

# **History of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Company (former Germania Rifles), Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California 1909-1917**

This history was completed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in conjunction with the California National Guard and the California State Library.

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**Second Company Coast Artillery Corps**

Reference : Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized May 28, 1868

Reconstituted December 9, 1895\*

Mustered into Federal Service May 6, 1898\*\*

Mustered out Federal Service September 21, 1899\*\*\*

Re-entered National Guard November 19, 1899\*\*\*\*

Reconstituted April 19, 1901\*\*\*\*\*

Redesignated May 11, 1907\*\*\*\*\*

Reconstituted April 21, 1909X

Mustered into Federal Service August 22, 1917xx

Name	Commanding Officers	
	Rank	Commission
Charles Jacob Mund, Capt. (Promoted to Major)	May 28, 1907****	Apr. 21, 1909
William H. Homer, First Lieut. (Promoted to Capt. Ninth Co. Coast Artillery Corps)	May 28, 1907****	Apr. 21, 1909
William A. Tit, First Lieut.	Aug. 2, 1910	Sept. 14, 1910
William A. Titt, Capt. ) Resigned Oct. 11, 1912)	Sept. 5, 1911	Oct. 28, 1911
Harry C. Eastmen, First Lieut. (Elected Capt. did not qualify)	Sept. 10, 1912	Oct. 11, 1912
Homer C. Ransom, First Lieut.	May 27, 1913	June 21, 1913

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\*Company D, Second Artillery Reg., formerly Germania Rifles, and Co., F, Second Artillery Regiment consolidated and designated Company F, First Infantry Regiment December 9, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, pages 86 and 88.

\*\*Co. F, First Inf. Reg. mustered into Federal Service for duty during the Spanish-American War May 6, 1898. Adjutant General Report 1896-1898 page 6.

\*\*\*Co. F, as part of the First Inf. Reg. was mustered out of Federal Service September 21, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, p. 4.

\*\*\*\*Co. F, as part of the First Inf. Reg. re-entered the National Guard November 29, 1899. Adjutant General Report 1899-1900, page 79.

\*\*\*\*\*Co. F, First Inf. Reg. redesignated Battery A, First Battalion Coast Artillery April 19, 1901. Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, p. 66. General Order # 5, par. 3.

\*\*\*\*\*Batteries A and D First Battalion Coast Artillery consolidated and designated Co. K, Fifth Inf. Reg. May 11, 1907. Adjutant General Report 1907-1908, page 4.

xCompany K, Fifth Inf. Reg. redesignated Second Company, Coast Artillery Corps, Apr. 21, 1909. General and Special Orders and Circulars 1909, General Order # 9, par. 2.

xx Second Company as part of the Coast Artillery Corps mustered into Federal Service for duty during the world War August 22, 1917. Muster Roll Second Company, First Coast Defense Command August, 1917. Adjutant General Files.

SECOND COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Commanding Officers (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Rutherford B. Moore, Capt. (discharged Jan. 6, 1914)	March 25, 1913	April 10, 1913
Homer C. Ransom, Capt. (resigned Mar. 29, 1915)	Jan. 27, 1914	April 7, 1914
Martin C. Walton, First Lieut. (resigned Oct. 11, 1915)	June 10, 1914	June 10, 1914
Charles D. Ostrom, Capt. (resigned Dec. 9, 1916)	Nov. 16, 1915	Dec. — 1915
Clarence E. Heald, Capt.	Jan. 9, 1917	Feb. 8, 1917
Lester A. Daugherty, First Lieut. (resigned July 11, 1917)	Nov. 16, 1915	Jan. 8, 1916
George Hanna Hagar, First Lieut.	Aug. 4, 1917	Aug 4, 1917

Activities:

The history of the unit that became Second Company Coast Artillery Corps on April 21, 1909, dates back to May 28, 1868, when the Germania Rifles was organized. The Germania Rifles was designated as Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, California National Guard. On June 1, 1881, the Second Infantry Regiment was redesignated Second Artillery Regiment, so the former Germania Rifles became Battery D, Second Artillery Regiment on that date. The next change came on December 7, 1895, when Battery F, Second Artillery was consolidated with Battery D and designated Company F, First Infantry Regiment two days later, December 9, 1895. The unit remained in the First Regiment until April 19, 1901, when Companies C, F, G and K, were redesignated Companies A, B, C, and D, First Battalion Coast Artillery. The former Germania Rifles became Company A, First Battalion Coast Artillery. In 1907 the First Battalion Coast Artillery discontinued and Company D was consolidated with Company A and transferred to the Fifth Infantry Regiment as Company K. Two years later April 21, 1909, Company K was transferred to the newly organized Coast Artillery Corps and designated Second Company. The unit therefore was forty-one years old when this story begins.

After all these years and changes it seems proper to start out with the report of Colonel Thomas Wilhelm, Inspector-General National Guard of California, which was held about three months before Company K, Fifth Infantry Regiment became Second Company. His report is as follows:

"This company is made up of a good class of men and can be depended upon in its entirety in case of emergency.

SECOND COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

The organization is sufficiently armed, uniformed and equipped for active service in the field. Property, stores, and equipment are in excellent condition, but storerooms are inadequate but as safe as the character of the building will permit. The organization is not provided with an armory. Officers rooms and those for the men as well as storerooms, being located in a private residence (wooden). The company drills on the street. Schools for officers and non-commissioned officers are reported held monthly. Target practice has been given considerable attention, also gallery practice. Instruction in fire discipline, sighting, and estimating distances has been given to some extent, but is not sufficient. The required amount of ammunition is kept on hand. Four practice marches are reported in addition to the annual joint maneuvers at camp Atascadero. Instruction in first aid has been given the company once by an officer of the Medical Corps. No first aid packages are on hand. Percentage of membership, 100; percentage of attendance at muster and inspection, 91.80; promptness at roll call and company exercises, 93; military appearance, 93; condition of arms, 100; condition of equipments, 100; condition of clothing, 97; condition of records, 100; company movements, 93; manual of arms 97; small arms practice, 28.56; general average 90.69. The inspection reports of the Coast Artillery Corps of later years are not available."

The first annual encampment of the Second Company was held September 4 to 18, 1909. The official report of the Captain and First Lieutenant to the Adjutant-General will be quoted as they describe the activities of the company while in camp. Captain S. J. Mund wrote as follows:

"My company was assembled at 8:30 A.M. in compliance with Corps Order No. 13, Saturday September fourth, and left the armory at 9:00 A.M. in heavy marching order to participate in joint maneuvers at the Presidio, San Francisco. Marched into camp in rear of Battery Cranston, Fort Winfield Scott, arrived at 10:45 A.M., pitched camp and mounted guard. My company participated in all the various call to arms and drilled on the ten inch disappearing guns at Battery Cranston, where we were assigned in compliance with General Order No. 9. Also had a full

SECOND COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

detail at the Primary Station and Plotting Room which was manned, also a gun and ammunition detail by my company during subcaliber and service firing and at the close of the exercises, I found that the various details, after working two weeks at the same position, were capable of performing their respective duties to the entire satisfaction of the regular officers assigned to Fort Winfield Scott. We broke camp at 8:00 A.M. September 18, 1909, leaving the Presidio at 1:30 P.M. in heavy marching order and arrived at the armory at 2:30 P.M. the same day and were then dismissed. I also have the honor to recommend that the encampments be held during the months of June or July and that notice of same be forwarded at least two months previous to the encampment date so that members can arrange for their summer vacations in advance, thereby increasing the attendance of each company, which is very essential."

First Lieutenant William H. Homer reported:

"My company was assigned to Battery Cranston, I was assigned to No. one gun of that battery, Captain H. R. Casey who commanded Battery Cranston, instructed the officers assigned to his battery in the nomenclature of the guns and the methods employed by the Plotting Room and Rangefinder. After watching the work of the Regulars at these stations I have a very good idea of the work in general. As Captain Casey was the only Regular officer with the Battery he had very little time to devote to the individual officers; by close attention to what was being done at all times, however, I feel that the time devoted at the various stations and attending the several lectures given by Lieutenant Colonel Marsh and Captain H. R. Casey, was spent to good advantage. Captain Casey went into the details of the practical part of the work as well as the theory, which fact made his instructions very easy to comprehend."

The splendid assistance and ability of Captain Casey was also extolled by Lieutenant H. G. McKannay who reported thus:

"The instructions at the ten inch Breech Loading disappearing rifles of Battery Cranston were under the immediate supervision and direction of Captain H. R. Casey, Coast Artillery Corps, United States Army. The course outlined was both progressive

SECOND COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

and comprehensive in its nature. Starting with such simple details as what constitutes a gun, and emplacement, a battery and the nomenclature of each, Captain Casey led us through the mazes of the location, equipment, operation and use of Range Stations, Plotting Room, Battery commanders Stations, and Fire Commanders Stations. Next followed an elaboration upon the different methods of rangefinding and range correction, the influence of wind and atmospheric conditions upon the course of the projectile, and how to correct for drift, tide and travel of target. At the beginning, the course appeared to be complicated that I felt it was time wasted for us to attempt the work. As the daily drills went on however, the enthusiasm of the National Guard coupled with the patience and interest of their instructors, Captain Casey and his men, over came all physical and mental obstructions, and before the time for breaking camp arrived, the State troops were without assistance accurately performing every detail from range finding to discharging full practice charges at targets over six thousand feet distant."

The next encampment of the Coast Artillery Corps was held June 11 to 18, 1910, inclusive at the same location as the previous year. Some excerpts from the report of Captain C. J. Mund, Second Company will be given as follows:

"All the duties of both officers and men were, it seems to me, preformed in a most commendable manner. The relations existing between the Regular officers and the National Guard was a pleasant, interesting and instructive one, offering unentrammed facilities for instruction. During the drills and service firing, I was with the Battery Commander, Captain H. R. Casey and received thorough instructions from him as to my duties, particularly during the service firing. Through his constant coaching, I was enabled to hit the stationary target on the last shot and came very near on the other three shots. The excellent example set by the regular soldiers in discipline and courtesy was of profit to the men of my company and, I believe, will be of lasting benefit. The work was of an interesting nature and every opportunity was afforded by the

SECOND COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

Battery Commander for the instruction of the men, which was eagerly sought."

The next encampment was held at Fort Winfield Scott on July 15 to 22, 1911 inclusive. For that encampment the report of First Lieutenant W. A. Titt will be given to describe the activities of the Second Company. The report reads as follows:

July 15 In command of the Second Company Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California, left the San Francisco Armory at 1:30 P.M. in heavy marching order arriving at Fort Winfield Scott at about 4:00 P.M. the same day. Camp was pitched, kitchens established and men fed.

July 16 Was devoted to straightening out camp. Guard mount and dress parade being the only duties performed.

July 17 Assigned to Battery Lancaster with First Company, Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California. Drilled there from 8:00 to 11:00 A.M. Guard mount 1:20 P.M. Infantry drill extended order 3:30 to 4:45 P.M. Dress Parade 5:20 P.M.

July 18 Artillery drill Battery Lancaster, 8:00 to 11:00 A.M. Guard mount 1:20 P.M. Lecture on service of information by Lieutenant Nichols 30th Infantry, United States Army 1:30 to 2:30 P.M. Infantry drill 3:30 to 4:45 P.M. Dress parade 5:20 P.M.

July 19 Artillery drill and subcaliber practice 8:00 to 11:00 A.M. 19 shots fired, 14 by Second Company, 5 by First Company. Infantry field problems 1:00 to 4:30 P.M. in which Second Company acted as reserves. 4:30 to 6:00 P.M. Subcaliber practice in which First Company fired 11 shots and Second Company 6 shots.

July 20 8:00 A.M. prepared No. three gun Battery Lancaster for service firing. 10:30 A.M. Dress parade and review by Governor Hiram Johnson. In the afternoon the

SECOND COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

adjustments on No. three gun were completed. 6:30 to 9:15 P.M. Infantry maneuvers in defense of Fort Scott in which the Second Company was a part of the Out-Post. Call to arms 10:30 P.M. no firing.

July 21 Artillery drill and service firing 4 shots being fired with the First Company manning the detail and Second Company observing and Plotting Details.

July 22 The morning was devoted to studying complete service firing but due to fog, had to be abandoned at 11:00 A.M. Company was paid by the United States Paymaster. Broke camp at 1:30 P.M. returned to armory, 1548 Van Ness Avenue, at 5:00 P.M. and the company was dismissed.

Another encampment of Second Company was held from July 9 to 23, 1916. During this encampment the Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California, was in complete charge of the Presidio and the Coast Fortifications that guard the harbor. Ten companies of the Corps were present. The guardsmen who had been drilled for several years handled the guns perfectly. The two ten inch barbette rifles of Battery Godfrey were handled by the Fourth and Ninth Companies, Battery Miller, where were located the ten inch disappearing guns, were handled by the Second and Twelfth Companies under the command of Major H. E. Mittelstadt, as is also Battery Cranston, where are located the Sixth and Tenth Companies. Colonel Mathewson was in charge of the entire Coast Artillery Corps, and the first week was devoted mostly to subcaliber practice, and the second week to full service charges fired at moving targets several miles out at sea. Captain W. P. Platt, United States Army, who was detailed by the War Department as Military Instructor was well pleased with the results and praised the excellent ability of the members of the Artillery Corps.\*

From the subject of manipulating the big guns at the Forts to small arms practice was the next step. Although trained as artillery men, the Artillery Corps also drilled part time as infantry. Therefore they also used the rifle on the target range the same as the infantry. Only a comparative record with the other companies of the Coast Artillery Corps will be given of the Second Company, and the

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\*San Francisco Call July 12, 1916, page 3, column 6.



SECOND COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

record is obtained from the records of the number of men in each unit who won a medal. In 1910 the Second Company had seventeen medal men and were the third best in the regiment. In 1912 Second Company had seventeen men who were expert shots with the rifle, but dropped to fourth place among the units in the Corps. In 1913 there were fifteen expert shots and that year Second Company dropped to fifth place. The next year, 1914 the unit had only twelve medal men and therefore dropped to seventh place. Two years later there were twelve medal men, but improvement in other units forced the Second Company into eighth place in the Corps.

Perhaps some of the failure of the Second Company to maintain its former high standard of efficiency was due to the unfortunate difficulty that the unit had with its commanding officer Rutherford B. Moore. Captain Moore's over indulgence in intoxicating liquors led to the ruination of his career as a military officer. He used the company's funds to pay liquor bills and was relieved of his command of the Second Company on September 4, 1913. He was brought to trial before an examining board and was found guilty and on January 6, 1914, was dismissed from the service of the National Guard. First Lieutenant Homer C. Ransom, was promoted to the Captaincy of the Second Company on January 27, 1914.

The Second Company as part of the Coast Artillery Corps participated in many parades. A few of the most important were on the occasion of the Portola celebration October 19, 1909, and also October 22, 1913, for President William Howard Taft on, October 14, 1911. Then on May 2, 1914, the Ball of All Nations; on July 17, 1915, the parade accompanying the Liberty Bell to the Exposition Grounds. Four days later October 21, 1915, the Second Company acted as escort for ex-President Theodore Roosevelt when he visited San Francisco. Another occasion was on October 4, 1916, when a Path of Gold parade and celebration was held in San Francisco.\*

During the troublesome days of 1916 along the United States-Mexico border that eventually led to the calling of most of the National Guard of California into Federal Service, the Coast Artillery Corps was not called. The Second Company however, did not have to wait very long before the call of President Woodrow Wilson ordered the National Guard into Federal Service for duty during the World War. This occurred on August 5, 1917, when the Second Company was designated Twenty-Second Company, Coast Defense command and mustered into the Federal Service.

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\*For further information on parades by Second Company refer to the History of Coast Artillery Corps. Adjutant General's Office.

SECOND COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

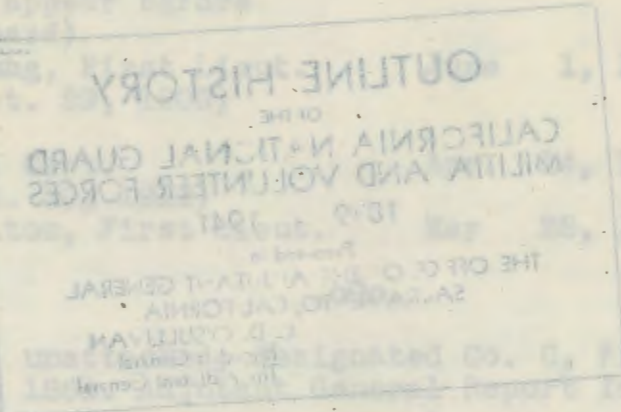
Activities: (continued)

For further information concerning this unit of the Coast Artillery Corps refer to Second Company, Coast Artillery Defense Command, Coast Artillery Corps. Adjutant General's Office.

mustered in Federal Service and redesignated Aug. 5, 1917

Commanding Officers

Name	Rank	Term	Comments
Walter Parker Garfield, Capt. (Declined to appear before Examining Board)	1st Lt.	1, 1908	
James Carole Young, 1st Lt. (Dismissed)	1st Lt.	1, 1908 - Apr. 21, 1909	
William A. ...	1st Lt.	Apr. 27, 1910	
William A. ...	1st Lt.	June 8, 1910	



Co. C, First Inf. Reg., Second Brigade redesignated Battery C, First Coast Artillery, Apr. 19, 1901. Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, G. O. No. 5, par. 5, page 98.

Co. L, formerly Co. C, First Battalion, Coast Artillery redesignated Co. L, Fifth Inf. Reg., Second Brigade, May 11, 1907. General and Special Orders and Circulars 1907, G. O. No. 10, par. 4.

Company L, Fifth Inf. Reg., Second Brigade redesignated Third Co., Coast Artillery Corps, Nov. 21, 1909. General and Special Orders and Circulars 1909, G. O. No. 5.

Third Co., Coast Artillery Corps, mustered into Federal Service, Aug. 5, 1917. Muster Roll, Third Co., First Coast Defense Command, Aug. 28, 1917. Adjutant General Files.

1st Lieutenant James Carole Young retained his rank as of June 1, 1909, when he commanded Co. L, Fifth Inf. Reg., Second Brigade.

Capt. Philip Lee was retained his rank as of Apr. 19, 1909, when he was Captain, Second Brigade Staff, 2nd. Guard of Calif. Adjutant General Report 1901-1902, page 170.