

History of the Naval Battalion, Company B, National Guard of California 1891-1895

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Company B, Naval Battalion

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized August 22, 1891

Consolidated July 23, 1895*

Commanding Officers

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Rank</u> | <u>Commission</u> |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| John J. Fitzgerald, Lt. Commander | Aug. 22, 1891 | Oct. 12, 1891 |
| Michael F. Kilkeary, Lt. Jr. Grade (Promoted to Ord. Officer Nov. 3, 1891) | Aug. 22, 1891 | Oct. 12, 1891 |
| Charles H. Crocker, Lt. Jr. Grade | Dec. 17, 1891 | Dec. 31, 1891 |
| John P. Hendrickson, Ensign Sr. | Aug. 22, 1891 | Oct. 12, 1891 |
| Cecil C. Dennis, Ensign Jr. | Nov. 19, 1891 | April 4, 1892 |
| John J. Fitzgerald, Lt. Commander (Resigned July 5, 1892) | Aug. 22, 1891 | Oct. 12, 1891 |
| Charles H. Crocker, Lt. Commander | Oct. 20, 1892 | Nov. 15, 1892 |
| Cecil C. Dennis, Lt. Jr. Grade | Oct. 20, 1892 | Nov. 15, 1892 |
| Guy C. Calden, Ensign Sr. | Sept. 9, 1892 | Oct. 10, 1892 |
| Wm. F. Burke, Ensign Jr. | Oct. 20, 1892 | Nov. 15, 1892 |
| Cecil C. Dennis, Lt. Commander | April 4, 1894 | May 22, 1894 |
| Guy C. Calden, Lt. Jr. Grade | April 4, 1894 | May 22, 1894 |
| Wm. F. Burke, Ensign Sr. | Oct. 20, 1892 | Nov. 15, 1892 |
| Charles R. Moody, Ensign Jr. | April 4, 1894 | May 25, 1894 |

Activities:

Company B was the first company of the Naval Battalion to perfect an organization, and quite naturally its members expected their organization to be designated as Company A. It developed however, that a company organized in San Diego was the first to file an application for that designation, and although the San Diego company had not been mustered in, the Adjutant General's Department ruled that the first company to make application was entitled to be designated as Company A. Therefore the first company of the Battalion to be organized and mustered into the State service

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*Company B consolidated with Companies C and D of the Naval Battalion. Adjutant General Report, 1895-1896, page 76. General Order No. 11.

was designated as Company B, stationed at San Francisco.* The organization meeting was held at the Regimental Armory of the First Infantry, Second Brigade, the twenty-second of August, 1891, and the company was mustered in on the same date.

John J. Fitzgerald, who was elected First Lieutenant Commander of Company B, was an enthusiastic worker for the organization. He had seen service in other States and held the rank of Captain in the United States Navy where he had served seven years, and was Assistant Instructor in seamanship and gunnery at the time of his discharge from the Navy, May 2, 1884. The organization of the Naval Battalion was due largely to the efforts of Captain Fitzgerald, and after the organization of Company B, he devoted a great deal of time and energy to instructing and training the officers and men of the new branch of the service. Under the leadership of Lieutenant Commander Fitzgerald, the members of Company B applied themselves energetically to training and drill on board the old "U.S.S. Charleston."

The company, replendent in new uniforms, participated at the opening of the Midwinter Fair in San Francisco, January 27, 1894. The parade on that occasion was described as one of the finest civic and military parades ever held in San Francisco. The Naval Battalion was led by Lieutenant Commander Frederick H. Stahle, and was fifth in the line of march.** Company B also participated in the demonstration at the unveiling of the Lick Monument in San Francisco, November twenty-eighth of that year.

On July 15, 1894, with other companies of the Naval Battalion, Company B was called into active service to aid in quelling the great railroad strike. The company was detailed for duty along the waterfront in the city of Oakland where they remained until July twentieth, when they were dismissed.*** The officers and men were highly commended by Major General W. H. Dimond for the capable manner in which they performed the duties assigned to them at that time.****

When the reorganization of the National Guard took place in 1895, the Board of Location and Organization decided to reduce the number of companies of the Naval Battalion which were stationed in San Francisco, and Company B, being the lowest in point of numbers, it was decided to consolidate that company with companies

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*San Francisco Call, August 22, 1891, page 1, column. 4.

**San Francisco Chronicle, January 28, 1894, page 1, columns 1-7.

***Adjutant General Report, 1893-1894, pages 228-267.

****Adjutant General Report, 1893-1894, page 231.

COMPANY B (Continued)

C and D, of San Francisco.*

In accordance with General Order No.11, the consolidation was accomplished in August 1895, and the officers and men of Company B were transferred to Companies C and D.**

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*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 11, page 76, and General Order No. 13, page 80.

**Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, page 76.