

First Field Army Badges, 1910-1914

After the Spanish American War the US Army started to use the terms “mobile army” and “mobile forces” to be those forces that would fight an enemy using fire and maneuver. By using these terms, the coast artillery was excluded, since they were far from mobile. Generally the forces were infantry, cavalry, and field artillery, along with the units that supported them such as engineers, medical, and signal.

In February 1910 the War Department organized the First Field Army as the initial step in forming a mobile field army that would be drawn from the National Guard and Regular Army stationed in New York and the New England states. This established, well in advance of any mobilization, a large mobile force. The First Field Army consisted of three divisions with each division having three brigades. As a unifying symbol, members of all First Field Army units were authorized to wear a small enameled badge that showed their division and brigade. These badges were to go on the left side of the campaign hat, or, when the hat was not worn, on the left chest above any medals and other badges.

Shown at the right is an example badge, 0.85 inch high. The number on the shield is that of the division while the brigade is shown by the shield color (First Brigade was red, Second Brigade white, and Third Brigade blue.) Division units such as cavalry, field artillery, and headquarters troops were horizontally colored red, white and blue. Prescribed in WD General Order 35, February 18, 1910, these badges lasted until General Order 6, February 1914, which discontinued them. Below is a listing of the units assigned to the First Field Army, along with the appropriate badges.



First Division, First Brigade: US Army infantry regiment stationed at Forts Niagara, Porter, and Jay. 2d Infantry, NG of Maine. 69th Infantry, NYNG.



First Division, Second Brigade: US Army infantry regiment stationed at Plattsburg Barracks. 1st Infantry, NH NG. 1st Infantry, Vermont NG.



First Division, Third Brigade: 3d Infantry, NY NG. 65th Infantry, NY NG. 74th Infantry, NY NG.



First Division Cavalry: 2d Squadron of the US Cavalry stationed at Fort Ethan Allen. 2d Squadron composed of Troops B and D, NY NG and Troop A NH NG. 3d Squadron, TBD.

First Division Field Artillery: TDB two batteries from US Army. Battery A, NH NG. Battery A RI NG. Two TBD NG batteries.

First Division Headquarters Troops: 1st Bn Engineers, NYNG. Signal Corps, Ambulance Companies, and Field hospitals, all TDB from RA.



Second Division, First Brigade: US Army infantry regiment stationed at Fort Ontario and Madison Barracks. 1st Infantry, Conn NG. 2d Infantry, Conn NG.



Second Division, Second Brigade: 2d Infantry, Mass Vol Militia (MVM). 6th Infantry, MVM. 1st and 2d Corps of Cadets, MVM.



Second Division, Third Brigade: 5th Infantry, MVM. 8th Infantry, MVM. 9th Infantry, MVM.



Second Division Cavalry: 1st Squadron of the US Cavalry stationed at Fort Ethan Allen. 2d Squadron composed of Troops A, B, and D, MVM and Troop A Conn NG. 3d Squadron, Troops A, B, and C, RI NG.

Second Division Field Artillery: TDB two batteries from US Army. Batteries A and C, MVM. Battery A RI NG. Battery A, Conn NG. Battery B, MVM.

Second Division Headquarters Troops: 2d Bn Engineers, NYNG. Signal Corps Co A, Conn NG. Signal Corps, MVM. Ambulance Co, MVM. Ambulance Co TBD from RA. Field Hospitals, TBD from US Army.



Third Division, First Brigade: 7th Infantry, NY NG. 12th Infantry, NY NG. 71st Infantry, NY NG.



Third Division, Second Brigade: 14th Infantry, NY NG. 23d Infantry, NY NG. 47th Infantry, NY NG.



Third Division, Third Brigade: 2d Infantry, NY NG. 1st Infantry, NY NG. 10th Infantry, NY NG.



Third Division Cavalry: Squadron of the US Cavalry stated at Fort Ethan Allen. Squadron A, NY NG. Squadron C, NY NG.

Third Division Field Artillery: TBD two batteries from US Army. 1st and 2d Batteries, NY NG. 3d and 6th Batteries, NY NG.

Third Division Headquarters Troops: 3d Bn Engineers, NYNG. Signal Corps Cos 1 and 2, NY NG. Ambulance Co TBD from RA. Field Hospitals, TBD from US Army and from NG NY.