

# **History of the Company F (Washington Continental Guard), 2nd Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1878-1881**

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1889

COMPANY F

Company F, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly McKenzie Guard)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files  
Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County  
Organized July 19, 1864  
Reorganized March 18, 1878  
Reconstituted June 1, 1881\*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Francis W. Bacon, Captain	April 3, 1878	April 29, 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 16, 1880)**	_____	_____

Activities:

Company F, Second Infantry, formerly McKenzie Guard, was organized July 19, 1864. However, in the reorganization plan of 1880, and pursuant to General Order No. 12, issued March 26, 1880, the name, McKenzie Guard was dropped and thereafter, the unit was known and designated by letter only.\*\*\*

Company F unfortunately found itself involved in a controversy with Colonel Smedberg in the early part of 1880. The Colonel refused to audit the company's claim for monthly allowance, on the ground that they had refused to change their uniforms in compliance with Order No. 1 of the Code. Captain Francis W. Bacon, commanding Company F, claimed the uniforms were purchased by Colonel Smedberg who inspected them on their arrival, and then

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\*Company F, formerly McKenzie Guard, Second Infantry Regiment organized July 19, 1864, was redesignated Battery F, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade, June 1, 1881. Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 11, page 81.

\*\*F. W. Bacon, Captain and First Lieutenant T. S. Taylor retained their former commission as of April 29, 1878, and August 12, 1878, respectively.

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

COMPANY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

turned them over to the company, and that no State money had been used in their purchase. The Captain also pointed out that no money had been appropriated by the State to replace the uniforms. He also claimed his allowances for the past six months had been held up. Captain Bacon informed Headquarters that he was tendering his resignation, and asked that the company be mustered out of service. The entire matter was referred to the Board of Location and Organization. The Board refused to muster out the company, and ordered Captain Bacon to proceed to change their uniforms as required by law, and present the bills to the State. Colonel Smedberg at the same time was ordered to sign and send the claim of Company F to the headquarters where the claims would be audited and paid.\*

On May 31, 1880, the unit took part in the observance of Memorial Day, and was reviewed by Governor George C. Perkins, Commander-in-Chief, and Staff of the National Guard. They also participated in the parade of September ninth, when President R. B. Hayes was received in San Francisco. This parade was considered one of the best displays ever made by the troops of the Second Brigade. The unit also took part in the other parades required by law.\*\*

The report of Major Fred G. Smith, Inspector Second Brigade, June 17, 1880, stated that Company F, Second Infantry had greatly improved since the last inspection, both in point of numbers, military discipline and general appearance. The numerical strength of the unit totaled 128 men, only seven were absent at inspection, making the highest average of attendance of any unit in the regiment. The percentage attendance was 94.53 per cent.\*\*\* This was an increase over the one at the inspection held three months previous on March twenty-second, which gave the company (then known as the McKenzie Guard) an attendance record of only 82.10 per cent.

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# San Francisco Call, April 24, 1880, page 1, column 6.

\*\*For additional information concerning the parade of President R. B. Hayes, refer to History of Company C, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1880, page 88.

COMPANY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

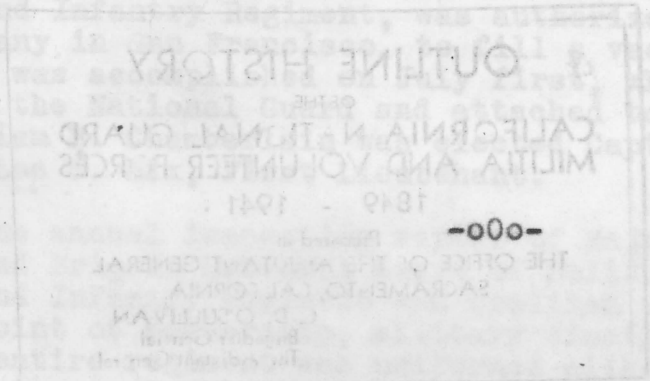
Due to the short existence of Company F, which covered only a period of fifteen months, the activities of the unit were few, and consist primarily of drills and parades. On June 1, 1881, General Order No. 11 was issued and by this order the Board of Location and Organization of the Second Brigade directed the entire Second Infantry Regiment to be redesignated as the Second Artillery. In pursuance to this order, Company F, Second Infantry was, thereafter, known and designated as Battery F, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade.\*

A. H. Souther, First Lieut.

Nov. 6, 1880 Nov. 16, 1880  
Nov. 6, 1880

Activities:

On April 8, 1878, Colonel William R. Smadberg, commanding the Second Infantry Regiment, was authorized to organize an infantry company in the Department of California. This was done and the company was organized into the National Guard. The company was named the California National Guard and was mustered into the Second Regiment.



The year 1880 was an active year for the Second Brigade according to the report of Brigadier-General John McCook. Among the activities in which Company G participated in was the parade of inspection held by Major General J. B. Ransom, National Guard of California, at the inspection, twenty-three members were absent.

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\*Company G, Second Infantry Regiment was redesignated Company G, Second Artillery Regiment, June 1, 1881.

\*Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 11, page 81, par. IV

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1877-1878, Special Order No. 6, page 68.