

# **History of the 9<sup>th</sup> Company, Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California 1910-1917**

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NINTH COMPANY, COAST ARTILLERY CORPS

Ninth Company, Coast Artillery Corps, First Brigade

Reference: Adjutant General's Office

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Mustered in May 19, 1910\*

Mustered into Federal Service and redesignated August 23, 1917\*\*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
W. H. Homer, Captain (re-elected Dec. 5, 1913) (retired Apr. 19, 1915)	May 19, 1910	June 8, 1910
H. W. McClure, First Lieutenant (resigned Mar. 15, 1911)	May 19, 1910	July 21, 1910
L. R. Cofer, First Lieutenant (resigned Sept. 26, 1913)	April 14, 1911	May 15, 1911
E. L. Macaulay, First Lieutenant (resigned Dec. 8, 1914)	Dec. 5, 1913	Jan. 30, 1914
H. W. McClure, Captain	May 4, 1915	May 10, 1915
L. A. Purdy, First Lieutenant (promoted Captain, Fourth Company, Coast Artillery Corps, Aug. 3, 1917)	May 4, 1915	May 12, 1915
John D. Hatch, First Lieutenant	July 31, 1917	Aug. 2, 1917

**Activities:**

The Ninth Company, Coast Artillery Corps was organized in San Francisco and mustered in as a unit of the National Guard on May 19, 1910. Major H. W. Mathewson was the mustering officer. W. H. Homer was elected Captain and H. W. McClure was chosen as First Lieutenant of the newly organized company.

Captain Homer remained Captain of the Ninth Company for five years, when he retired. Immediately after his retirement, his record was clouded by a transaction in connection with the purchase of some furniture for Company Nine. It appears that the Captain was authorized by his company to purchase \$75.00 worth of furniture, and he arranged with Captain Miller of Tenth Company, Coast Artillery Corps, who owed Captain Homer \$50.00 to purchase the furniture in his (Captain Miller's name) on contract. Captain Homer kept \$50.00 as payment of Captain Miller's loan, and gave \$25.00 to Miller, who paid \$18.00 to the furniture company and kept \$7.00 as his commission. The Ninth Company had paid Captain Homer the \$75.00 and when the furniture was delivered the company supposed they owned it. Captain

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\*Ninth Company, Coast Artillery Corps mustered in May 19, 1910. General and Special Orders and Circulars 1910, Special Order No. 5, par. 12.

\*\*Ninth Company, Coast Artillery Corps mustered into Federal Service, August 21, 1917. Muster Roll, 9th Co. First Coast Defense Command, Aug., 1917. Adjutant General Files.

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NINTH COMPANY, COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Allan G. Wright, Adjutant, Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California started in investigating and revealed the fact that the furniture only cost \$68.00, that \$18.00 had been paid on account, and that \$50.00 balance was due. That \$50.00 was the sum kept by Captain Homer in payment of Captain Miller's loan. Meanwhile Captain Miller disappeared, and later on was discharged from the service. Adjutant Wright recommended that Captain Homer be compelled to pay the \$50.00 due on the furniture or be brought to trial, as he was still on the retired list and subject to military jurisdiction. Thus ends the career of Captain Homer.

First Lieutenant H. W. McClure's record, however, proved to be very honorable. He resigned from the Ninth Company in 1911, re-enlisted in Second Company in 1912, re-enlisted in Twelfth Company in 1913, and was elected First Lieutenant. On May 10, 1915 he was chosen Captain of the Ninth Company to succeed Captain Homer. He retained that office and when the Ninth Company was mustered into Federal Service on August 5, 1917 he was commissioned as Captain of the unit in the Federal Service.

While Captain Homer was in command, Ninth Company attended their first encampment at the Presidio in San Francisco July 15 to 22, 1911, inclusive. The Captain's report of the camp was as follows:

- July 15 Left home station for maneuver camp. Moved into camp, established kitchen, pitched tents.
- July 16 Guard mount. Dress parade. Muster.
- July 17 Reported at 8:00 A. M. Battery Godfrey and the following assignments were made: Battery Commander, Captain W. H. Homer; Emplacement Officer Gun No. Two, First Lieutenant Cofer; Acting Adjutant to Fire Commander, Second Lieutenant Graf. Complete Range Section: Observer, Sergeant Whittenberg; Chief Plotter, Sergeant Walsh. Complete gun section: Gun Commander, Sergeant Schloss; Gun Pointer, Corporal Esse. Some confusion at Battery, due to the fact that Tenth and Eleventh Companies were new, and to the further fact that telephones were not in order. Drilled with dummy projectiles. Infantry drill, after noon.
- July 18 Artillery Drill, from 8:00 to 11:00 A. M. Still some confusion due to new companies

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NINTH COMPANY, COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

and phone troubles. Ninth Company, Range Section and Gun Section familiar with duties and ready for instruction. P. M. infantry drill and extended order.

July 19 Artillery Drill, 8:00 to 11:00 A. M. dummy projectiles, etc., 1:45 P. M. as per field order No. 10, participated in the advance guard problem, acted as rear guard, Lieutenant Cofer in command of Ninth Company. 3:00 P. M. sub caliber practice; target, third target from tug; fired thirty-five shots, commenced 5:23 P. M. and finished 6:13 P. M.

July 21 Artillery Drill 8:00 to 11:00 A. M. P. M. Artillery Drill; fired two trial shots, 5:11 to 6:33 P. M. (full service charge). Field of fire not clear.

July 22 Artillery Drill, 7:30 to 11:30 A. M. Service practice not possible. Field of fire not clear. Payment of company; broke camp; returned to home station about 5:00 P. M.

Each year the commanding officers were requested to give their views regarding the camp and offer suggestions or recommendations for improvement. First Lieutenant L. R. Cofer of the Ninth Company offered the following comments and recommendation:

First: Camp should be held prior to the end of June, exact date to be fixed three months in advance.

Second: Militia should be quartered in barracks.

Third: All extra camp service to be eliminated.

Fourth: That the officers of the regular army acting as instructors, be detailed early enough to enable them to acquaint themselves with the battery and with the exact program of the exercises.

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NINTH COMPANY, COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Fifth: Facilities should be given the Militia Companies to visit their batteries at frequent intervals during the year and arrangements should be made for sub caliber practice on Sundays and holidays.

Sixth: Permission should be given the Militia to be quartered in Barracks over night in connection with artillery drill during the year.

Seventh: As large a detail of the officers and non-commissioned officers of the Regular Army as possible, should be given the Militia as instructors at their armories, during the year.

Each year the Ninth Company attended annual camps at the Presidio with the Coast Artillery Corps. The encampments were held on the following dates: June 1 to 15, 1912, July 5 to 19, 1913, August 15, to 29, 1914, May 15 to 29, 1915, and July 9 to 23, 1916. Also overnight camps were held each year and in 1913, May 29 to 31, the Coast Artillery Corps joined with a battalion from the Fifth Infantry Regiment, the Signal Corps and the Regular Army in maneuvers between San Francisco and Salinas.

At rifle practice, the Ninth Company improved each year. The first year, 1910, Ninth Company was sixth in the number of men who qualified for medals for marksmanship on the rifle range. In 1912, Ninth Company was fifth; in 1913 it was fourth, in 1914 it tied with First Company for second place and in 1916 tied with Sixth Company for first place. In the latter event both the Sixth and Ninth Companies had thirty-two men who had won medals.

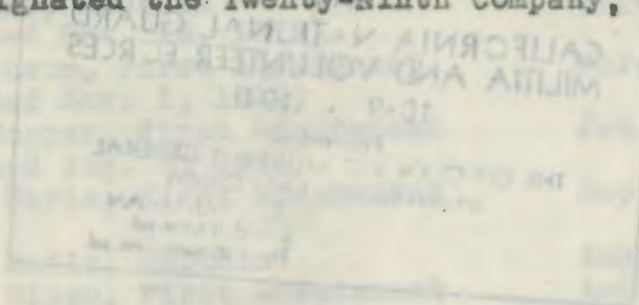
Ninth Company took part in many parades as part of the Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California. On October 14, 1911, the unit paraded in the reception tendered to William Howard Taft, President of the United States, when he visited San Francisco. On October 22, 1913, the parade and celebration in honor of the landing of Portola was participated in by the Ninth Company. On May 2, 1914 a parade for the Ball of All Nations was the occasion for the Ninth Company to parade. In 1915 the Artillery Corps was called upon on several occasions for parades held in connection with the Panama Pacific International Exposition. One of these was on the Fourth of July, another on July seventeenth, when the Liberty Bell was escorted to the Fair Grounds, and four days later ex-President Theodore Roosevelt was welcomed by a

NINTH COMPANY, COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

parade and reception in his honor. In 1916, the greatest parade was for the "Path of Gold" celebration on October fourth of that year.\*

From the enthusiastic, care free parades and celebrations our story climaxes in the solemn determined parade of 1917, when the Ninth Company with thousands of others, joined the procession that reached across our land and across the Atlantic Ocean to the battle fields of France. The Ninth Company joined the march when it was mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War, August 5, 1917, and redesignated the Twenty-Ninth Company, First Coast Defense Command.



The Ninth Company, Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California was mustered into service on February 27, 1911 at San Francisco. Lieutenant Colonel E. E. McPherson was the first and only commander of the unit after they had gained the political recognition required by law.

From that date until the organization was redesignated the Ninth Company followed their first annual movements. The program was by the 1911 to 1917 as follows:

As an introduction to my report I desire to state that this material was prepared February 27, 1911, and was of great use to the members of the unit.

\*For further information concerning parades of the Ninth Company refer to the History of Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California.

Adjutant General's Office.