

# **History of the Company C (former National Guard), 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Coast Artillery, National Guard of California 1901-1907**

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COMPANY C

Company C, First Battalion Coast Artillery, Second Brigade (formerly National Guard)

References: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized August 31, 1855

Reorganized March 26, 1880\*

Reconstituted December 9, 1895\*\*

Mustered into Federal Service May 6, 1898\*\*\*

Mustered out of Federal Service September 21, 1899\*\*\*\*

Reorganized as Company C, First Infantry Regiment November 29, 1899+

Reconstituted April 19, 1901++

Redesignated May 11, 1907+++

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\*Company C, formerly National Guard organized August 31, 1855, reorganized and designated Company C, First Infantry Regiment, March 26, 1880.

Adjutant General Report 1880, General Order No. 12, page 63.

\*\*Company C, First Infantry Regiment, redesignated Company C, Fifth Infantry Battalion December 7, 1895. Two days later December 9, Company C, Fifth Battalion redesignated Company C, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 18, page 86.

\*\*\*Company C as part of the First Infantry Regiment, mustered into the Federal Service during the Spanish-American War, April 6, 1898. Adjutant General Report 1898-1900, page 4.

\*\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, General Order No. 11, page 68.

+Company C as part of the First Infantry Regiment reentered the National Guard of California, November 29, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 79.

++Company C detached from First Infantry Regiment and redesignated Company C, First Battalion Coast Artillery, April 19, 1901. Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, page 66.

+++Company C, First Battalion Coast Artillery transferred to Fifth Infantry Regiment and redesignated Company L, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, May 11, 1907.  
General and Special Orders and Circulars 1907, General Order No. 10.

COMPANY C (Continued)

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
George J. Petty, Captain (reelected Mar. 30, 1903)	Jan. 21, 1901*	Apr. 19, 1901
Joseph N. Ross Jr. First Lieut. (reelected Mar. 30, 1903)	Jan. 21, 1901*	Apr. 19, 1901
Joseph N. Ross Jr. Captain (resigned Apr. 30, 1907)	Mar. 20, 1905	May 10, 1905
20 ✓ John J. Hyer, First Lieut.	Mar. 20, 1905	May 10, 1905

Activities:

On April 19, 1901, Company C, First Infantry Regiment was detached from that regiment and redesignated Company C, First Battalion Coast Artillery, Second Brigade. This unit was at that time and always had been an efficient and dependable company in the California National Guard. Organized in August 1858, as National Guard, San Francisco, it was one of the few units in the militia that had never been consolidated or transferred until its transfer to the artillery in 1901. For forty years it had been in the First Infantry as Company C. The transfer of Company C and three other units of the First Infantry to the Artillery battalion met with strong opposition from the Colonel of the First Regiment, Colonel Thos. F. O'Neil, but his opposition was in vain. Several if not all four of the units were among the best in the regiment.

Thus it is apparent that Company C, First Battalion Coast Artillery began its history in the artillery, with a splendid military record which it gained as a unit in the infantry. At the annual inspection Company C ranked high in the battalion, only being excelled one year in 1904, by Company B. Company C had furnished a Captain and recruits to Company B, First Battalion, when it entered the First Infantry Regiment in 1882 as Company C\*\*, the two companies being known as the "Nationals". In 1902, 1905 and 1906, Company C was number one in the battalion at the annual inspection.

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\*Captain George J. Petty and Lieutenant Joseph N. Ross Jr. retained their rank date of January 21, 1901, when they commanded Company C, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

\*\*For further information refer to History of Company B, First Battalion Coast Artillery, Second Brigade. Adjutant General's Office.

COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Company C was always ranked the highest in battalion target practice. In fact by 1903 it was the only company in the battalion that possessed any medal men, that is men who wore either a Sharpshooter, Expert Riflemen or Rifle men medals.

During the six years Company C was in the First Battalion Coast Artillery, they attended two battalion encampments and one joint Army National Guard encampment and one Divisional encampment. Both battalion encampments were held near Stockton, California in June 1902 and July 1903. The Divisional encampment was held in Santa Cruz 1901, and the joint Army National Guard meeting at Atascadero in 1904.\*

Company C, took part in many parades as a unit of the First Battalion of Coast Artillery. Several were annual parades such as Independence Day and Memorial Day or Washington's birthady. Two of the most enthusiastic were for the reception tendered President Theodore Roosevelt on May 11, 1903, and a grand military parade held on May 12, 1903, reviewed by the Chief Executive. Still another joyful occasion was a reception tendered to Governor-General James F. Smith of the Philippine Islands. Governor Smith was Colonel of the First Infantry Regiment when it went to the Philippine in 1898, and soon after was made military governor of the Isle of Negros, and later on was elevated to Governor-General of the Islands.

On two other occasions Company C as part of the First Battalion Coast Artillery joined with other organizations in paying their last tribute to the two deceased Generals of the National Guard of California. The First was General William Henry Seamans, Adjutant General National Guard of California, who passed away on January 3, 1902, in Washington D.C. and was given a military funeral on January 19, 1902, in San Francisco. About six months later Major General W. H. L. Barnes National Guard of California, retired, died, and was buried on July 24, 1902.\*\*

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\*For further information regarding Encampment of 1901 , 1902, 1903 and 1904, refer to the History of First Battalion Coast Artillery, Second Brigade. Adjutant General's Office.

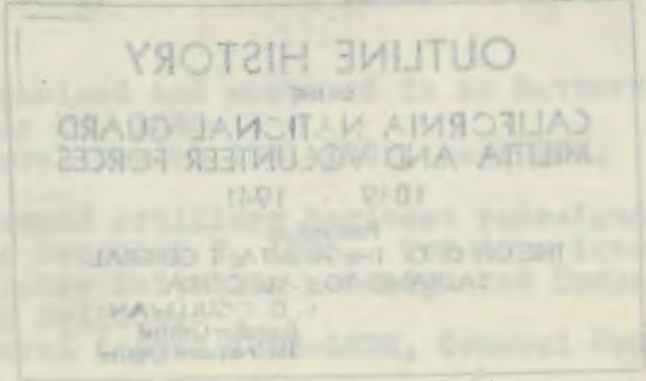
\*\*For further information regarding the funeral ceremonies tendered General William Henry Seamans and Major-General W. H. L. Barnes, refer to the History of First Battalion Coast Artillery, Second Brigade. Adjutant General's Office.

COMPANY C (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Perhaps the real test of Company C's efficiency and dependability was successfully met on April 18, 1906, when an earthquake followed by the terrible demon fire wrought havoc and brought death and injury to many in the City of San Francisco. Especially in the first few days after the earthquake Company C rendered needed help to the citizens of San Francisco.\*

About one year later came the closing paragraph of Company C, First Battalion Coast Artillery. The decision to discontinue the Coast Artillery was reached in the early part of 1907. Soon after the inspection and muster of that year, Company C was ordered transferred to the Fifth Infantry Regiment and on May 11, 1907, was redesignated Company L, Fifth Infantry Regiment. For further information refer to Company L, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.



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\*For further information refer to The California National Guard and the Earthquake and Fire of 1906. Adjutant General's Office.