

1906 San Francisco Earthquake: 1st Battalion, Coast Artillery National Guard of California

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STATIONS AND LOCATIONS OF THE FIRST BATTALION, COAST ARTILLERY

NATIONAL GUARD OF CALIFORNIA

DURING THE EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE OF 1906

Major Francis V. Keesling, Commanding

		Called for active duty
Company A	John A. Eason, First Lieutenant (Acting Capt.)	April 18, 1906
Company B	Walter S. Grattan, Captain	April 18, 1906
Company C	Joseph H. Ross Jr., Captain	April 18, 1906
Company D	Ashley R. Farless, Captain	April 18, 1906
Relieved from active duty		
May 31, 1906		

Stations and Locations

Command assembled without orders from Superior Headquarters early on the morning of April eighteenth.* Armory had been partially destroyed by the earthquake. Temporary kitchen and hospital established on Willow Avenue in rear of armory. Dynamiting buildings at Clay and Mason Streets. Located at:

Jefferson Square, San Francisco,**

afternoon of April eighteenth. Issued supplies assisted in maintaining order, guarding stores, and removing groceries from store buildings in path of fire. Supplies taken to Jefferson Square and distributed to those in need. Transferred prisoners from Broadway Jail to Fort Mason April nineteenth.X Battalion ordered to:

*Report Major Francis V. Keesling
First Battalion Coast Artillery
May 25, 1906, page 1.
Adjutant General Files.

**Report Major Francis V. Keesling
First Battalion, Coast Artillery
May 25, 1906, p. 5.
Adjutant General Files.

XReport Major Francis V. Keesling
First Battalion, Coast Artillery
May 25, 1906, page 6.
Adjutant General Files.

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Stations and Locations
(continued)

Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, XX
Had charge of distribution of supplies.
Policed Park. Established temporary hospital in Park. Detachment to St. Luke's Hospital to move patients to Ingleside Race Track. Established sanitary measures in Camp and Park. In the emergency, supplies were issued indiscriminately. Between 7,500 and 10,000 people were fed daily in Golden Gate Park. Command of Golden Gate Park relinquished April twentieth and Battalion stationed at:
Haight and Cole Streets, San Francisco, ♦
April twenty-first. Frame buildings erected for hospital, kitchen and storehouses. Moved all supplies and equipment from Golden Gate Park to Haight and Cole Streets April twenty-second. A distributing station was established at that location for the distribution of supplies to those in need. Members of the battalion gave up all their tents to suffering people and distributed their blankets and overcoats to cover the sick and helpless women and children who were living on the bare ground.

XXReport Major Francis V. Keesling, First Battalion Coast Artillery May 25, 1906, page 6. Adjutant General Files.

♦Report Major Francis V. Keesling, First Battalion, Coast Artillery, May 25, 1906, page 20,. Adjutant General Files.

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Stations and Locations
(continued)

In addition to the regular duty performed in its prescribed district, special duty was performed outside the district by detachments of the battalion. The First Battalion, Coast Artillery, remained at Haight and Cole Streets, performing the above described duties and such other duties as were required of them until they were relieved from duty on the thirty-first of May. The work of the Battalion was performed by detachments. The Battalion worked as a unit and little or no attention was paid to company organizations. The officers and men of the Battalion labored hard, thoughtfully, honestly and conscientiously during the time they were on active duty. A minimum of trouble or disturbance was experienced in the districts under their supervision. Assistance to the needy was cheerfully and speedily rendered when possible. The Battalion was highly praised for its work during the crisis, both by civilians and officers of the Regular Army who had observed the work performed by the organization.

Adjutant General Report 1908,
page 64. Field Order # 17,
par. 1.