

History of the California Naval Militia, 3rd Division (Company C, Naval Battalion, National Guard of California) 1891-1917

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THIRD DIVISION

Third Division, Naval Battalion (Formerly Company A)

Location: San Diego, San Diego County

Organized September 12, 1891

Enrolled in National Naval Volunteers April 14, 1917

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Thomas A. Nerney, Lt. Commander	Sept. 12, 1891	Oct. 1, 1891
Edwin H. Miller, Lt. Jr. Grade	Sept. 12, 1891	Oct. 1, 1891
Frank M. Simpson, Ensign Sr.	Sept. 12, 1891	Oct. 1, 1891
Wm. D. Bloodgood, Ensign Jr.	Sept. 12, 1891	Oct. 1, 1891
Thomas A. Nerney, Lt. Commander (Resigned Sept. 30, 1892)	Sept. 12, 1891	Oct. 12, 1891
Frank M. Simpson, Lt. Jr. Grade	Feb. 15, 1893	March 10, 1893
Thomas M. Shaw, Ensign Sr.	Nov. 2, 1892	Nov. 28, 1892
Joseph C. Crenshaw, Ensign Jr.	Feb. 15, 1893	March 10, 1893
Frank M. Simpson, Lt. Commander	Feb. 28, 1894	June 25, 1894
Thomas M. Shaw, Lt. Jr. Grade	Feb. 28, 1894	June 25, 1894
Francis W. Goodbody, Ensign Sr.	Feb. 28, 1894	June 25, 1894
Joseph C. Crenshaw, Ensign Jr.	Nov. 30, 1894	March 1, 1895
Thomas M. Shaw, Lt. Commander	Nov. 30, 1894	March 1, 1895
Joseph C. Crenshaw, Lt. Jr. Grade	Nov. 30, 1894	March 1, 1895
Francis W. Goodbody, Ensign Sr.	Feb. 28, 1894	June 25, 1894
Leonard A. Chandler, Ensign Jr.	Nov. 30, 1894	March 1, 1895
Thomas M. Shaw, Lt. Commander	Nov. 30, 1894	March 1, 1895
Leonard A. Chandler, Lt. Jr. Grade	Oct. 30, 1895	Nov. 8, 1895
James W. McNair, Ensign Sr.	Oct. 30, 1895	Nov. 8, 1895
Edward Fletcher, Ensign Jr.	Oct. 30, 1895	Nov. 8, 1895
Leonard A. Chandler, Lt. Commander	Jan. 13, 1897	March 15, 1897
Thomas M. Shaw, Lt. Jr. Grade	Feb. 28, 1894	March 15, 1897
James McNair, Ensign Sr.	Oct. 30, 1895	Nov. 10, 1897
Geo. B. Smith, Ensign Jr.	Nov. 10, 1897	Jan. 10, 1898

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		(Continued)
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Roscoe Howard, Lt. Commander	Jan. 25, 1899	March 28, 1899
Addison Morgan, Lt. Jr. Grade	April 1, 1897	April 20, 1898
Frank L. Sargent, Lt. Jr. Grade	May 2, 1899	June 22, 1899
Donald M. Stewart, Ensign Sr.	Nov. 22, 1899	Jan. 23, 1900
Joseph P. Sexton, Ensign Jr.	Nov. 23, 1898	March 28, 1899
Frank L. Sargent, Lt. Commander	Feb. 2, 1904	March 2, 1904
Donald M. Stewart, Lt. Jr. Grade	Feb. 2, 1904	March 2, 1904
Julier C. Hizar, Ensign Sr.	Feb. 2, 1904	March 2, 1904
Emilus V. Winnek, Ensign Jr.	Feb. 2, 1904	March 2, 1904
John E. Parrish, Ensign Jr.	May 23, 1905	Aug. 21, 1905
Donald M. Stewart, Lt. Commander	Oct. 17, 1905	Feb. 27, 1906
Julier C. Hizar, Lt. Jr. Grade	Nov. 21, 1905	March 9, 1906
John E. Parrish, Lt. Jr. Grade	April 16, 1907	July 3, 1907
Henry C. Buckle, Ensign Sr.	March 5, 1907	July 3, 1907
John H. Davis, Ensign Jr.	April 16, 1907	July 3, 1907
Donald M. Stewart, Lt. Commander	Oct. 17, 1905	April 26, 1909
John E. Parrish, Lt. Jr. Grade	April 16, 1907	April 26, 1909
John H. Davis, Lt. Jr. Grade	July 2, 1912	Nov. 26, 1912
Henry C. Buckle, Ensign Sr.	March 5, 1907	April 26, 1909
Robert H. Baker, Ensign Sr.	April 12, 1912	July 3, 1912
John H. Davis, Ensign Jr.	April 16, 1907	April 26, 1909
Percy L. Day, Ensign Jr.	July 2, 1912	Nov. 26, 1912
Donald M. Stewart, Lt. Commander	Oct. 17, 1905	Dec. 5, 1913
Robert H. Baker, Lt. Jr. Grade	Jan. 27, 1914	March 10, 1914
Henry C. Buckle, Lt. Jr. Grade	June 28, 1916	July 26, 1916
Hugh S. Haynes, Ensign Sr.	Jan. 27, 1914	March 10, 1914
Herbert H. Gill, Ensign Sr.	June 28, 1916	July 26, 1916
Jerome A. Ryan, Ensign Jr.	Jan. 27, 1914	March 10, 1914
Raymond G. Shirley, Ensign Jr.	June 28, 1916	July 26, 1916
David A. Loebenstein, Lt. Commander	March 14, 1917	April 12, 1917
Henry C. Buckle, Lt. Jr. Grade	June 28, 1916	July 26, 1916
Herbert H. Gill, Ensign Sr.	June 28, 1916	July 26, 1916
Raymond G. Shirley, Ensign Jr.	June 28, 1916	July 26, 1916

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Activities:

Company A, Naval Battalion of California, was organized at San Diego and mustered into the service of the State on the twelfth of September 1891, with a membership of fifty-four. Companies B and C of San Francisco were organized before Company A, but as the San Diego company had made application first, that organization was given the designation Company A. Thomas A Nerney, who was elected Lieutenant Commander at the organization meeting, was formerly Captain of Company B, Seventh Infantry, First Brigade, National Guard of California and prior to that had served as First Lieutenant of Company F, First Ohio Infantry.*

Uniforms for the enlisted men of the new company were purchased with funds secured through private subscriptions of patriotic citizens of San Diego.** Efforts were repeatedly made by State authorities and members of the Battalion to procure a ship for the use of Company A, but met with no success. The company had no opportunity whatever during the first years of its existence for boat drill or gun practice, however, the members did not lose hope. They drilled regularly in their armory and secured the use of small boats for rowing exercises, expecting that eventually they would be supplied with the equipment necessary to perfect them in the art of seamanship.

On August 10, 1895, pursuant to General Order No. 12, the names of the various units of the Naval Battalion were changed from companies to divisions. Company A was thereafter to be known as the Third Gun Division of the Naval Battalion, National Guard of California.***

On April 15, 1896, the Division was inspected by Division inspector Lieutenant Colonel John C. Currier, and the report stated that the command was in good condition, exhibited an excellent spirit and executed the drills commendably.****

The first public function in which Company A Participated was a parade at the celebration of La Fiesta in Los Angeles April 22, 1896. The Naval Militiamen, under command of Lieutenant Thomas M. Shaw, marched directly behind the United States Marines in two sections and in their new uniforms, made an attractive appearance.*****

In 1898 the State was successful in securing the "U.S.S. Pinta"

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*Adjutant General Report, 1891-1892, page 43.

**Adjutant General Report, 1891-1892, page 10.

***Adjutant General Report, 1895-1896, page 79.

****Adjutant General Report, 1895-1896, page 185.

*****Los Angeles Daily Times, April 23, 1896, page 9, column 1.

for the use of the Third Division at San Diego. The vessel was used as an armory as well as for deck drills, but could not be used for cruising purposes.*

In answer to the call of the President of the United States on June 18, 1898, for volunteers in the Spanish-American War, the Third Division responded and one commissioned officer and twenty-eight enlisted men were chosen from that unit to enter the Auxiliary Naval Force of the United States Navy. The officer and men so chosen were granted leave of absence and furloughs for one year, but the time was subsequently extended to cover the duration of the war.**

The Third Division was given an opportunity to cruise on the "U. S. S. Badger", September twentieth to September 26, 1899, in company with the officers and men of the Fourth and Sixth Divisions and the "Pinta" detachment of the Engineer Division. Sixty-four officers and men of the Third Division participated in the cruise, glad of the opportunity which they had so long awaited.***

In accordance with an act of the State Legislature approved March 23, 1901, the Naval Battalion was segregated from the National Guard of California and was thereafter known and designated as the Naval Militia of California.**** Seven months later, in October, another cruise was had on board the "U.S.S. Philadelphia" attended by twenty-eight officers and men of this Division, on the cruise routine drill and instruction was had and much valuable information was gained by those who were able to participate. Because of the lack of space on board the "Philadelphia", the number of officers and men from each division were limited.*****

During the years 1902, 1903 and 1904 the activities of the Third Division were limited to practice and drills on shore and on board the old "U.S.S. Pinta" anchored in San Diego harbor. From March thirteenth to March 27, 1905, the officers and men of the division were given a practice cruise to Magdalena Bay on Board the "U.S.S. Bennington" under the supervision of officers of the United States Navy. The cruise was pronounced the most beneficial and instructive of any yet made by the Naval Militia. Target practice and drill in the various duties on board ship were had and many commendatory remarks were made concerning the willingness and ability of

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*Adjutant General Report, 1896-1898, page 5.

**Adjutant General Report, 1899-1900, page 52 and 56.

***Adjutant General Report, 1899-1900, page 115-117.

****Adjutant General Report, 1901-1902, page 65.

*****Adjutant General Report, 1901-1902, pages 150-151.

the members by the officers of the ship.*

The Third Division received its first call for active service on the twentieth of April 1906, when orders were received to proceed to San Francisco to aid the local authorities, the National Guard and Regular troops in preserving order and performing other necessary duties in the stricken city. The division remained on duty in San Francisco until May fifteenth, when it was relieved and the members returned to their homes.**

This unit participated in cruises to Avalon, Santa Catalina Island, on board the "U.S.S. Alert", July second to July 10, 1907,*** and July first to July 5, 1908. At San Diego on July 6, 1908, the officers and men were taken on board the torpedo boat destroyers "Preble", "Farragut" and "Perry" and given instructions in the workings of those vessels.****

As a result of numerous applications, the old ship "Pinta," which was of little value to the State, was returned to the United States Navy Yard at Mare Island on November 16, 1907.***** Two years later the Third Division participated in its last cruise aboard the "Alert". The cruise, which lasted for one week, began on July ninth and was made along the coast of Southern California.*****

The "U.S.S. Alert" was exchanged for the "U.S.S. Marblehead" in March, 1910, and cruises were made annually on board the latter vessel in 1910, 1911 and 1912, to Bremerton and Port Angeles, Washington. During the 1912 cruise a record in target practice was established by the gun crews on board the "Marblehead" of which the Third Division was one, surpassing any previous effort made by any gunnery company of any navy in the world. The shooting was done under Government inspection, and marvelous as it seemed for new men, the record performance was officially accepted by the Navy Department.***** In 1913, the "U.S.S. Farragut" was assigned by the Navy Department for the use of the Los Angeles, San Diego and Santa Barbara Divisions and cruises, in which the Third Division participated, were had in 1913, 1914 and 1915. A practice cruise of fifteen days on board the "U.S.S. Oregon" was had in July and August 1916.*****

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*Adjutant General Report, 1904-1905, pages 91, 92, 93.

**Adjutant General Report, 1906, pages 10, 11, 12.

***Adjutant General Report, 1907-1908, page 53.

****Adjutant General Report, 1909-1910, page 65.

*****Adjutant General Report, 1907-1908, page 6.

*****Adjutant General Report, 1909-1910, page 67.

*****Adjutant General Report, 1910-1914, Pages 27, 28.

*****Adjutant General Report, 1914-1920, pages 29, 62.

THIRD DIVISION (Continued)

The United States entered the World War on the sixth of April 1917, and on that date Governor Wm. D. Stephens received a telegram from the Secretary of the Navy calling the Naval Militia of California into the Federal Service. Governor Stephens immediately directed the several Divisions to assemble at their armories and prepare for muster. Four officers and sixty-six enlisted men of the Third Division were accepted and mustered in as National Naval Volunteers for service in the World War.* The entire Naval Militia was subsequently mobilized on board the "U.S. Naval vessels *Oregon", "San Diego" and "Huntington" at Mare Island. Officers and men were assigned to duty on vessels of the Pacific Fleet under orders to proceed to the Atlantic coast and to other duties aboard ship and ashore.

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*Adjutant General Report, 1914-1920, pages 29-36 and 37.