

History of the 1st Artillery Regiment, National Guard of California 1880-1893

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FIRST ARTILLERY REGIMENT

First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade (formerly First Infantry Battalion, Fourth Brigade and Sacramento Light Artillery)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Sacramento, Sacramento County

Organized March 19, 1880*

Reconstituted July 1, 1893**

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Creed Haymond, Colonel (Retired Oct. 3, 1881)	Mar. 31, 1880	April 5, 1880
Thomas H. Berkey, Lieut. Colonel	Mar. 31, 1880	April 5, 1880
Edwin H. McKee, Major	Mar. 31, 1880	April 5, 1880
J. W. Guthrie, First Lieut. (Promoted Adjutant Dec. 3, 1881)	April 27, 1880	May 19, 1880
Henry S. Welch, Major Surgeon	April 27, 1880	May 19, 1880
T. W. Sheehan, Colonel	Oct. 15, 1881	Oct. 31, 1881
J. W. Guthrie, Lieut. Colonel	Nov. 16, 1881	Dec. 3, 1881
Edwin H. McKee, Major (Re-elected 1881)	_____	_____
F. Neary, Captain Adjutant	Nov. 5, 1881	Nov. 16, 1881
Henry S. Welch, Major Surgeon (Re-elected 1881)	_____	_____
T. W. Sheehan, Colonel (Re-elected 1883)	_____	_____
J. W. Guthrie, Lieut. Colonel (Re-elected 1883)	_____	_____
Edwin H. McKee, Major (Re-elected 1883)	_____	_____
F. Neary, Captain Adjutant (Re-elected 1883)	_____	_____
Henry S. Welch, Major Surgeon (Re-elected 1883)	_____	_____

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*First Infantry Battalion, Fourth Brigade, and the Sacramento Light Artillery, unattached, consolidated and redesignated First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade, March 19, 1880.
Adjutant General Report 1880, Special Order No. 19, page 76.

**First Artillery Regiment redesignated Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade, July 1, 1893.
Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, General Order No. 7, page 97.

FIRST ARTILLERY REGIMENT (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
T. W. Sheehan, Colonel (Re-elected Oct. 5, 1885)	_____	_____
J. W. Guthrie, Lieut. Colonel (Re-elected Dec. 3, 1885)	_____	_____
Edwin H. McKee, Major (Re-elected April 4, 1884)	_____	_____
F. Neary, Captain Adjutant (Re-elected 1885)	_____	_____
Henry S. Welch, Major Surgeon (Re-elected 1885)	_____	_____
J. W. Guthrie, Colonel	April 7, 1887	April 20, 1887
Edwin H. McKee, Lieut. Colonel	April 7, 1887	April 20, 1887
F. Neary, Major	April 7, 1887	April 20, 1887
Thomas T. Wiseman, Captain Adjutant	April 25, 1887	May 13, 1887
Henry S. Welch, Major Surgeon (Re-elected 1887)	_____	_____
J. W. Guthrie, Colonel (Re-elected 1889)	_____	_____
Edwin H. McKee, Lieut. Colonel (Re-elected 1889)	_____	_____
John P. Kennedy, Major (Retired Mar. 13, 1890)	July 26, 1889	Aug. 30, 1889
Presley B. Johnson, Major	Mar. 29, 1890	April 15, 1890
Presley B. Johnson, Captain (Promoted Adjutant Mar. 29, 1890)	Oct. 30, 1889	Nov. 4, 1889
Arthur M. Seymour, Major	Aug. 9, 1892	Oct. 10, 1892
Henry S. Welch, Major Surgeon (Re-elected 1892)	_____	_____

Activities:

Prior to 1880 the Fourth Brigade was composed of the First Infantry Battalion and one unattached company, the Sacramento Light Artillery, under command of Major T. J. Clunie. On January 15, 1880, Brigadier-General Clunie resigned and he was succeeded to the command by John F. Sheehan. The brigade was in immediate need of improvement and Brigadier-General Sheehan approved the suggestion of the Field, Staff and Line Officers of the First Infantry Battalion and the Sacramento Light Artillery, unattached, to consolidate both commands into an Artillery Regiment. Another reason for the recommendation being made was that the infantry companies located in Sacramento each possessed a Gatling gun which equipped them as

FIRST ARTILLERY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

artillery units and the remaining companies planned to purchase one gun each from the Government.* General headquarters approved Brigadier-General Sheehan's application for the change and on March 19, 1860, General Order No. 19 was issued consolidating the companies into a full regiment to be designated First Artillery Regiment. The table on the following page indicates the number of companies and the various changes and designations in the units of the First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade.

After the organization of the regiment was completed an election of officers was held on March 31, 1860. Officers of the First Infantry Battalion and the Sacramento Light Artillery were entitled to vote. Major W. I. Wallace, Inspector of Rifle Practice, presided at the election resulting in the selection of Lieutenant-Colonel Haymond as Colonel of the new regiment; Thomas H. Berkey, Lieutenant-Colonel; and E. H. McKee, Major. That the newly elected officers were popular and the election satisfactory to all was attested to be the manner in which the news was accepted, for during the evening the members of the Sacramento companies serenaded the new commanders at their residences.**

There were several changes in the regiment during its existence. A cadet company, the Governor's Guard, was attached to the regiment soon after the organization. Battery D of Placerville was disbanded in 1861 for non-compliance with the law and a new Battery was immediately recruited and stationed at Woodland to be designated Battery F, thereby filling the vacancy in the regiment. The disbandment and mustering out of Battery E, formerly Yuba Light Infantry in 1863 jeopardized the standing of the regimental organization, and threatened for a time to reduce the regiment to a battalion. However, this action was averted by the officers of the regiment taking an active interest in the matter and causing a roll to be opened in Sacramento for new recruits. The necessary enlistments were secured and a new Battery E with headquarters at Sacramento was mustered into service. The cadet

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*Sacramento Bee, March 20, 1860, page 3, column 2.

**Sacramento Daily Record Union, April 1, 1860, page 3, column 1.

COMPANIES COMPOSING THE FIRST ARTILLERY REGIMENT, FOURTH BRIGADE

1830-1893

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Cadets
Battery A (Formerly City Guard <u>1880</u>)	Battery B (Formerly Sacramento Light Artillery un- attached) <u>1880</u>	Battery C (Formerly Nevada Light Guard) <u>1880</u>	Battery D (Formerly Placerville City Guard) <u>1880</u>	Battery E (Formerly Yuba Light Infantry unattached) <u>1880</u>	Battery F <u>1861</u>	Battery G (Sarsfield Grenadier Guard) <u>1880</u>	Governor's Guard (Cadet Corps) <u>1887</u>
				New Battery E mustered in and stationed at Sacra- mento <u>1885</u> , replacing former Bat- tery which had been disbanded in same year.			

Note:
The year dates in the table indicate the year the companies were attached to the First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brig.

FIRST ARTILLERY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

corps and signal corps were both mustered out in 1889 in accordance with legislative acts. The members of the cadet corps were required to attend school, while the regimental signal corps was discontinued in favor of a Brigade Signal unit.

Shortly after organization the First Artillery Regiment secured armory quarters for the officers and it was planned to establish a library which would number among its volumes the standard works on military subjects. However, these plans did not materialize for the armory site proved to be only a temporary one. The regiment in 1881 purchased through the Board of Officers a piece of property containing a three story building which when remodelled accommodated armories for six companies. In addition to the building there was also a large drill hall on the lot. Due to the effective organization of the Officers Board, the purchase of the armory was made possible, and the First Artillery Regiment had the distinction of having jurisdiction over the only regimental armory in the State. The cost of the armory was \$18,000.00 which was taken care of by selling 20,000 shares of stock at the rate of \$1.00 a share. The military was to retain 1100 shares and the remaining shares were sold to outsiders. This method enabled the military to always have the controlling power. A joint stock association was formed, known as the Armory Hall Association, under the management of a Board of Directors consisting of seven members. The companies were required to pay the same rent that they had previously paid for other quarters, although the accommodations were much better.* Three of the companies paid \$50.00 each a month for rent, fuel, light and care of arms and Battery B paid \$75.00, while the cadet corps paid \$25.00. The two out of town batteries maintained armories in their respective cities.

The dedication of the armory of the First Artillery Regiment was held October 6, 1882, with very impressive ceremonies. An enthusiastic crowd of between 1,000 and 1,200 citizens were present. The decoration of the hall was a difficult task due to the large area of wall and ceiling, to be taken into consideration. However, this obstacle was successfully overcome by the decoration committee, who received many compliments on the affects achieved. Among the most interesting and outstanding decorations was a design measuring 40 x 20 feet. This design comprised an American Eagle, with out stretched wings, perched upon a National shield, surrounded by a

*Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, page 140.

FIRST ARTILLERY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

wreath of olive branches, and resting upon the monogram of the United States framed in a golden wreath, and on either side of which reclined figures emblematic of peace and war. The words "Defense, not Defiance" and the initials of the National Guard were inscribed on the face of the architectural decoration. Below the whole design, in gold letters, on a blue ground area the words, "First Artillery Regiment" and beneath this line was a profusion of banners and shields. Large American flags were hung over the draperies on either side of the design. Further decorative effects were carried out with streamers and banners hung from the rods supporting the gallery. These banners bore the title of the regiment, name of companies and patriotic mottoes. Beneath the banners along the gallery front large shields in white, gold, blue and red were placed between the coats of arms and colors of many nations. Upon the walls of the lower floor were placed eight large plate glass mirrors, while lace curtains and drapes overhung each window and door. An interesting arrangement of lighting was carried out by the two illuminators of a new design, burning forty jits, and above which great circulator white-glass reflectors mounted in ornamental, metallic frames. In addition there were nineteen side lights and four chandeliers in the L extension above and below.

The regimental band occupied the stage which was 32 x 16 feet and entertained the guests with a fine instrumental concert. The concert successfully tested the acoustic properties of the new hall, with very little echo effects being heard.

The company armories were thrown open for inspection to the visitors. At 9:00 P. M., Adjutant General John F. Sheehan, General Lewellyn Tozier, Assistant Adjutant General Burtes, Staff, and company officers came on the stage and the audience was called to order. General Sheehan made a brief and fitting speech of welcome during which he thanked the citizens for their co-operation in making this event a successful one. He felt that the grand opening gave promise of a social and financial success. Honorable George L. Johnson, one of the Directors of the Armory Hall Association, delivered the dedicatory address. Honorable Johnson commented on the fine spirit of ownership with which the regiment was instilled, permitting them to own the building. The hall was dedicated

FIRST ARTILLERY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

to peace, to the culture of the Military Acts, to patriotism and to the brotherhood of man. Governor George C. Perkins was unable to attend, sending his regrets through General Sheehan and also a contribution of \$150, for the regimental library fund.

The evenings activities were brought to a close with a ball. The grand march was led by Drum Major Knox, who appeared in a new, brilliant and costly uniform, and with the complete full regalia of a drum major. He led the line in which there were 380 persons, with the military officers at the head. The band occupied the center of the floor during the march and formed in a hollow square with the markers at the corners, and from this center the line wound in and out in bewildering entanglement, out of which it came into order as the signal was given for the dance to begin. The Band returned to the stage and the ball commenced. The whole affair was a grand success and it was unanimously agreed that all participating had a good time.*

On October 15, 1881, Colonel T. W. Sheehan, formerly Captain T. W. Sheehan of Battery G, First Artillery Regiment, succeeded Colonel Creed Haymond who retired from active service as commander of the Artillery Regiment. The new commander's first act was to organize the Regimental Board of Officers, and meetings of the Board were to be held once a month. The duties of the Board consisted of controlling the business matters of the regiment and, in addition, acting as a school of instruction. The officers, field line and staff, greatly benefited by this instruction. Under Colonel Sheehan's efficient administration, battalion drills were held once a month and the batteries located in the city were required to attend.

One of the regiments first duties in the active service was the dispersing of a mob and averting a mob attack on an ex-convict, named Raten, who had caused the death of a prominent citizen, Mr. James Lansing, of Sacramento, on April 10, 1882. Public feeling ran high, as Mr. Lansing had taken no part in the trouble which caused Raten to shoot, except to join in the chase after the criminal who was running down the alley in the rear of Lansing's hotel. A riot was feared as talk of lynching was heard on every side. The municipal authorities, realizing the intensity of public feeling, appealed to General J. F. Sheehan

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*Sacramento Daily Record Union, October 6, 1882, page 3, column 2.

FIRST ARTILLERY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

to have the Militia in readiness to assist the civic authorities. Colonel T. W. Sheehan, commander of the First Artillery Regiment, was authorized to assemble fully armed and equipped such portion of his regiment that would be necessary to quell any disturbance. Batteries A, B, C, and the Governor's Guard were called out, and their main duties consisted of guarding the armory and jail. While not a shot was fired, the appearance of the Militia had the desired effect and the crowd dispersed and went to their homes. However, a guard was maintained around the county jail for a week, until the excitement had abated.

The first encampment of the regiment was held at Alameda from September 4 to 12, 1880. The public, as well as the military, displayed great interest in the event. Early on the morning of the Fourth, large crowds were on hand to welcome the arrival of the out of town batteries, who were coming to join the Sacramento units. The Band of the regiment was also at the depot, together with details from the various Sacramento companies, to receive the visiting commands in true military form. Battery C of Nevada City arrived at 6:30 A. M.; Battery E of Comptonville, arrived at 11:00 A.M; Battery D of Placerville arrived at 1:30 P.M. Late in the afternoon the regiment left by the Steamer "Apache" for Alameda and remained in camp a week.* The activities during the Camp of Instruction consisted of battalion drills, guard mountings and dress parades. The regiment benefited by their attendance at the Camp of Instruction and the outing was a great success from a military point of view.**

In 1885 the regiment attended the encampment for the entire National Guard and Major Royal T. Frank, Inspector of the encampment, reported that in military appearance and soldierly bearing the First Artillery Regiment was equal to any, and showed careful training. The regiment consisted of six companies, four from Sacramento, one from Woodland and one from Nevada City with T. W. Sheehan in charge. The numerical strength of the regiment in camp was 234 guardsmen consisting of 27 officers and 207 men. Due to lack of funds the next encampment participated in was not until August 1887, when the regiment went into camp at Santa Cruz for a period of eight days. Colonel W. R. Shafter was in command of several companies of the United States Regulars,

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*Sacramento Bee, September 4, 1880, page 3, column 3.

**Sacramento Bee, September 13, 1880, page 3, column 2.

FIRST ARTILLERY REGIMENT (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

who had quarters adjacent to the First Artillery Regiment in camp. Colonel Shafter's influence and tireless efforts, in assisting the members of the First Artillery Regiment to attain a higher degree of efficiency, was responsible to a great extent for the success of this particular Camp of Instruction. The last Camp of Instruction attended by the unit before the transfer of the First Artillery to the Second Infantry Regiment was in 1892. Colonel J. W. Guthrie was in command of the 360 officers and men present. Captain John J. O'Connell, commander of the First United States Infantry reported that the men in many of the companies were puny, narrow-chested boys, lacking in robust manhood and erect military bearing. However, Captain O'Connell commented on the excellent behavior of the regiment and the alacrity with which orders were obeyed and carried out by the officers and men.

The officers of the First Artillery Regiment participated in the annual and semi-annual target practices. Colonel T. W. Sheehan, the Regimental Commander, and his officers took an active interest in rifle practice, securing a range and building targets. This interest and co-operation was instrumental in developing an incentive for frequent practices which resulted in many of the men becoming excellent shots. The regiment scored 22.26 per cent at the Rifle Shoot in 1887; Sergeant J. L. Hughes of the Staff winning the Gold Medal.

The numerical strength of the regiment indicated a decrease in membership over the period from its organization in 1860 to the transfer of the Artillery to the Infantry in 1893. In 1860 there was 475 officers and men, while in 1893 the enrollment was reduced to 359. In 1893 Colonel J. W. Guthrie, commander of the First Artillery Regiment, recommended that the artillery be transferred to the infantry. In all probability the recommendation was made due to the fact that the regiment was only nominally artillery, being armed and drilled as infantry. The Board of Location and Organization approved and authorized the transfer by General Order No. 7, June 14, 1893. The order transferring and redesignating the First Artillery Regiment as the Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade, became effective July 1, 1893.*

*Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, General Order No. 7, page 97.