

History of the 14th Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard 1918-1921

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FOURTEENTH SEPARATE COMPANY

1127

SAN FRANCISCO

Fourteenth Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Mustered in May 6, 1918*

Redesignated July 22, 1919**

Redesignated February 1, 1921***

Redesignated March 25, 1921****

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Walter C. V. Nelson, Captain (resigned Sept. 19, 1918)	May 6, 1918	May 20, 1918
George P. Mills, First Lieut. (resigned Dec. 9, 1918)	May 6, 1918	May 13, 1918
F. J. Blackburn, Captain (resigned Apr. 22, 1920)	Oct. 11, 1918	Nov. 15, 1918
E. O. Burger, First Lieutenant (resigned Jan. 7, 1920)	Dec. 9, 1918	Dec. 9, 1918
Callen Tjader, First Lieutenant	Feb. 14, 1920	Feb. 21, 1920
Callen Tjader, Captain (resigned Dec. 11, 1920)	June 24, 1920	June 29, 1920
Edward J. Jose, First Lieutenant	Sept. 7, 1920	Sept. 8, 1920

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*Fourteenth Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard, mustered in May 6, 1918.

General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1918, General Order No. 6, Page 15.

**Fourteenth Separate Company, redesignated Company D, First Separate Battalion Infantry, California National Guard, July 22, 1919.

General and Special Orders 1919, General Order No. 7, Par. 2, Page 12.

***Company D, First Separate Battalion, redesignated Fourth Company, Coast Artillery; California National Guard, February 1, 1921.

General and Special Orders 1921, General Order No. 1, Par. 1(A), Page 5.

****Fourth Company, First Coast Artillery Corps, redesignated Fourth Company, First First Coast Defense Command, March 25, 1921.

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

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Activities:

The Fourteenth Separate Company was organized and mustered in as a unit of the National Guard on May 6, 1918. Walter C. V. Nelson was selected as Captain and George P. Mills as First Lieutenant. The Company had hoped to be called into the Federal Service as a unit, but that hope was never realized. Many members of the Company, however, were called into the service or had voluntarily enlisted when hopes of the Company's entering as a unit were abandoned. Although many of its members were called into Federal Service, the Fourteenth Separate Company was not discouraged because of the continual drain on their personnel by the Government, but continued to enlist new members.

The first public parade of the Fourteenth Company was held May 30, 1918, in San Francisco. From a San Francisco correspondent the following account of the exercises is taken.

"With a heart filled with solemn pride for her sons who have fallen in their country's cause, and with the knowledge that even now more of them may be dying on the fields of France, San Francisco observed Memorial Day yesterday as it has never been observed before. Flowers were strewn on the ocean for all those heroes who have died at sea since Paul Jones' glorious chapter of American Naval history down to the men who went to their death with the Tuscania. The official ceremony on land was held at the National cemetery in the Presidio. It was preceded by a parade that moved out Van Ness Avenue to the National Cemetery. In the line of march were the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Separate Companies, California National Guard, the Spanish-American War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Home Guards, Boy Scouts and High School Cadets. The members of the G. A. R. joined the procession at the Presidio and the Ladies' Auxiliaries assembled at the cemetery. Four Companies of regulars from the 63rd Infantry acted as guard of honor to the veterans; and the crack Twenty-Eighth Coast Artillery Band furnished music for the occasion. At the cemetery the graves were decorated with the Stars and Stripes, the flag for which so many had given their lives. Each grave was strewn with flowers and over all, flying at half mast from the flagstaff was 'Old Glory'. After a short talk by Charles Mills Gayley, taps were sounded and the customary salute was fired. The exercises drew the largest crowd that ever attended Memorial exercises at the cemetery*."

The next parade in which the Fourteenth Company participated was on July 4, 1918. The parade started promptly at 10:00 A. M. from the Embarcadero and Market Street. The line of march was up Market to Grove Street, on Grove to Polk Street, and up Polk to Turk Street, where the marchers disbanded. The reviewing stand was located on the east side of Polk Street, opposite the entrance to the City Hall. United States Soldiers, sailors and marine were in line. In one division marched three hundred veterans of the Civil War, men who have done their part to

*San Francisco Chronicle, May 31, 1918, Page 9, Column 1.

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Activities: (Continued)

preserve the Union, while the older members of their ranks, unable to march, rode beside them in automobiles. In the division also were the Home Guards, and the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Separate Companies, California National Guard. The theme of Americanism and the spirit of liberty was portrayed throughout the long procession.*

About three months later, on September 28, 1918, the Fourteenth Company participated in another parade; the opening of the Fourth Liberty Loan Campaign. Market Street echoed with the enthusiastic acclaim of the immense throngs that lined the thoroughfare, over which passed ten thousand Liberty Bond workers in a gala parade; the opening spectacle of the campaign. At the Civic Auditorium, were James W. Gerard, Ambassador from the United States to Germany when diplomatic relations were severed with that country, and other speakers. These men told of the war, its causes, the aims of the Allies and the vital necessity for the success of the Fourth Liberty Loan.

The unbounded patriotism of San Francisco was demonstrated as the vast hall rang with cheers and applause. With \$107,000,000 as the city's quota in the bond campaign, the 'Over the Top' spirit was manifest throughout the evening. The men, women and children who were to sell bonds, buy bonds, think bonds and talk bonds, until the campaign came to successful end, showed by their enthusiasm that the full quota would easily be raised. 'Go Get 'Em' was the spirit of the hour, and San Francisco told the world in no uncertain manner last night that her people were ready to do that, and more.**

The first annual incampment of the California National Guard subsequent to the World War was held at Santa Cruz, September 12 to September 27, 1920. All units of the State Militia were in attendance. Company D, First Battalion Infantry, formerly Fourteenth Separate Company, was present and took part in all the maneuvers. The camp was in command of Lieutenant-Colonel Haron D. Coburn, United States Army, and all instructors were officers in the Federal Army. The program embraced almost every feature with which a good soldier should be acquainted, and under the supervision of the Army officers a great deal of good was accomplished. This proved to be the only camp that the former Fourteenth Separate Company attended while listed as an infantry unit. Company D, First Battalion Infantry, California National Guard, (formerly Fourteenth Separate Company) was transferred to the Coast Artillery Corps and designated Fourth Company Coast Artillery Corps, February 1, 1921.

*San Francisco Call, July 4, 1918, Page 6, Column 1.

**The San Francisco Chronicle, September 29, 1918, Page 1, Column 8.

FOURTEENTH SEPARATE COMPANY (Continued)

Fifteenth Separate Company, California National Guard
Reference: Adjutant General's Office, **SAN FRANCISCO**

Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County
Mustered in July 28, 1919
Redesignated July 28, 1919

Activities: (Continued)

About two months later, on March 25, 1921, Fourth Separate Company, Coast Artillery Corps was redesignated Fourth Company, First Coast Defense Command, Coast Artillery Corps.*

Name	Rank	Commission
Arthur L. Anderson, Captain	July 11, 1918	July 17, 1919
(resigned June 19, 1920)		
William J. [Name], First Lieut.	Aug. 30, 1918	Sept. 10, 1919
(resigned Nov. 19, 1919)		
Ray [Name], Capt.	Oct. 30, 1918	Feb. 20, 1920
(resigned)		
George B. [Name], Capt.	Nov. 2, 1918	Dec. 28, 1919
(resigned)		
Arthur C. [Name], Capt.	Nov. 12, 1918	Nov. 28, 1919
(resigned)		

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

*Fifteenth Separate Company, Infantry, California National Guard, mustered into the service of the State, July 28, 1919. General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1919, General Order No. 5, par. 1, page 15.

**Fifteenth Separate Company, redesignated Company B, First Separate Battalion Infantry, July 28, 1919. General and Special Orders 1919, General Order No. 7, par. 3, page 12.

***Company B, First Separate Battalion Infantry, detached and unassigned, August 10, 1919. General and Special Orders 1919, General Order No. 10, par. 1(A), page 17.

****Company B, unattached, redesignated Company B, Second Separate Battalion Infantry, November 1, 1919. General and Special Orders 1919, General Order No. 14, page 27.

*****Company B, Second Separate Battalion Infantry, redesignated Company B, First Separate Battalion Infantry, August 28, 1921. General and Special Orders 1921, General Order No. 18, page 31.