

# **History of the 6<sup>th</sup> Company, Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California 1909-1917**

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SIXTH COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS

Sixth Company, Coast Artillery Corps, First Brigade

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized July 27, 1909\*

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

Name	Commanding Officers		Commission
	Rank		
R. E. Mittelstaedt, Capt. (re-elected Dec. 5, 1913) (promoted Major, May 13, 1915)	July 27, 1909		Aug. 23, 1909
S. P. Russell, First Lieut. (resigned Sept. 5, 1913)	July 27, 1909		Aug. 31, 1909
John McHenry, First Lieut. (promoted to Capt. Eleventh Co. Coast Artillery Corps Dec. 21, 1914)	Oct. 1, 1913		Nov. 22, 1913
A. S. Game, First Lieut.	Feb. 2, 1915		Mar. 15, 1915
M. S. Game, Capt. (Resigned Aug. 12, 1916)	July 21, 1915		Aug. 23, 1915
M. F. Kent, Capt.	Sept. 2, 1916		Oct. 19, 1916
J.G. Devine, First Lieut.	Nov. 10, 1915		Dec. 10, 1915
Albert Schoenfeld, First Lieut.	Aug. 4, 1917		Aug. 4, 1917

**Activities:**

"July 27, 1909, mustered into service as Sixth Company, Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California, Major H. G. Mathewson presiding. Richard E. Mittelstaedt, First Lieutenant assigned to command Sixth Company, Coast Artillery Corps, in accordance with Special Order No. 2, Headquarters Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California on July 28, 1909."

The foregoing item was taken from the first Monthly Report of Sixth Company for July 1909, and in a few words furnished the history of the beginning of the Sixth Company, Coast Artillery Corps. Lieutenant Mittelstaedt was elected Captain and S. P. Russell was elected First Lieutenant.

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\*Sixth Company, Coast Artillery Corps mustered in July 27, 1909. General and Special Orders and Circulars 1909. General Order No. 19, par. 2.

\*\*Sixth Company Coast Artillery mustered into Federal Service during the World War, August 23, 1917,. Muster Roll, Sixth Company, First Coast Defense Command August, 1917. Adjutant General Files.

## Activities: (continued)

The Sixth Company was about one month old when the first encampment of the Coast Artillery Corps was ordered held at the Presidio in San Francisco on September 4 to 18, 1909. The progress of the new company at the encampment can best be judged by the report of Captain Mittelstaedt, which reads as follows:

- September 4 Company assembled at armory at 8:00 A.M. in heavy marching order; left armory at 9:00 A.M. under command of Major H. G. Mathewson and marched to Battery Cranston, Presidio of San Francisco, arriving there at 10:00 A.M. and immediately drew rations for seven days. Camp was established by 2:00 P.M. The Company was consolidated with the Fourth Company for drill and assigned to Battery Lancaster.
- September 5 The non-commissioned officers were given one hour instruction by Lieutenant Schwab at Battery Godfrey on the nomenclature of the gun.
- September 6 Enlisted men were instructed in the nomenclature of the gun, 8:00 to 11:00 A.M. Extended order drill in afternoon from 2:00 to 3:00 P.M.
- September 7,  
8, 9, 10 Enlisted men replaced Regulars at gun, range finding station and plotting room extended order drill from 2:00 to 3:00 P.M. each day.
- September 11 Company inspection and shelter tent pitching in morning, athletic exercises in the afternoon.
- September 12 Inspection of Company records by Lieutenant-Colonel Marsh.
- September 13 Inspection by Lieutenant-Colonel Marsh, guard mount and dress parade.
- September 14 Subcaliber target practice at Battery Cranston. Trench building in the afternoon.

## SIXTH COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

## Activities: (continued)

- September 15 Subcaliber target practice at Battery Cranston, afternoon practice demonstration of powder blending at Battery Cranston.
- September 16 Drill at Battery Lancaster in morning, powder blending at Battery Lancaster in afternoon.
- September 17 Drill at guns in morning. Were unable to fire the service ammunition as scheduled on account of the hazy weather.
- September 18 Company mustered by Lieutenant-Colonel Marsh and paid by Major Smith. Broke camp at 10:00 P.M. marched to armory, arriving there at 2:30 P.M.

## Night drills and call to arms occurred as follows:

<u>September 9</u>	8:45 P.M.	Recall	9:15 P.M.
<u>September 13</u>	8:15 P.M.	Recall	9:00 P.M.
<u>September 15</u>	8:10 P.M.	Recall	8:30 P.M.
<u>September 16</u>	8:00 P.M.	Recall	9:00 P.M.
<u>September 17</u>	8:08 P.M.	Recall	9:00 P.M.

## Attended the following lectures:

Coast Artillery	Lieutenant-Colonel Marsh
Breech Block dismounting	Captain H. R. Casey
Rangefinding and Plotting Room	Lieutenant-Colonel Marsh
Floating Targets	Captain H. R. Casey
Primers and Fuses	Captain H. R. Casey
Theory of Rangefinding	Captain H. R. Casey
Powder blending	Captain H. R. Casey

"Also received instructions in range station, plotting room and nomenclature of gun from both Captain H. R. Casey and Lieutenant W. P. Currier. The camp was a success taking everything into consideration."

SIXTH COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

## Activities: (continued)

The next encampment was of one week duration held June 11 to 18, inclusive 1910. The daily routine was similiar to the one of the previous year. For the second time Sixth Company complained about being assigned to Battery Lancaster Gun No. one. Lieutenant S. P. Russell's complaint was as follows:

"As the Sixth Company was detailed at gun No. one, Battery Lancaster, we were unable to secure our proper amount of subcaliber work and, lost some valuable time waiting for an opportunity to use gun No. three, at which another company was also detailed. This was due to the fact that gun No. one at Battery Lancaster has a very limited field of fire, and cannot be used for subcaliber or other target practice with a moving target.\*

Lieutenant Russell also stated that the camp this year was interesting and instructive and the militia companies gained a great deal of useful information in reference to the big guns, and their fire control.

In July 15 to 22, inclusive 1911, another encampment was held at the Presidio. A variation from the routine of previous encampment was a review of the troops by Governor Hiram Johnson on Thursday July twentieth. The same evening, practice in camp defense was held in which an opposing army attacked by land and sea. The Sixth Company was engaged in defending the camp. The showing made by the artillery units when called upon to act as infantry proved rather disappointing to Second Lieutenant A. M. Foreman who joined with Captain Mittelstaedt in recommending that every second year the Coast Artillery Corps be sent to Atascadero for training. However, annual encampment continued to be held at the San Francisco Presidio, where the artillery companies became more proficient each year in the handling of the Coast Defense Guns.

Again during the encampment of June 1 to 15, 1912, the Coast Artillery was called upon to defend the Presidio from a night attack.

May 29 to 31, 1913, joint camp maneuvers were held in Marin County, in which the Coast Artillery Corps, part of Fifth Infantry Regiment, Signal Corps and Regular troops participated. Also on July 5 to 19, 1913, another camp at the Presidio was held.

Other encampment of the Sixth Company were August 15 to 29, 1914, May 15 to 29, 1915, and July 9 to 23, 1916.

SIXTH COMPANY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS (Continued)

## Activities: (continued)

The number of medal men on the rolls of the Sixth Company was not up to the average of most of the units in the Artillery Corps. However, the Sixth Company deserves credit, for from a total of seven medal holders in 1910, which gave it a relative standing in the Corps of next to the last, the unit climbed to a tie with the Eleventh Company in 1916, with a score of thirty-two medal men in each of the companies.

As a member of the Coast Artillery Corps, the Sixth Company took part in many parades and celebrations, besides the usual holiday parades of February twenty-second, May thirtieth, and July fourth. Among the special parades in which the company participated were. The Portola celebrations on October 19, 1909, and October 22, 1913; as escort to President William Howard Taft on his visit to San Francisco October 14, 1911; for the Ball of All Nations on May 2, 1914; as escort to the Liberty Bell on its trip through San Francisco to the Panama Pacific Exposition on July 17, 1915; as guard for ex-President Theodore Roosevelt on July 21, 1915, and on October 4, 1916, during the Path of Gold celebration.\*

The closing chapter in the history of the Sixth Company takes place with the entrance for the United States into the World War in 1917. On August 23, 1917, the Sixth Company, Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California was mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War and redesignated, Twenty-Sixth Company, First Coast Defense Command.

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\*For addition information regarding Parades of the Sixth Company refer to History of Coast Artillery Corps, National Guard of California. Adjutant General's Office.