

# **History of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery Regiment, National Guard of California 1881-1895**

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SECOND ARTILLERY REGIMENT

Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized April 3, 1863\*

Reconstituted August 23, 1866\*\*

Reconstituted June 1, 1881\*\*\*

Reconstituted December 7, 1895\*\*\*\*

Commission

Oct. 18, 1876\*

Aug. 20, 1881

May 7, 1881\*

Feb. 3, 1882

May 11, 1880\*

Dec. 18, 1882

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\*First Infantry Battalion in the early spring of 1863, admitted an eighth company into its organization and applied for regimental recognition, which was accepted and the First Infantry Battalion was redesignated as First Artillery Regiment. The regiment was composed of the following companies; Company A Union Guard, Company B Ellsworth Guard, Company C Oakland Guard, Company D Washington Guard, Company E Franklin Guard, Company F Santa Clara Guard, Company G McClellan Guard and Company H San Jose Guard. Colonel John W. McKenzie, Lieutenant-Colonel A. Jones Jackson, and John Strattman, Major, were elected commanding officers of the regiment. On August 23, 1866, the First Artillery Regiment was redesignated the Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade to replace the Second (Irish) Regiment mustered out July 26, 1866.

\*\*The First Artillery Regiment was redesignated as the Second Infantry Regiment, August 23, 1866. Historical Records Second Brigade 1863-18'69, page 207.

\*\*\*Second Artillery Regiment, formerly Second Infantry Regiment organized August 23, 1866, was redesignated as the Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade, June 1, 1881. Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 11, page 81.

\*\*\*\*Second Artillery Regiment reorganized into Battalions, December 7, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 17, page 86.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers</u>		<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William R. Smedberg, Colonel	Oct.	13,	1876	Oct. 16, 1876*
David Wilder, Lieut. Colonel	Aug.	4,	1881	Aug. 20, 1881
James E. Hughes, Major	Mar.	10,	1881	May 7, 1881*
Carleton C. Coleman, Captain	Jan.	11,	1882	Feb. 2, 1882
Adjutant				
Edwin J. Fraser, Major Surgeon	April	28,	1880	May 11, 1880*
(Retired Sept. 4, 1882)				
Charles W. Fitch, Major Surgeon	Dec.	1,	1882	Dec. 18, 1882
(Resigned Sept. 24, 1884)				
John T. Cutting, Colonel	Dec.	17,	1885	Dec. 21, 1885
David Wilder, Lieut. Colonel				
Edward G. Sprowl, Major	April	2,	1885	April 27, 1885
C. N. Stangroom, Captain	April	2,	1885	April 27, 1885
(Resigned Sept. 22, 1886)	Adjutant			
George H. Redding, Major	Sept.	2,	1885	Sept. 16, 1885
(Resigned Jan. 7, 1886)	Surgeon			
W. F. M. McAllister, Major	Jan.	22,	1886	Jan. 25, 1886
Surgeon				
David Wilder, Colonel	Oct.	20,	1887	Nov. 15, 1887
William MacDonald, Lieut. Colonel	Oct.	20,	1887	Nov. 15, 1887
Thomas S. Taylor, Major	Dec.	1,	1887	Dec. 12, 1887
J. B. Amerman, Captain Adjutant	Dec.	20,	1887	Jan. 20, 1888
William D. McCarthy, Major	Dec.	20,	1887	Jan. 30, 1888
Surgeon				
William MacDonald, Colonel	May	23,	1889	June 29, 1889
John A. Koster, Lieut. Colonel	July	25,	1889	July 31, 1889
Dennis Geary, Major	May	23,	1889	June 7, 1889

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\*Colonel William R. Smedberg, Major James E. Hughes, and Major Surgeon Edwin J. Fraser retain their commission as of October 16, 1876, May 7, 1881 and May 11, 1880, respectively, when they commanded the Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William MacDonald, Colonel (Re-elected June 3, 1893)		
Dennis Geary, Lieut. Colonel	June 13, 1892	June 27, 1892
William D. Waters, Major (Retired May 1, 1896)	June 3, 1892	June 27, 1892
Adolph Huber, Major	June 3, 1893	July 12, 1893
James N. Pike, Captain Adjutant (Retired Dec. 1, 1891)	Feb. 5, 1891	Feb. 9, 1891
Alfred J. Kelleher, Captain Adjutant	Dec. 1, 1891	Dec. 10, 1891

**Activities:**

The Second Artillery Regiment was formed when the Second Infantry Regiment was redesignated as the Second Artillery Regiment, June 1, 1881. The action of the State Legislature in reducing the appropriation for the National Guard in 1881, necessitated the mustering out or consolidation of several companies in order to keep the expenditures within the allotted appropriation. The spring of 1881 witnessed the rigid inspection of all units in the National Guard. The companies with the poorest rating were to be mustered out or consolidated with other units. The consolidation of Companies E and G was the only effect that the inspection had on the Second Artillery Regiment. The consolidated company was redesignated as Company G. The Union Guard Company A, unattached, and the Light Battery Company A, unattached, were attached to the Second Artillery Regiment as Companies A and B, respectively. The order attaching the Gatling Battery, formerly Union Guard, to the regiment caused a great deal of dissatisfaction among the members of that company. The Gatling Battery had their own band, and also feared they would be separated from their beloved Gatlings. Upon being assured, that the Gatlings would remain in their possession, also the band, and that no change would be made in the parade formation, since the artillery equipped units would retain their position at the rear of the infantry, the members of the Gatling Battery were satisfied with this new arrangement.\*

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\*Adjutant General Report 1887-1890.

\*Adjutant General Report 1891-1894.

\*San Francisco Call, June 12, 1881, page 3, column 5.

Activities: (Continued)

The Light Battery apparently was satisfied with the new arrangement, although no reason was given why the Light Battery, the oldest company in the National Guard was designated Battery B, when it had been known for years as Battery A. The redesignation of the Second Infantry Regiment to an artillery organization disposed of the vexing question of the artillery uniforms of that organization. On October 1, 1869, Brigadier-General John Hewston, Jr., reported that not a regiment or battalion in the Second Brigade was wearing the uniform prescribed by the militia law, each having a uniform according to its taste.\* The Second Infantry Regiment had adopted a uniform similar to the regulation Artillery with red trimmings. It was asserted that one company was wearing the red trimmed uniforms when entering the regiment about seven years previous, and that gradually each unit when their old uniforms wore out, replaced them by new ones of similar design. The regiment objected to changing their showy uniforms for the infantry trimming of blue. Thus, the redesignation to the artillery disposed of a very touchy situation.

There were not many changes in the regiment as the table on the following page indicates. The first change took place on February 1, 1882, when a new Cadet Company was mustered in and attached to the Second Artillery Regiment. The next change was the mustering out of Battery A, formerly Gatling Battery, April 7, 1885. Battery B, Light Battery, then requested to be redesignated Battery A and the request was granted on May 5, 1885. A vacancy existed in Battery B until May 27, 1893, when a new company was organized at Napa, mustered into the service and attached to the Second Artillery Regiment as Battery B.

A vacancy in Battery E existed until July 16, 1882, when a newly organized unit was mustered in at San Francisco and designated Battery E.\*\* Previously an order had been issued on March 31, 1882, transferring Company A, Third Infantry Battalion, to the Second Artillery Regiment and to be designated as Battery E. The

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\*Adjutant General Report 1867-1869, page 181.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, page 134.

SECOND ARTILLERY REGIMENT

1881-1895

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Battery A (Gatling Battery) <u>1881</u>	Battery B Light Bat- tery, tran- sferred to Battery A <u>1881</u>	Company C 2nd Infan- try, rede- signed Battery C <u>1881</u>	Company D, 2nd Infan- try, rede- signed Battery D <u>1881</u>	Battery E <u>1882</u>	Company F, 2nd Infan- try redesi- gnated Bat- tery F <u>1881</u>	Company G, 2nd Infan- try redesi- gnated Bat- tery G <u>1881</u>	Company H, 2nd Infan- try redesi- gnated Bat- tery H <u>1881</u>
Battery B redesignat- ed Battery A <u>1885</u>	Battery B Napa <u>1893</u>						
Battery A was detach- ed and re- designated Battery A Light Art- illery, un- attached <u>1893</u>							
Cadet Company <u>-1882-</u> attached to the Regiment as a Provisional Company, but not mustered into the service of the National Guard.							

Note: The year dates in the table indicate the year the companies were attached to the Second Artillery Regiment.

Activities: (Continued)

company, which was formerly the Montgomery Guard, refused to be transferred, and the officers resigned and the men applied for discharge from the service. The new Battery E completed the eight units of the regiment.

Another change in the regimental organization was when the Cadet Company was mustered out on April 1, 1885, and Battery A was detached on July 1, 1893. Although there were several changes made in the regimental organization of the Second Artillery Regiment, the efficiency of the regiment was maintained.

The first encampment that the Second Artillery Regiment participated in was the one held from August 15 to 23, 1885. It was composed of the entire National Guard, and was very beneficial to the commanding officers as well as the men in the performance of the various movements undertaken on a very large scale. Major Royal T. Frank, of the United States Artillery, who was detailed by the United States Army authorities to inspect and instruct the National Guard of California, commended the Second Artillery Regiment as being an efficient regiment and making a good appearance at inspection. He also spoke highly of Lieutenant-Colonel David Wilder, commanding the regiment as an officer of much experience in the National Guard. Such words of praise by a Major in the United States Army Artillery meant a great deal to the members of that regiment.\*

The next encampment which the Second Artillery Regiment attended was one in which all the units of the Second Brigade participated. The Camp of Instruction was held at Santa Cruz from August 5 to 13, 1891, and Captain John J. O'Connell, United States Infantry and Inspector, subjected the Camp to a great deal of adverse criticism. The Inspector did allow though that the brigade put on a good sham battle with the Second Artillery, supported by the Light Battery, which was the only company equipped as artillery, and the First troop of Cavalry acting as the attacking force, while the remainder of the brigade defended "Camp Markham" from the enemy.\*\* No doubt, the citizens felt relieved to learn that though the National Guard was deficient in the fine points of the drill and mannerism of the Regulars, they could still put up a good fight if called upon to do so.

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\*Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, page 123, and 124.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, pages 166, 167.

activities: (Continued)

Outstanding among the many social activities of the Second Artillery was the presentation of colors to the regiment. The first took place on June 24, 1887, at the armory on Grove Street, San Francisco. The guests of the evening were seated around the walls of the large drill hall and all available space was taken. Promptly at eight-thirty o'clock, the members of the regiment entered in files of four and took positions on three sides of the room. The stands of colors were then borne in by the color bearers. Colonel Cutting who was in command saluted, and Judge J. F. Sullivan advanced to the front and made the speech of presentation. The Judge related in detail the history of the Regiment's companies, many of them being among the oldest in the State. Colonel Cutting accepted on behalf of the regiment with an appropriate speech. The colors were very beautiful. They consisted of a State ensign of heavy red silk, having in the center the crossed cannon of the company painted in gold. Above in a semi-circle, were the words, "Second Artillery Regiment, California," painted also in gold. The ensign was mounted on poles of ash, surmounted by gilded spears. The guidons were also made of silk.\*

By 1892 the colors purchased through the efforts of Mrs. Hearst, wife of the Senator, and lady friends of the Second Artillery Regiment, began to show the wear caused by the five years of use, so again the ladies raised money to purchase a new stand of colors. The colors this time were expensive, the material alone costing about \$600.00. The second presentation was made on May 27, 1892, by the committee of ladies who had raised the money for the colors, led by Miss A. M. Geary, daughter of Major Dennis Geary. Miss Geary was attired in white and was followed by Miss Truly Shattuck, attired in red, carrying the new regimental colors, and by Miss L. Hemmenway, attired in blue, who carried the new national colors. The ladies red, white, and blue dresses were emblematic of the Nation's flag. Miss Geary made the presentation speech in a clear resonant voice, and when the applause had died away, presented the colors to the regiment. Colonel William MacDonald, commanding the regiment, accepted the colors on behalf of the regiment, and responded in feeling terms to Miss Geary's speech. The ceremonies concluded, dancing followed until a late hour.\*\*

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\*San Francisco Call, June 25, 1887, page 7, column 7.

\*\*San Francisco Call, May 28, 1892, page 2, column 5.

San Francisco Chronicle, December 3, 1895, page 3, columns 4, 5.



Activities: (Continued)

The Second Artillery Regiment was third highest at target practice in 1881, also third in 1883, and rated first in 1886. Company A, Light Battery used revolvers for shooting. The other units, which paraded and drilled as infantry except for occasionally using the artillery at the forts, used the regular Springfield rifles.

The Second Artillery Regiment participated in a great many parades. Some were on holiday occasions, some special occasions, while others were at the funerals of noted people calling for military honors. A few of the special celebrations which the Second Artillery attended were the Twentieth Annual Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic on August 3, 1886; the reception and parade in honor of the visit of President Benjamin Harrison on April 26, 1891; and on July 19, 1893, when Vice President Stevenson was welcomed to San Francisco. The most notable of all the parades was the one celebrating the opening of the Midwinter Fair on January 27, 1894, when the largest civic and military parade ever held in San Francisco was participated in by the Second Artillery Regiment.

In the fall of 1895, Brigadier-General R. H. Warfield desired to know how many men of the National Guard could be ready to take the field on a few hours notice. The General, therefore, called what is known in military circles as a "long roll." The "long roll" was used extensively at encampments, but the one called by General Warfield was issued December second, when the men were engaged in the every day duties of life. At 4:30 P.M., the order went forth to the commanders of the several regiments in San Francisco to have their commands assembled in their armories at 8:00 P.M., that evening, armed and equipped to take the field, ready to march to the corner of Van Ness Avenue and Ellis Streets not later than 9:00 P.M. Three and one half hours later the Second Artillery Regiment composed of six Batteries located in San Francisco, had 250 men ready and marching to the temporary headquarters at Ellis and Van Ness Avenue. General Warfield was highly pleased with the test, realizing that his brigade was ready for any emergency. Captain Carrington, United States Army, who was a guest of the General's during the test remarked that "one of the chief requisites in emergency calls in any body of troops is promptness."\*

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\*San Francisco Chronicle, December 3, 1895, page 8, columns 4, 5.

Activities: (Continued)

A reduction in the appropriation by the State Legislature necessitated the reorganization of the National Guard on December 7, 1895. The Board of Location and Organization decided that it was an opportune time to also conform to the United States Army regulations of four companies to a battalion. Accordingly the First, Third and Fifth Infantry Regiments and the Second Artillery were reorganized into five battalions of four companies each. In the reorganization the following batteries were attached to the First Infantry Regiment: Battery C became Company I, Battery E became Company K, Batteries D and F were consolidated and designated as Company F, Batteries G and H were consolidated and designated Company M, and Battery B located at Napa was designated Company H, Fifth Infantry Regiment.\*

Samuel D. Lewis	1884	July 19, 1884
John P. ...	1883	April 27, 1883
William B. ...	1882	Feb. 2, 1882
William A. ...	1882	June 20, 1882
William ...	1882	July 1, 1882
William ...	1882	Feb. 20, 1882

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\*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 86, 87, and 88.