

History of the 11th Company, Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California 1911-1917

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Eleventh Company, Coast Artillery Corps, First Brigade

Reference; Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Mateo, San Mateo County

Mustered in March 11, 1911*

Relocated San Francisco, San Francisco County April 22, 1914**

Mustered into Federal Service and redesign ted August 24, 1917***

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Herbert N. Royden, Capt. (resigned Apr. 5, 1912*)	Mar. 11, 1911	May 15, 1911
Fulton W. Waggoner, First Lieut.	Mar. 11, 1911	May 15, 1911
Fulton W. Waggoner, Capt. (Resigned Apr. 1, 1913)	Apr. 16, 1912	May 28, 1912
George E. Duffy, First Lieut. (resigned Oct. 3, 1914)	Apr. 16, 1912	May 29, 1912
Norris K. Davis, Capt. (resigned Oct. 29, 1914)	Apr. 15, 1913	Apr. 25, 1913
John McHenry, Capt.	Dec. 21, 1914	Jan. 12, 1915
A. W. Cagwin, First Lieut.	May 19, 1915	July 8, 1916

Activities:

The Eleventh Company of the Coast Artillery Corps was organized in San Mateo, San Mateo County, on March 11, 1911. On April 22, 1914, the company was ordered transferred to San Francisco, where it was located with the other eight units of the Coast Artillery. Herbert N. Royden was elected Captain of the new unit, and Fulton W. Waggoner, First Lieutenant. Captain Royden was a retired Army Officer and Lieutenant Waggoner had seen service in the National Guard. Thus the Eleventh Company had a favorable start by having experienced officers as leaders. After the company was mustered in and the meeting had adjourned, the members of the Corps and their friends joined in a banquet in honor of the occasion. Much speech making was indulged in

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*Eleventh Company, Coast Artillery Corps, Nat. Guard of Calif. mustered in March 11, 1911. General and Special Orders and Circulars 1911.
General Order No. 6, par. 4.

**Eleventh Company, Coast Artillery relocated and stationed at San Francisco, April 22, 1914, General and Special Orders and Circulars 1914. General Order No. 6.

***Eleventh Company, Coast Artillery Corps, mustered into Federal Service August 24, 1917. Muster Roll, Eleventh Company, First Coast Defense Command, August 1917. Adjutant General Files.

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ELEVENTH COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

and the towns of San Mateo, Burlingame and Hillsborough were congratulated for supplying the membership for the Eleventh Company.*

A few months after its organization the Eleventh Company attended their first annual encampment at Fort Winfield Scott July 15 to 22, inclusive 1911. Captain Royden's report of the encampment is as follows:

"The Eleventh Company assembled at their armory at 11:00 A.M. July 15, 1911, and following lunch marched to the Southern Pacific station at San Mateo, where they boarded the 11:57 train for San Francisco, thence by electric car to the armory of the Coast Artillery Corps, where they arrived at 1:10 P.M. the same day. They were assigned as the Fifth Company of First Battalion and proceeded with that battalion to the designated camp ground at the Presidio where the company pitched camp and performed the necessary police duty. During the week the company performed, in a satisfactory manner, the duties assigned to them in general conformity with the activities of the other companies in camp. I report special progress made by the fire control section of my company, which was composed entirely of men who had never had any practice in the duties pertaining to that section. These men acquired marked proficiency in this duty and turned out accurate data concerning moving targets in nine seconds. The assignment of the Eleventh Company to one fire command for artillery work and to an independent battalion for infantry duties caused some confusion. In my opinion, when an artillery corps is in camp at the Presidio the duties of that corps should be mainly artillery practice. The infantry duties should be taken up at some other time with the special purpose of securing marked proficiency in infantry maneuvers."

From the report of Lieutenant Waggoner concerning the same encampment, the following paragraphs were taken:

"While in camp I participated with the Eleventh Company in Infantry maneuvers and Artillery drill. The company is a new organization and to most of the members the work was absolutely new. I found that the men responded very readily to instruction and

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*San Mateo Leader March 16, 1911, page 1, column 3.

ELEVENTH COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

performed their duties cheerfully. They took a decided interest in the work and declared their intention to attend future camp of instruction. In artillery work, the Eleventh Company was assigned to gun No. three of Battery Godfrey, a twelve inch barbette rifle situated near the fire control station. At this gun I was emplacement officer during the time the company was on duty. We manned the gun, practiced throughout the week with dummy ammunition and performed sufficient subcaliber work at moving targets to acquaint the men with their duties. The men were greatly interested in the practice and would have appreciated more of the same work. As emplacement officer, I observed the work of the men on the gun, the use of ammunition, facilities and telephone service. The telephone lines worked well as a rule but connection with the plotting room was interrupted at times. The line had to be overhauled but the repairs to same were made with dispatch, and thereafter worked satisfactorily. The Battery Commander line was uninterrupted during my observation. During the firing of subcaliber and service charges, I carefully observed the splash through a glass from the parapet. I familiarized myself with the geographical situation of the battery with reference to the channel and natural objects in view and observed the table of ranges posted at the gun."

Other encampments attended by the Eleventh Company were: June 1 to 15, 1912, July 8 to 19, 1913, August 15 to 29, 1914, May 15 to 29, 1915, and July 9 to 23, 1918. Several overnight encampments were held as required by the Militia Bureau.

There is on file a field inspection report of the Coast Artillery Corps for the year 1914. The inspection was conducted by Captain W. P. Platt, Coast Artillery Corps, United States Army, Inspector-Instructor Coast Artillery Reserve, National Guard of California and a report is given of each unit in the Coast Artillery Corps. In considering Captain Platt's report on the Eleventh Company, it should be borne in mind that the unit had just been transferred from San Mateo to San Francisco, and no doubt there existed some discord in the unit because of the change. Captain Platt's report is as follows:

"Organization-Below minimum authorized strength: Short 3 Sergeants, 4 Corporals and one cook. Number of enlisted men absent at inspection excessive, an indication of inefficiency and poor discipline. No enlisted men eligible for appointment as gun commander, gun pointer,

ELEVENTH COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

plotter, or observer an indication of poor instruction.

Arms and Equipment of Officers: Incomplete, another serious defect. Officers may be equipped at Federal expense. See Circular No. 14, Division of Militia Affairs 1913.

Records: Record of gallery practice incomplete.

Armory: Reported satisfactory.

Small Arms Target Practice: Only seven men fired the organized Militia course. This record falls far below the average, which in itself is unsatisfactory.

Physical Requirements: Compare favorably with Regular Army standard.

Care of Property: The subject of a special report forwarded this date to the Adjutant-General of California.

Armory Drill and Instruction: Reported fair and good. The average attendance at armory drills of twenty-six men, too small for effective work.

General Efficiency: Reported fair:

The condition of the property of several units in the Coast Artillery Corps, led to a special report to the Adjutant-General who issued the following instruction to the Chief of the Coast Artillery, Colonel George A. Schastey:

"As requested by the Chief, Division of Militia Affairs, the Chief of Coast Artillery will promptly put the property in question in satisfactory order after receipt here of, and will submit requisition for deficiencies as soon as possible thereafter. The Chief of Coast Artillery will, with the least practicable delay, make suitable arrangements with Captain Platt for the re-inspection of the Coast Artillery property in San Francisco, and report to this office as to such arrangements."

In his field inspection report for May 1915, Captain Platt stated; that all property was in very good shape, indicating that his report

ELEVENTH COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

and recommendations of 1914 were complied with. He deplored the fact that many men were suffering from sore feet at each encampment because of the fact that the militia were not permitted to purchase regular army shoes from the United States Quartermaster.

The Eleventh Company was not rated highly on the rifle range, thirteen medal men having been the largest number, and seven the smallest.

What looked like serious trouble in the ranks of the Eleventh Company occurred on August twenty-fourth when Captain John McHenry was relieved of the command. Charges of financial irregularities with company members were made by Corporal Edward D. Mackey, and upon investigation by Major William H. Mallett, the charges seemed well founded. Colonel Lea Febiger, United States Army, retired, on duty with National Guard of California, was detailed to investigate the entire matter. The Colonel found that Captain McHenry had borrowed money from different members of the Eleventh Company, but only for use for company expenses and none was appropriated to his personal use. Corporal Mackey had caused considerable trouble in the company during the annual encampment and made the boast that he would get the Captain. Colonel Febiger considered it unfortunate that Major Mallett was detailed to make the preliminary investigation, as he was also on unfriendly terms with Captain McHenry and unintentionally was biased in his finding having failed to ascertain whether or not the Captain had used the borrowed money to meet his personal obligations. The Colonel's summary and recommendations were as follows:

"As far as my investigation went there was not developed any case of unauthorized stoppages nor of "withholding" money from the men out of their pay from the State, and all stoppages had been settled last pay day.. Captain McHenry's standing appears to be that of a very good officer professionally, much interested in his work, and has a good company with an unuasally large number of names on its rolls. I would therefore recommend that Captain McHenry be given an opportunity to retrieve himself, and be restored to the command of his company, with the distinct understanding that all these debts, both official and personal, be settled with a reasonable time, on a definate date, and that thereafter none be allowed to accrue. Also that he be officially informed that such practices and record must eventually lead to loss of his efficiency as an officer, would ultimately lead to a severance of his relations with the National Guard of California, and be most harmful to his standing in civil life."

ELEVENTH COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

As a result, the following Special Order No. 11, par. 17 stated:

"The report of the inspector, Colonel Lea Febiger United States Army, retired, on duty with the National Guard of California, in the case of Captain John McHenry Jr. Eleventh Company, Coast Artillery Corps, is approved. The report shows conclusively that Captain McHenry did not misuse public funds. Captain McHenry is hereby restored to the command of the Eleventh Company, Coast Artillery Corps. In the future, enlisted men who make unfounded accusations against their officers will be brought to trial by court martial."

Captain McHenry assumed command of his company and when the militia was called into Federal Service in 1917, he was one of the few Captains in command of a militia company to enter the Federal Service as a Captain. The same was true of First Lieutenant A. D. Cagwin who also entered as a Lieutenant in the Federal Service.

The Eleventh Company was mustered into Federal Service, August 5, 1917, for duty during the World War, and was redesignated Twenty-Fifth Company, First Coast Defense Command.