

History of the California Naval Militia, 8th Division 1911-1917

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EIGHTH DIVISION

Eighth Division, Naval Militia of California

Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Organized April 11, 1911

Enrolled in National Naval Volunteers April 18, 1917

COMMANDING OFFICERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMMISSION</u>
George E. Link, Lt. Commander	April 11, 1911	June 5, 1911
J. L. Armstrong, Lt. Jr. Grade	April 11, 1911	June 5, 1911
E. S. Newmier, Ensign Sr.	April 11, 1911	June 5, 1911
Hans K. Koebig, Ensign Jr.	May 2, 1912	July 3, 1912
G. E. Link, Lt. Commander	April 11, 1911	June 5, 1911
Hans K. Koebig, Lt. Jr. Grade	April 10, 1917	April 12, 1917
Wm. A. Clark, Ensign Sr.	April 10, 1917	April 12, 1917
H. S. Ryerson, Ensign Jr.	Oct. 26, 1916	Dec. 13, 1916

ACTIVITIES:

The Eighth Division, Naval Militia of California, was organized and sworn into the service of the State at Los Angeles April 11, 1911; and in General Order No. 9, dated July 27, 1911, was listed as an organization of the Naval Militia and mustered into the service of the State to date from April eleventh.*

This Division became part of the Naval Force of the State at a time when the outlook for the future of the organization was brighter than it had been for some time. The Naval Militia had received much aid from the State, but had been unable to secure modern equipment, appropriate ships for training, or competent instructors from the Navy Department until very recently. A new Naval Militia law was enacted by Congress in 1911, a competent official was placed in charge of Naval Militia affairs at Washington, D. C. and an earnest and enthusiastic instructor detailed to work with the California organization. The Navy Department dropped its apparent state of apathy and supplied its Naval Militia with modern arms and accoutrements until it was equipped in first class shape.**

*General And Special Orders and Circulars 1911, General Order No. 9, page 1.

**Adjutant General Report 1910-1914, pages 24-27.

ACTIVITIES: (Continued)

The U. S. S. "Marblehead", a comparatively modern vessel, had been turned over to the State for the use of the Naval Force and annual cruises were made. In July 1912, a world record was made at target practice and in point of members the California organization now stood second in the United States.* The Eighth Division, therefore, became a unit in a strong active organization, splendidly equipped and ready to justify the amount of effort and money that had been expended on it.

The Division took an active interest in the organization and participated in drills and the annual cruises. The U. S. S. "Farragut" was stationed at San Pedro for the use of the Los Angeles, San Diego and Santa Barbara Divisions, and practice cruises were had on board that and other United States ships.*

On the occasion of the visit of President Wm. Howard Taft to Los Angeles on the sixteenth of October 1911, the new Division was given the opportunity to appear in public. The Eighth Division acted as escort to the President and was accorded a prominent place on the parade which was witnessed by the greatest number of people ever assembled in the southern city up to that time.***

Early in 1916, the U. S. S. "Oregon" was assigned for the use of the California Naval Militia and a practice cruise to Puget Sound was had on board the vessel in August of that year. Two short cruises to the southern California coast were also made. Nineteen sixteen was the last year for the Naval Militia to practice for early in April 1917, the United States became involved in the World War and the force was called into the active service of the United States. On April eighteenth four officers and fifty-three enlisted men of the Eighth Division were enrolled in the national Naval Volunteers. These officers and men were

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*Adjutant General Report 1910-1914, page 26.

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

***Los Angeles Times October 17, 1911, Part 2, page 1, column 3.

EIGHTH DIVISION (Continued)

ACTIVITIES: (Continued)

shortly afterwards mobilized at Mare Island and assigned to duty on board various war vessels and naval stations throughout the United States. The California Naval Militia was accorded the distinction by the Navy Department of having been one of the best organizations of its kind to enter the Federal service.

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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