

History of the California Naval Militia, 4th Division (Company E, Naval Battalion, National Guard of California) 1895-1917

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Fourth Division, Naval Battalion (Formerly Company E)
 Location: Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County
 Organized June 13, 1895
 Mustered in July 1, 1895*
 Enrolled in National Naval Volunteers May 2, 1917

COMMANDING OFFICERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMMISSION</u>
A. A. Morey, Lt. Commander	June 13, 1895	July 13, 1895**
H. B. George, Lt. Jr. Grade	June 13, 1895	July 13, 1895
Carl E. Lindsay, Ensign Sr.	June 13, 1895	July 13, 1895
Wm. E. Miller Jr., Ensign Jr.	June 13, 1895	July 13, 1895
A. A. Morey, Lt. Commander (Resigned February 2, 1898)	June 13, 1895	July 13, 1895
Carl E. Lindsay, Lt. Jr. Grade	June 16, 1897	Oct. 19, 1897
John C. Doyle, Ensign Sr.	June 16, 1897	Oct. 19, 1897
Wm. E. Miller Jr., Ensign Jr.	June 13, 1895	July 13, 1895
Carl E. Lindsay, Lt. Commander	Mar. 14, 1898	Apr. 30, 1898
John C. Doyle, Lt. Jr. Grade	Mar. 14, 1898	Apr. 30, 1898
T. R. Armstrong, Ensign Jr.	Mar. 14, 1898	Apr. 30, 1898
Wm. E. Miller Jr., Ensign Jr.	June 13, 1895	July 13, 1895
C. E. Lindsay, Lt. Commander	Mar. 14, 1898	Apr. 18, 1900
J. C. Doyle, Lt. Jr. Grade	Mar. 14, 1898	Apr. 18, 1900
Harry B. Roff, Ensign Sr.	Mar. 7, 1900	May 2, 1900
Jessie F. Helms, Ensign Jr.	July 31, 1899	Jan. 23, 1900
C. E. Lindsay, Lt. Commander	Mar. 14, 1898	Mar. 31, 1903
J. C. Doyle, Lt. Jr. Grade	Mar. 14, 1898	Mar. 31, 1903
C. L. Steudeman, Ensign Sr.	Oct. 13, 1902	Mar. 30, 1903
Archie Ayers, Ensign Jr.	Oct. 13, 1902	Mar. 30, 1903
A. A. Morey, Lt. Commander	Oct. 17, 1904	Jan. 25, 1905
J. C. Doyle, Lt. Jr. Grade	Mar. 14, 1898	Jan. 20, 1905
J. H. Willey, Lt. Jr. Grade	Oct. 1, 1906	Nov. 15, 1906
Wm. P. Netherton, Ensign Sr.	May 8, 1905	June 7, 1905
Henry D. Hall, Ensign Jr.	May 8, 1905	June 7, 1905
Leroy A. Sprague, Ensign Jr.	July 9, 1906	Sept. 26, 1906

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*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896. General Order No. 11,
 paragraph IV, page 76.

**Adjutant General Report 1895-1896. General Order No. 11,
 page 77.

FOURTH DIVISION (Continued)

COMMANDING OFFICERS (Continued)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMMISSION</u>
A. A. Morey, Lt. Commander	April 17, 1904	June 7, 1907
A. D. Houghton, Lt. Commander	Sept. 21, 1908	Nov. 11, 1908
Jas. H. Willey, Lt. Jr. Grade	Oct. 1, 1906	May 13, 1909
Wm. C. Tooze, Ensign Sr.	Sept. 16, 1907	Sept. 30, 1907
Leroy A. Sprague, Ensign Jr.	July 9, 1906	May 13, 1909
Thos. W. Kelly, Lt. Commander	Nov. 26, 1909	Jan. 10, 1910
Jas. H. Willey, Lt. Jr. Grade	Jan. 10, 1906	May 13, 1909
Wm. C. Tooze, Ensign Sr.	Sept. 16, 1907	May 13, 1909
Leroy A. Sprague, Ensign Jr.	July 9, 1906	May 13, 1909
Jas. H. Willey, Lt. Commander	Sept. 24, 1913	Oct. 15, 1913
Leroy A. Sprague, Lt. Jr. Grade	Sept. 24, 1913	Nov. 28, 1913
Earl W. Sprague, Ensign Sr.	Sept. 24, 1913	Dec. 3, 1913
Arnold M. Baldwin, Ensign Jr.	Nov. 26, 1913	Mar. 10, 1914

Activities:

In response to an application of the citizens and residents of Santa Cruz for the organization of a company of Naval Militia in that city, the Board of Location and Organization of the National Guard of California directed Lieutenant and Adjutant Frank A. Brooks to take the necessary steps for the organizing and mustering in of such a company, to be designated as Company E of the Naval Battalion, National Guard of California. Following the usual mode of procedure, a meeting was ordered to be held at the Pavilion in Santa Cruz on the thirteenth of June 1895, for the purpose of organization and election of commissioned officers. Sixty-three applicants signed the roll, the organization was perfected, and the unit mustered into the service of the State as of July 1, 1895.* Shortly after the organization of Company E, the names of the several units of the Naval Battalion were changed, and Company E became the Fourth Gun Division of the Naval Battalion, National Guard of California.** The Division progressed satisfactorily from the time of its organization. A large, well lighted armory was rented and the men drilled regularly; boat drills were held frequently and the attendance was always up to standard.***

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*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 11, paragraph 4, page 76.

**Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 12, page 79.

***Pacific American March 15, 1896, page 5, column 2.

Activities: (Continued)

During the years 1896, 1897, and 1898, there was little of interest in the activities of the Fourth Division. The members drilled regularly both in the armory and outside. They had been supplied with an unserviceable whaleboat and a cutter which was in need of repairs. However, they made use of both vessels in rowing and sailing, but had no opportunity for ship drill until 1899.* On September eighteenth of that year the Division was taken on board the U. S. S. "Badger" at Santa Cruz, and in company with the Santa Barbara and San Diego Divisions cruised to Santa Catalina Island, returning to Santa Cruz September twenty-ninth.** Lieutenant Commander W. H. H. Southerland, who was in charge of the cruise for the Navy Department, recommended that the Santa Cruz Division be supplied with a steam launch fully equipped and with a mounted one-pound Hotchkiss gun.***

No opportunity was offered for a cruise in 1900, but in the summer of 1901, the U. S. S. "Philadelphia" was offered to the Naval Militia for a practice cruise. Due to the lack of accommodations on board the "Philadelphia" the number of enlisted men from each division was limited to twenty-five, and that number was taken on board at Santa Cruz, October 5, 1901. The ship proceeded to Santa Rosa Island via Santa Barbara, San Pedro and San Diego; drill and instruction were held daily during the cruise which lasted until October sixteenth. The men of the Naval Militia who had taken part in the cruise were enthusiastic in their praise of the officers and crew of the "Philadelphia".****

Under the provisions of an act of the Legislature, approved March 23, 1901, and pursuant to General Order No. 3 dated March 29, 1901, the title "Naval Battalion" was changed to Naval Militia. This action involved a reorganization, but did not affect the several Divisions.

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*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 113, paragraph 7, 12.

**Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, pages 116, 117.

***Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 113, paragraph 12.

****Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, page 150.

FOURTH DIVISION (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The years 1902, 1903, 1904 and 1905 were without special incident in the activities of the Fourth Division. Much time and energy was devoted to drills, parades, rowing and sailing exercises. The Division was inspected regularly and inspection reports denoted progress and deep interest in the organization. The earthquake of April 18, 1906, was the cause of calling the Fourth Division into active service of the State. The lighting system at Santa Cruz was out of commission and the members of the Division were called upon to perform police duty in that city, April eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth. From Santa Cruz the unit was ordered to San Francisco where they remained until May nineteenth. Their duties consisted mainly of assisting local authorities, National Guard and regular troops in maintaining order, distributing supplies and checking the spread of the fire which followed the earthquake.*

In July 1907, and again in July 1908, more than thirty officers and men of the Division boarded the "Alert" for a ten day cruise to Avalon, Santa Catalina Island. On the evening of July 4, 1909, the U. S. S. "Alert", with detachments from the San Francisco and Eureka Divisions on board, arrived at Santa Cruz where they remained until the following day, when all the members of the Naval force on board the "Alert" participated in a parade in that city. On July sixth, twenty-five officers and men from the Fourth Division joined their comrades from farther north on a cruise to San Diego from which they returned on July seventeenth.**

On March 21, 1910, an exchange was effected whereby the U. S. S. "Marblehead", a comparatively modern vessel, was substituted for the "Alert", thus affording better facilities as a training ship for the Naval Militia. Practice cruises in which the Fourth Division participated were had on board the "Marblehead" in 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, and 1915. These cruises of approximately two thousand miles each, were to the north, touching at Portland, Oregon, and Puget Sound ports.***

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*Adjutant General Report 1906, pages 6-10.

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

***Adjutant General Report 1909-1910, page 5.

ACTIVITIES: (Continued)

The Naval Militia of California had made rapid progress during the past six years and was recognized by the Naval authorities at Washington as one of the best qualified organizations of its kind in the country. The crews, of which the Fourth Division formed an important part, were qualified to navigate their vessels without assistance from the regular Navy officers, and the record established at target practice at Port Angels in 1912, placed the California organization first in that particular line.*

In 1916, the battleship "Oregon" was substituted for the "Marblehead" for the use of the Naval Militia, and a cruise was had on board the former in July of that year, which extended to Sitka, Alaska, making the entire cruise approximately three thousand miles.** This was the last cruise of the Naval Militia of California as such. The United States entered into the World War and on the sixth of April 1917, Governor Wm. D. Stephens received a telegram from the Secretary of the Navy calling the Naval Militia into Federal Service. The divisions were immediately ordered to assemble at their armories and prepare for muster. Four officers and fifty-nine enlisted men of the Fourth Division were mustered in as National Naval Volunteers. The men were subsequently mobilized on board United States ships at Mare Island, and assigned to duty on vessels of the Pacific Fleet, and also to other duties aboard ship and ashore.

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*Adjutant General Report 1910-1914, pages 26, 28.

**Cruises of the Oregon, July sixteenth to August nineteenth, by Commodore George W. Williams, United States Navy, on file in Adjutant General's Office.