

History of the California Naval Militia, 9th Division 1914-1917

This history was completed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in conjunction with the California National Guard and the California State Library.

Digitized by the History Office, Camp San Luis Obispo, 23 January 2015

Original document on file at the California State Library

NINTH DIVISION

Ninth Division, Naval Militia of California

Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Organized November 19, 1914

Enrolled in the National Naval Volunteers April 14, 1917

COMMANDING OFFICERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>COMMISSION</u>
Frank R. Seaver, Lt. Com.	Nov. 19, 1914	Jan. 9, 1915
Nelson Taylor, Lt. Jr. Grade	May 20, 1915	June 28, 1915
Frank Simpson Jr., Ensign Sr.	May 20, 1915	June 28, 1915
C. C. Troensegard, Ensign Jr. (Resigned April 3, 1915)	Nov. 19, 1914	Jan. 22, 1915
Harold M. Haver, Ensign Jr.	May 20, 1915	June 28, 1915
F. R. Seaver, Lt. Commander	Jan. 26, 1916	May 19, 1916
Hugh S. Haynes, Lt. Jr. Grade	Jan. 26, 1916	May 19, 1916
Walter M. M. Fidd, Ensign Sr.	Jan. 26, 1916	May 19, 1916
Selmar R. Siebert, Ensign Jr.	June 28, 1916	July 26, 1916

ACTIVITIES:

The Ninth Division, Naval Militia of California, numbering sixty-three men, was organized at Los Angeles and mustered into the service of the State on the nineteenth of November 1914, but no arms or equipment were received until May 1915. As soon as equipment was received the Division became active in Drill on shore and aboard ship. In July 1915, two officers and forty-four enlisted men of the Ninth Division had their first opportunity to practice at sea, when they participated in the annual cruise for that year on board the U. S. S. "Marblehead".*

An aeronautic section consisting of twenty men of the Ninth Division was organized February 3, 1916, and several of the men of that section were sent to Pensacola, Florida, for the purpose of pursuing a three months's course of instruction at the Naval Flying School there. Ensign Frank Simpson Jr. was detailed by the Lieutenant Commander to take charge of the Aeronautic Section. The Division passed a satisfactory Federal inspection April 27, 1916, and on May sixth and seventh enjoyed a short cruise on board the U. S. S. "Farragut" in which two officers and fifty-two enlisted men participated.**

-oOo-

*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 62.

**Monthly Returns on file in Adjutant General's Office.

NINTH DIVISION (Continued)

ACTIVITIES: (Continued)

The annual cruise for 1916 was made to Puget Sound on board the U. S. S. "Oregon" August fifth to August nineteenth, and forty-four officers and men of the Ninth Division participated. The Ninth Division served in the State forces only about two and one half years, but during that time made rapid progress and as in the case of the other divisions was a credit to the Naval Militia of California.

The activities of the Ninth Division of the Naval Militia as a State organization terminated in April 1917, for on the sixth of that month the United States declared war on the Imperial German Government, and word was received by Governor Wm. D. Stephens from the National Government ordering the State Naval Force into the Federal Service. The several divisions assembled at their armories and prepared for muster. On April fourteenth six officers and ninety men of the Ninth Division were enrolled in the National Naval Volunteers. They were subsequently mustered in at Mare Island and detailed for duty on board various war vessels and stations throughout the country.