coast Defense exercise on July 5 to 20, 1907; encampment at Atascadero, October 4 to 15, 1908. The first encampment of the new company at San Jose was regimental in character, held at Seabright, near Santa Cruz. This meeting proved to be a great help to Company M, as it enabled the new unit to take its place in the regimental tactics and drills. Company M held its second encampment at Atascadero, October 1 to 15, 1910. Two years later, August eleventh to twenty-first, the unit was engaged in the Joint Army-Militia maneuvers held in the territory between Salinas and San Francisco. From 1912 to 1916, the War Department planned and held many schools and Camps of Instruction for both officers and men.

Besides the encampments mentioned above, Companies B and M frequently joined by Company L, of Palto Alto, would join in a two or three day bivouac, near San Jose. An idea of one of the many bivouacs held will be obtained in the following account:

With a morning of drills, a big barbecue and luncheon and an afternoon of athletic exercises, the two local National Guard organizations, Companies B and M, yesterday passed at the Linda Vista golf links, one of the most enjoyable outings in the history of either company. The occasion was the semi-annual practice march and bivouac of the local militiamen, and from nine o'clock Saturday night until six

Activities: (continued)

o'clock last evening, the San Jose citizen-soldiers were in the service of the United States Government.

A bivouac-camp of shelter-tents was pitched on the Golf Club grounds, supper was served at eleven P.M., Saturday night. Sunday morning St. Josephs Sodality Band, which joined them on the march, played and furnished music, while the two companies were put through drills and three battalion parades. After a strenuous morning, the men enjoyed a splendid meal. It was better than the usual army-issue fare provides. Apparently the extras were provided by someone besides Uncle Sam. The afternoon was given over to games, many of which were military, while others were the usual track numbers. The two units returned home about six o'clock and were dismissed at the armory.*

Another camp of three days duration was held October 13 to 15, 1914. Companies B and M, of San Jose, Company L, of Palo Alto, and Company I, of Livermore, comprising the First Battalion of the Fifth Infantry, took part in the encampment. The site was the rifle range of Company I, located near Livermore. Two of the three days was spent in target practice, the rest of the time being given over to battalion drills and formation.**

Company M participated in many parades. Some were on holidays, while others were on special occasions. One of the special occasions was the parade of the Fifth Infantry Regiment in San Francisco on October 14, 1911, when the President of the United States, William Howard Taft, conducted the ground-breaking exercises for the Panama-Pacific Exposition to be held in 1915.** At the conclusion, the parade and exercises were held on Saturday, and the Guardsmen were free to do as they pleased, each man having been handed a ticket permitting them to return home

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*San Jose Mercury, October 9, 1911. page 12, column 2.

**San Jose Mercury Herald, October 15, 1911, page 1, column 5.

COMPANY M (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

anytime before midnight, Sunday evening. Most of the men embraced the opportunity of passing Sunday in the city.

Another special occasion was the Cherry Blossom Carnival held at Santa Clara, June 2, 1914. Companies M and B, of San Jose, and L, of Palo Alto, formed in battalion formation and led by the Santa Clara Band, circled the Plaza in Santa Clara and then gave an exhibition parade on Cherry Lane.*

Most of the parades of Company M on the Fourth of July were at celebrations in towns near San Jose. Their first one was at home in San Jose, July Fourth 1909. In 1910, they paraded in Redwood City, and in 1911 and 1912, in Gilroy. On July Fourth 1913, Company M drilled and paraded at the armory and also in 1915. On the Fourth of July, 1914, Company M paraded in San Jose. All of those parades were battalion, held in conjunction with Companies B, of San Jose, and L, of Palo Alto.

In 1908, when Company M was stationed in San Francisco, the unit paraded in that city on May seventh, and in Oakland on May ninth, both occasions being receptions tendered to the members of the Atlantic Fleet that was visiting on the Pacific Coast. Company M also took part in two funeral processions, the first that of Brigadier-General Hymen P. Bush, National Guard of California, retired on January 1, 1908; and the second for Adjutant-General E. A. Forbes on June 20, 1915.

Company M took part in many social activities. Companies B and M formed a social and athletic organization, known as the Infantry Club, Incorporated. Beanfeasts and smokers given by that club were famous among the men folk of San Jose and vicinity. Sparring bouts and other athletic contests were a part of many of the socials. On April 9, 1912, Company M entertained Company B and their friends at a dance held in the armory. No formal invitations were necessary and the public was invited and no admission fee was charged. This was the fifth military ball

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** San Jose Mercury Herald, June 3, 1914, Page 2, column 6, 7.

given by Company M during the three years following its organization in 1909. Ten members of Company M attended a banquet at the Lamolle Grill in San Jose on Sunday evening, April 25, 1912, five of whom enjoyed it immensely for they were the victors in a membership contest and therefore did not have to pay the bill. A team of five members headed by Lieutenant C. I. Mitchell bettered a team of like number led by Lieutenant B. W. Gray. The proprietor of the Grill had a specially decorated table, with flags and flowers prepared for the Guardsmen, while Professor D'Albiang's orchestra played patriotic tunes throughout the evening, that were enjoyed by all the patrons.

In April 1912, Companies M and B, of San Jose were very much excited by orders received from the Adjutant General's Office to begin recruiting to bring the units up to the maximum number of men required for active service. Married men were not to be enlisted unless satisfactory evidence could be produced to show that no hardship would befall his family if he were absent from home on military duty for a long period of time. It was expected the militia men would be sent into Mexico where war was threatening at that time. But Company M did not go to the Mexican Border that year, and the unit was destined to wait about four years.

On June 28, 1916, Company M as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service and sent to Nogales, Arizona, for duty. Their duties consisted mostly of camp and guard duty as no actual combat developed on the border. Early in October, Company M returned home and on the seventh was mustered out of Federal service.

About six months later, March 26, 1917, Co. M as part of the Fifth Infantry Regiment was called into Federal service for duty during the World War. For several months the unit saw service in the homeland guarding bridges, tunnels, munition plants and factories supplying war material. In September, the Fifth Infantry Regiment was assembled at Camp Kearney, Linda Vista, California, where Company M was consolidated with Company G, Fifth Infantry Regiment September 24, 1917, and redesignated Company G, 159th Infantry Regiment 40th Division. For additional information concerning the activities of this unit refer to History of Company M, 159th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division.

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