

History of the California Naval Militia, 5th Division (Eureka Guard, National Guard of California) 1895-1917

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FIFTH DIVISION

Fifth Division, Naval Battalion (Formerly Eureka Guard, Unattached,
Sixth Brigade, National Guard of California)

Location: Eureka, Humboldt County
Organized February 10, 1879*
Reconstituted May 13, 1890**
Reconstituted July 23, 1895***
Reconstituted December 7, 1895****
Enrolled as National Naval Volunteers April 18, 1917

COMMANDING OFFICERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>COMMISSION</u>
Daniel J. Foley, Lt. Commander	May 17, 1893	Feb. 17, 1896*****
Charles V. Otto, Lt. Jr. Grade	May 17, 1893	Feb. 17, 1896*****
Edward H. McLaughlin, Ensign Sr.	July 22, 1895	Feb. 17, 1896*****
Geo. P. Smith, Ensign Jr.	March 19, 1896	April 4, 1896
Charles V. Otto, Lt. Commander	June 15, 1897	July 3, 1897
Geo. P. Smith, Lt. Jr. Grade	June 15, 1897	July 3, 1897
Edward H. McLaughlin, Ensign Sr.	July 22, 1895	Oct. 5, 1897
F. B. Barnum, Ensign Jr.	June 15, 1897	July 3, 1897
Thomas F. Foley, Ensign Jr.	Jan. 3, 1899	March 2, 1899

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*Eureka Guard (Unattached) organized February 10, 1879.

**The Eureka Guard (Unattached) reconstituted as Company A, Tenth Infantry Battalion, Sixth Brigade. Adjutant General Report, 1890, page 59.

***Company A, Tenth Infantry Battalion, Sixth Brigade, Reconstituted as Company A, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, Adjutant General Report, 1895-1896, General Order No. 11, page 76.

****Company A, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade was discontinued as an Infantry Company and enrolled as the Fifth Division in the Naval Battalion. Adjutant General Report, 1895-1896, General Order No. 17, page 87.

*****Lieutenant Commander Daniel J. Foley, Lieutenant Jr. Grade Charles V. Otto, and Ensign Edward H. McLaughlin, retained their former Rank as of May 17, 1893 and July 22, 1895, when they were Captain, First Lieutenant, Second Lieutenant of Company A, Tenth Infantry Battalion. Adjutant General Report, 1895-1896, General Order No. 3, page 115.

FIFTH DIVISION (Continued)

COMMANDING OFFICERS (Continued)

<u>NAME</u>		
Charles V. Otto, Lt. Commander	June 15, 1897	Jan. 27, 1900
Geo. P. Smith, Lt. Jr. Grade	June 15, 1897	Jan. 27, 1900
Edward H. McLaughlin, Ensign Sr.	July 22, 1895	April 4, 1900
Samuel Caldwell, Ensign. Jr.	March 6, 1900	April 16, 1900
Thomas F. Foley, Ensign Jr.	Jan. 3, 1899	March 2, 1899
Edward H. McLaughlin, Lt. Commander	April 1, 1902	July 8, 1902
Thomas F. Foley, Lt. Jr. Grade	March 6, 1900	April 6, 1900
Adolph B. Adams, Ensign Sr.	April 1, 1902	July 8, 1902
Samuel Caldwell, Ensign Jr.	March 6, 1900	June 30, 1902
Edward H. McLaughlin, Lt. Commander	April 1, 1902	Jan. 31, 1905
Thomas F. Foley, Lt. Jr. Grade	March 6, 1900	Jan. 31, 1905
Adolph B. Adams, Ensign Sr.	April 1, 1902	Jan. 31, 1905
L. L. Barnard, Ensign Jr.	Nov. 1, 1904	Feb. 3, 1905
Edward H. McLaughlin, Lt, Commander	April 1, 1902	Nov. 11, 1907
Thomas F. Foley, Lt. Jr. Grade	March 6, 1900	May 4, 1908
Adolph B. Adams, Ensign Sr.	April 1, 1902	Nov. 30, 1907
Walter E. Torrey, Ensign Jr.	March 12, 1907	Nov. 18, 1907
Edward H. McLaughlin, Lt. Commander	April 1, 1902	May 13, 1909
Thomas F. Foley, Lt. Jr. Grade	March 6, 1900	May 13, 1909
Adolph B. Adams, Lt. Jr. Grade	April 12, 1910	May 13, 1910
Walter E. Torrey, Ensign Jr.	March 12, 1907	May 13, 1909
Adolph B. Adams, Lt. Commander	June 20, 1911	Oct. 28, 1911
Walter E. Torrey, Lt. Jr. Grade	Feb. 20, 1912	Sept. 7, 1912

ACTIVITIES:

This division, originally a company of Infantry, stationed at Eureka, was on December 7, 1895, in compliance with General Order No. 17, discontinued as such and became the Fifth Division of the Naval Battalion, National Guard of California, stationed at the same place.

When the Fifth Division organized, Daniel J. Foley who had served as Captain in Company A, Tenth Infantry Battalion, Sixth Brigade, since May 17, 1893, was elected Lieutenant Commander and Charles V. Otto who had been First Lieutenant in that company during the same period of time was elected Lieutenant Junior Grade for the Fifth Division. Both of these officers were given rank from the date of their election in Company A, of the Tenth Infantry Battalion, Sixth Brigade. The transfer from an infantry company to a Division of the Naval Militia caused some temporary confusion at first, but the Division loyally set to work to harmonize whatever conflicting interests existed and soon adapted itself to the new conditions.

The new Division was inspected and mustered on the nineteenth of March 1896, by Lieutenant Colonel John C. Currier, Division Inspector, N. G. C. The inspection report stated that the Division had labored under some disadvantage, owing to the change from an infantry company to a division of the Naval Militia, but that it was rapidly becoming adjusted under good officers.*

This division was unfortunate in not having an opportunity to cruise during the years 1896, 1897 and 1898, but in September 1899, an opportunity was presented. September third, forty-nine officers and men went on board the "U. S. S. Badger" at Eureka for an eight day cruise. Having had no previous training aboard ship, the officers and men of the division were at a disadvantage as compared with the other divisions, but they evinced a desire to learn, and made rapid progress. Lieutenant Commander W. H. H. Southerland, U.S.N., who was in charge of Naval Militia affairs and accompanied the division on the cruise, recommended that the Eureka Division be supplied with a fully equipped steam launch for practice purposes.**

The year 1901 saw the segregation of the Naval Militia from the National Guard proper. Pursuant to an act of the State Legislature approved March twenty-third of that year the organization was designated as the Naval Militia of California. The new division necessitated a reorganization of the Naval Battalion, but did not effect the several divisions of the organization.

In September 1901, the Fifth Division was requested to report at San Francisco, ready to board the "U.S.S. Philadelphia" for a cruise along the southern California coast. However, upon their arrival at San Francisco they learned that the "Philadelphia" was more than a week behind her schedule. Because of business reasons the officers and men of the division were permitted to return to

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

**Adjutant General Report, 1899-1900, pages 112, 113.

FIFTH DIVISION (Continued)

their homes, as the men could not be absent during the length of time that would be required to complete the cruise.*

From 1902 to 1906 the activities of the Fifth Division consisted only of practice and drill. The membership remained around sixty officers and men, and interest in the organization was maintained. This unit was not called into active service in San Francisco when that city was so nearly destroyed by fire following the Earthquake of April 18, 1906, because of its isolated location and the lack of transportation facilities between Eureka and the Bay cities.**

One officer and thirty-seven men of the Fifth Division participated in a cruise from San Francisco to Avalon, Santa Catalina Island and returned on board the "U. S. S. Alert", June thirtieth to July 14, 1907.*** However, on the 1908 cruise the division was omitted, owing, as stated by Lieutenant George W. Bauer in his report on the cruise, to the limited accommodations of the "Alert" A year later another cruise was had to San Diego and return on board the "Alert" in which one officer and twenty-two men of the division participated, July Fourth to the eighteenth.****

The "U. S. S. Alert" was returned to the United States Government and the "U.S.S. Marblehead" was received in exchange on the twenty-first of March 1910. The "Marblehead" was a much larger and more modern vessel than the "Alert" and although it was too small to accommodate all the officers and men of the Naval Militia, it gave the men an opportunity to become familiar with the more modern sea going equipment.***** Regular annual cruises were made on board the "Marblehead" until 1915. The cruise of 1912 was the most notable because of the extraordinary ability displayed by the gun crews in target practice. The practice was had near Port Angeles, Washington, and sixty-five consecutive hits were made at a regulation target at a range of 1,600 yards with the ship traveling at a speed of eight knots.***** The cruiser "Marblehead" was returned to the Navy Department in 1916, and in its stead the battleship "Oregon" was placed at the

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

**Adjutant General Report, 1906, page 9.

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

****Adjutant General Report, 1909-1910, pages 66, 67, 68.

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

*****Adjutant General Report, 1910-1914, pages 26-30.

disposal of the San Francisco, Eureka and Santa Cruz Divisions. A practice cruise was had on the "Oregon" by the Fifth Division and other organizations, July 15, to July 29, 1916, which extended to Sitka, Alaska, a distance of about 1,500 miles from San Francisco.*

This was the last practice cruise of the Naval Militia of California, for on the sixth of April 1917, a state of war was declared to exist between the United States and the German Government. On that date, Governor William D. Stephens received a telegram from the secretary of the Navy calling the Naval Militia into Federal Service. The Governor, through the Adjutant General Department, immediately directed the officers and men of the Naval Militia to assemble at their armories and prepare for muster and enrollment as National Naval Volunteers. Two officers and fifty-seven of the Fifth Division were enrolled in the Federal Service on the eighteenth of April, and were subsequently mobilized on board the U.S.S. "Oregon" at Mare Island and assigned to duty on board ship and ashore. The Naval Militia of California was acknowledged by the Navy Department to have been one of the best of its kind to enter the Federal Service.

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*Cruises of the U. S. S. "Oregon", George W. Williams, United States Navy, commanding, on file Adjutant General Office, pages 3 to 10, inclusive.

**Adjutant General Report, 1914-1920, page 30.