

History of the 13th Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard 1918-1921

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THIRTEENTH SEPARATE COMPANY

(SAN FRANCISCO)

Thirteenth Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard

Reference: Adjutant General Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Mustered in March 10, 1918*

Redesignated July 22, 1919**

Redesignated February 1, 1921***

Redesignated March 25, 1921****

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Louis Graf, Capt. (resigned Aug. 14, 1920)	Mar. 10, 1918	Mar. 23, 1918
Lester R. Walton, First Lieut. (resigned May 21, 1918)	Mar. 10, 1918	Mar. 23, 1918
Frederich J. Blackburn, First Lieut. (promoted Capt. Fourteenth Separate Co. Oct. 15, 1918)	June 3, 1918	June 10, 1918
Phillip Z. Meyers, First Lieut. (resigned Mar. 15, 1919)	Nov. 26, 1918	Nov. 26, 1918
William M. Nelson, First Lieut. (resigned Jan. 14, 1920)	July 28, 1919	July 30, 1919
Paul A. Cooley, First Lieut. (resigned Apr. 2, 1920)	Jan. 9, 1920	Jan. 15, 1920
C. D. O'Sullivan, Capt.	Aug. 14, 1920	Aug. 14, 1920
Edward V. Blount, First Lieut.	Sept. 4, 1920	Sept. 8, 1920

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*Thirteenth Separate Company, California Infantry, mustered in March 10, 1918.
General and Special Orders 1918. General Order No. 1, page 5.

**Thirteenth Separate Company, redesignated Company C, First Separate Battalion
Infantry, California National Guard, July 22, 1919.
General and Special Orders 1919. General Order No. 7, par. 2, page 12.

***Company C, First Separate Battalion, redesignated Third Company, Coast
Artillery, California National Guard, February 1, 1921.
General and Special Orders 1921. General Order No. 1, par. 1 (a), page 5.

****Third Company, First Coast Artillery Corps, redesignated Third Company, First
Coast Defense Command, March 25, 1921
General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1921. General Order No. 5, Page 13.

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THIRTEENTH SEPARATE COMPANY (Continued)

(SAN FRANCISCO)

Activities:

The Thirteenth Separate Company, California Militia was organized and mustered into the State service March 10, 1918, in San Francisco. Louis Graf was selected Captain and Lester R. Walton, First Lieutenant.

About a month after its organization, on April 6, 1918, the Thirteenth Separate Company participated in the big Liberty Bond Day parade held in San Francisco. One year had passed since the United States joined the Allies in the war against Germany and Austria, and the opening day of the drive for the sale of the Third Liberty Bonds was the first anniversary of our entrance into the conflict. It was estimated that nearly 15,000 enlisted men, business men, women and children took part in the demonstration. In the parade the Thirteenth Separate Company carried the largest flag ever made, and more than one hundred men were required to carry the emblem.*

On September 26, 1918, the Thirteenth Separate Company took part in another Liberty Bond parade; then on October 25, 1918, the Liberty Bond drive started. Captain Louis Graf and his Company reported at the loan committee headquarters and were assigned to the work of soliciting various cafes of the city between the hours of 10:00 P.M. and 2:00 A.M., with the result that the Company was able to sell \$225,000 worth of Bonds. On the evening of October twenty-first and the morning of October twenty-second the unit worked for the Red Cross in order that posters entitled "Spanish Influenza" might be displayed in prominent places for the public to read.**

The Memorial Day exercises in San Francisco on May 30, 1918, were similar to those held in other places throughout the State and Nation. With hearts filled with pride for those who had fallen in the country's cause, and the knowledge that even at that hour many were wounded and dying on the fields of battle in France, the people of San Francisco observed Memorial Day as never before. The holiday spirit of outings and picnics had disappeared and the city quietly and thoughtfully observed the day. First, there was the parade that ended at the National Cemetery at the Presidio where the soldiers' graves were decorated with American flags and beautiful flowers. The Thirteenth Separate Company participated in the parade and in the exercises at the cemetery.***

The parade of July 4, 1918, was also significant of the fact that our country was at war. Almost every Nation of the earth, excepting the central powers of Europe then combating against the rest of the world, was represented in the line of marchers. There were British, French, Italians, Belgians, Serbs, Rumanians, Poles, Armenians, Norwegians, Greeks, Chinese, Japanese, Swedish, and Czechs. Under their standards and Old Glory they marched, as the crowds,

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*San Francisco Call April 6, 1918, page 1, column 5.

**Annual Muster Roll, Thirteenth Separate Company June 6, 1918.

***San Francisco Chronicle May 31, 1918, page 9, column 1.

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THIRTEENTH SEPARATE COMPANY (Continued)

(SAN FRANCISCO)

Activities: (continued)

grasping the spirit of Americanism, cheered. The marchers, born in far distant quarters of the earth, yet brought together by a love of liberty and the spirit of American independence, joined with native Americans in celebrating the birth of a nation "dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal,"

Leading the parade was Major-General John F. Morrison, commander of the Western Department of the Army. Behind him marched solid ranks of soldiers, sailors and marines, strong, fearless representatives of America's fighting forces. The California Home Guard were in line, as were the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Separate Companies, California National Guard. The line of march extended from the Embarcadero and Market Street to Grove and Market Streets, thence west on Grove to Polk, north on Polk to Turk, where the marchers disbanded. The reviewing stand was on the east side of Polk Street, opposite the entrance to the City Hall.*

From July 7 to 22, 1918, the Thirteenth Separate Company was stationed at the Allied War Exposition in San Francisco. From the writings of a correspondent the following items were taken:

"The final day of the Allied War Exposition broke the record for attendance to-day, according to Director Chester J. Campbell, who at the same time announced that the total of paid admissions for the two week period exceeded \$175,000. The war trophies that made up the great show are on their way to Los Angeles for exhibition. Beginning at 11 O'clock yesterday morning there were hourly demonstrations of tank and trench warfare by the National Guard, and thousands were unable to obtain seats in the grandstand. Every feature of the exhibition attracted crowds. The Red Cross Booth, the field hospital section, the Y.M.C.A. booth, the Belgian and French relief section, the Serbian booth, the food administration display, the United recruiting station, the British and Canadian section and the Czecho-Slavok booth all were points of such absorbing interest that they were difficult of access on account of the dense throng of spectators. The exhibition was the scene of an informal celebration of the national holiday of Belgium. The Belgian flag was displayed throughout the city to commemorate the declaration of the independence of that country, July 21, 1831, and during the day thousands of persons paid their respects to the valiant nation by visits to the Belgium room connected with the exhibit at the Exposition Auditorium.***

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*San Francisco Call, July 4, 1918, page 6, column 1.

**San Francisco Call July 22, 1918, page 16, column 7.

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THIRTEENTH SEPARATE COMPANY (Continued)

(SAN FRANCISCO)

Activities: (continued)

The first annual encampment of the newly organized National Guard was held at Laveaga Park, near Santa Cruz, September 12 to 27, 1919, inclusive. The Thirteenth Separate Company then known as Company C, First Separate Battalion was one of the two San Francisco units to attend the camp. Lieutenant-Colonel Harold D. Coburn, United States Army, was in command of the encampment and nearly all the instructors were United States Army officers. During the camp the Guardsmen received instruction and drill in practically everything that a good soldier should know. On September twenty-fifth, Colonel Robert Noble, United States Army, Chief Militia officer, inspected the troops. Inspection was followed by a review in the Colonel's honor. Colonel McKnight, Assistant Adjutant-General, California National Guard, was also present at the review. General Hunter Liggett, United States Army, commanding the Western Department of the Regular Army, was well pleased with the camp, the instruction given and the efficiency and appearance of the National Guardsmen.*

Besides the usual holiday parades of May 30 and July 4, 1920, Company C participated in a parade and reception to the Pacific Fleet September 2, 1919. Sharing honors with the fleet was a special celebration known as War Women's Day. Womanhood's immortal service to the cause of world democracy was recognized in San Francisco on that day. On every lip were words of glowing praise for the heroic deeds and loyal sacrifice of the red blooded heroines of America. In pageantry and in song, in oratory and in allegory, the work of women in war service from the nursing of the wounded in the base hospitals to the making of bandages in the homes, came in for just and fitting praise. Five thousands officers and men of the Pacific Fleet joined in the vast outpouring of men in uniform who made up the greater part of the mammoth procession in honor of the heroines of the war. It was man's tribute to woman, and therefore, essentially a parade of man. The throngs of onlookers, too, caught the spirit of the hour. That was manifested by the cheers that greeted the floats, beautiful works of art that told in allegory the work which women had performed for their country and for all humanity.

It was estimated that nearly 20,000 men, mostly in uniforms took part in the parade. Besides the men from the fleet, there were United States Army soldiers, veterans of the wars that America has taken part in. There were gits from the National Guard and from many fraternal and independent organizations. It was a colorful movement of men in uniform, made more impressive by the striking appearance of military formation and the martial airs of military bands.**

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*San Francisco Call September 21, 1920, page 7, column 1.

**San Francisco Call September 6, 1919, page 11, column 1.

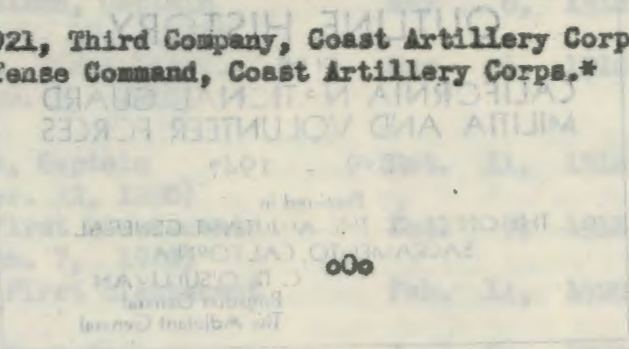
THIRTEENTH SEPARATE COMPANY (Continued)

SAN FRANCISCO

Activities: (Continued)

On June 16, 1920, the reorganization of the Coast Artillery Corps was begun when the First Company Coast Artillery was organized in San Francisco. On January 20, 1921, The Second Company Coast Artillery was organized in San Francisco. Eleven days later, February 1, 1921, Company C, First Battalion Infantry was redesignated Third Company, Coast Artillery Corps.

On March 25, 1921, Third Company, Coast Artillery Corps became Third Company, First Coast Defense Command, Coast Artillery Corps.*



*General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1921, General Order No. 5, Page 13.