

History of the Battery E, 2nd Artillery Regiment, National Guard of California 1882-1895

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BATTERY E

Battery E, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized March 22, 1882

Reconstituted December 9, 1895*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Joseph T. Donovan, Captain	July 24, 1882	Sept. 30, 1882
John J. Carroll, First Lieut.	July 24, 1882	Sept. 30, 1882
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Joseph T. Donovan, Captain (Re-elected Aug. 13, 1884) (Resigned June 16, 1886)		
John H. Flynn, First Lieut.	Aug. 13, 1884	Oct. 13, 1884
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John H. Flynn, Captain	July 31, 1886	Aug. 28, 1886
P. F. McCarthy, First Lieut.	July 31, 1886	Sept. 7, 1886
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Joseph T. Donovan, Captain (Re-elected Aug. 14, 1888)		
Thomas J. Lemon, First Lieut.	Aug. 14, 1888	Jan. 18, 1889
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Thomas J. Lemon, Captain (Resigned Mar. 23, 1891)		
Thomas J. Cunningham, First Lieut.	April 1, 1890	June 16, 1890
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Thomas J. Cunningham, Captain	April 1, 1890	July 15, 1890
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Thomas J. Cunningham, Captain	July 28, 1891	Sept. 2, 1891
Edward D. Finley, First Lieut.	July 28, 1891	Sept. 2, 1891
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Thomas J. Cunningham, Captain (Re-elected Aug. 12, 1893)		
Edward D. Finley, First Lieut. (Re-elected Aug. 12, 1893)		

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*Battery E, Second Artillery, redesignated Company K, First Infantry Regiment, December 9, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Orders No. 17, and 18, pages 86, and 88.

Activities: (Continued)

Company A formerly the old Montgomery Guard Third Infantry Battalion, was to be attached to the Second Artillery Regiment as Battery E, but rather than obey orders of the Commander-in-Chief, the officers of the unit resigned and the members applied for a discharge from service. However, Colonel Smedberg at once organized a new company under Captain Joseph T. Donovan, the members of which were sworn into service on July 16, 1882. The officers were elected July 24, 1882, and the new company was designated thereafter, as Battery E, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade. Captain Donovan was deserving of commendation for his energy in so rapidly recruiting a unit. The officers had not received their commissions at the time of inspection, though they were accepted and reported as such at the inspection.*

The activities of the unit during 1883 and 1884, consisted mainly of weekly drills and encampments. In August 1885, Battery E with the Second Artillery Regiment, attended the Camp of Instruction with the entire National Guard. The Second Artillery was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Wilder, an officer of much experience in the National Guard. The number of men authorized to be taken to camp, owing to limited appropriations, was limited to thirty-five per unit, all in excess of that number went at their own expense or that of their company. The State, of course, paying the expenses of those up to thirty-five per unit. Battery E received considerable knowledge at this Camp because the instruction was more thorough, and officers of higher rank were required to be present and take part at the large encampments. This meeting had a tendency to increase their knowledge of military duties.**

*Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, page 134.

**For further details of the Santa Cruz encampment, refer to History of Company B, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

*Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, page 134.

Activities (Continued)

The Battery was inspected on July 25, 1890, by Major J. N. Wilson, Inspector and Mustering Officer, Second Brigade. The discipline, instruction and military appearance were fair; arms and other property were in good order. There were fifty-seven members present and only one absent, making a percentage of attendance ninety-eight per cent.

The following year on Jan. 22, 1891, the Battery participated in the funeral escort of King Kalakaua of Hawaii, approximately one month prior to this, the unit had been reviewed by the same King. During the same year, the unit paid its respects by attending the funerals of two other prominent men, those of Senator George Hearst and the U. S. Minister to Japan, John F. Swift.

The following year in February 1892, the unit took part in the March of Instruction and Field Drill at the Olympic Grounds in San Francisco. Three months later on May thirteenth, according to a report of C. C. Allen, Adjutant General, the Battery held one of the highest percentages in attendance at drills of any unit in the regiment, that of one hundred per cent.* Aside from the regular drills and encampments, the Battery participated in the usual parades required by law, those of Washington's Birthday, July Fourth, Memorial and Admission Days.

Captain Cunningham of this unit originated something in the National Guard of California in publishing a Company Order, giving a record of duty performed for the season of 1893-1894. This Order gave the attendance percentage of such members whose names were borne on the muster roll for the two years. The Order also included all enlistments and changes, in addition to names of those receiving State decorations and those distinguished for long and faithful service. The members, who had not missed a drill or parade during the year, were also included in the record, thereby, furnishing for future and convenient reference, a complete record of the company. Sergeant N. Cohn did not

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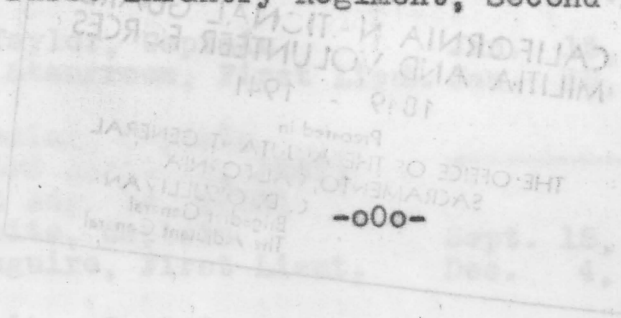
*Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, page 134.

BATTERY E (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

miss an assemblage in 1892. In 1893 and 1894, his name again appears with those of seven more. Also medals were to be issued to the 100 per cent members. The medals were to be of oxidized silver, very much after the style of the State decorations, but pendant from a red ribbon fastened in turn to a bear showing the year for which issued. With a membership of seventy-five and in various other respects, Battery E was at that time, the largest company of the regiment.*

Upon the recommendation of the Board of Location and Organization, an order was issued on December 7, 1895, which redesignated Battery E, Second Artillery as Company K, Sixth Battalion. Two days later, General Order No. 18 was issued and the fourth, fifth and sixth Battalions were organized into one regiment to be known as the First Infantry. Therefore, Battery E was redesignated Company K, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, December 9, 1895.**



James A. White, Captain	Sept. 15, 1888	Oct. 16, 1888
(Re-elected Oct. 7, 1888)		
James S. Maguire, First Lieut.	Dec. 4, 1888	Dec. 20, 1888
Charles F. Kingman, First Lieut.	July 7, 1890	Aug. 9, 1890

*Battery E, formerly Company F, Second Infantry Regiment organized March 18, 1878, was redesignated Battery F, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade, June 1, 1881.

3 *Pacific American Magazine, May 1894, page 19.

4 **Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 12, page 83. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 12, page 86-88.

***Captain Francis V. Bell retained his former commission as of May 7, 1881, when he commanded Company F, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.