

History of the Battery B (former First California Guard), 2nd Artillery Regiment, National Guard of California 1881-1893

This history was completed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in conjunction with the California National Guard and the California State Library.

Digitized by the History Office, Camp San Luis Obispo, 6 January 2015

BATTERY B

Battery B, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly First California Guard)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized July 27, 1849

Reorganized June 1, 1881*

Redesignated May 5, 1885**

Reorganized and Stationed at Napa June 14, 1893***

Reconstituted December 9, 1895****

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
R. G. Brush, Captain	Jan. 6, 1873	Jan. 22, 1873*****
Grant Lapham, First Lieut.	June 9, 1879	June 25, 1879*****
William B. Collier, Captain (Re-elected Feb. 4, 1884)	Jan. 30, 1882	Feb. 2, 1882
William H. Aldrich, First Lieut. (Resigned Nov. 7, 1883)	June 26, 1882	July 1, 1882
William MacDonald, First Lieut.	Feb. 20, 1883	Nov. 24, 1883
Charles H. Starkweather, Captain	May 27, 1883	June 14, 1883
Frank G. Easterby, First Lieut.	May 27, 1883	June 14, 1883
Charles H. Starkweather, Captain (Resigned Jan. 18, 1894)	May 27, 1893	June 10, 1893
Frank G. Easterby, First Lieut. (Promoted to Capt. Mar. 15, 1894)	May 27, 1893	June 1, 1893
Frank G. Esterby, Captain	Mar. 15, 1894	May 11, 1894
Howard H. Muller, First Lieut.	Mar. 15, 1894	May 11, 1894

.000.

*Battery B, formerly Company A Light Battery, unattached, was redesignated Battery B, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade, June 1, 1881.

Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, paragraph 6, page 81.

**Battery B, Second Artillery Regiment redesignated Battery A, Second Artillery Regiment, May 5, 1885. Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, General Order No. 25, page 113.

***A new company organized and mustered in at Napa, June 14, 1893, and designated as Battery B, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade.

Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, General Order No. 7, page 95.

****Battery B, Second Artillery Regiment was redesignated Company H, Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, December 9, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, and 18, page 87, and 88.

*****Captain R. G. Brush and Lieutenant Grant Lapham, retained their former commissions of January 22, 1873 and June 26, 1879, respectively, when they commanded Company A Light Artillery, unattached, Second Brigade.

BATTERY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Battery B, Second Artillery Regiment had the distinction of being the first company of Militia formed in California, having been organized as the First California Guard July 27, 1849. The unit remained unattached for thirty-two years, being designated as Light Battery A unattached. One June 1, 1881, the Board of Location and Organization decided to organize an Artillery Regiment. The Second Infantry Regiment was selected and redesignated as the Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade. There being a vacancy in Company B in the regiment, Battery A Light Battery, unattached, was attached to the regiment as Battery B, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade.*

The first inspection report of Major Walter H. Holmes, Inspector Second Brigade on September 12, 1882, showed a very poor attendance at the inspection for Battery B, their percentage being only 48.43%.** However, in 1884, their attendance percentage had increased to 83.85%, which probably was a good indices of the interest and efficiency maintained by the members of the unit.***

Unfortunately for this narrative, the Second Artillery Regiment did not go into an encampment while Battery B was attached to it. When on April 7, 1885, Battery A, Second Artillery Regiment was mustered out of the service, Battery B requested they be redesignated as Battery A, as the unit has been known as First California Guard Company A, soon after its organization in 1849, until its attachment to the Second Artillery, when it was designated Company B. Accordingly on May 5, 1885, a Special Order was issued by the Adjutant General, redesignating the unit Battery A.****

For a period of eight years there existed a vacancy in Battery B. On May 27, 1893, a company was organized in Napa and on June fourteenth was ordered attached to the Second Artillery Regiment as Battery B. The mustering and acceptance of the unit into the National Guard, was the occasion for the gathering in Napa of many militia dignitaries. Accompanying Brigadier-General John H. Dickinson was Adjutant General C. C. Allen, National Guard of California; Adjutant H. M. Carrington and Lieutenant W. E. Dougherty, United States Army; and the following staff officers, R. D. Laidlow, W. D. Dodd, John A. Ropke, C. C. Coleman and Charles T. Stanley; and Judge W. H. Levy. At the organization C. H. Starkweather was elected Captain and Frank G. Easterby,

-000-

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

**Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, page 133.

2 ****Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, page 104.

3 ****Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, Special Order No. 25, page 113.

BATTERY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

First Lieutenant. The Court House was selected as the place of mustering and eight o'clock as the time. The meeting was called to order by Captain Starkweather, who read the Special Order calling the meeting, and then introduced General Dickinson. The General briefly explained the duties of the National Guard and read and explained the Oath of Allegiance. Only fifty-seven members were present to sign the muster roll, while sixty was the minimum. Three more were to be mustered at a later date. When the signing of the muster roll was over and the men mustered into the National Guard, the members of the new company and their guests adjourned to the Napa Hotel, where a banquet was awaiting them. Senator H. C. Gesford acted as toastmaster and the following gentlemen responded: Adjutant General C. C. Allen on, "The National Guard"; Adjutant H. M. Carrington, United States Army on "The Regular Army"; "The Second Brigade" was the subject of General Dickinson; "The New Company" by Captain C. H. Starkweather; "The Judiciary and the National Guard" by Judge Walter Levy of San Francisco; "The Rank and File" by T. B. Hutchinson, Esq.; "Our Officers" by Lieutenant Frank Easterby; "Comrades in Arms" by H. D. Lazelle; and "Amusements in Camp" by Lieutenant J. A. Ropke. The banquet closed with three cheers for the new company.

The muster and inspection report of Major Victor D. Duboce, Inspector Second Brigade on April 10, 1894, indicated that the new Battery B mustered forty-nine officers and men out of a roll of fifty-five members. At inspection, discipline was very good; instruction very good; appearance excellent; and condition of property was also excellent.*

During the Railroad Strike in July 1894, Battery B as their first assignment was stationed at the Armory on guard duty. On July twelfth, Lieutenant-Colonel Dennis Geary, Second Artillery, was ordered to take six companies of the Second Artillery, a detachment from the Naval Battalion, and proceed to Oakland and take possession of the railroad yards. Colonel Geary succeeded in this by embarking on the steamer "El Capitan" and landing at the wharf at the foot of Peralta Street, Oakland at 3:00 A.M., and occupied the yards without any opposition. The strikers were holding the front entrance to the yards expecting an attack there, and were taken by surprise by the troops landing and

-000-

*Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, pages 179, 180.

BATTERY B (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

advancing from the rear. On the thirteenth, Battery B was ordered to join the six companies already in the Oakland yards. The unit camped in the freight yards until July twenty-fifth at which time they were ordered home to San Francisco and dismissed.*

During the reorganization of the National Guard on December 7, 1895, Battery B, Second Artillery Regiment was redesignated as Company H, Eighth Battalion, and two days later the Seventh and Eighth Battalions were organized into the Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade. Company H, thereby, became Company H Fifth Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.**

Joseph Haber, First Lieut.	Nov. 27, 1882	Jan. 13, 1883
Adolph Haber, Captain	Dec. 1, 1884	Dec. 22, 1884
Henry G. Mangels, First Lieut.	Dec. 1, 1884	Jan. 7, 1885
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1885	Jan. 13, 1886
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1886	Jan. 13, 1887
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1887	Jan. 13, 1888
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1888	Jan. 13, 1889
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1889	Jan. 13, 1890
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1890	Jan. 13, 1891
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1891	Jan. 13, 1892
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1892	Jan. 13, 1893
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1893	Jan. 13, 1894
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1894	Jan. 13, 1895
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1895	Jan. 13, 1896
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1896	Jan. 13, 1897
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1897	Jan. 13, 1898
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1898	Jan. 13, 1899
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1899	Jan. 13, 1900
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1900	Jan. 13, 1901
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1901	Jan. 13, 1902
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1902	Jan. 13, 1903
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1903	Jan. 13, 1904
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1904	Jan. 13, 1905
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1905	Jan. 13, 1906
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1906	Jan. 13, 1907
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1907	Jan. 13, 1908
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1908	Jan. 13, 1909
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1909	Jan. 13, 1910
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1910	Jan. 13, 1911
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1911	Jan. 13, 1912
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1912	Jan. 13, 1913
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1913	Jan. 13, 1914
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1914	Jan. 13, 1915
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1915	Jan. 13, 1916
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1916	Jan. 13, 1917
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1917	Jan. 13, 1918
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1918	Jan. 13, 1919
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1919	Jan. 13, 1920
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1920	Jan. 13, 1921
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1921	Jan. 13, 1922
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1922	Jan. 13, 1923
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1923	Jan. 13, 1924
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1924	Jan. 13, 1925
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1925	Jan. 13, 1926
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1926	Jan. 13, 1927
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1927	Jan. 13, 1928
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1928	Jan. 13, 1929
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1929	Jan. 13, 1930
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1930	Jan. 13, 1931
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1931	Jan. 13, 1932
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1932	Jan. 13, 1933
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1933	Jan. 13, 1934
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1934	Jan. 13, 1935
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1935	Jan. 13, 1936
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1936	Jan. 13, 1937
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1937	Jan. 13, 1938
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1938	Jan. 13, 1939
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1939	Jan. 13, 1940
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1940	Jan. 13, 1941
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1941	Jan. 13, 1942
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1942	Jan. 13, 1943
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1943	Jan. 13, 1944
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1944	Jan. 13, 1945
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1945	Jan. 13, 1946
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1946	Jan. 13, 1947
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1947	Jan. 13, 1948
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1948	Jan. 13, 1949
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1949	Jan. 13, 1950
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1950	Jan. 13, 1951
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1951	Jan. 13, 1952
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1952	Jan. 13, 1953
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1953	Jan. 13, 1954
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1954	Jan. 13, 1955
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1955	Jan. 13, 1956
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1956	Jan. 13, 1957
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1957	Jan. 13, 1958
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1958	Jan. 13, 1959
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1959	Jan. 13, 1960
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1960	Jan. 13, 1961
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1961	Jan. 13, 1962
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1962	Jan. 13, 1963
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1963	Jan. 13, 1964
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1964	Jan. 13, 1965
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1965	Jan. 13, 1966
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1966	Jan. 13, 1967
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1967	Jan. 13, 1968
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1968	Jan. 13, 1969
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1969	Jan. 13, 1970
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1970	Jan. 13, 1971
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1971	Jan. 13, 1972
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1972	Jan. 13, 1973
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1973	Jan. 13, 1974
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1974	Jan. 13, 1975
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1975	Jan. 13, 1976
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1976	Jan. 13, 1977
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1977	Jan. 13, 1978
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1978	Jan. 13, 1979
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1979	Jan. 13, 1980
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1980	Jan. 13, 1981
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1981	Jan. 13, 1982
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1982	Jan. 13, 1983
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1983	Jan. 13, 1984
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1984	Jan. 13, 1985
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1985	Jan. 13, 1986
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1986	Jan. 13, 1987
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1987	Jan. 13, 1988
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1988	Jan. 13, 1989
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1989	Jan. 13, 1990
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1990	Jan. 13, 1991
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1991	Jan. 13, 1992
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1992	Jan. 13, 1993
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1993	Jan. 13, 1994
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1994	Jan. 13, 1995
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1995	Jan. 13, 1996
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1996	Jan. 13, 1997
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1997	Jan. 13, 1998
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1998	Jan. 13, 1999
Adolph Haber, Captain	Nov. 27, 1999	Jan. 13, 2000

*For further details refer to the National Guard and the Railroad Strike. Adjutant General's Office.

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

***Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 88, 88.

****Captain Hermann Wobber and Lieutenant David Schoenfeld, retained their former commissions as of November 22, 1880, and May 9, 1879, respectively, when they commanded Company C, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.