

History of the Battery D (formerly Placerville City Guard), 1st Artillery Regiment, National Guard of California 1880-1893

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BATTERY D

Battery D, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade (formerly Placerville City Guard)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Placerville, Eldorado County

Organized August 24, 1863

Reorganized March 19, 1880*

Mustered out May 1, 1881**

Reorganized, mustered in and stationed Auburn June 14, 1893***

Reconstituted July 1, 1893****

Name	Commanding Officers		Commission
	Rank		
J. E. Dean, Captain:	Jan.	28, 1879	Feb. 10, 1879
A. W. Marces, First Lieut.:	Jan.	28, 1879	Feb. 10, 1879
Frederick P. Tuttle, Captain	June	12, 1893	
Frederick D. Roumage, First Lieut.	June	12, 1893	

Activities:

Brigadier-General John F. Sheehan assumed command of the Fourth Brigade in January 1880, and to improve the efficiency of the First Infantry Battalion and Sacramento Light Artillery, he recommended a consolidation of the commands to be designated as the First Artillery Regiment. The recommendation was approved March nineteenth of the same year and each company was to be designated by a letter. Battery D, formerly Placerville City Guard, which was attached to this regiment, had been organized August 24, 1863.++

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*Battery D, formerly Placerville City Guard redesignated Battery D, First Artillery Regiment, March 19, 1880.
Adjutant General Report 1880, Special Order No. 19, page 76.

**Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, page 12.

***A new company organized in Auburn and designated Battery D, First Artillery Regiment, June 14, 1893.
Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, General Order No. 7, page 95.

****Battery D, First Artillery Regiment redesignated Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade.
Adjutant General Report 1894-1895, page 97.

+Captain J. E. Dean and First Lieutenant A. W. Marces were the commanding officers of Battery D, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade, until mustered out in 1881, while Captain F. P. Tuttle and First Lieutenant F. D. Roumage were the officers in command of the new Battery D, mustered out in 1893.

++Adjutant General Report 1880, page 76.

BATTERY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

In 1880 Battery D received an increase in their allowance from \$50.00 to \$125 a month, to cover armory rent and other operating expenses. This increase was made possible with the passage of the Military bill in 1879. Four hundred dollars a year was allowed for uniforms.

The unit paraded for drill and target practice on Memorial Day. While that steadiness which only practice can bring was lacking, there was a marked improvement in marching and the battery made a fine appearance in their artillery uniforms. Many members of the company made good scores at the target practice which indicated diligent practice between the days designated for that purpose.* The Independence Day Parade for that year was an outstanding affair, and the striking uniforms and soldiery appearance of the military under command of Captain Dean received much praise and commendation from the press and citizens. The events of the day began with the usual clanging of bells and firing of small arms while the sturdy "U. S. Grant," from the crest of Sacramento Hill thundered forth a salute of thirty-eight guns. Main Street presented a military appearance with large flags flying from every flagstaff and across the streets. Battery D was first of the military in the line of march followed by Neptune Engine Company No. 2, car of State, and J. W. Drench's Boys Brigade. The line of march was down Main Street, to Sacramento Street to Piety, to Benham, to Main, then up Main Street, to Uppertown and return to Sierra Hall where the literary exercises were held. During the day the corps' annual inspection and muster took place.**

An encampment was held for the First Artillery Regiment at Alameda in September 1880. Colonel Creed Haymond was commander in charge of the camp which was called Camp Backus. On September fourth, Battery D arrived in Sacramento from Placerville and after getting off the train was welcomed by the rest of the regiment. The regiment proceeded by the Steamer Apache for Alameda, where they were to remain in camp one week. Camp life was a regular routine of company and battalion drills, guard mounting and dress parades at regular intervals. At the end of the week marked improvement was apparent in the discipline and bearing the company. The object of these outings was for the

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*Mountain Democrat, June 5, 1880, page 5, column 1.

**Mountain Democrat, July 10, 1880, page 5, column 3.

BATTERY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

purpose of giving the officers and men an opportunity of becoming more proficient in the practical branches of military science. When the regiment returned from Alameda they were met by Sacramento Hussars and Sacramento Zouaves and marched to J Street between Third and Fourth Streets, where arms were stacked and the command dismissed for breakfast. At noon the regiment again assembled and paraded down J Street where they were received informally at Seventh and J Streets by Brigadier-General John F. Sheehan, commander of the Fourth Brigade. It was especially noticeable and favorably commented on as the line marched by that the officers and soldiers had greatly improved in drill and general demeanor since leaving for the Camp of Instruction. Battery D then returned to Placerville on the morning of the thirteenth.*

The encampment was the last activity of note before the battery was disbanded in 1881. The Legislature of that year reduced the amount of the appropriation from the previous fiscal years which made it necessary to decrease the number of companies in the National Guard of the State. A rigid inspection of all the companies was ordered resulting in the disbandment of some units and the consolidation of others. Although Battery D was one of the oldest and at one time one of the most efficient units in the service, when inspected the unit was reported below the minimum required by the new ruling. The Board of Location and Organization recommended disbandment and in accordance was mustered out of service for non-compliance of the law and regulations governing the National Guard of California May 1, 1881. The property belonging to the State was returned in good condition by Captain J. E. Dean.

There was no further Battery D in the First Artillery Regiment until 1893 when the Board of Location and Organization recommended that a new unit be organized at Auburn, and mustered into service June twelfth of that year. The battery had a membership of seventy-one on the roll and Captain F. P. Tuttle and First Lieutenant F. D. Roumage were the elected commanding officers. The corps had barely completed its organization as an artillery unit when the First Artillery Regiment was transferred to the Second Infantry, July 1, 1893, and Battery D was designated as Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade.

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*Sacramento Bee, September 4, 1880, page 3, column 3.
Sacramento Bee, September 13, 1880, page 3, column 2.