

# **History of the Battery E (formerly Yuba Light Infantry), 1<sup>st</sup> Artillery Regiment, National Guard of California 1880-1893**

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BATTERY E

Battery E, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade (formerly Yuba Light Infantry)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files  
Location: Camptonville, Yuba County  
Organized November 7, 1863  
Reorganized March 19, 1880\*  
Mustered out November 21, 1883\*\*  
Reorganized, mustered in and stationed Sacramento November 26, 1883+  
Reconstituted July 1, 1893++

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Josiah P. Brown, Captain (Re-elected Jan. 11, 1879)	Nov. 7, 1863	Jan. 30, 1871+++
John G. McLellan, First Lieut. (Re-elected Jan. 11, 1879)	Jan. 9, 1875	Jan. 16, 1875+++
Josiah P. Brown, Captain (Re-elected Dec. 30, 1880)	_____	_____
John G. McLellan, First Lieut. (Re-elected Dec. 30, 1880)	_____	_____

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\*Battery E, formerly Yuba Light Infantry redesignated Battery E, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade, March 19, 1880.  
Adjutant General Report 1880, Special Order No. 19, page 76.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, General Order No. 76, page 97.

+A new company organized in Sacramento and designated Battery E, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade, November 26, 1883.  
Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, page 97.  
Adjutant General Report 1890, page 54.

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

+++Captain Josiah P. Brown retained his rank and commission as of November 7, 1863, and January 20, 1871, respectively, when he commanded the Yuba Light Infantry; January 11, 1879, was Captain Brown's eighth re-election.  
John G. McLellan, First Lieutenant retained his former rank and commission as of January 9, 1875, and January 16, 1875, respectively, when he commanded the Yuba Light Infantry; January 11, 1879, was Lieutenant McLellan's second re-election.

BATTERY E (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers</u>	<u>(Continued)</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Josiah P. Brown, Captain (Re-elected 1882)				
John C. McLellan, First Lieut. (Re-elected 1882)				
Fred Eisenmenger, Captain		Nov. 26, 1883		Dec. 12, 1883
W. Lovell, First Lieut.		Nov. 26, 1883		Dec. 12, 1883
Harris Weinstock, Captain		Oct. 21, 1884		Nov. 12, 1884
George W. Safford, First Lieut.		Feb. 9, 1885		Feb. 25, 1885
George W. Safford, Captain		Nov. 11, 1886		Dec. 10, 1886
Henry I. Seymour, First Lieut.		Nov. 11, 1886		Dec. 10, 1886
Henry I. Seymour, Captain		Oct. 12, 1887		Nov. 12, 1887
Fresley B. Johnson, First Lieut.		Oct. 12, 1887		Nov. 12, 1887
Henry I. Seymour, Captain (Re-elected Oct. 11, 1889)				
Robert Little, First Lieut. (Resigned April 14, 1890)		Oct. 17, 1889		Nov. 23, 1889
Frank G. Smith, First Lieut.		May 1, 1890		June 5, 1890
Henry I. Seymour, Captain (Re-elected Oct. 15, 1891)				
Frank G. Smith, First Lieut. (Re-elected May 5, 1892)				

**Activities:**

Upon the recommendation of Brigadier-General John F. Sheehan, commander of the Fourth Brigade, the companies of the First Infantry Battalion, Fourth Brigade together with the Sacramento Light Artillery, unattached, were consolidated and designated as the First Artillery Regiment, March 19, 1880. The recommendation was in accordance with the wishes of the officers and members of the companies concerned, and the desire for an artillery corps was the outcome of each of the Sacramento units possessing a Gatling gun and the remainder of the companies planning to purchase a gun each from the Government. Battery E located at Camptonville, was attached to this regiment and had as their Captain Josiah P. Brown who had commanded the company since its organization seventeen years previous. The trimmings on the officers uniforms was changed from blue to red to correspond with the change from infantry to artillery.\*

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\*Sacramento Bee, March 20, 1880, page 3, column 2.

## BATTERY E (Continued)

### Activities: (Continued)

Battery E benefited from the Legislative Act of 1879 and 1880 which increased the artillery companies' allowance to \$125 a month for armory rent and operating expenses, and also allowed \$400 a year for the purchase and upkeep of uniforms. While this appropriation did not fully meet the necessities of a well equipped National Guard yet it was a step forward, and it was hoped the Legislature would in the near future provide more adequately for the upkeep of the troops.

The company attended encampments annually. The first year the site chosen was Alameda, where the regiment camped for eight days and at the end of the week vast improvement was apparent in the practical branches of military science. The outstanding event was the participation of the battery in the regimental parade in Oakland, honoring his Excellency Rutherford B. Hayes, President of the United States, who was accompanied by General W. T. Sherman, commander of the United States Army on a visit to the State. The following year the battery attended the Camp of Instruction at Ismert's Grove, Nevada County. August fourth, was designated as Brigade Day and a Brigade review was tendered to George G. Perkins, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard. The high light of the day's activities was dress parade at five o'clock in the evening. The encampment of 1883 was the last one participated in by the corps before it was mustered out in November of that year. From every point of view it was the best regimental encampment up to that time. Strict discipline was enforced, battalion drills and guard mountings took place each day, and when the company returned it was apparent they had reached a high degree of efficiency. Battery E had travelled more than thirty miles on foot to reach the encampment. The reception given by the Brigade staff was well attended by officers located in San Francisco, as well as by officers of the Regular Army.

Captain J. P. Brown was an efficient officer and while it was not required by law his company held target practice weekly, drills also were held weekly for eight months of the year and once a month during the remaining four months.

The attendance of Battery E at parades was always with a full rank. During the year 1880 the unit paraded May thirtieth Decoration Day, Fourth of July and three special parades in November and December. The annual inspection and muster was held July fifth with Captain Brown acting as Inspector and Mustering Officer. The report rated the company's instruction good, military appearance fine, arms and other property in good order. In 1881 the company's parade activities consisted of Washington Day, Decoration Day and Independence Day. On the

## BATTERY E (Continued)

### Activities: (Continued)

latter date the National salute was fired at sunrise, noon and sunset in the armory. In July and September of that year, Battery E attended two funerals and at the last funeral held there was a rank of fifty-eight members in the procession. Later in the year the corps paraded in full uniforms with regulation helmets in the armory with a rank and file of sixty-two averaging 83.78 per cent attendance. Again in 1883 the company paraded on the days prescribed by law, although only thirty-four attended the Independence Day parade due to an epidemic of small-pox prevailing in Camptonville at that time.

Battery E took part in the annual target practice of 1881 with the resulting score of 608 points out of a possible 1850 averaging 32.86 per cent. The following year the results were 526 points out of a possible 1675 totaling 31.40 per cent. The target practice of September 12, 1883, was the last activity participated in before Battery E disbanded in November of that year. The results of this match showed a vast improvement over the past years with 997 points out of a possible 1750 and averaging 56.97 per cent. In October of that year the two commanding officers of the company requested that they be placed on the retired list. Captain Brown had served continuously as Captain of the company, formerly the Yuba Light Infantry, since November 7, 1863, and First Lieutenant J. G. McLellan from January 16, 1875, when he had been commissioned First Lieutenant.

Captain Brown in a letter October 25, 1883, to Adjutant George B. Cosby requested that his company be mustered out stating that owing to the rapidly diminishing population of the territory around Camptonville, it was impossible to keep the company up to the minimum strength required by law. The application was approved and General Order No. 9, November twelfth authorized Captain J. P. Brown to muster out the corps which was accomplished November twenty-first. The State property was in good order and was returned to the State December sixth.

It was of the utmost importance to the First Artillery Regiment to have the vacancy existing from the mustering out of Battery E of Camptonville, replaced at once or the regiment would be reduced to a battalion. An interest in a new company was manifested by a number of young men in Sacramento about that time, and when the book was opened for new recruits sixty-one enrolled.

BATTERY E (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Practically all of these young men had former military experience having served with several companies in San Francisco and Sacramento. Consequently on November second, Battery E of Sacramento was mustered in and gave promise of having little difficulty in attaining the efficiency of older companies in the National Guard.\* An indication of the members interest in their organization is apparent from Section II of the By-Laws of the company which illustrates the fines imposed for non-compliance with the rules:

Absence from parades	
Commissioned Officers	\$5.00
Non-commissioned officers	3.00
Privates	2.00
Absence from drills and Regulation Meetings	
Commissioned officers	1.00
Non-commissioned officers	.75
Privates	.50
Sargeants, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and each member of committee for neglect of duty.	.50
Tardiness at parades	.50
Tardiness at drills and meetings	.25
Members with fines exceeding three dollars had no vote or voice in any company business.	
If not paid in thirty days accounts were placed in collection of an Agency.	

The new unit was supplied with fifty-eight Springfield rifles and had only the fatigue uniforms in 1884, although at organization the unit had requested showy and handsome uniforms to be set off by white helmet caps. Despite the interest and enthusiasm displayed by the corps at organization, progress remained at low ebb and for a period of time it was evident the battery could not maintain itself in service. However, when the affairs of the unit was at the worst a new Captain H. Weinstock was elected, who being a prominent and successful business man and possessing the necessary military knowledge and qualifications, quickly recruited the battery up to the necessary strength with the best and most substantial citizens of Sacramento.

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\*Sacramento Bee, November 27, 1883, page 3, column 1.

## BATTERY E (Continued)

### Activities: (Continued)

Due to the active interest taken in the matter by Governor George Stoneman the Legislature in 1885 made an appropriation for a general encampment of the National Guard. The site Santa Cruz was chosen for its many advantages pertaining to accessibility by rail and water, its delightful temperature, sea bathing and the most important advantage, the ample and beautiful grounds especially adapted for an encampment. Battery E with the other batteries of the First Artillery Regiment attended the Camp of Instruction from August fifteenth to August twenty-third, and presented a fine military appearance and soldierly bearing which showed careful training. Platoon drill occupied most of the time, however, battalion skirmish and brigade drills, guard mountings as well as brigade dress parades received careful attention. His Excellency Governor Stoneman, Commander-in-Chief, for whom the camp was named visited the camp and stayed throughout the week and reviewed the troops.

A sham battle closed the camp's activities and was viewed by thousands of spectators overlooking the scene from the amphitheatre of hills. The affair was an inspiring sight of military maneuvers and if some of the tactics displayed were used in an actual battle they would have had a disastrous effect on the enemy. Battery E benefited by the military instruction and advantages gained from a divisional encampment which has the effect of stimulating friendly rivalry among the different organizations.

The next encampment attended was in 1887 at Santa Cruz. The camp was named for Colonel W. R. Shafter, commander of the First Infantry, United States Army, and who was in command of several companies of United States Regulars. Colonel J. W. Guthrie commander of the Fourth Brigade was in charge of Battery E and other units of the First Artillery Regiment. The corps gained many points in military instruction from Colonel Shafter and his men, who were ever willing to advise and assist the battery in whatever way possible. Captain J. J. O'Connell, commander of the First Infantry Regiment, United States Army was detailed by the Secretary of War as Inspecting and Instructing Officer at Camp Murray in 1890. At the close of the camp, improvement in guard duty, skirmish drill, and military courtesy was noted. Captain O'Connell in his report stated, that the willingness with which Battery E and other units of the artillery corps obeyed orders, and also their excellent behavior during the encampment indicated a degree of self-respect worthy of commendation.

## BATTERY E (Continued)

### Activities: (Continued)

The last encampment before the corps was transferred to the Second Infantry occurred in 1892. Being the fourth centennial of the discovery of our country, the camp was named Camp Columbus. Brigadier-General T. W. Sheehan commander of the Fourth Brigade had charge of the First Provisional Brigade comprising the Eighth Infantry, First Artillery Regiment, and the Tenth Infantry Battalion. Governor Markham accompanied by Admiral Irwin of the United States Navy, reviewed the troops during the week and a problem in minor tactics was solved after the review. The First Artillery Regiment was credited with having a very fine system of furnishing subsistence to the members of their command by W. W. Douglas, Major and Commissary of the Fourth Brigade. The battery hired its own cooks and waiters and furnished their own food supplies at a cost of 55 3/4 cents a man per day, and the men were as well fed and served as the men of the other regiments while the cost of contracting for the other regiments' subsistence ran as high as 90 cents a day.

Target practice as a compulsory measure was a method of increasing the soldiers efficiency in the all 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. Examples resulting from these practices are given below to indicate the standing of Battery E throughout the years:

1884---38 points out of a possible 1,525 or 2.43%  
1885---363 points out of a possible 1,775 or 20.45%  
1886---205 points out of a possible 1,625 or 12.64%  
1890---605 points out of a possible 2,900 or 20.80%

In 1890 the system of holding target practice was changed from an annual to a semi-annual event. Each man was required to fire ten shots on the two occasions in the months of June and September. As an inducement for the men to come out and take part in both days practice a prize was offered for the first day's work. For the member of each organization making the best score a silver medal was awarded. The badge was struck with the same die that the State Decoration for "Marksmanship" was made with, having in addition a pin and ribbon attached and some further ornamentation was provided. The member of each organization making the best score in the day's practice was presented with the medal. Private H. Jefford of Battery E had the highest score, 40 points, for his company at their target practice October 5, 1890.



## BATTERY E (Continued)

### Activities: (Continued)

The last notable event Battery E participated in before the artillery regiment was transferred to the infantry in 1893, was the occasion of President Benjamin J. Harrison's visit to Sacramento. The President and party after leaving the train were accompanied by Adjutant General Allen, the Mayor and Congressman McKenna. The line of march after the President's party was made up of Brigadier-General Sheehan, commander of the Fourth Brigade staff, the Signal Corps, the First Artillery band and Colonel Guthrie and staff. Then followed the companies of the First Artillery Regiment to which Battery E was attached, the Sacramento Hussars and the Sons of the Veteran Drum Corps. Next in line were the carriages containing the distinguished guests and gentlemen and ladies comprising the reception and executive committees. The procession marched up Second Street to J, then to Seventh and M Streets, and on to the State Capitol. The only stop was at the Pioneer Hall where Secretary Miller on behalf of the pioneers welcomed the President. The President smilingly acknowledged the greeting of the "old boys" as they were affectionately termed and the procession moved on. At the Capitol the exercises were in charge of Mayor Comstock who in turn introduced Governor Markham, who made the speech of welcome.

The President responded to the cheering crowd with a remarkable speech, after which he was escorted to Governor Markham's office where a short reception was held. After the reception a crowd of 20,000 people were on hand at the depot to see him off on the train. After three cheers for his Excellency, President Harrison, and Battery B guns boomed against the Yolo shore, the train pulled out. The President stood in the observation car bowing to the crowd until the train crossed the bridge. The appearance of the military commanded attention and praise from the citizens and press.\*

Battery E held their last inspection and muster in March 1893, and had a percentage present at their last meeting of 94.8 per cent. Among other changes in the National Guard during 1893, was the transfer of the First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade to which Battery E was attached. By General Order No. 7, effective July first of that year, Battery E was designated Company E, Second Infantry, Fourth Brigade.

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\*Sacramento Bee, May 2, 1891, page 102, column 1-7.