

History of the Battery C (San Francisco Fusileers), 2nd Artillery Regiment, National Guard of California 1881-1895

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1907

BATTERY C

Battery C, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade (formerly San Francisco Fusileers)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized November 27, 1871

Reorganized June 1, 1881*

Redesignated December 9, 1895**

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Hermann Wöbber, Captain	Nov. 8, 1880	Nov. 22, 1880***
David Schoenfeld, First Lieut.	April 7, 1879	May 9, 1879***
John Bruer, Captain	Nov. 27, 1882	Jan. 13, 1883
Adolph Huber, First Lieut.	Nov. 27, 1882	Jan. 13, 1883
Adolph Huber, Captain	Dec. 1, 1884	Dec. 22, 1884
Henry G. Mangels, First Lieut.	Dec. 1, 1884	Jan. 7, 1885
Adolph Huber, Captain (Re-elected Dec. 13, 1886)		
Dredrich Wulbern, First Lieut.	Dec. 13, 1886	Feb. 1, 1887
Adolph Huber, Captain (Re-elected Dec. 17, 1888)		
Charles Boxton, First Lieut.	Dec. 17, 1888	Jan. 16, 1889
Charles Boxton, Captain	June 27, 1892	Aug. 27, 1892
Reinhold Richter, First Lieut. (Retired Sept. 1, 1894)	June 27, 1892	Aug. 6, 1892
Charles Boxton, Captain	June 27, 1892	Aug. 27, 1892
Herman Huber, First Lieut.	July 9, 1894	

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*Battery C, formerly Company C, Second Infantry Regiment, was redesignated Battery C, Second Artillery Regiment, June 1, 1881. Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, Par. 4, page 81.

**Company C, Second Artillery Regiment was redesignated Company I, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, December 9, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.

***Captain Hermann Wöbber 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.

*Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, page 134.

**Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, page 105.

***Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, page 179.

****San Francisco Call, September 23, 1891, page 5, column 7.

BATTERY C (Continued)

Activities:

Battery C was originally organized as the San Francisco Fusileers on November 27, 1871. The company was attached to the Second Infantry and designated as Company C, known at that time as the German Regiment because it was composed almost entirely of men of that nationality. When on June 1, 1881, the Second Infantry Regiment was redesignated as the Second Artillery Regiment, Company C became Battery C, Second Artillery Regiment. Major Walter H. Holmes, Inspector, National Guard of California, in his report of September 12, 1882, stated that the improvement of Battery C in point of drill was very marked, and in the appearance and discipline the efficiency of the company was excellent. The attendance percentage was 84.81 per cent at the muster of the unit.* At the inspection in October, three years later, the attendance was 95.71 per cent;** and in 1894 Battery C was perfect with a 100 per cent attendance record.***

Battery C always ranked well at target practice. In 1883 the unit rated 53 per cent. Three years later their rating was 57 per cent, and in 1887 their score was 63 per cent. In 1891 the following excerpts from the press indicate how well this Battery could shoot.

"The Second Artillery Regiment paraded for their final State shoot at Shellmound yesterday. The regiment showed up in strong numbers and completely filled the commodious range. Some very fine individual scores were made. Battery C and Light Battery A did some remarkable shooting. The shooting of Captain Adolph Huber of Battery C was the best that has been witnessed on the range in a long time. At the preliminary State contest the Captain made the remarkable score of 45 points out of a possible 50. Yesterday he appeared to be determined to equal if not surpass his first score, and this he did by making a score of 46, giving him 92 per cent for both shots. The Captain will be entitled to receive a gold bar from the State and be classed among its sharpshooters."

Evidently Captain Huber was the only man in the First, Second and Third Artillery regiments to merit a sharpshooter's decoration, because the news article stated that hundreds of men had participated in the shooting, but only one qualified as a sharpshooter. However, most of the guardsmen believed the percentage score required to qualify to be too high, and considered a score of 85 to be a fair requirement.****

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*Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, page 134.

**Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, page 105.

***Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 179.

****San Francisco Call, September 28, 1891, page 5, column 7.

BATTERY C (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The Second Artillery Regiment participated in a great many parades in San Francisco, and Battery C as a unit was always there, usually making a splendid showing. The first week in August 1886 the Grand Army of the Republic held their annual encampment in San Francisco. On August third a magnificent military parade was held in honor of the boys in blue, who a little over two decades ago had bravely fought to preserve the Union. The first division was led by the United States troops from the San Francisco Presidio and local posts. Five regiments of the National Guard followed, which acted as escort to the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. Major General Walter Turnbull, who was accompanied by his staff, commanded by Colonel John T. Cutting, paraded with full rank and made a splendid appearance.*

In 1891, Battery C paraded again when President Benjamin Harrison visited San Francisco on April twenty-fifth. Colonel William MacDonald, commanded the Second Artillery Regiment during this reception.** Another memorable parade participated in by Battery C, two years later, was when Vice President Stevenson visited San Francisco. The Vice President arrived on July nineteenth and received a joyous reception.*** On January 27, 1894, San Francisco opened the Midwinter Fair with what was said to be the finest civic and military parade ever held in the City. Battery C and the Second Artillery Regiment played a prominent part in the parade.****

Frequently the unit was called upon to take part in honoring the dead. It seemed that the year 1891 witnessed the passing of many prominent people. Starting in January the death of King Kalakaua I, of the Hawaiian Islands was the first. Solemn religious services held at Trinity Church was followed by a procession to the Clay Street wharf, where the King's remains were placed aboard the flagship "Charleston" to be returned to the Hawaiian Islands. Battery C took part in the ceremonies tendered the departed monarch.*****

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²*San Francisco Chronicle, August 4, 1886, page 1, column 1-9.

³**San Francisco Chronicle, April 26, 1891, page 11, column 1-7.

⁴***San Francisco Chronicle, July 20, 1893, page 12, column 1-6.

⁵****San Francisco Chronicle, January 28, 1894, page 1, column 1-7.

*****San Francisco Chronicle, January 23, 1891, page 10, column 1-4.

BATTERY C (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

On May 10, 1891, the remains of John F. Swift, United States Minister to Japan, were carried to their last resting place. His office as Minister entitled him to a military funeral. Battery C with the Second Artillery Regiment joined in the elaborate funeral services.*

From the special activities mentioned above, to active service duty during the Railroad Strike is quite a contrast, but such is the life of the soldier-citizen. On July 1, 1894, the strike was called. The strikers had gained possession of the Southern Pacific yards in Oakland, and on July twelfth, Lieutenant-Colonel Dennis Geary was ordered to proceed to Oakland with six companies of Artillery and take possession of the yards. This was accomplished on July thirteenth, and Battery C remained with the regiment at the Oakland yard until July thirtieth, when they returned to San Francisco and were dismissed.**

A "shakeup" took place in the National Guard in 1895. Several reasons were attributed for the change, but one of most importance was to organize the National Guard along lines that would closely compare to the United States Army. The new plan called for the formation of all battalions of four companies each. Therefore, on December 7, 1895, an order was issued providing that all regiments including the artillery be reorganized in such battalions.*** In the change Battery C was transferred to the Sixth Battalion and redesignated as Company I. Two days later, December 9, 1895, the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Battalions were organized into the First Infantry Regiment, thus Company I, Sixth Battalion became Company I, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.****

A. B. C. Schumann, Captain

(Re-elected Feb. 5, 1892)

Christian F. Smith, First Lieut. Feb. 5, 1892 Mar. 14, 1892

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*San Francisco Chronicle, May 11, 1891, page 10, column 1.

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

***Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 17, page 86.

****Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 18, page 88.

***Captain Philip Newman and Lieutenant Joseph Bechler retained their former commissions as of January 10, 1891, when they commanded Company D, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.