

# **History of the 196<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, California National Guard 1936**

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HEADQUARTERS SECOND BATTALION

196TH FIELD ARTILLERY

Headquarters Second Battalion, 196th Field Artillery, California National Guard  
Reference: Adjutant General's Files  
Location: Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County  
Organized April 16, 1936\*  
Demobilized July 1, 1936\*\*

Majors

Name

Commanding Officers

Rank

Commission

Ralph W. Coane, Major

Apr. 10, 1936

Apr. 15, 1936

(Promoted Major & Transferred from  
Bty E, 143rd F. A. Apr. 10, 1936)

(Transferred to Hdqtrs 2nd Btn, 144th  
F. A., June 30, 1936)

Captain Adjutants

Harold M. Davis, 1st Lieut.

Apr. 10, 1936

Apr. 15, 1936

(Promoted 1st Lt. & transferred  
from Bty E, 143rd F. A., Apr. 10, 1936)

(Adj. in lieu of Capt, Apr 15, 1936)

(Transferred to Hdqtrs 2nd Btn, 144th  
F. A., June 30, 1936)

First Lieutenants

William F. Luton, 2nd Lieut

Apr. 10, 1936

Apr. 15, 1936

(In lieu of 1st Lieut. Apr 15, 1936)

(Trans. in lieu of 1st Lieut to Hdqtrs

Bty & Combat Train, 144 F. A. July 1, 1936)

George W. Stevens, 1st Lieut.

Apr. 10, 1936

Apr. 15, 1936

(Trans. to Hdqtrs 2nd Btn, 144th F. A.,  
July 1, 1936)

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\*A new Company organized at Santa Barbara and designated Headquarters Second Battalion, 196th Field Artillery, April 16, 1936. General Order No. 10, Dated April 17, 1936. Adjutant General's Office.

\*\*Headquarters Second Battalion, demobilized July 1, 1936. General Order No. 20, dated June 18, 1936. Adjutant General's Office.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT DETACHMENT

Medical Department Detachment, Second Battalion, 196th Field Artillery, Calif Nat'l Gd.

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County

Organized May 28, 1936\*

Demobilized July 1, 1936\*\*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Charles A. Preuss, Capt & Btn Surgeon (Transferred from Medical Officer's Reserve Corps & promoted Capt May 4, 1936) (Transferred to Med. Dept. Detachment, 2nd Btn, 144 th F. A., June 30, 1936)	May 4, 1936	May 4, 1936

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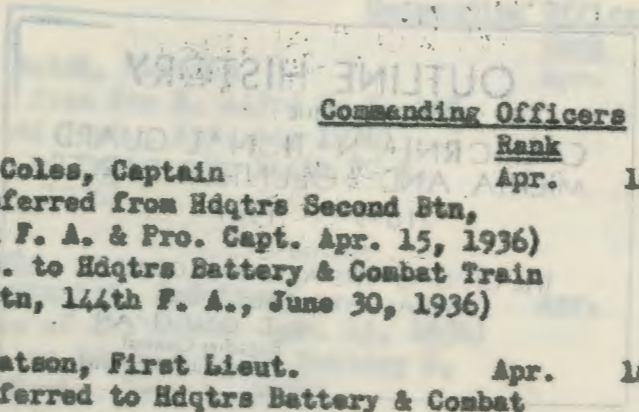
\*A new Company organized at Santa Barbara and designated Medical Department Detachment, Second Battalion, 196th Field Artillery, May 28, 1936. General Order No. 17, dated May 29, 1936. Adjutant General's Office.

\*\*Medical Department Detachment, Second Battalion, 196th Field Artillery demobilized July 1, 1936. General Order No. 20, dated June 18, 1936. Adjutant General's Office.

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY AND COMBAT TRAIN

**Headquarters Battery And Combat Train, Second Battalion, 196th Field Artillery, California National Guard.**

References: Adjutant General's Files  
 Location: Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County  
 Organized April 15, 1936\*  
 Demobilized July 1, 1936\*\*



Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Henry C. Coles, Captain (Transferred from Hdqtrs Second Btn, 143rd F. A. & Pro. Capt. Apr. 15, 1936) (Trans. to Hdqtrs Battery & Combat Train 2nd Btn, 144th F. A., June 30, 1936)	Apr. 10, 1936	Apr. 15, 1936
John B. Watson, First Lieut. (Transferred to Hdqtrs Battery & Combat Train, 2nd Btn, 144th F. A. July 1, 1936)	Apr. 10, 1936	Apr. 15, 1936
Donald A. Bruce, 2nd Lieut. (Transferred to Hdqtrs Battery & Combat Train, 2nd Btn, 144th F. A. July 1, 1936)	Apr. 10, 1936	Spr. 15, 1936

\*A new Company organized at Santa Barbara and designated Headquarters Battery and Combat Train, Second Battalion, 196th Field Artillery, April 15, 1936. General Order No. 10, dated April 17, 1936. Adjutant General's Office.

\*\*Headquarters Battery and Combat Train, Second Battalion, 196th Field Artillery demobilized July 1, 1936. General Order No. 20, dated June 18, 1936. Adjutant General's Office.

BATTERY C, SECOND BATTALION

Battery C, Second Battalion, 196th Field Artillery, California National Guard

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County

Organized May 27, 1930\*

Redesignated April 14, 1936\*\*

Demobilized July 1, 1936

Captains

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Harold O. Welch, Captain (Trans. from Bty E, 143rd F. A. and promoted Capt., Apr. 14, 1936) (Trans. to Battery C, 144th F. A. July 1, 1936)	Apr. 10, 1936	Apr. 15, 1936

1st Lieutenants

Donald M. Stewart, 2nd Lieut. (In lieu of 1st Lieut. Apr. 15, 1936) (Trans. as 2nd Lieut. to Battery C, 144th F. A., July 1, 1936)	Apr. 10, 1936	Apr. 15, 1936
George W. Stevens, 1st Lieut. (Trans. to Hdqtrs 2nd Btn, 144th F. A., July 1, 1936)	Apr. 10, 1936	Apr. 15, 1936

Second Lieutenants

George W. Stevens, 2nd Lieut. (Trans. from Bty E, 143rd F. A., Apr. 14, 1936) (Promoted 1st Lieut. Apr. 15, 1936)	Jan. 16, 1934	Jan. 16, 1934
Robert W. Purvis, 2nd Lieut. (Trans. to Bty C, 144th F. A., July 1, 1936)	Apr. 10, 1936	Apr. 15, 1936
Harry W. Smeltzer, 2nd Lieut. (Trans. to Hdqtrs 2nd Btn, 144th F. A. July 1, 1936)	Apr. 10, 1936	Apr. 15, 1936

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\*A new Company organized at Santa Barbara and designated Battery E, 143rd Field Artillery, May 27, 1930. Adjutant General Report 1928-1930, page 10.

\*\*Battery E, 143rd Field Artillery redesignated Battery C, Second Battalion, 196th Field Artillery, April 14, 1936. General Order No. 9, dated April 9, 1936. Adjutant General's Office.

\*\*\*Battery C, Second Battalion, 196th Field Artillery demobilized July 1, 1936. General Order No. 20, dated June 18, 1936. Adjutant General's Office.

BATTERY D

Battery D, 196th Field Artillery, California National Guard

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Ventura, Ventura County

Organized April 16, 1936\*

Demobilized July 1, 1936\*\*

Captains

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Bernard M. Gallagher, Captain (Trans. to Bty D, 144th F. A., July 1, 1936)	Apr. 10, 1936	Apr. 10, 1936

First Lieutenants

Ralph E. Cole, First Lieut. (Trans. from Inactive Calif. Nat. Guard & Promoted First Lieut., Apr. 16, 1936) (Trans. to Bty D, 144th F. A. July 1, 1936)	Apr. 10, 1936	Apr. 16, 1936
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Second Lieutenants

Rufus M. McConnell, 2nd Lieut. (Trans. to Bty D, 144th F. A., July 1, 1936)	Apr. 10, 1936	Apr. 16, 1936
Glenn G. Moore, 2nd Lieut. (Trans. to Bty D, 144th F. A., July 1, 1936)	Apr. 10, 1936	Apr. 16, 1936

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\*A new Company organized at Ventura and designated Battery D, 196th Field Artillery, April 16, 1936. General Order No. 10, dated April 17, 1936. Adjutant General's Office.

\*\*Battery D, 196th Field Artillery demobilized July 1, 1936. General Order No. 20, dated June 18, 1936. Adjutant General's Office.

196TH FIELD ARTILLERY

**Activities:**

The existence of the 196th Field Artillery was short. It remained as the 196th Field Artillery for approximately three months, then became part of the 144th Field Artillery.

In April 1936, the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce sponsored a civic dinner in honor of the muster of Headquarters Battery and Combat Train, Second Battalion, 196th Field Artillery, organized April 15, 1936, and the ceremony of redesignating Battery E, 143rd Field Artillery, which took place April 14, 1936. Brigadier General H. M. Morehead, the Adjutant General, and Brigadier General Walter P. Story, commanding the Southern California units were both present. After the celebration, General Morehead proceeded to Ventura, where he and Major Ralph A. Coane, the commander of the 196th Field Artillery, mustered the new Battery D, 196th Field Artillery, organized April 16, 1936.

April 16, 1936, was also the date of organization of Headquarters Second Battalion, at Santa Barbara. On May 28, 1936, the Medical Department Detachment, Second Battalion was organized, completing the organization of the 196th Field Artillery.

The Officers and men of the 196th were a "lively bunch", and prepared with a will to attend the encampment to be held in August, but the demobilization of their Company upset their plans.

The 196th Field Artillery was ably commanded by Major Ralph W. Coane, who was formerly Captain of Battery E, 143rd Field Artillery and was promoted Major to take over the command of the 196th.

On July 1, 1936, by direction of the Secretary of War, the 196th Field Artillery was demobilized and the 144th Field Artillery reconstituted. All units and personnel of the 196th were transferred to similar units and grades in the 144th Field Artillery.\*

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\*General Order No. 20, dated June 18, 1936. Adjutant General's Office.