

# **History of the 10<sup>th</sup> Company, Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California 1911-1917**

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TENTH COMPANY, COAST ARTILLERY CORPS

2735

Tenth Company, Coast Artillery Corps, First Brigade

Reference: Adjutant General's Office

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Mustered in February 27, 1911\*

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers</u>		<u>Commission</u>
	<u>Rank</u>		
A. P. Harris, Captain (resigned Dec. 30, 1911)	Feb.	27, 1911	April 15, 1911
S. J. Rice, First Lieutenant (resigned July 14, 1911)	Feb.	27, 1911	April 15, 1911
Andrew Miller, First Lieutenant	Oct.	6, 1911	Oct. 31, 1911
Andrew Miller, Captain (dismissed Oct. 13, 1915)	March	1, 1912	April 4, 1912
Oscar J. Watson, First Lieutenant (resigned Nov. 1, 1912)	March	1, 1912	April 18, 1912
Edward E. Hopper, First Lieutenant (resigned Aug. 5, 1914)	Jan.	1, 1913	Feb. 3, 1913
William R. Maris, First Lieutenant	Sept.	27, 1915	Oct. 13, 1915
William R. Maris, Captain	Aug.	3, 1917	Aug. 3, 1917
Everard F. Olsen, First Lieutenant	Aug.	4, 1917	Aug. 4, 1917

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**Activities:**

The Tenth Company, Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California was mustered into service on February 27, 1911 at San Francisco, Lieutenant-Colonel H. W. Mathewson mustered in the fifty-eight new members of the unit, after they had passed the physical examination required by law.

About four months after the organization was perfected the Tenth Company attended their first annual encampment. The progress made by the unit is fully explained in the report of Captain A. P. Harris. The report reads as follows:

"As an introduction to my report I desire to state that this command was organized February 27, 1911, and neither myself nor a majority of the members have had any previous experience in this branch of

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\*Tenth Company Coast Artillery Corps mustered in February 27, 1911. General and Special Orders and Circulars 1911, General Order No. 6, par. 3

\*\*Tenth Company, Coast Artillery Corps, mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War, August 24, 1917, Muster Roll, Tenth Company First Coast Defense Command, August, 1917. Adjutant General Files.



510  
2736 ✓

TENTH COMPANY, COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

**Activities: (Continued)**

the service. However, all desire to learn. This privilege has been delayed by the lack of officers. The First and Second Lieutenants had resigned almost immediately after they were commissioned. Lieutenant Henry F. La Voie was detailed to this company on the day we left for the Presidio, but he had no previous experience in this branch of the service, and was only recently commissioned in the Corps.

July 14 An advance detail consisting of two enlisted men, reported to the quartermaster at the armory and proceeded to the Presidio for the purpose of erecting kitchens and performing all necessary preliminary work before the arrival of the Troops.

July 15 The command assembled at 1:30 P. M. in heavy marching order and was assigned to the second battalion. The command left the armory at 2:15 P. M. and arrived at the Camp site at 3:30 P. M. Tents were pitched and all necessary rations were drawn. Mess was served at 7:00 P. M.

July 16 Only the necessary police and guard duty was performed. The command was mustered by Arthur W. Chase, Coast Artillery Corps, United States Army.

July 17 The command was assigned to Battery Godfrey, Gun Number Three, in the seventh fire command, Presidio, San Francisco. The command was instructed in the nomenclature of the gun and the members were assigned to their stations. Due to the fact that the Tenth Company had been assigned to work in co-ordination with the Eleventh Company which was also a new organization, there was some confusion at first but order was soon established. Drill with dummy projectile was participated in. In the afternoon, infantry drill was held and was followed by dress parade at retreat.



TENTH COMPANY, COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

- July 18 Artillery drill from 8:00 to 11:00 A. M. Some confusion due to telephone trouble. All sections were familiar with their duties and ready for instructions. Infantry drill was held in the afternoon and dress parade at retreat.
- July 19 Artillery drill from 8:00 to 11:00 A. M. with dummy projectiles. 1:45 P. M. per field order No. 10, Company participated in advance guard problem. 3:00 P. M. sub caliber practice until 5:15 P. M.
- July 20 Reported for artillery drill at 8:00 A. M. Review by Governor of California, 10:45 A. M. Reported to battery and commenced blending powder, 1:15 P. M. Time occupied in blending, four hours. Evening, defense of camp from land and sea attack, Company assigned to support. Recall at 9:00 P. M. Night drill at battery.
- July 21 Artillery drill 8:00 to 11:00 A. M. Artillery drill held also in afternoon. Trial shots fired from Gun Number Two, but owing to weather conditions but it was impossible to fire full service from Gun Number Three. Call to arms was sounded at 8:30 P. M. All men reported to their stations within fifteen minutes. Recall 9:00 P. M.
- July 22 Artillery drill 7:30 to 11:30 A. M. Service practice not possible, field of vision not clear. Company paid by Major E. R. Smith, of Pay Department, United States Army. Broke camp 12:40 P. M. and marched to home station, arriving there at 4:10 P. M.

During the encampment I attended the following lectures: Infantry Patrol duty by Captain Grimes, 30th Infantry, United States Army; Army rations by Captain Stopford, Commissary Department, United States Army."



TENTH COMPANY, COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

After offering a few suggestions which he thought would improve the encampments in the future, Captain Harris concluded his report with the following paragraph:

"Too much praise cannot be given to Major Arthur W. Chase and to Captain Henry R. Casey, our instructors, for their untiring efforts toward making the encampment a success. They anticipated all our wants and always cheerfully furnished any information desired. This also applies to all the officers of the regular establishment with whom we came in contact."

The old axiom that the first year is the worst year was applicable to the newly organized Corps when they attended their first encampment and began to study the mechanism of the guns and how to fire them. In June 1912 a two weeks encampment was held at Fort Winfield Scott from the first to fifteenth. Other encampments were held at the San Francisco Presidio July 5 to 19, 1913; August 15 to 29, 1914; May 15 to 29, 1915; and July 9 to 23, 1916. The year 1916 witnessed the Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California in complete charge of the maneuvers and exercises at the Presidio. The seven annual encampments held at the Presidio had greatly increased the efficiency of the artillery men in handling the big defense guns. In addition to the maneuvers at the Ports, the Tenth Company attended several overnight encampments. In 1913 the entire Corps took part in maneuvers with a battalion of the Fifth Infantry Regiment, Signal Corps and several regular troop organizations. The Coast Artillery Corps were drilled for infantry as well as artillery.

The Tenth Company not only fired the big guns at the Presidio, but also fired the regular rifles used by the infantry of the United States Army. The year 1913 on the target range was the best year enjoyed by the Tenth Company. That year the Tenth Company rated third in the Coast Artillery Corps, which at that time consisted of twelve companies. In 1914 the Tenth and Twelfth Companies tied for last place, each Company having six members who held medals. The above rating was based on the number of members in each unit who made a score which entitled them to a medal.

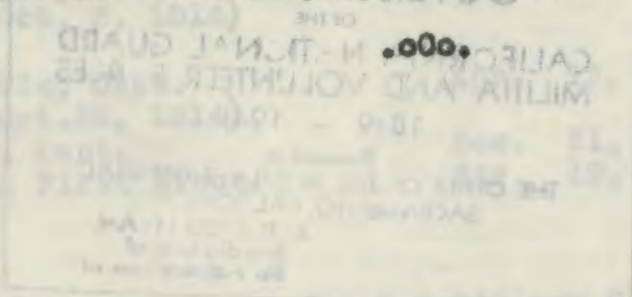
The Tenth Company took part in many parades as a part of the Coast Artillery Corps. Some of these were: the reception tendered President William Howard Taft, October 14, 1911; the Portola Celebration, October 22, 1913; Ball of All Nations, May 2, 1914; the Parade as escort for the Liberty Bell on July 17, 1915; also as escort for ex-President Theodore Roosevelt on July 21, 1915; and the



Activities: (Continued)

Path of Gold parade held October 4, 1916.\*

The Tenth Company was unfortunate in having as their captain a man who became involved in some shady dealings with the Captain of the Ninth Company and which led to the relieving of Captain Andrew Miller of his command in 1915. When summoned before a Court Martial, the Captain failed to appear; in fact he had disappeared weeks before the trial. He was dismissed from the service on October 13, 1915. First Lieutenant Willeam R. Maris was then placed in command of the Tenth Company, and was continued in that capacity until Aug. 24, 1917. when he was commissioned as Captain of the unit. Three weeks later the Tenth Company, Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of Calif. was mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War, and Redesignated Thirtieth Company, First Coast Defense Command.



The Tenth Company of the Coast Artillery Corps was organized by...

\*For further information concerning parades of Tenth Company refer to the History of Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California. Adjutant General's Office.