

History of the Company E (Washington Continental Guard), 2nd Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1880-1881

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COMPANY E

1886

Company E, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly Washington Continental Guard)*

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized December 15, 1855

Reorganized April 1, 1880

Consolidated and redesignated June 1, 1881**

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Herman Schaffner, Captain	July 29, 1878	Aug. 12, 1878***
William R. Bigger, First Lieut.	Mar. 22, 1878	April 6, 1878***
R. C. Hooker, Captain	July 15, 1880	July 21, 1880
George A. Travis, First Lieut.	April 10, 1880	May 11, 1880

Activities:

Company E was organized originally as the Washington Continental Guard. Although the unit was redesignated five different times it was a very efficient company until September 1877, when thirty-seven members were dishonorably discharged, causing the member-

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*Company E, Second Infantry Regiment, was originally the Washington Continental Guard organized December 15, 1855, reorganized to:

Veteran Guard	1867
Warren Guard	1871
Stratman Zouaves	1873
Thompson Rifles	1875

Reorganized as Company B, Second Infantry, Second Brigade 1877, and redesignated as Company E, Second Infantry, Second Brigade, April 1, 1880. Adjutant General Report 1880, Special Order No. 25, page 77.

**Company E consolidated with Company G, Second Infantry Regiment and was redesignated as Company G, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, June 1, 1881. Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 11, par. 2, page 81.

***Captain Herman Schaffner and First Lieutenant William H. Bigger retained their former commissions as of August 12, 1878, and April 6, 1878, respectively, when they commanded Company B, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

ship to fall below the standard required by law and subjecting the company to disbandment. However, the Adjutant General decided disbandment of the corps would cause an unjust punishment on the remaining members, and accordingly he issued Special Order No. 3 on February 26, 1878, which stated that Companies B and E, Second Infantry Regiment were to consolidate, as Company B was likewise guilty of falling below the required standard in membership. Company E refused to consolidate and was mustered out of the service. The commissioned officers of the two companies were honorably mustered out of the service of the State on March 14, 1878. The old members of Company B were reorganized into a new unit, and with the addition of new members qualified as a company of the National Guard. They elected H. Schaffner, Captain and William H. Bigger, First Lieutenant. The new unit was designated as Company B, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade. On April 1, 1880, the unit was redesignated Company E, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.*

The unit was inspected on June 17, 1880, by Major Fred G. Smith, Inspector Second Brigade. The Company was armed with United States regulation Springfield rifles, caliber 45 and were found to be in good condition, which showed they had been properly cared for. Company E and the Second Infantry Regiment were uniformed alike. Double crossbelts were adopted which added much to the appearance of the men.**

Aside from participating in the parades required by law, the unit took part in the commemoration of the 104th anniversary of American Independence. They also paraded in San Francisco for the reception of President R. B. Hayes, September 9, 1880. The President was the first executive of the Nation up until that time, who had honored San Francisco by his presence in the city during a term of office.***

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*Adjutant General Report 1880; Special Order No. 25, page 77.

**Adjutant General Report 1880, page 87.

***For further details concerning the reception tendered President R. B. Hayes in San Francisco, refer to the History of Company C, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

COMPANY E (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Due to the short period of existence of Company E, which was approximately sixteen months, the activities other than inspections and parades of corps were few. On June 1, 1881, pursuant to General Order No. 11, paragraph 2, Company E consolidated with Company G, and was redesignated as Company G, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Francis W. Bacon, Captain	April 3, 1878	April 23, 1878
Thomas S. Taylor, First Lieut.	June 25, 1878	Aug. 12, 1878

Francis W. Bacon, Captain

(Re-elected May 10, 1880)

Thomas S. Taylor, First Lieut.

(Re-elected July 18, 1880)

OUTLINE HISTORY

OF THE

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

MILITIA AND VOLUNTEER FORCES

THE OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

C. D. OSBURN

1900

Activities:

Company F, formerly McKeen's Guard, Second Infantry Regiment organized July 19, 1854, was redesignated Battery F, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade, June 1, 1881. Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 11, page 61.

F. W. Bacon, Captain and First Lieutenant T. S. Taylor retained their former commission as of April 23, 1878, and August 12, 1878, respectively.

*Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 11, par. 4, page 61. General Report 1883, General Order No. 12, page 63.