

History of the Company D (Germania Rifles), 2nd Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1880-1881

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COMPANY D

Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly Germania Rifles)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files
Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County
Organized May 22, 1868
Reorganized March 26, 1880
Reconstituted June 1, 1881*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William H. Brockhoff, Captain (Re-elected Feb. 19, 1879) (Resigned Oct. 1, 1880)	Feb. 13, 1877	Feb. 20, 1877**
Philip Neuman, First Lieut.	Feb. 18, 1879	Mar. 22, 1879**
Philip Neuman, Captain	Nov. 30, 1880	Jan. 10, 1881
Joseph Bechler, First Lieut.	Nov. 30, 1880	Jan. 10, 1881

Activities:

Company D, Second Infantry, was formerly known as the Germania Rifles organized May 22, 1868. However, in the reorganization plan of 1880, and in pursuance with General Order No. 12, issued March 26, 1880, by Adjutant General Samuel W. Backus, the name Germania Rifles was dropped and thereafter, the unit was known and designated by the letter D only.***

One of the requirements of the National Guard was its annual inspections. These were held to determine the condition of arms and other equipment. If such equipment was found to be inferior, it was sent to various armories and replaced. On June 17, 1880, Company D was inspected by Major Fred G. Smith, Inspector of the

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*Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, was formerly Germania Rifles, Second Infantry Regiment, organized May 22, 1868, redesignated Battery D, Second Artillery, Second Brigade, June 1, 1881. Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 11, page 81.

**Captain W. H. Brockhoff and First Lieutenant Philip Neuman retained their former commissions as of February 20, 1877, and March 22, 1879, respectively, when they commanded the Germania Rifles.

***Adjutant General Report 1880, General Order No. 12, page 63.

COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Second Brigade. This inspection showed that the unit had greatly improved since the last inspection in membership, as well as military discipline and general appearance. The arms and other equipment were in good condition.*

On May 31, 1880, the unit was reviewed by George C. Perkins, Governor and Commander-in-Chief and Staff of the National Guard. In June, 1880, the inspection was held and the numerical strength of Company D totaled 109 members, including officers. However, twenty-two Privates and two non-commissioned officers were absent at inspection, which made the attendance percentage 77.06%, which was lower than it should have been.**

Company D also participated in the parades required by law, also took part with the citizens of San Francisco who turned out in procession to receive General Ulysses S. Grant on his return from a world tour after an absence of two years. Then on September 9, 1880, the unit joined again in a parade with the citizens of San Francisco when President Rutherford B. Hayes, was received. This parade was considered one of the best displays ever made by the troops of the Second Brigade of which Company D, as a unit received their share of the credit. Furthermore, the men were complimented by Major General McDowell and the President. General William T. Sherman during the parade examined the entire Second Brigade and passed special compliments on each arm of the service, for their drills, discipline, steadiness and solidarity.***

Aside from the regular military routine, the activities of Company D on file are few, as the unit was only in existence for a period of fifteen months. On June 1, 1881, General Order No. 11 was issued, and by the direction of the Board of Location and Organization of the Second Brigade the entire Second Infantry Regiment was designated and known, thereafter, as the Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade. Therefore, Company D, Second Infantry, was redesignated and known as Battery D, Second Artillery, June 1, 1881.

*Adjutant General Report 1880, pages 87, and 88.

**Adjutant General Report 1880, pages 87, and 88.

***For further information regarding the reception of President Hayes in San Francisco, refer to Company C, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade. Adjutant General Report 1880, page 82.