

**History of the Battery A (formerly
Independent City Guard [City Guard]),
1st Artillery Regiment, National Guard of
California
1880-1893**

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BATTERY A

Battery A, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade (formerly
Independent City Guard (City Guard))

Reference: Adjutant General's Files
Location: Sacramento, Sacramento County
Organized June 28, 1858
Reorganized March 19, 1880*
Reconstituted July 1, 1893**

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
M. J. Bucke, Captain	Oct. 5, 1880	Oct. 26, 1880
Joseph Palm, First Lieut.	Oct. 11, 1881	Oct. 15, 1881
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M. J. Bucke, Captain (Re-elected Oct. 17, 1882)		
John G. Miller, First Lieut.	Oct. 30, 1883	Nov. 24, 1883
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T. W. Stevens, Captain	Oct. 7, 1884	Nov. 12, 1884
Harris Weinstock, First Lieut. (Promoted to Captain Oct. 21, 1884)	July 1, 1884	July 16, 1884
Joseph Palm, First Lieut. (Resigned April 4, 1885)	Dec. 9, 1884	Dec. 22, 1884
F. W. Birdsall, First Lieut. (Promoted to Major and Engineer Oct. 28, 1887)	Aug. 5, 1885	Aug. 13, 1885
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T. W. Stevens, Captain (Re-elected 1886)		
F. W. Birdsall, First Lieut. (Re-elected 1886)		
Philip J. Glas, First Lieut. (Promoted to Captain July 12, 1888)	Oct. 11, 1887	Nov. 12, 1887
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Philip J. Glas, Captain	July 12, 1888	Aug. 2, 1888
Alverst Lloyd, First Lieut.	July 12, 1888	Aug. 2, 1888

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*Battery A, formerly Independent City Guard redesignated Battery A, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade, March 19, 1880.
Adjutant General Report 1880, Special Order No. 19, page 76.

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

BATTERY A (Continued)

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Philip J. Glas, Captain (Re-elected July 15, 1890)	_____	_____
Alverst Lloyd, First Lieut. (Re-elected July 15, 1890)	_____	_____
Philip J. Glas, Captain (Re-elected July 19, 1892)	_____	_____
Alverst Lloyd, First Lieut. (Re-elected July 19, 1892)	_____	_____

Activities:

Battery A, First Artillery Regiment, prior to 1880 had been designated as the City Guard. First Infantry Battalion, Sacramento, and was organized June 28, 1858.

Soon after its reorganization in 1880, the Battery was called upon to assist the civil authorities in preventing violence by mob fury to a Russian known by the alias of Raten, who had deserted from the Russian ship "Uornistay" at Vallejo in 1877 or 1878 and who had some trouble with a man named Eriekson. The two met on K Street opposite James Lansing's Hotel on the afternoon of April 10, 1882, and Raten fired at Eriekson, wounding a bystander, then turned and ran around Fourth Street, through the alley of K and L Streets between Third and Fourth. When Raten, pursued by a crowd, ran past the back yard of Mr. Lansing's Hotel. Mr. Lansing joined the crowd, and before he had gone 100 feet, Raten turned and fired again, this time seriously wounding Jim Lansing. Immediately on the announcement of the death of Mr. Lansing 24 hours later, the engine house bells tolled to notify the citizens of the passing on of a former City and County official, a man beloved by all who knew him. Little gatherings of citizens increased into crowds before night fall, and soon mutterings of lynching emanated from these citizens to avenge the death of their friend and neighbor. Chief of Police Karcher, realizing his office force was too small to combat the threatened affair consulted with Mayor John D. Brown, and together they appealed to General Sheehan, Governor Perkins, and Adjutant General Backus for military assistance.

Governor Perkins authorized Colonel Sheehan to call out all the troops of his command necessary to quell the rioting citizens. A movement at the police station was contemplated at 9:00 P.M. This was an authentic report as a crowd of gigantic proportion from 1,200 to 2,000 marched from the station house to Front Street and from the railroad track to the New Water Works Building.

BATTERY A (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Company A and sixty-four men under Captain Burke, Company G and fifty-six men under Captain Dalton were ordered to the scene, and quietly but firmly took position facing the mob which was first disposed to jeer and mutter, but the cool manner and conduct of the military soon brought silence and even good nature to the assemblage.

Mayor Brown and General Sheehan both addressed the crowd, explaining the necessity of calling the militia and requesting the residents to disperse as the longer the crowd maintained their stand, the longer it would be necessary for the military to keep their vigil. After his speech Mayor Brown went home for the night and most of the crowd followed his example, leaving but a few people who remained through idle curiosity rather than with the intention of furthering the disturbance. The company stacked arms and the men were allowed to rest, but special guards were kept on duty in case of unexpected appearance of trouble. Company A was sent to the Pavilion to procure Company B's Gatling gun which was placed at the entrance to the prison with a detail of twelve men, six men from each company under Sergeant Dase to remain until further orders to guard the Gatling if necessary. At 1:30 A. M., on the morning of the thirteenth the companies returned to their respective armories. Although each man had been furnished the regulation of forty rounds of ammunition for precaution in case of attack, not a gun was loaded during the night as the officers felt that an accident from a loaded gun might lead to fatal results.

The prisoner Raten was taken into the Police Court for questioning and as no defense was made, Raten was held to answer for the crime without bail. Sheriff Heilbron requested the Gatling transferred to the County Jail, and a guard of eight men were stationed there every night until the excitement abated. The request was granted by the Governor. Details from Company B and the Governor's Guard (Cadets) were kept on duty in the various armories guarding the Gatling guns and other State property. Governor Perkins commended the militia for their assistance, as did the City and County officials, the citizens and friends and the press, in averting what might have been a serious blot upon the City's annals.*

With the passage of the Military Bill of 1878, the allowance for Battery A for armory rent and other expenditure was increased from \$50.00 to \$125 a month with \$25.00 extra for each additional gun over one. This Law caused much controversy among

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*Sacramento Bee, April 11, page 3, column 2.

BATTERY A (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

the Second Artillery infantry companies who claimed it was an unjust discrimination against their units, as the First Artillery companies were armed with Infantry equipment and differed only in dress. This contention had the effect of having the allowance of Company A reduced to \$100 in 1884, and \$400 a year was granted for the purchase and upkeep of the uniforms.

Battery A had the regulation uniforms for Artillery which included full dress and fatigue. In 1887 the Legislature established two Boards, a Service Uniform Board to prescribe and determine the style of the service uniforms used by the National Guard of the State, and a second Board the State Uniform Board, to purchase the cloth and arrange for cutting and making the uniforms. Battery A received \$1,140 which allowed for fifty-seven coats, trousers and blouses respectively. The Uniform Board after advertising for bids gave the contract to the Golden Gate Woolen Manufacturing Company. The dark blue cloth for the coats was to cost \$2.62 a yard and the sky blue Kersey material for trousers \$2.38 a yard. The Pioneer Woolen Factory was awarded the contract for the blouse flannel at \$1.71 a yard. Cutting, making, and trimming the uniforms was to be done by the Schlamm Brothers, San Francisco at the following figures:

Article	Measuring & Cutting	Trimming	Making	Total
Coats	\$0.30	\$1.85	\$3.25	\$5.40
Pants	.20	.25	1.50	1.95
Blouses	.25	1.25	1.00	2.50
	<u>\$0.75</u>	<u>\$3.35</u>	<u>\$5.75</u>	<u>\$9.85</u>

The cloth when tested was superior to similar grades of cloth used in the army as to color, finish and strength; a square inch of the dark blue cloth standing twenty-two pounds more strain than the standard army cloth. Major General Howard, of the United States Army, purchased enough of the material for his own uniform which offset the current criticism in the daily papers at that time about the inferior quality of the material.*

Battery A shared the new Regimental Armory that had been purchased in 1882 which provided excellent quarters for the company, and afforded splendid arrangements for the care and safe keeping of their arms and equipment. The unit had its own quarters with lockers for each man which permitted the uniforms and arms to be kept in neat, orderly condition. Battery A's

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*Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 11.

BATTERY A (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

division being nicely furnished proved a social rendezvous for the members. The armory had the distinction of being the only armory in the State owned and controlled by a regimental organization at that time.*

It is interesting to note the manner in which the company used their allowance and the year 1882 is chosen as an illustration of how the money was expended:

Armory Rent from July 1, 1881--July 1, 1882-----	\$180.00
Gas Bills from July 1, 1881--July 1, 1882-----	39.75
Stationery and Printing-----	46.80
Expended on Armory for repairs-----	68.50
Armorer-----	275.00
Clerk-----	150.00
September ninth target practice-----	66.12
Expenses at Camp Brown-----	255.00
Regimental colors etc.-----	43.00
Funeral expenses-----	114.00
Paid for new uniforms-----	104.40
Paid for repairs, arms and uniforms-----	222.90
Proper Incidentals-----	84.23
Music-----	40.00
Horse Hire-----	15.00
Total -	\$1705.20

Battery A had a membership of fifty-eight names November 27, 1884, and was armed with fifty-four Springfield rifles and two Gatling guns. To check a threatened outbreak in the prison at Folsom in the Spring 1884, one of the Gatling guns was loaned to General McComb, Warden of the State Prison, and the other Gatling gun had already been in General McComb's possession for sometime.** Brigadier-General W. T. Sheehan in his report of August 20, 1888, referred to the unit's arms consisting of rifles, as being only suitable for drill purposes and that the greater portion of these would be useless in action. A prospect of new arms was obviously not in sight and Colonel Sheehan recommended the rifles then in use be repaired where breech-blocks, firing pins, extractors, etc., were missing.

In November 1888 the National Guard received 60,000 ball cartridges from the Federal Government. Of this amount the Fourth Brigade received 8,000 rounds which were to be held in case of an emergency and not used for target practice. Company A, benefited from

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*Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, page 140.

**Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, page 111.

BATTERY A (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

the allowance and also received their quota of McKeever cartridge boxes, with waist belts and bayonet scabbards from the State, which equipment was accepted by the State from the Federal Government in lieu of the remainder of the ammunition allowance of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1889.*

Target practice as a compulsory measure was a method of increasing the soldiers efficiency upon this important branch of military science. It was essential for the members of the National Guard to handle a rifle properly, know its capacity and to fire it accurately. Short range firing received particular attention for the Guard's most important duty was to quell riots and preserve peace. A factor in promoting the interest and increasing efficiency among the members was the appropriation of \$3,500 by the Legislature for the provision of targets, ammunition and the distribution of prizes. A bronze medal designed with a bear's head in the center, with a suitable inscription around the margin and on the back was adopted. To this medal was attached a gold, silver, or bronze bar with year and words "Sharpshooter," "Rifleman" or "Marksman," denoting what standing the soldier had during the year. Each of the medals were numbered consecutively and the register kept in the Adjutant General's Office was a means of knowing to whom the medals were issued. Fifty thousand rounds of ammunition was purchased for the annual target practice in 1888.* Captain M. J. Bucke of Battery A made the highest score in 1880, having a percentage of 21 points. The returns of the target practice in 1887 indicated Company A made a good showing, for with 29 men shooting 480 points were made, allowing a percentage of 13.15. The highest possible score was 3,650. Four members of this company were rated as "Marksman." Sergeant J. L. Hughes, of the non-commissioned staff of the First Artillery Regiment, had the highest score having made 94 per cent and as the champion received the gold medal. The results of the annual target practice for the following years were:

1880--	452 points out of a possible 1,350	totaling 33.48%
1883--	220 points out of a possible 550	totaling .40%
1886--	544 points out of a possible 1,525	totaling 35.67%

The attendance of Battery A at the weekly drills was fair, but considering that the men were engaged in varied occupations, a full attendance could not be expected. Battalion drills were

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*Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 14.

BATTERY A (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

held once a month and more interest was taken in them, which had the desired affect of increasing the efficiency in maneuvers and bringing the discipline of the men up to an exemplary standard. The corps participated in the Fourth of July, Memorial and Admission Day parades annually.

The inauguration of the Governor-elect was always an occasion for parading with full ranks. May 2, 1891, Battery A was one of the companies chosen to act as escort to President Benjamin J. Harrison on his visit to Sacramento. When the train arrived the President and his party were welcomed to the city by Mayor Comstock, after which the party accompanied by General Allen, the Mayor and Congressman McKenna retired to the waiting carriages. The procession moved with a precision that reflected creditably on the persons in charge. The Military and members of the Grand Army corps had been drawn up in line, and as soon as the President and his accompanying party were seated in their carriage decorated with the national colors, the various organizations formed in line and proceeded to the Executive office where Governor H. H. Markham delivered a speech of welcome. When the reception was over, the President and party returned to the train where about 20,000 people were gathered to greet him. The Grand Army Veterans formed a line alongside the train. After three cheers the President bowed his acknowledgments and shook hands with the old soldiers gathered around the car platform. The success of the reception was a splendid tribute to the high esteem of his Excellency's popularity.*

General W. Tecumseh Sherman, United States Army (retired) died February 14, 1891. He had been Major General of the militia of the State of California, and was an outstanding figure in assisting the civil authorities during the Indian warfare of 1856. To honor the distinguished soldier the flags on the State armories were displayed at half-mast until after the funeral. The colors of the First Artillery Regiment to which Battery A was attached were draped in mourning and the officers wore the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

The corps attended encampments annually and always presented a good appearance and made favorable progress in military science. During the 1891 encampment at Camp Murray, Santa Cruz, Company A and the other companies comprising the First Artillery were under the able command of Colonel J. W. Guthrie, commander of the Fourth Brigade. A brigade improvement over previous encampments was

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*Sacramento Bee, May 2, 1891, pages 1, 2, columns 1-7..

BATTERY A (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

noted, particularly in guard duty, skirmish duty, and military courtesy. The principal event at the encampment was the sham battle, as a problem in minor tactics illustrated in the capture and defense of Camp Markham, Santa Cruz. The attacking part to which Battery A belonged was under the command of Colonel MacDonald and the defense under Colonel Barry. Thirty rounds of blank cartridges were issued to each man at 6:30 o'clock and the battle began. The only instructions were that the opposing forces were to select the strongest positions to protect themselves and attack the main column. The positions were well chosen and the attacks well planned and delivered. The camp was ably defended and the volley firing well executed, impressive and realistic in respect to actual combat.*

In accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Location and Organization the First Artillery Regiment was transferred to the Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade, July 1, 1893. Battery A as part of this regiment was transferred to the Second Infantry and designated thereafter as Company A, Second Infantry, Fourth Brigade.**

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*Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, page 168.

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