

# **History of 1st Field Artillery Regiment, Battery F California National Guard 1917**

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BATTERY F

Battery F, First Field Artillery

Reference: Adjutant General Report

Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Organized July 25, 1917\*

Mustered into Federal Service August 22, 1917\*\*

Redesignated September 24, 1917\*\*\*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Harry L. Powell, Captain	July 31, 1917	July 31, 1917
Everett Shipley, First Lieut.	July 31, 1917	July 31, 1917
Charles E. McDowell, First Lieut.	July 31, 1917	July 31, 1917

Activities:

Pursuant to the proclamation issued by the President of the United States July 3, 1917, all National Guard Companies were to be organized preparatory to being drafted into the Federal Service. It was therefore comparatively easy for the officers in charge to recruit the newly organized companies to full war strength.

There are no records on file pertaining to the activities of Battery F, prior to entering Federal Service, except several newspaper articles. These articles referred to the recruiting of the unit, and one dated July 3, 1917, read as follows:

"Enthused over the success of the first day of his drive for recruits when twenty-five men enlisted, Major Harry Wishard of the California National Guard today invaded the motion picture houses along Broadway and made short addresses to the audiences, urging young men to enlist in Battery F, the new National Guard Artillery Organization. Major Wishard is well pleased with the result of his endeavors and declared that the entire list will be filled within a few days.

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\*Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 33.

\*\*Battery F, as part of the First Field Artillery, mastered into Federal service for duty during the World War, August 22, 1917. Muster Roll Battery F, First Field Artillery August 1917. Adjutant General Files,

\*\*\*Battery F, First Field Artillery, reorganized and redesignated Battery F, 143rd Field Artillery, September 24, 1917.

A djutant General Report 1920-1926, page 33.

BATTERY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The recruiting station is at 515 Van Nuys Building. This is the last chance for California's young men to enlist in the mounted service. There is a further incentive for entering the Field Artillery service in the fact that five commissioned officers and thirty-three non-commissioned officers are to be selected from the members of the Battery.\*\*

On August fourteenth, another newspaper article stated that Battery F was among the three thousand Southern California troops mustered into Federal Service recently and would form part of the 40th Division, soon to be sent to France.\*\*

Battery F was on September 24, 1917, reorganized and redesignated Battery F, 143rd Field Artillery.\*\*\*

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\*Los Angeles Herald, July 3, 1917, page 4, column 8.  
\*\*Los Angeles Herald, August 14, 1917, page 5, column 4.  
\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 33.