

# **History of the 1st Separate Company (Red Bluff), Infantry California National Guard 1915**

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FIRST SEPARATE COMPANY  
(RED BLUFF)

First Separate Company, Infantry, First Brigade, National Guard of California  
Reference Adjutant General's Office  
Location Red Bluff, Tehama County  
Mustered in February 3, 1916\*  
Redesignated April 15, 1916\*\*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Leo Adrian McCoy, Captain	February 3, 1916	February 19, 1916
Merrill O. Ballard, First Lieut.	February 3, 1916	February 19, 1916

**Activities:**

The First Separate Company, National Guard of California, was organized in Red Bluff, on February 3, 1916. Leo Adrian McCoy was chosen as Captain and Merrill O. Ballard as First Lieutenant. Several married men who had signed the petition requesting that the company be formed, decided to withdraw their names from the roll; the reason being that their wives were of the opinion that the National Guard was subject to draft by the Federal Government in case of war. Captain H. H. Brown, mustering officer, quieted their fears by issuing the following statement:

"There appears to be an impression among many of the citizens that once a man joins the National Guard he is in duty bound to go to war should such a calamity occur. No wife need hesitate about agreeing to allow her husband to enlist, for the National Guard cannot be forced to perform duty outside the continental limits of the United States. They cannot be drafted for war service without their own personal consent. And if a man is married he will not be allowed to go unless he can show that his family will be properly taken care of in case of his death in line of duty".\*\*\*

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\*First Separate Company, Red Bluff, mustered in February 3, 1916.  
General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, General Order No. 2,  
par. 3, page 12.

\*\*First Separate Company, Red Bluff, redesignated Company H, Second  
Infantry Regiment, April 15, 1916.  
General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, General Order No. 10,  
par. 2, page 30.

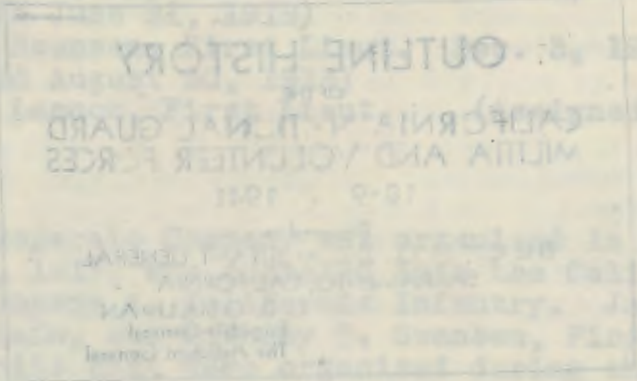
\*\*\*The Red Bluff News, February 4, 1916, page 1, column 3.

(RED BLUFF)

Activities: (Continued) Infantry, National Guard of California

The First Separate Company remained unattached until April 15, 1916, when it was redesignated Company H, Second Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California. For further information concerning this unit refer to history of Company H, Second Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California.

NAME	DATE	COMMISSION
James L. Irwin, Captain	Dec. 2, 1917	Feb. 13, 1918
Michael J. Lannon, Lieutenant	Aug. 20, 1918	Aug. 20, 1918



The First Separate Company was organized in Los Angeles and, on December 2, 1917, was redesignated Company H, Second Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California. James L. Irwin was Captain and Michael J. Lannon, First Lieutenant. The separate company had considerable difficulty in maintaining through conditions during that period. This condition was due to a lack of interest in the National Guard at that time, as well as to the fact that many members of the separate company were drafted into Federal Service. Captain Irwin secured a three months' leave of absence and left for the United States in April 1918 to try to gain entrance into an officers' school. He enrolled in a General Training School in order to secure a commission in the Army. He tendered his resignation as Captain of First Separate Company on June 14, 1918. Two months later on August 20, 1918, First Lieutenant Anthony J. Jensen also resigned, and the company was without a commanding officer. Lieutenant Michael J. Lannon of the Fourth Separate Company was assigned in the First Company on August 14, 1918, and commanded the unit until the First Separate Company was discontinued October seventh. Lieutenant Lannon returned to the Fourth Company October 8, 1918.

First Separate Company mustered in December 2, 1917.  
General and Special Orders and Regulations 1918, General Order No. 1.

The First Separate Company was mustered out on October 7, 1918.  
General and Special Orders and Regulations 1918, General Order No. 7, par. 14.