

**History of Battery C, Field Artillery;  
Battery C, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Field Artillery;  
Battery C, 1<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment;  
California National Guard  
1912-1917**

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Battery C, Field Artillery, First Brigade  
Reference: Adjutant General Files  
Location: Stockton, San Joaquin County

Organized December 14, 1912 \*

Reconstituted December 20, 1912 \*\*

Mustered into Federal Service June 28, 1916 \*\*\*

Mustered out of Federal Service January 6, 1917 \*\*\*\*

Resumption of Service in the National Guard 1916 \*\*\*\*\*

Mustered into Federal Service July 29, 1917 \*\*\*\*\*

Redesignated September 24, 1917 \*\*\*\*\*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
H. N. Howe, Capt. (resigned July 11, 1914)	Dec. 14, 1912	Dec. 19, 1912
Edward Van Vranken, Capt.	Aug. 24, 1914	Nov. 21, 1914
H. I. Ross, First Lieut. (resigned April 13, 1914)	Dec. 14, 1912	Dec. 19, 1912
A. M. Clark, First Lieut. (resigned Sept. 22, 1915)	May 5, 1914	June 15, 1914
Charles H. Young, First Lieut.	Feb. 15, 1916	Apr. 19, 1916

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\*Battery C, Field Artillery, was organized and mustered into the service of the State, December 14, 1912.

Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 33.

\*\*Battery C redesignated Battery C, First Battalion, Field Artillery, December 20, 1912.

General and Special Orders and Circulars 1912, General Order No. 26, Par. 2.

\*\*\*Battery C as part of the First Battalion, Field Artillery mustered into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican Border, June 28, 1916.

Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 14.

\*\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1914-1920, page 14.

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\*\*\*\*\*General and Special Orders and Bulletins 1916, General Order No. 34, p.

\*\*\*\*\*Battery C, First Field Artillery mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War July 29, 1917. Muster Roll Battery C, First Field Artillery, July 1917. Adjutant General Files.

\*\*\*\*\*Battery C, redesignated Battery C, One Hundred and Forty-third Regiment Field Artillery, September 24, 1917.

Adjutant General Report 1920-1926, page 33.

**Activities:**

On December 14, 1912, a Battery of Field Artillery known and designated as Battery C, Field Artillery was organized in Stockton, and mustered into the service of the State, under the command of Captain H. E. Howe. Six days later, on December twentieth, General Order No. 26, was issued which redesignated Battery C, as Battery C, First Battalion Field Artillery.

In order to maintain a high standard of military efficiency Battery C attended several Camps of Instruction up to the time of the World War as shown by the following list.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Month</u>
1913	Stockton, San Joaquin Co.	Nov. 14 to 16
1914	Stockton, San Joaquin Co.	Sept. 18 to 20
1915	Gigling, Monterey Co.	July 28 to Aug. 6
1915	Clements, San Joaquin Co.	Oct. 23 to 27

The members of Battery C were to receive instructions in aviation during the summer of 1913, from George Morane, who owned a Curtiss Biplane and was an experienced flier. Morane's machine could also be converted into a Hydroplane. It was an eight cylinder affair equipped with a sixty horsepower motor weighing one hundred and sixty lbs, and could carry five hundred and twenty lbs of additional weight.\*

The man who rocked the boat, the man who didn't know the gun was loaded and the man who lit a match to see where the gasoline leak was, were all outclassed on the night of July 27, 1913, by the party that attempted flight in George Morane's aeroplane. Morane, who was instructor in aviation for Battery C left his machine at Oak Park, not having occurred to him that anyone would be so foolish as to attempt a flight. Aviation was so far short of being an exact science that the best of aviators do not know too much about it and were constantly experimenting. For a person wholly ignorant of the machine and the vagaries of the air, to attempt flight was almost inconceivable. But Morane was positive the thing was attempted, as the machine was found two hundred feet from the place where he had left it. It was in a very sorry condition, the necessary repairs would make a large hole in \$3500, which was the original cost of the machine\*\*

Sergeant McAndrew of Battery C had by August 1913, made a first class armory out of an old bag factory in Stockton. Major Ralph Samuel, commander of the First Battalion, Field Artillery, upon visiting the armory, stated that it was about the best of its kind in the United States. Battery C was a complete Battery and its equipment occupied the space from one end of the building to

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\*Stockton Record July 1, 1913, page 10, column 5.

\*\*Stockton Record July 28, 1913, page 10, column 1.

BATTERY C (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

the other. All along the south side and the east side were the saddles and harness carefully hung up in precise rows and covered with canvas. Four escort wagons carrying all the camp equipment for the 150 men who constituted the Battery had recently arrived. These wagons carried folding stoves, canvas, tent pegs, blankets and in fact everything that was necessary for camp house-keeping. Sub-caliber ammunition to the amount of 2000 rounds had also been received. Sergeant McAndrew's exhibited great patience in explaining to civilians who dropped into the armory, all about the entire equipment. He even constructed a fine walk in front of the place to make access easy so that perhaps more people would visit the place. The armory was about a block from El Dorado Street. The long row of guns and caissons were imposing to look at and it was a very easy matter to learn all about them after a few minutes conversation with the Sergeant.\*

The first target practice attended by Battery C was in progress November 13, 14, and 15, 1913, on the Fred P. Clark ranch south of Stockton, was a pronounced success. Adjutant-General E. A. Forbes, who supervised the work, stated that the battery made a splendid showing when its inexperience was considered. In all the three days of encampment there were no mishaps to men, horses or equipment. In artillery firing, 149 hits were scored in the three days, the distance averaging one and one half miles. With the machine guns Battery C hit every target at 2100 yards. Officers from other cities present stated that the work of Battery C was equal to that performed by Battery A of Los Angeles and Battery B of Oakland. Captain E. H. Yule of the United States Army had been in Stockton for sometime instructing the men in the use and care of the guns.\*\*

The birthday jinks at the armory in Stockton on the night of December 16, 1913, celebrating the first birthday of Battery C, was a glorious success. The dance hall where the jinks was held was decorated for the occasion and the fine dancing floor was covered with a trapaulin. Among the decorations, which included pennants from all parts of the United States was a fine painting by Ash Clark showing a personified Battery C, flourishing a gory sword, and a firing cannon. This painting made a great hit. Captain R. M. Howe, who was instrumental in organizing the Battery in Stockton and who had worked faithfully and well for the organization since its beginning, made a few remarks at the opening of the session. He stated that Battery C had shown more than ordinary zeal and adaptability on the field and that the Battery had established a great record among the United States representatives who had reviewed its work. Captain Howe stated that the only discouraging feature was that the enlistments were less than the requirements for maximum efficiency. 'Many believe that the State Militia is likely to be called upon for strike duty,' said Captain Howe, 'but this is a mistake. We as a Battery will never be called upon for that sort of duty. There was only one instance in which a battery of militia was called upon for such duty and that was

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\*Stockton Record August 2, 1913, page 2, column 3.

\*\*Stockton Record November 17, 1913, page 12, column 4.

## BATTERY C (Continued)

### Activities: (continued)

under peculiar circumstances which would hardly be possible in Stockton. Captain Howe stated further that Battery C had 88 men enlisted and as many of these could not leave their work, they should have at least 133 enlisted men. It was a shame that more young men did not enlist. 'Every healthy, red-blooded man should know what military service is.' Why were there not more men in Stockton anxious to learn to fire a gun for their country. 'That's what the 88 soldiers of Battery C must find out. Why are you not enlisted in the battery' should be their question of every man who had the stuff in him to be a soldier.

Asa Clark arose in the burst of enthusiasm which followed, Captain Howe's speech, to say that if the audience considered the next number rotten no one would be at all offended or even surprised. He then called for the Caruso Quartet, which turned out to be A. L. Phillips, John Jensen, Arthur Hannagan and Robert Orwig. Next came about forty pages of history, read by A. L. Phillips, telling how the Battery started in a meeting in South Hall of the Record Building. It gave credit to Claude M. Gill for starting the organization and to the Record for continuous boosting. Then came the genuine canteen feed. The guests fell in line, honored visitors first; each seized a knife, fork and canteen a la cafeteria and received a plentiful helping of salad, coffee, sandwiches and cake. After every one was served there were plenty of stories left.\*

On March 8, 1914, Battery C was called out for emergency duty, when a large band of Industrial Workers of the World styling themselves "Kellys Army", and another band of Industrial Workers of the World traveling with them, invaded Sacramento and established a camp near the Southern Pacific depot. These people refused to obey the orders of the police and started a campaign of vagrancy and begging and finally became threatening. They threatened to scatter over the town and commit various crimes if they were not fed by the citizens and given transportation to Ogden Utah. The peace authorities ordered them out of town, but they refused to go and relations became quite strained. There were about 2000 of these Industrial Workers of the World vagrants. They were trained into companies in military order, and of such numbers that the city authorities appealed to the Governor for help. Governor H. W. Johnson directed the city authorities to try their forces first.

In the mean time the Governor ordered Companies A, E, F, G, and I, Second Infantry, Troop B Cavalry and Battery C to assemble at the State Armory in Sacramento. These organizations fell in under arms ready to take action at a moments notice. Fortunately the militia did not need to intervene, as the civil authorities, by the free use of pick handles and other clubs, and the hose from the city's fire department, routed the invaders and made it unnecessary for the militia to act. Battery C remained at the armory in Sacramento until March 12, 1914, when the city authorities were satisfied there was no cause to fear further trouble.

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\*Stockton Record December 17, 1913, page 12, column 2.

## Activities: (continued)

During the month of April 1914, the members of Battery C were preparing to leave for the Mexican border on short notice. The moment the order to entrain should be received, and the members would be expecting the call at any moment, the fire whistle was to blow one long blast lasting one minute and a half. This whistle would be a signal for the Artillerymen to assemble at the armory on the water front at once, prepared to start. Captain Howe had made arrangements with fire Chief Murphy for the blowing of the whistle. The Artillerymen were taking keen interest in the Mexican situation. All of them appeared eager for a call to the front. Battery C needed fifty more men. Applicants were requested to assemble at the armory on Weber point. Lieutenant Asa Clark was recruiting officer of the station and he was assisted by Sergeant Engel.\* Fortunately it did not become necessary for Battery C to go to the Mexican border.

On the morning of July 28, 1915, Battery C turned out 120 members who left on the 11:40 Southern Pacific train for Gigling near Monterey, where the battery was to take part in a ten day camp of instruction. The men marched from the Weber point armory to the depot, their appearance on Main Street causing much complimentary comment. Each member of the battery carried blankets canteens and other equipment. A baggage car and two coaches were side tracked at the depot for the immediate use of the departing soldiers. During their stay in the South Battery C indulged in general field and gun practice in which the Regular Field Artillery of the United States Army also participated. This was the first general field camp of instruction in which the battery had engaged. The guns and carriages of Battery C were not taken on the trip because of the fact that the battery was permitted to use the regular battery guns.\*\*

The officers of Battery C on the night of December 14, 1915, proved themselves real hosts when they entertained as their guests the enlisted men of the Battery and a few friends of the organization at a dinner served in the white room of the Hotel Stockton. The occasion was the Third Anniversary of the Battery. Captain Asa M. Clark, Quartermaster Corps, acted as toastmaster and the program consisted of several musical numbers and speeches. As the terms of forty-five of the members of the organization had expired the matter of re-enlisting so that the Battery could continue, was strongly urged at the meeting. Claude M. Gill, who had originated the idea of organizing Battery C when called upon by toastmaster Clark told of the early history of the organization. He recalled that while viewing the fourth of July parade in 1909, in which the men from the Torpedo Flotilla took part, he conceived the idea of a military organization for the city, and immediately took steps to see what was necessary to obtain one. This done, the muster roll was started and nearly died a natural death before the necessary number were enlisted. Here Mr. Gill stated, he wished to give credit to the news-papers for the work done in bringing the Battery to Stockton. 'I don't believe they have ever received the amount of credit due them he stated.' During that week when we had to secure the necessary number of signers, they came to our aid and offered all the space that we desired.' Mr. Gill concluded

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\*Stockton Record April 22, 1914, page 3, column 4.

\*\*Stockton Record August 6, 1915, page 10, column 1.

BATTERY C (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

his talk by saying that the present occasion meant more than that Saturday night three years ago, 'Battery C is an outfit to be proud of and the members should keep it alive by re-enlisting he said'. Assemblyman Lawrence Edwards, when called upon, said he wished to correct the erroneous report that he was the main factor in obtaining an appropriation for a new armory for Stockton. He stated that Battery C itself was the main factor. He complimented Captain Edward Van Vranken, commander of Battery C as the author of the bill, and told of the praise the bill had received at Sacramento. He also briefly recited the manner in which the bill had been put through during the last hours of the legislative session after the local officers and himself had lost all hope of its passage. Architect Dean of the State Architect's office was present and explained briefly the plans of the new armory. The building plan provided for a 75x100 foot drill floor, officers rooms, locker rooms, quartermasters store room, showers and a dancing and social room. If the plans were approved by the Battery officers, ground would be broken within three months and five or six months would be required to construct the building. Adjutant-General C. W. Thomas Jr. stated that the members did not realize how fortunate they were in belonging to an organization such as Battery C. When the new armory was completed they would have club facilities equal to those whose members must pay \$100 initiation fee and \$5.00 monthly dues. General Thomas stated they would have facilities second to none in the city. He stated that Battery C was unfortunate, however, in having the terms of many of its men expire six weeks before the Federal Inspection. Captain Vranken, commanding officer, told of the benefits that the Battery brought to Stockton. Just from the money side alone, he declared that \$4,000 had already been disbursed by them, and that next year \$6,000 would be expended beside the cost of the armory which would amount to \$25,000. The advantages of the Battery to the members were pointed out by him. 'It was worth something', he said, 'to learn to be a good rider, to develop a good physique, to receive a military training, and to engage in athletics.' Inclosing he stated that he hoped all the men, whose terms had expired, would re-enlist. He also thanked all of the visiting speakers. Other speakers included Attorneys A. L. Levensky, Newton Rutherford and Colonel J. J. Boree, Assistant Adjutant-General, Captain Asa Clark, Lieutenant Otto Sandman and former Lieutenant Neil Ross.\*

The armament of Battery C was of the best in the State. The Battery was equipped with three four inch field guns. These guns were built up construction of nickel and steel, and had a range of 7500 yards. They were most effective, however, at a range of less than 4500 yards. A fixed ammunition was used, each round of which weighed 18 3/4 pounds. The projectiles weighed 15 pounds each and were of the shrapnel and shell types. The former was used chiefly against men and horses in the open, and consisted of a drawn steel case in which were 285 balls and a bursting charge of black powder, which was ignited by a time fuse. The shell type projectile was a steel case filled with 13.12 ounces of high explosive.

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\*Stockton Record December 15, 1915, page 4, column 4.

BATTERY C (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

It burst on impact, with great force exerted in all directions and was used against entrenchments, barbed wire entanglements and men in the edge of timber. The guns and other equipment necessary for their effective handling were furnished by the United States Government, and the whole was valued at approximately \$80,000. During 1915, some \$4500 Of State and Federal funds were disbursed in Stockton through the organization. This amount would be increased to \$30,000 in 1916, on account of the building construction. The Division of Militia affairs in 1915 made provisions for securing a number of horses for each battery, with forage and shoes for the same, and pay for hostlers. About 30 horses would be assigned to Battery C. They would be stabled at the racetrack.

It was a matter of no small consequence byway of advertisement for Stockton to have such an organization. During 1916, there were no batteries of light field artillery of the Regular Army on the entire Pacific coast, and only four militia batteries, located at Portland Oregon, Oakland, Los Angeles and Stockton.\*

Camp life near the ocean, with the cool salt breezes blowing, an ocean to swim in and horses to ride, plenty to eat and a good tent to sleep in. During the hottest part of the summer, the latter part of July and the first part of August, a hundred young men from Battery C would be enjoying these luxuries near Del Monte, and at no expense to themselves. The Battery C men who went to Gigling, near Monterey, during the summer of 1915, had a novel vacation, something that very few experience. They were there for ten days and every hour was filled with something of interest. Much of the maneuvering was conducted under war like conditions and great interest was shown by the men. Not only was the ten day trip absolutely without cost to the Battery C artillerymen, but every man was paid as well. From all accounts a number of young men in Stockton were planning to take advantage of this opportunity for a vacation, but continued to postpone the time of entering the Battery. There was one point everyone should remember; that it was necessary to have at least sixty days training before camp in order to draw pay there. As Battery C was to be in camp from July 26 to August 4, 1916, there remained only nine days in which to join. More than that, only a limited number could go, and from the rate applications were coming in, Battery C would have its full quota by May twenty-sixth.\*\*

The various advantages that Battery C had to offer to the young men of Stockton have been described in some detail. They were advantages that cover fairly thoroughly the requirements of the energetic young man who desired to gain military knowledge under the best possible conditions. Trips into the country, the yearly field maneuvers at Monterey, the new \$25,000 armory that would be ready in the fall with its club and athletic facilities and the interesting training in the most important branch of the service all appealed strongly to the live, red-blooded men of which Battery C was at the time composed and of whom more were desired. At no time had Battery C been in better condition either from the standpoint of its material or men. The former was equal to the best in use in the field batteries

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\*Stockton Record March 8, 1916, page 3, column 3.

\*\*Stockton Record May 18, 1916, page 2, column 3.



BATTERY C (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

and the latter was of the finest quality. As an organization of young men the Battery had many attractions a few of which have been mentioned. May 26, 1916, was the last of the sixty day previous training limit. That meant that men joining Battery C after that date could not receive pay for the time they put in at Del Monte camp. The Battery was to proceed to Del Monte on the twenty-sixth of July for ten days. The men who made the trip the previous year had a wonderful time.\*

The members of Battery C enjoyed an outing near the San Joaquin river June 4, 1916. The trip was made by automobile, thirty-five members participating. The party left Stockton Saturday night and returned Sunday afternoon. Sunday morning pistol practice was held and some remarkable records were made, considering the fact that, it was the mens first practice of the year. The highest score was made by Lieutenant Reyner with 47 points out of a possible 50. A number of others shot over 40 out of a possible 50.\*\*

Ground was broken for Battery C's new armory on its North California Street site with impressive ceremonies on the evening of June 13, 1916. The members of the Battery in dress uniform, met at the old armory and were taken by automobile to the new site which was located on the State Hospital grounds. Lieutenant Otto Sandman chairman of the committee in charge of the affair, introduced Assemblerman Edwards, who spoke on Preparedness from the Layman's Point of View. 'The Armory here to be constructed, will I am sure be the beginning and the foundation and one unit of our coast defense, that will be unsurpassed in any preparedness plan that may be adopted' said Edwards, when discussing the desirability of the site suggested. 'The Federal Government has equipped your organization with modern implements of warfare, you members of Battery C have at considerable sacrifice, out of a patriotic sense of duty offered your service gratis to the National Guard of California, but no matter how lofty your motives, it is essential, that you attain a maximum of efficiency in your organization, that you have an adequate and appropriate building to house equipment and carry on your maneuvers. The State, to do its part has donated a generous plot of ground and funds sufficient to build a suitable home for you.'

Mr Edwards touched upon the prejudice aroused against the National Guard because that body is called out so frequently to quell strike difficulties, and expressed the hope that legislation might be passed relieving the organization of that duty. Captain Edward Van Vranken of Battery C addressed the gathering on Preparedness from a Military Point of View. He drew a clear distinction between a National Guard of trained and disciplined citizens, maintained at small expense, and a large and expensively maintained standing army. He called attention to the changed methods of warfare, declaring that trained men were needed more than ever, and that untrained soldiers were only in the way. Stockton leads the way, he said, in the construction of an armory for the use, specifically of light artillery.

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\*Stockton Record May 25, 1916, page 2, column 3.

\*\*Stockton Record June 6, 1916, page 10, column 4.

BATTERY C (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

In tracing the history of the militia or guard movement, Captain Van Vranken said: 'From earliest times we have had a militia'. The minute men of 76 with their powder horns and muzzle leading rifles were militiamen. When the Government was formed each State had its militia, afterward it was organized pursuant to statues enacted by Congress, into the Organized Militia or National Guard, Each State exercised control of its own National Guard and cooperated as much as possible with the War Department which supplied the organizations with arms, ammunition and clothing; our experience in the Spanish War led to a demand for a more centralized control of the National Guard and in 1903, Congress passed a law commonly known as the Dick Act, and we are at present organized under that law. Under its provisions the President has power in case of actual or threatened invasion to order the National Guard to any place either within or without the United States. Following the address Sergeant Boyes announced a stag affair for Battery C members and all returned to the old armory where a short program and refreshments were enjoyed.\*

The armory of Battery C in Stockton was a scene of great activity June 19, 1916. Early in the morning Captain Van Vranken had received a telegram from Adjutant-General G. H. Thomas ordering Battery C to prepare for service. Preparations were immediately commenced. Word was sent to all the members to report for duty and at the armory they exchanged their civilian clothes for their uniforms. They then set to work on whatever task the officers required to be performed. Their first work consisted of gathering together their own belongings, such as clothes and blankets. Then they turned attention to their guns and wagons, making all repairs that were necessary. Some were placed on guard duty at the door to prevent curious outsiders from hindering their work, with numerous questions and by getting in the way. The cooks were ordered to prepare for the serving of meals. A military atmosphere surrounded all work. When asked how long it would take the Battery to prepare, Captain Van Vranken replied that it would be at least three or four days. The Battery could leave sooner if necessary, however. The Captain stated that last year it had taken Battery C three days to get everything ready for the encampment at Gigling. The problem of collecting horses was one of the greatest that the men had to overcome. There were 86 men on the roll of the Battery. Its peace strength should be 133 men and in war 176. It had in addition 5 officers. Of the 86 enlisted men a few were married, and if it was likely that their families would become public charges by reason of their departure for the Mexican border, they would be exempted from service. Sometime before, orders had been received from the Adjutant-General office directing that an inventory be taken of all property of the Battery. This had been done, and supplies needed to complete the equipment had been ordered. Some of the supplies had not been received but were expected momentarily. Another item that Battery C was in need of was enlistment papers. The Battery must enlist to full strength before departure and it would be necessary to do some recruiting. The necessary papers were ordered from Sacramento

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\*Stockton Record June 14, 1916, page 12, column 4.

BATTERY C (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

and would soon be received. Captain Van Vranken took the work of preparation easily. The members of the Battery who came to the armory excited, were told to calm down as there was no cause for alarm. Captain Van Vranker's orders were all issued with precision and coolness. Battery C was expected to go to Sacramento where they would join other State forces before proceeding to the border.\*

Amid the cheers of thousands, a wild waving of flags and frequent outbursts of tears as "Goods-bys" were said, the members of Battery C departed on the morning of June 26, 1916, for the mobilization camp at Sacramento. It was 11:00 A.M. when the special traction train slowly began to move from in front of the old Jefferson school at Heber Avenue and Pilgram Street after the Battery had entrained. Business houses closed their doors at 10:00 A.M. in response to the blowing of whistles and ringing of the church bells. The streets were thronged with people. Three brass bands, hundreds of citizens marching and carrying flags, a drum corps and scores of automobiles turned out as an escort of honor. Such a display of patriotism had not been witnessed in Stockton since the several companies of the old Sixth Infantry assembled from various San Joaquin valley points in 1898 to answer the call during the Spanish-American War. Just before the members of Battery C, 145 strong including the officers and men received the order to march from the armory on Weber point, Mayor A. C. Oullahan stepped through the crowd at the doorway, and spoke to Captain Van Vranken. The soldiers were lined up in double rank on the west side of the armory awaiting orders. Mayor Oullahan stated that he wished to say a few words to the members of the Battery in behalf of the citizens of Stockton. "I guess the best time and place is right here and now" said Captain Van Vranken. There will be little opportunity after we get out on the street. The Mayor then doffed his hat and addressed the soldiers as follows:

"Boys I want to say a word to you before you go. You are writing a new page in the history of Stockton today. The events of this day will not be forgotten. They will be engraved upon the memory of every man, woman and child in the city of Stockton. The story will be told to those that come after us. Your friends and fellow citizens are proud of you. It is a great satisfaction to write down that Stockton is sending her answer. It is our prayerful hope that conflict of arms may be averted and that you will not be exposed to the dangers of war; but if the clash comes, we know that you will conduct yourselves bravely and honorably; that you will endure uncomplainingly the hardships and face courageously any peril, to uphold the honor and dignity of our flag. Go now, and take with you the hearts of all the people of Stockton. Their thoughts, too, will be constantly with you, may God protect you and bring you home soon, safe and well. We will give you a joyful welcome when you return. Good luck and good-by."

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\*Stockton Record June 19, 1916, page 12, column 4.

BATTERY C (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

The citizens at the head of the procession had expected Battery C to entrain on Weber Avenue at Grant Street and they turned west and stood in divided ranks for the Battery to march through. It seemed, however, that the dispatcher had expected the soldiers to entrain at Pilgram and Weber Avenue and when the Battery arrived at Weber Avenue they turned east to Pilgram Street. Sometime was required to clear the way through the crowd.

As the Battery members, perspiring from marching under the load of blanket rolls, haversacks and equipment, reached the Jefferson school they were placed at ease under the welcome shade until the special train of three coaches, two baggage cars and nine flat cars moved up. Then they quickly entrained and were off for Sacramento. Captain Van Vranken and First Lieutenant Otto Sandman made the trip to Sacramento by automobile. When the khaki clad soldiers marched through the streets of Stockton they were frequently cheered and showered with flowers. At California and Main Streets, a bouquet of flowers was presented to each soldier by a local florist. The three inch field guns, the limbers caissons and supply wagons of the Battery had been loaded on flat cars the previous day.\*

On June 28, 1916, Battery C as part of the First Battalion, Field Artillery was mustered into Federal Service at Sacramento for duty on the Mexican border. Battery C entrained for Nogales Arizona, June thirtieth and arrived there July third. The Battery did not engage in active service but did only guard and patrol duty along the border until December 21, 1916, when they entrained for Stockton. The Battery arrived in Stockton at 1:30 P.M. December twenty-third. Notwithstanding the rain, there was a great throng of automobiles at the Southern Pacific depot to greet the troop train as it pulled into the station. The fire whistle was blown at 1:00 P.M. as a signal the soldiers had reached Lathrop and the people flocked to the depot. Mayor A. C. Oullahan, who planned the demonstration headed the city officials. The Grand Army of the Republic and Rawlins Relief Corps were there in conveyances. The Holt Caterpillar Band played patriotic airs. The Spanish-American War veterans were also represented. The Navy and Army recruiting officers also marshaled several men in uniform. The troop train consisted of four coaches, five flat cars on which the guns and caissons were mounted and four box cars. Most of the members of the Battery were in the coaches, although each flat car carried its quota of guardsmen. The men wore the regulation olive green uniforms with heavy army overcoats. The train first stopped at the depot, where a switch engine backed them into the yards south of the depot. As the men leaned out the car windows, greetings were exchanged. However, the men were held under military orders and none were permitted to leave the train until the command was given after the switching had taken place.

At a given signal, the soldiers detrained and paraded down Main Street, accompanied by the escort. The line of march was down Main Street to Hunter, thence to Weber, and up Weber to the depot again. It had originally been planned to march

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\*Stockton Record June 26, 1916, page 7, column 1.

BATTERY C (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

north on California Street to the new armory, but that was found impracticable, as it was necessary for the troops to return to the train before proceeding to the armory. The Battery consisted of 123 men and 4 officers. Captain Van Vranken, who had been home on a furlough, joined the Battery at Fresno on the arrival of the train there. He was in command on the trip from Fresno to Stockton. First Lieutenant Otto Sandman commanded the Battery until they reached Fresno. The inclement weather proved a keen disappointment to those who were planning a big demonstration in honor of the home-coming Battery. However, the disappointments were soon forgotten in the joy of the occasion. Asked when the Battery would be mustered out of Federal Service, Lieutenant Sandman declared it would probably be in a week or ten days.\*

The Y.M.C.A., held open house for the members of Battery C on the night of December 29, 1916, when an informal dinner was served to the members in the banquet hall of the association. The affair was in the nature of a thanksgiving that the Battery had returned safely from the border, and was attended by many of the prominent men of Stockton. Among those present was Mayor A. E. Oullahan. Headed by its officers, the Battery marched from the armory to the Y.M.C.A., and an informal reception was held there preceding the dinner. The lobby of the building and the banquet hall were decorated with the American Flag, the Bear Flag of the California Republic and with greenery. In the banquet hall a large placard had been placed which read "Welcome Battery C", and every person bore that in mind as the dinner progressed. Promptly at 6:30 P.M. the Guardsmen formed in line at the foot of the stairs and marched upstairs and into the hall to the strains of "Pretty Baby" played by Phillip Horstmeier, a member of the Battery and Miss Marie Markham. Due to the generosity of the merchants of the city, and excellent banquet was served. Roast pig all of it that they could eat, mashed potatoes with gravy, salad, and all sorts of jellies and jams. Asa M. Clark acted as toastmaster for the evening. Clark was at one time First Lieutenant of Battery C, but later was attached to the Adjutant General's office, with the rank of Captain. About four years ago, Clark said: "On December twelfth the Battery was mustered into service at the old armory on Weber point, and considering the troubles we had, I think it has held up wonderfully. I cannot help but notice the change in you since your experience at the border. You are better men, physically, as well as mentally, than you were when you went away. You know how to handle yourselves better and know what you can do and are not afraid to do it if it is right." On behalf of the Y.M.C.A., F. R. Buckalew offered the men the use of the building until they were mustered out of service, including the plunge and the shower baths.\*\*

Battery C was mustered out of Federal Service on the afternoon of January 6, 1917, by Captain Hamigan of the United States Army Corps, who was in Stockton for the

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\*Stockton Record December 23, 1916, page 1, column 7.

\*\*Stockton Record December 30, 1916, page 12, column 4.

## Activities: (continued)

occasion. The Battery was still held for State service, however, as the mustering out by the Federal Authorities did not clear the men of state duties.\*

During the month of January 1917, Stockton stood in grave danger of losing Battery C. Although the Battery, which returned from the Mexican Border two days before Christmas, had been housed in the new armory completed by the State through an appropriation of \$25,000 made by the last Legislature, the structure would be of little use unless 86 men could be prevailed upon to take the dual oath required by the United States Government, which called for three years enlistment and three years as reserves. When the Battery entrained for Nogales, Arizona, June thirtieth it numbered 141 men and 5 commissioned officers. Just before the Battery was mustered out of Federal Service 28 men took the dual oath. Those who took the oath included the 5 commissioned officers and most of the non-commissioned officers, but very few privates. By taking the oath before they were mustered out of Federal Service the 28 members of the Battery gained credit for the time served under their present enlistments. Their three years would expire at the termination of their present enlistment after which they could be held as reserves, to be called upon only in the event of war being declared, for three years following that date. Those taking the oath after muster out must serve three years from the date of taking the oath. They would gain no credit for time served at the border or as members of the Battery before the call came last June. The officers of Battery C conceded that it would be hard to secure the necessary 86 men to take oath and if that number was not secured within the allotted time, the Government would take away the field guns, horses and other equipment, totaling \$150,000 in value.

The Battery C men would still be members of the National Guard until the terms of their present enlistment expired, but they would be Guardsmen without guns or equipment, for the State had no means of providing them. The privates in refusing to take the dual oath, took the stand that they had put in six months of hard service at the border, time that many of them could ill spare when their services were not actually needed by the Government; that they had done their duty to their country, and now it was up to others to maintain the National Guard. Many of the officers believed that the action of the Government in calling the soldiers to the border and in requiring the new dual oath had practically killed the National Guard, and that compulsory service would be the only solution of the situation.\*\*

Plans to aid Battery C in securing the necessary enlistments to keep the organization in Stockton were made at a Rotary Club luncheon March 28, 1917, at Hotel Stockton. According to the Adjutant-General's Orders, unless Battery C could be recruited up to its full strength by March thirty-first, Stockton would lose the organization. The Rotary Club planned, to get in communication with the Adjutant General's office and inform him of its plans, so that he would grant several more days in which the necessary men could be secured. The following Monday night the Club planned to hold a big demonstration in Hunter Street square. The Holt Caterpillar band and several drum corps had volunteered their services at the big assembly

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\*Stockton Record January 6, 1917, page 6, column 3.

\*\*Stockton Record January 9, 1917, page 3, column 3.

Activities: (continued)

for the purpose of working up enthusiasm. From the square a march would be made to the armory, where talks would be given by prominent men and possibly by some Regular Army Officers.\*

On June 22, 1917, Battery C was redesignated Battery C, First Field Artillery, and called upon to recruit to war time strength, for duty in the World War. On the morning of June 23, 1917, Captain Van Vranken received orders from Adjutant-General J. J. Boree to take Battery C into camp immediately at the armory. Orders flew right and left and at the armory preparations began immediately to arrange accommodations for the men who, before night would begin to pour in. Scores of jobs would be vacant before dark. Over one hundred men were effected by the orders. Battery C was in splendid condition, well drilled and equiped and had the additional advantage of being officered by men who gained a vast deal of experience and training on the Mexican border during the time the Battery was on that front. A considerable number of the men too, were with the Battery at that time, and on the whole the organization was ready for whatever duty it might be called upon to perform.\*\*

On July 29, 1917, Battery C as part of the First Field Artillery was mustered into Federal Service for duty during the World War and redesignated Battery C One Hundred And Forty-Third Regiment, Field Artillery, 40th Division.

For further information concerning the activities of this unit refer to the History of Battery C One Hundred and Forty-Third Regiment, Field Artillery, 40th Division.

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\*Stockton Record March 26, 1917, page 2, column 5.

\*\*Stockton Record June 23, 1917, page 1, column 2.