

# **History of the California Naval Militia, 7<sup>th</sup> Division (2<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Division) 1907-1917**

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SEVENTH DIVISION

Seventh Division, Naval Militia of California (Formerly Second Engineer Division)

Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Organized May 10, 1907\*

Reconstituted September 1, 1907\*\*

Enrolled as National Naval Volunteers April 14, 1917.

COMMANDING OFFICERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>COMMISSION</u>
Alonzo H. Woodbine, Lt. Commander	Sept. 1, 1907	Oct. 21, 1907
George E. Link, Lt. Jr. Grade	Sept. 1, 1907	Nov. 30, 1907
Ernest M. Vaughan, Ensign Sr.	Sept. 1, 1907	Nov. 30, 1907
James E. Beaman, Ensign Jr.	Sept. 1, 1907	Nov. 30, 1907
Ray McCracken, Ensign Jr.	Sept. 24, 1908	Dec. 10, 1908
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Alonzo H. Woodbine, Lt. Commander	Sept. 1, 1907	May 13, 1909
Ray W. Clark, Lt. Jr. Grade	Oct. 5, 1911	Oct. 31, 1911
Jared E. Wegner, Ensign Sr.	Mar. 9, 1911	April 6, 1911
John E. Smith, Ensign Jr.	Oct. 5, 1911	Oct. 31, 1911
Ray W. Clark, Lt. Commander	Dec. 22, 1913	Feb. 3, 1914
John E. Smith, Lt. Jr. Grade	Dec. 22, 1913	Feb. 3, 1914
Frank R. Seaver, Ensign Sr.	Dec. 29, 1913	Jan. 29, 1914
Donald H. Armstrong, Ensign Jr.	Dec. 22, 1913	Feb. 3, 1914
Ray W. Clark, Lt. Commander	Dec. 22, 1913	Feb. 3, 1914
Morgan Adams, Lt. Jr. Grade	June 3, 1915	June 28, 1915
M. J. Hageman, Ensign Sr.	June 3, 1915	June 28, 1915
Herman Hunneberger, Jr., Lt. Jr. Grade	Dec. 9, 1915	Jan. 8, 1916

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\*General and Special Orders and Circulars, 1907. General Orders No. 12, page 4.

\*\*Formerly Second Engineering Division, reconstituted as Seventh Division, N. M. C., September 1, 1907. General and Special Orders, 1907 - General Orders No. 18, Page 1.

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Alonzo H. Woodbine, Lt. Commander	Sept. 1, 1907	May 13, 1909
George E. Link, Lt. Jr. Grade	Sept. 1, 1907	May 13, 1909
Ernest M. Vaughan, Ensign Sr.	Sept. 1, 1907	May 13, 1909
Joseph L. Armstrong, Ensign Jr.	April 15, 1909	June 29, 1909

SEVENTH DIVISION (Continued)

COMMANDING OFFICERS (Continued)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMMISSION</u>
Ray W. Clark, Lt. Commander	Dec. 22, 1913	Feb. 3, 1914
Herman Hunneberger, Jr., Lt. Jr.	Jan. 4, 1917	Jan. 24, 1917
M. J. Hageman, Ensign Sr. Grade	June 3, 1915	June 28, 1915
Clarence B. Tillotson, Ensign Jr.	April 9, 1917	April 23, 1917

ACTIVITIES:

The Seventh Division, Naval Militia of California, was originally a detachment of the Engineer Division. The division headquarters were at San Francisco on the U. S. S. "Marion" and when the U. S. S. "Pinta" was loaned to the State by the Navy officials and stationed at San Diego, this Detachment was placed in charge of that vessel. On May 10, 1907, the Detachment was organized as the Second Engineer Division, Naval Militia of California and stationed at Los Angeles. On September 1, of the same year, the Division was reorganized and became a deck Division, designated as the Seventh Division, Naval Militia of California stationed at Los Angeles.

The first activity of the new organization, aside from regular drill and practice, was to participate in a cruise on board the U.S.S. "Alert" to Avalon, Santa Catalina Island July 2 to July 11, 1907, in which the Division was represented by two officers and twenty-six enlisted men.\* In July, 1908, three officers and twenty-nine enlisted men of the Division participated in a similar cruise and in July, 1909, two officers and thirty enlisted men participated in a cruise off the coast of the southern part of the State. During the latter cruise, while at anchor at San Pedro, the officers and men of the State Naval Force were taken on board the U. S. S. "Albany", by courtesy of its commanding officer, and were exercised at the heavy guns and loading machines on board that vessel. Owing to the limited accommodations on board the "Alert", it was necessary to greatly limit the numbers from each Division.\*\*

On March 21, 1910, the U. S. S. "Marblehead" was substituted for the "Alert" by the Navy Department, thus providing a larger and more modern vessel as a training ship for officers and men of the Naval Militia.\*\*\*

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\*Adjutant General's Report 1907-1908, Page 53.

\*\*Adjutant General's Report 1909-1910, Pages 64 to 67.

\*\*\*Adjutant General's Report 1909-1910, Page 5.

ACTIVITIES: (Continued)

Together with several Companies of the National Guard of California, the Seventh and Eighth Divisions of the Naval Militia participated in a parade and reception for William H. Taft, twenty-seventh President of the United States on the occasion of his visit to Los Angeles, October 16, 1911. The President was welcomed by perhaps the greatest outpouring of people the southern city had ever witnessed and the Naval Militiamen were given positions of prominence as part of the President's escort.\*

The Seventh Division participated in a cruise each year from 1910 to 1915 on board the "Marblehead". A capable hand working Navy official was detailed as instructor with the Naval Militia and that organization rapidly became proficient in Naval tactics. The gun crews of the "Marblehead", of which the Seventh Division formed a part, established a new record in target practice near Port Angeles, Washington in July 1912, by scoring sixty-five consecutive hits, while shooting at a regulation target under the supervision of Government officials.\*\* In 1916 the Naval Militia had outgrown the U.S.S. "Marblehead" and in its stead the U.S.S. "Farragut" was assigned for the use of the Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and San Diego Divisions.\*\*\*

A practice cruise to Puget Sound in charge of U. S. Navy officials, in which the Seventh Division participated, was had August 5 to August 19, 1916 on board the "Oregon" and two short cruises were made in March 1917. The Navy Department had at that time become intensely interested in the progress of the Naval Militia and was doing its utmost to promote the efficiency of the officers and men of that organization, and have them ready to enter the Federal Service should this country become involved in the World War.\*\*\*\*

On the 6th of April, 1917, the United States entered the World War and on that date Governor William D. Stephens received a telegram from the Secretary of the Navy, calling the Naval Militia of California into the Federal Service. The governor immediately complied with the order and the several Divisions of the organization were directed to assemble at their armories and prepare for mustering in as National Naval Volunteers.\*\*\*\*\* Four officers and sixty enlisted men of the Seventh Division were enrolled on the 14th of April 1917 and sent to Mare Island.

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\*Los Angeles Times, October 17, 1911. Part 2, Page 1, Col. 3.

\*\*Adjutant General's Report 1910-1914, Pages 26-28, 30.

\*\*\*Adjutant General's Report 1914-1920, Page 62.

\*\*\*\*Adjutant General's Report 1914-1920, Page 62.

\*\*\*\*\*Adjutant General's Report 1914-1920, Pages 21, 29.

ACTIVITIES: (Continued)

There they were assigned to duty aboard various war vessels, and also many were sent to various naval stations throughout the United States.\* The Seventh Division served the State faithfully and well and it is unfortunate that no data is available concerning the activities of the members of the Naval Militia after they entered the Federal Service. The Naval Militia has practically been replaced by the United States Naval Reserve Force, which is entirely under Federal control.\*\*

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\*Adjutant General's Report 1914-1920, Pages 21, 29, 31 and 39.

\*\*Adjutant General's Report 1914-1920, Page 29.