

# **History of the California Naval Militia, 6<sup>th</sup> Division 1897-1917**

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SIXTH DIVISION

Sixth Division, Naval Battalion

Location: Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County

Organized July 10, 1897

Enrolled in National Naval Volunteers April 14, 1917

COMMANDING OFFICERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMMISSION</u>
Daniel F. Hunt, Lt. Commander	July 10, 1897	Sept. 1, 1897
J. N. Squier, Lt. Jr. Grade	July 10, 1897	Sept. 1, 1897
Joseph J. Delaney, Ensign Sr.	July 10, 1897	Sept. 1, 1897
Clare A. Noble, Ensign Sr.	Nov. 22, 1898	Mar. 28, 1899
Chas. A. Hunt, Ensign Jr.	July 10, 1897	Sept. 1, 1897
Clare A. Noble, Lt. Commander	Nov. 8, 1899	Jan. 23, 1900
Chas. A. Hunt, Lt. Jr. Grade	May 2, 1899	Sept. 5, 1899
C. J. Smith, Ensign Sr.	Mar. 27, 1900	Dec. 22, 1900
Henley C. Booth, Ensign Jr.	May 2, 1899	Sept. 5, 1899
H. C. Booth, Lt. Commander	June 4, 1901	Sept. 14, 1901
C. J. Smith, Lt. Jr. Grade	June 4, 1901	Sept. 14, 1901
Fred R. Moulshy, Ensign Sr.	June 4, 1901	Sept. 14, 1901
Owen H. O'Neill, Ensign Jr.	June 4, 1901	Sept. 14, 1901
C. J. Smith, Lt. Commander	Aug. 18, 1903	Oct. 12, 1903
O. H. O'Neill, Lt. Jr. Grade	Aug. 18, 1903	Oct. 12, 1903
A. L. Caldwell, Ensign Sr.	June 24, 1902	Oct. 12, 1903
Fred J. Smith, Ensign Jr.	Aug. 18, 1903	Oct. 12, 1903
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A. L. Caldwell, Lt. Commander	June 13, 1905	Nov. 4, 1905
Wm. C. Day, Lt. Commander	June 16, 1908	Aug. 24, 1908
F. J. Smith, Lt. Jr. Grade	June 13, 1905	Nov. 4, 1905
J. D. Cavalletto, Ensign Sr.	Feb. 20, 1906	Apr. 17, 1906
John P. Smith, Ensign Jr.	June 13, 1905	Nov. 4, 1905
Wm. C. Day, Lt. Commander	June 16, 1908	May 13, 1909
F. J. Smith, Lt. Jr. Grade	June 13, 1905	May 13, 1909
J. D. Cavalletto, Ensign Sr.	Feb. 20, 1906	May 13, 1909
John P. Smith, Ensign Jr.	June 13, 1905	May 13, 1909
Wm. C. Day, Lt. Commander	June 16, 1908	May 13, 1909
J. D. Cavalletto, Lt. Jr. Grade	May 3, 1910	June 14, 1910
Chas. H. Gray, Ensign Sr.	May 3, 1910	Oct. 31, 1910
D. D. Faulding, Ensign Jr.	Apr. 13, 1909	Apr. 15, 1910
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O. H. O'Neill, Lt. Commander	Mar. 29, 1904	Oct. 24, 1904
A. L. Caldwell, Lt. Jr. Grade	Mar. 29, 1904	Oct. 24, 1904
Fred J. Smith, Ensign Jr.	Aug. 18, 1903	Oct. 12, 1903

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMMISSION</u>
J. D. Cavalletto, Lt. Commander	July 2, 1912	July 27, 1912
John F. Smith, Lt. Jr. Grade	Jan. 28, 1913	May 23, 1913
C. H. McCaleb, Ensign Sr.	Oct. 3, 1911	Dec. 22, 1911
Chas. W. Wright, Ensign Jr.	Mar. 15, 1912	May 28, 1912
F. H. Kimball, Lt. Commander	May 16, 1915	May 17, 1915
Chas. W. Wright, Lt. Jr. Grade	Oct. 21, 1913	Nov. 11, 1913
Chas. H. McCaleb, Ensign Sr.	Oct. 3, 1911	Dec. 22, 1911
Harvey L. Kiler, Ensign Jr.	Oct. 21, 1913	Nov. 11, 1913
F. H. Kimball, Lt. Commander	Mar. 16, 1915	May 17, 1915
Chas. W. Wright, Lt. Jr. Grade	Oct. 21, 1913	Nov. 11, 1913
Harvey L. Kiler, Ensign Sr.	Oct. 21, 1913	Nov. 11, 1913
J. I. Cruickshank, Ensign Jr.	Apr. 10, 1917	Apr. 12, 1917

**ACTIVITIES:**

A petition signed by citizens and residents of Santa Barbara, requesting the organization of a Division of the Naval Battalion, National Guard of California, in that city, was approved by the Board of Location and Organization in April 1897. Brigadier General C. F. A. Last, commanding the First Brigade, National Guard of California, was directed to take the necessary steps for the muster in of the new division. The meeting for the organization of the division was held July 10, 1897, when fifty-eight applicants signed the roll, and the Sixth Division, Naval Battalion, National Guard of California, came into existence.

This division was permitted the use of a whaleboat and a cutter which were part of the equipment of the U. S. S. "Pinta", stationed at San Diego. These two small boats gave the men an opportunity for rowing and sailing exercises. The officers and men applied themselves energetically to the task of keeping in fit condition by shore drill and boat exercises with the limited amount of equipment they had. The Division had its first opportunity to participate in a cruise aboardship on the nineteenth of September 1899, when three officers and forty enlisted men embarked on the U. S. S. "Badger" for a ten day cruise along the coast of southern California.\* The cruise was a pronounced success, and officers and men of the State Naval Force were highly praised by Lieutenant Commander W. H. H. Southerland, United States Navy, who was in charge of the cruise. Lieutenant Southerland also recommended that the Santa Barbara Division be supplied with a steam launch fully equipped and with a Hotchkiss gun.\*\*

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

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 113.

SIXTH DIVISION (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

On the first of April 1901, under General Order No. 4, and in accordance with an act of the State Legislature, approved March 23, 1901, the Naval Battalion was segregated from the National Guard organization and was thereafter known and designated as the Naval Militia of California. The several divisions of the organization were not affected and retained their former designations.\*

The officers and enlisted men of the Sixth Division were permitted to participate in another cruise off the California coast on board the U. S. S. "Philadelphia" October 6 to October 15, 1901. Because of the lack of space on board the ship, only one officer and sixteen enlisted men of the Sixth Division took part in the cruise.\*\* As there was no cruise scheduled for the year 1902, upon request of Lieutenant Commander Booth of the Sixth Division, the officers and men were permitted to assemble for discipline and drill at Santa Catalina Island, September fifth to September fifteenth of that year. During this assembly daily division drills, boat drills and skirmish drills were held.\*\*\*

The years 1903, and 1904 and 1905 were without incident of special interest in the Sixth Division. Time was regularly devoted to drills on shore, target practice, and rowing and sailing exercises. In 1906, the Division received its first call for active service when ordered to San Francisco where they remained from April twenty-third to May eighteenth of that year. While in San Francisco the men performed guard duty and such other duties as were required of them in assisting the local authorities, in conjunction with the National Guard the regular troops, in restoring and preserving order in the stricken city after the earthquake of April 18, 1906.\*\*\*\*

Ten day cruises on board the U. S. S. "Alert" were participated in by detachments from the Sixth Division in 1907, 1908 and 1919. The "Alert" was not large enough to

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\*Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, pages 63-65.

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

\*\*\*Correspondence between Lt. Commander Booth and the Adjutant general, dated August 1905, relative to the cruise on board the "Philadelphia" on file in Adjutant General's Office.

\*\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1906, pages 6-11.

Activities: (Continued)

accommodate the entire force and the personnel of the detachments was changed each year. The "Alert" was returned to the Navy Department in March 1910, and the U. S. S. "Marblehead", a faster and more modern vessel was received in exchange.) Annual cruises were made on board the "Marblehead" from 1910 to 1915, but as before, only a detachment of the Division could be accommodated on board the ship. The cruise of 1912 was the most important of these, for on that occasion a world record at target practice was established under Government supervision at Por Angeles, Washington.\*\*

In 1915, the "Marblehead" was returned to the Navy Department and the U. S. S. "Farragut" was assigned for the use of the Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and San Diego Divisions. The "Farragut" was used for the cruise of 1915, but in 1916, the Sixth and other Divisions were taken for a practice cruise on board the U.S.S. "Oregon" to Puget Sound, August fifth to August nineteenth.\*\*\* This was the last cruise of the Naval Militia of California as on April 6, 1917, a state of war was declared to exist between the United States of America and the German Empire. On that date Governor Wm. D. Stephens received a telegram from the Secretary of the Navy calling the Naval Militia of California into Federal Service. The Sixth Division responded with four officers and one hundred and two enlisted men, the greatest number enrolled from any division of the Naval Militia of California. These officers and men were enrolled and mustered in as National Naval Volunteers on the fourteenth of April 1917.\*\*\*\* They were subsequently mobilized at Mare Island and assigned to duty; some on vessels of the Pacific Fleet and others to various duties aboard ship and ashore. The Naval Militia of California was not reorganized after the World War and the enrollment of its members into Federal Service in 1917 brought an end to this organization.\*\*\*\*\*

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\*Adjutant General Report 1910, pages 5, 65-68.

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

\*\*\*Cruises of the U. S. S. "Oregon", George W. Williams, United States Navy commanding, on filed adjutant General's Office.

\*\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, pages 29, 37, 38.

\*\*\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 29.