

**History of the National Guard of  
California and the Philippine  
Insurrection: 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment,  
California U.S. Volunteers  
1899-1901**

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one of the most important... The Philippine Insurrection... 1898-1902

FIRST INFANTRY REGIMENT, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

DURING THE PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION

The exchange of the ratifications of the Treaty of Peace between Spain and the United States took place on the eleventh of April 1898, and by that exchange the Philippine Islands officially became a part of the United States of America. On the same day an order was issued by the United States War Department, declaring that a state of insurrection existed in the Philippine Islands. The Island of Luzon was actually in a state of insurrection subsequent to February 4, 1898, but until the Peace Treaty was ratified that condition could not be officially declared to exist.

American occupation of the Island of Negros followed rumors that Tagals were being sent there from Luzon for the purpose of persuading the native Visayanos to resist the Government of the United States. The inhabitants of the Island had made a request for American protection from outside, and it was determined by the United States Government officials to test in the largest measure the ability of the inhabitants for self-government. Colonel James F. Smith was appointed to be administrator of the Island and

REGIMENTS INCLUDED IN THE CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

DURING THE PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION

On April 11, 1898, the First Battalion, consisting of Companies F, G, H, and I of the First Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers, and the Third Battalion consisting of Companies A, B, C, and D of the same regiment, were stationed at various points throughout the Island of Negros. Headquarters and Base were also on the Island, stationed at La Carlota. Colonel Victor W. Duboué was succeeded by Brigadier-General James F. Smith as in command. The Second Battalion, consisting of Companies C, D, E, and F, under command of Major Charles Boston was still in the trenches near San Pedro Magallan on the Island of Luzon where, for the time being, the duties were cooperatively light.

The work of the two Battalions in Negros consisted of marches in all directions to drive off the bands of outlaws infesting the country. There were frequent skirmishes with these brigands and a few American soldiers were killed in action on the Island. The Americans were victorious in nearly every encounter. The

list compiled by the War Department, showing the time spent by the United States in War from 1776-1901.

The list shows the First Infantry Regiment, California Volunteers Infantry during the Spanish American War re-enlisted in 1898 during the Philippine Insurrection.

ACTIVITIES OF THE  
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American occupation of the Island of Negros followed rumors that Tagals were being sent there from Luzon for the purpose of persuading the native Visayans to resist the Government of the United States. The inhabitants of the Island had made a request for American protection from outlaws, and it was determined by the United States Government officials to test in the largest measure the capacity of the inhabitants for self-government. Colonel James F. Smith of the First California Volunteers was found to be admirably qualified for the position of Military Governor of the Island and was appointed to that position by General Otis.

On April 11, 1899, the First Battalion, consisting of Companies F, G, L, and M of the First Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers, and the Third Battalion consisting of Companies A, B, E, and H of the same regiment, were stationed at various towns throughout the Island of Negros. Headquarters and Band were also on the Island, stationed at La Carlota. Colonel Victor D. Duboce who succeeded Brigadier-General James F. Smith was in command. The Second Battalion, consisting of Companies C, D, I, and K, under command of Major Charles Boxton was still in the trenches near San Pedro Mocali on the Island of Luzon where, for the time being, the duties were comparatively light.

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\*A list compiled by the War Department, showing the time spent by the United States in War from 1775-1921.

Note The officers commanding the First Infantry Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry during the Spanish American War remained in command during the Philippine Insurrection.

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the outlaws were steadily forced back, and a feeling of security was experienced by the industrious classes for the first time in years. On April twenty-fourth, Headquarters were moved from La Carlota to Bacolod, where they remained until the regiment returned home.

The Second Battalion of the First Infantry under Major Boxton landed at Dumaguete, on the Island of Negros the last of May 1899. Dumaguete is the chief city in western Negros and second in size to Bacolod. Many wealthy people from the towns up and down the coast brought their families to Dumaguete for protection, and did not venture to return to their home towns until American soldiers were stationed in them. Companies I and D remained at Dumaguete until relieved to start home. Company C moved up the coast beyond Bais to San Carlos and Company K was divided between Bais and Taujay. The companies of the second battalion were engaged in several encounters with the outlaws on the Island, but the latter soon found that their primitive weapons were of little value against the Americans.\* The period of enlistment of the California Volunteers had expired at the conclusion of the Spanish-American War. When Regular troops became available to relieve the Volunteers the first week in July 1899, the United States transport "Sherman" brought the Sixth United States Infantry to Negros and began to relieve the California companies. The volunteer companies were relieved as fast as one set of soldiers could be unloaded and the other embarked. This undertaking consumed about ten days and on July sixteenth the First Infantry Regiment set sail for Manila where they arrived July eighteenth.\*\* Eighty-six men of the regiment asked to be mustered out in Manila and left the transport. The "Sherman" put to sea July twenty-sixth and headed for Japan. The troops stayed three days at Nagasaki, then sailed through the inland sea and waited three days at Yokohama. Thus the men of the regiment enjoyed six days of sightseeing in Nagasaki, Yokohama, and Tokio. The

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\*Campaigning in the Philippines, by Karl Irving Faust, (History of the Operations of the First Regiment, California U. S. Volunteer Infantry), page 29.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 4.

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run from Japan to San Francisco was made without incident and the steamer anchored outside the Golden Gate August 23, 1899.\* Reports were then received of the grand reception that the citizens of San Francisco had prepared for the regiment and on August twenty-fourth the "Sherman" was the center of the finest Naval parade ever known in the history of San Francisco harbor. All the boats in the bay were decorated and that night there was a grand display of fireworks on land and water. The regiment landed at San Francisco the morning of the twenty-fifth and was met with such a welcome as no one could soon forget. For three days San Francisco took a holiday and thousands of people from other cities of the State joined the crowds.

On September 21, 1899, the First Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry was mustered out of the service of the United States and ceased to exist as an organization. All the members of the Regiment were notified that they would receive a warm welcome back into the ranks of the First Regiment of Infantry, National Guard of California.\*\*

The casualties suffered by the Regiment from the date of their enlistment in the U. S. Volunteer forces until they were mustered out were as follows:\*\*\*

Killed in action or died as the result of wounds received while in action	11
Killed by accident	3
Died of disease	23
Died, cause unknown	3
Missing	1
Wounded	47

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\*Campaigning in the Philippines, by Karl Irving Faust, (History of the Operations of the First Regiment, California U. S. Volunteer Infantry), page 29.

\*\*Campaigning in the Philippines, by Karl Irving Faust, (History of the Operations of the First Regiment, California U. S. Volunteer Infantry), page 30.

\*\*\*Campaigning in the Philippines, by Karl Irving Faust, pages 78, 79.

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In recognition of the patriotism and sacrifices made by the members of the National Guard of California who volunteered and entered the service of the United States in the Spanish-American War in 1898, the California Legislature enacted a law which read substantially as follows:

"The members of the National Guard who were mustered into the service of the United States and subsequently discharged therefrom are given the privilege of reporting back and returning to duty in the National Guard with full credit for continuous service from the time they were mustered into the service of the United States until they reported back for duty in the National Guard, providing that they so reported within one hundred and fifty days after being mustered out of the United States service."\*

The First Infantry Regiment as a whole reported for duty in the National Guard of California on the twenty-ninth of November 1899, was accepted and returned to duty therein as provided under the act of the Legislature of the State of California approved March 21, 1899, and the provisions of General Orders No. 11, series of 1899.\*\*

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\*Adjutant General Report, 1899-1900, page 8.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900. General Order No. 3, pages 79, 80.