

**History of 1st Battalion, Field Artillery;
1st Field Artillery Regiment and 2nd Field
Artillery Regiment
California National Guard
1912-1917**

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First Field Artillery

Reference Adjutant General's Files

Location Oakland, Alameda County

Organized December 20, 1912

Mustered into Federal Service June 28, 1916*

Mustered out of Federal Service December 21, 1916**

Resumption of Service in the National Guard 1916***

Mustered into Federal Service June 22, 1917****

Reorganized August 3, 1917*****

Mustered into Federal Service August 5, 1917*****

Reorganized and redesignated September 24, 1917†

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
R. J. Faneuf, Major	Dec. 29, 1912	Jan. 7, 1913
F. W. H. Petersen, Captain	Sept. 14, 1905††	Mar. 12, 1913
J. S. Riley, First Lieutenant (resigned May 12, 1915)	Jan. 11, 1913	Feb. 3, 1913
J. A. Gleason, First Lieutenant	Mar. 21, 1916	May 13, 1916
R. J. Faneuf, Colonel	Aug. 3, 1917	Aug. 3, 1917
F. W. H. Petersen, Lieut.-Col.	Aug. 3, 1917	Aug. 3, 1917
H. F. Huber, Major	Aug. 3, 1917	Aug. 3, 1917
Edward Van Vranken, Major	Aug. 3, 1917	Aug. 3, 1917

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*First Battalion Field Artillery mustered into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican Border, June 28, 1916.

Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 14.

**Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 14.

***General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, General Order No. 34, page 150.

*Batteries A, B and C mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War, June 22, 1917.

Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, pages 32 and 33.

*****First Battalion Field Artillery expanded to a regiment and redesignated First Field Artillery, August 3, 1917.

Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 33.

*****Batteries D, E, F, Headquarters Company and Supply Company mustered into Federal Service during the World War, August 5, 1917.

Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, pages 32 and 33.

†First Field Artillery reorganized and redesignated 143rd Field Artillery, September 24, 1917.

Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, pages 32 and 33.

††Captain Petersen retained his former rank date as of September 14, 1905, when he was Captain on the staff of the Fifth Infantry Regiment.

CALIFORNIA FIELD ARTILLERY (Continued)

First Field Artillery

Second Field Artillery

Second Field Artillery

Reference Adjutant General's Files

Location San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized August 4, 1917*

Mustered into Federal Service and redesignated August 5, 1917**

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Thornwell Mullally, Lieut.-Col.	August 4, 1917	August 4, 1917
L. I. Scott, Captain	August 4, 1917	August 4, 1917
H. F. Dutton, Captain	August 4, 1917	August 4, 1917

Activities:

Since the advent of the breech loading artillery piece, there had not been a gun of that make in the National Guard of California until May 29, 1911, when Battery A, Field Artillery, Los Angeles was organized. On May 31, 1911, Battery B of Oakland was organized, and on December 14, 1912, Battery C was organized in Stockton. On December 20, 1912, the three Batteries of Artillery were organized into a battalion under command of Major Ralph J. Faneuf, and designated the First Battalion, Field Artillery. This battalion remained a three battery organization until 1917, when Battery D of San Diego, Battery E of Oakland, Battery F of Los Angeles, Headquarters Company of Oakland and Supply Company of San Diego were organized. This expanded the Battalion to a regiment, and on August 3, 1917, the First Battalion Field Artillery was redesignated as First Field Artillery.

In 1917, the Second Field Artillery which was composed of the following units was organized: Battery A, San Francisco, Battery B, San Francisco, Battery C, Santa Barbara and Battery D, Los Angeles. Battery E was composed of enlisted men from San Francisco, Los Angeles and Fresno, and the members of Battery F were from Northern and Central California localities. The Supply Company was organized in San Francisco, and Headquarters Company in San Jose. The table on the following page indicates the various changes in the California Field Artillery organizations:

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*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 115.

**Second Field Artillery mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War, and redesignated 144th Regiment Field Artillery, August 5, 1917.

Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 22.

BATTERIES COMPOSING THE CALIFORNIA ARTILLERY

1912-1917

FIRST BATTALION FIELD ARTILLERY

A	B	C	
Battery A Los Angeles (Battery A First Brigade) 1912	Battery B Oakland (Battery B First Brigade) 1912	Battery C Stockton (Battery C First Brigade) 1912	
<u>FIRST FIELD ARTILLERY</u>			
A	B	C	D
Battery A Los Angeles (Battery A First Battalion Field Artillery) 1917	Battery B Oakland (Battery B First Battalion Field Artillery) 1917	Battery C Stockton (Battery C First Battalion Field Artillery) 1917	Battery D San Diego 1917
E	F	HEADQUARTERS CO.	SUPPLY CO.
Battery E Oakland 1917	Battery F Los Angeles 1917	Headquarters Company Oakland 1917	Supply Company San Diego 1917

The year dates in the table indicates the year the Batteries were attached to the organizations.

BATTERIES COMPOSING THE CALIFORNIA ARTILLERY

SECOND FIELD ARTILLERY

A	B	C	D
Battery A San Francisco 1917	Battery B San Francisco 1917	Battery C Santa Barbara 1917	Battery D Los Angeles 1917
E	F	HEADQUARTERS CO.	SUPPLY CO.
Battery E San Francisco Los Angeles and Fresno 1917	Battery F Northern and Central California Localities 1917	Headquarters Company San Jose 1917	Supply Company San Francisco 1917

The year dates in the table indicates the year the Batteries were attached to the organizations.

CALIFORNIA FIELD ARTILLERY (Continued)

First Field Artillery

Second Field Artillery

Activities: (Continued)

The task of securing an adequate force of field artillery, or even obtaining efficiency in the already small existing one, was the most serious problem confronting the war department in 1911. Field Artillery service was popular with the people generally, and therefore an adequate personnel could be obtained were it not for other conditions which more than offset this. The great hindering force was the expense. A battery of artillery was estimated to cost twice as much to maintain as an entire regiment of infantry having 10 times as many men. Appropriations by State legislatures were largely contingent upon numbers of enlisted men in the National Guard, and one Federal appropriation of \$2,000,000 was also distributed in proportion to the number of National Guardsmen. A battery would receive only about 1/10 as much money as a regiment of infantry, while as stated, it cost twice as much to maintain. In other words the Field Artillery soldier costs about 20 times as much as the infantryman. The States felt that this was too heavy a burden to carry, and this opinion was strengthened by their claim that there was no need of a battery for State purposes; that they would not dare to fire it in a strike or mob; that there was no danger of their State being invaded by the forces of another State and that field artillery was therefore purely a federal arm and that under such conditions it was asking too much for the State to support an adequate number of batteries. However, despite this financial handicap, the State of California was able in 1912 to organize and maintain a battalion of field artillery consisting of three batteries.

The sole reason for the existence of field artillery was its ability to assist the other arms, especially the infantry, upon the field of battle. The degree to which the field artillery prepares itself to render this assistance is, then, the only measure of its training. To enable it to render effective assistance upon the battle-field, artillery must be able, first, to march rapidly and in good order and to establish itself, promptly and without confusion in such positions as will best utilize the available terrain; second, to deliver an effective and overpowering fire upon any designated part of the enemy's position. Thorough training in marching, camping, reconnaissance

CALIFORNIA FIELD ARTILLERY (Continued)

First Field Artillery

Second Field Artillery

Activities: (Continued)

and communication service, fire discipline, conduct of fire and fire direction carried out over varied country was essential to the attainment of these qualifications. An additional object of instruction was to develop resourcefulness, initiative and self-reliance on the part of field artillerymen of all grades. Instruction in peace times must therefore be conducted with a view, first, to drilling the personnel thoroughly in their habitual duties; second, to affording officers and men practice and experience in dealing with the situations and difficulties apt to arise in a campaign.

The Batteries of the First Battalion Field Artillery, in order to maintain a high standard of military efficiency, attended many encampments from 1912 to 1917, when they were mustered into Federal Service. Unfortunately however, the Batteries encamped at various places as individual units; and at no time did they enter a Camp of Instruction in battalion formation.*

The batteries of the First Battalion Field Artillery attended many parades and social events in their respective localities, but like their encampments, never as a whole.**

On June 28, 1916, the First Battalion Field Artillery was mustered into Federal Service at Sacramento for duty on the Mexican Border. On June thirtieth, the Battalion entrained for Nogales, Arizona where they arrived July third. The First Battalion did not engage in active service but performed only guard and patrol duty along the border. On December fifteenth, Battery B entrained for Los Angeles, where they were mustered out of Federal Service at Exposition Park in that city on December 21, 1916. Battery A entrained for Exposition Park December twenty-second, where they were mustered out of Federal Service December thirtieth. Battery C entrained for Stockton December twenty-first, arrived there December twenty-third, and was mustered out of Federal Service January 6, 1917.

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*See histories of individual batteries for encampments.

**See histories of individual batteries for parades.

First Field ArtillerySecond Field Artillery

Activities: (Continued)

Pursuant to telegraphic orders from the Secretary of War, calling the California National Guard into Federal Service, Governor W. D. Stephens ordered all military organizations to assemble at their armories and recruit to war time strength. On June 22, 1917 Batteries A, B and C were mustered into Federal Service. On August 3, 1917, Batteries D, E and F, Headquarters Company and Supply Company had been organized thereby expanding the First Battalion of Field Artillery to a regiment which was redesignated the First Field Artillery. Two days later, on August fifth, the remaining portion of the First Field Artillery was mustered into Federal Service. On September 24, 1917, the First Field Artillery was redesignated the 143rd Field Artillery.*

For future information concerning the activities of this organization refer to the History of the 143rd Regiment Field Artillery, 40th Division.

On August 4, 1917, the Second Field Artillery was organized for duty during the World War. The following day August fifth, the regiment was mustered into Federal Service and was afterward designated the 144th Field Artillery.**

For further information concerning the activities of this unit refer to the History of the 144th Regiment Field Artillery, 40th Division.

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*Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, pages 32 and 33.

**Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 22.