

History of the Company D, 1st Battalion, Coast Artillery, National Guard of California 1901-1907

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COMPANY D

Company D, First Battalion Coast Artillery, Second Brigade (formerly
Battery E, Second Artillery Regiment)

Reference: Adjutant General's Office

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized July 16, 1882*

Reconstituted December 9, 1895**

Mustered into Federal Service May 6, 1898***

Mustered out of Federal Service Sept. 21, 1899****

Reorganized as Company K, First Infantry Regiment Nov. 29, 1899+

Reconstituted April 19, 1901++

Redesignated May 11, 1907+++

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*Battery E organized and mustered in as Battery E, Second Artillery Regiment, July 16, 1882.
Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, page 134.

**Battery E, Second Artillery Regiment redesignated Company K, Sixth Infantry Battalion December 7, 1895. Two days later December 9, Company K, Sixth Infantry Battalion redesignated Company K, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.
Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 18, page 88.

***Company K as part of the First Infantry Regiment was mustered into Federal Service during the Spanish-American War, April 6, 1898.
Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 4.

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

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

++Company K detached from First Infantry Regiment and redesignated Company D, First Battalion Coast Artillery, April 19, 1901.
Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, page 86.

+++Company D and Company A, First Battalion Coast Artillery consolidated and redesignated Company K, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, May 11, 1907.
General and Special Orders and Circulars 1907, General Order No. 10

Company D (Continued)

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Thomas J. Cunningham, Captain (Re-elected July 29, 1901) (Resigned Nov. 28, 1902)	July 26, 1891*	Apr. 19, 1901
Edward D. Finley, First Lieut. (Term expired) (Retired March 19, 1901)	July 28, 1891*	Apr. 12, 1901
Frank E. Young, First Lieut. (Resigned Feb. 19, 1902)	July 29, 1901	Sept. 14, 1901
Francis V. Keesling, First Lieut.	Mar. 10, 1902	Apr. 19, 1902
Francis V. Keesling, Captain (Re-elected Nov. 28, 1904) (Promoted Major First Batt. Coast Art., May 3, 1905)	Dec. 15, 1902	Dec. 24, 1902
Carlton W. Seely, First Lieut. (Resigned May 29, 1903)	Dec. 15, 1902	Jan. 23, 1903
Ashley R. Farless, First Lieut.	June 22, 1903	Sept. 24, 1903
Ashley R. Farless, Captain	June 12, 1905	Aug. 12, 1905
Charles J. Mund, First Lieut.	June 12, 1905	Aug. 12, 1905

Activities:

The history of the company that was designated Company D, First Battalion Coast Artillery began on July 16, 1882. On that date Battery E, Second Artillery Regiment was organized. There was some difficulty encountered in organizing this unit. On the occasion of the disbandment of the Third Infantry Battalion under Special Order from General Headquarters, Company A was attached to the Second Artillery Regiment as Battery E; but rather than obey the orders of the Commander in Chief, the officers of Company A resigned and the members of the company applied for discharge from service. Colonel Saedberg at once organized a new company designated Battery E, Second Artillery Regiment. This unit was under the command of Captain Joseph T. Donovan, the members of which were sworn into service July 16, 1882, and the officers were elected July 24, 1882** This unit

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*Captain Thomas J. Cunningham and Lieutenant Edward D. Finley retained their former rank dates as of July 26, 1891, when they commanded Battery E, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade.

**Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, page 134.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

was the one that transferred to the First Infantry Regiment in 1895 as Company K, went to the Philippines Islands during the Spanish-American War, and on April 19, 1901 was detached from the First Infantry and redesignated Company D, First Battalion Coast Artillery.

The record of Company D at the annual muster and inspection was never the poorest in the battalion, in fact in 1902 Company D was first. In 1904 it was third, third again in 1905, and second in 1906. Its relative standing in the National Guard was as follows: eleventh in 1902, sixteenth in 1904, eighteenth in 1905, and thirtieth in 1906.

Company D was apparently very poor at target practice, judging by the number of its members that won medals. In 1902 Company D had only eight while the other units in the battalion had the following number: Company A, 19; Company B, 21; and Company C, 29. Two years later in 1904, when Company D increased the number of medals to 10, Company A had 18, Company B, 19, and Company C, 22 medals.

Company D like the other units in the battalion attended two battalion encampments, one divisional, and one joint Army-National Guard maneuvers. The divisional encampment was held at Santa Cruz in 1901, the battalion at Stockton in June 1902, and July 1903. The joint encampment was held at Atascadero in 1904.*

Instead of the usual annual encampment in 1906, Company D put to use the training received at their annual encampments, when they went into camp in San Francisco on April 18, 1906, during the Earthquake and Fire. The value of the National Guard in times of emergency, was proven during the chaotic days of April 1906, when they rendered such valuable aid and assistance to the stricken people in San Francisco. The battalion gathered provisions from stores and buildings, that were doomed to destruction by fire and distributed it to the needy. They preserved order as far as possible and helped restore confidence to the stricken population.**

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*For further details regarding Coast Artillery encampments of 1901, 1902, 1903, and 1904 refer to First Battalion Coast Artillery, Second Brigade, Adjutant General's Office

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

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Company D took part in many parades while in the Battalion of Coast Artillery. Two were funeral processions, one on January 12, 1902, when Adjutant General William Henry Seamans was buried with military honor in San Francisco. The other was likewise a military funeral for Major-General W. H. L. Barnes, National Guard of California, retired, held July 24, 1902.

Two parades were held in San Francisco on May 11 and 12, 1903, when President Theodore Roosevelt visited the city by the Golden Gate. The first, on the eleventh of May was a parade in honor of the arrival of the President, and no visitor to San Francisco ever received a more enthusiastic reception than the Chief Executive. The following day, May 12, a mammoth military parade and review of the Regular Army, Navy and National Guard passed before the President. The Chief Executive's well known views on the importance of the "men behind the guns" was evinced whenever the artillery or naval unit passed before him. The First Battalion of Coast Artillery at that time was beginning to receive instructions in how to handle the coast defense guns.

Another parade honored Governor-General James F. Smith, Philippine Islands, when he returned to San Francisco for a visit on April 14, 1906. The parade was followed by a reception in the rotunda of the City Hall, at which speeches of welcome were given by Governor George C. Pardee and Mayor Eugene E. Schmitz. Little did the thousands of people crowded into the City Hall suspect that four days later the same rotunda and building would be shaken by an earthquake that would practically demolish it. Nor did the National Guard, of which the Governor-General was once a Colonel, realize the task that was so soon to require their efficiency and training.

In 1907 it became necessary to increase the Fifth Infantry Regiment to a twelve company regiment in accordance with the provision of the Dick Militia Law. The Board of Location and Organization decided to discontinue the First Battalion Coast Artillery and transfer the units to the Fifth Infantry Regiment. Therefore on May 11, 1907, Company D, First Battalion Coast Artillery was ordered consolidated with Company A, First Battalion Coast Artillery and designated Company K, Fifth Infantry Regiment. For further information refer to Company K, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.