

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

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BATTERY G

(Continued)

Battery G, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade (Formerly  
Company G, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade)  
Reference: Adjutant General's Files  
Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County  
Organized April 8, 1878  
Reorganized June 1, 1881\*  
Reconstituted June 1, 1881\*\*  
Consolidated and redesignated December 9, 1895\*\*\*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Lee W. Mix, Captain	Nov. 6, 1880	Nov. 16, 1880****
W. H. Souther, First Lieut. (Resigned)	June 1, 1881	Oct. 14, 1881
Charles S. Neal, First Lieut.	Sept. 19, 1881	Oct. 14, 1881
Lee W. Mix, Captain (Re-elected Dec. 21, 1882) (Resigned Jan. 23, 1884)	_____	_____
Charles S. Neal, First Lieut. (Resigned Feb. 23, 1883)	_____	_____
William C. Sharpstein, First Lieut.	Aug. 22, 1883	Sept. 7, 1883

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\*Company G, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, consolidated with Company E, Second Infantry Regiment and was redesignated as Company G of the same, June 1, 1881.  
Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 11, Par. 2, page 81.

\*\*Battery G, formerly Company G, Second Infantry Regiment, organized April 8, 1878, was redesignated Battery G, Second Artillery Regiment, June 1, 1881.  
Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 11, Par. 4, page 81.

\*\*\*Battery G consolidated with Battery H and redesignated as Company M, First Infantry Regiment, December 9, 1895.  
Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 86, 88.

\*\*\*\*Captain Lee Mix retained his former commission as of November 16, 1880, when he commanded Company G, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

BATTERY G (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William C. Sharpstein, Captain (Resigned Sept. 3, 1885)	Feb. 5, 1884	Feb. 25, 1884
Samuel G. Buckbee, First Lieut. (Resigned July 3, 1884)	Feb. 5, 1884	Feb. 25, 1884
Charles H. Crocker, First Lieut. (Promoted to First Lieutenant (Sept. 2, 1885) Commissary	Sept. 3, 1884	Nov. 24, 1884
Edward F. Moran, First Lieut. (Resigned Jan. 30, 1886)	Sept. 28, 1885	Oct. 12, 1885
William C. Sharpstein, Captain (Re-elected Jan. 13, 1886) (Resigned July 24, 1886)	_____	_____
James W. Reinfield, First Lieut. (Promoted to Captain Aug. 20, 1886)	April 19, 1886	May 5, 1886
James W. Reinfield, Captain	Aug. 20, 1886	Sept. 7, 1886
Thomas F. O'Neil, First Lieut.	Aug. 20, 1886	Oct. 16, 1886
Thomas F. O'Neil, Captain	Aug. 29, 1888	Sept. 17, 1888
Rolla D. Fairbanks, First Lieut. (Resigned May 7, 1890)	Aug. 29, 1888	Sept. 17, 1888
Thomas F. O'Neil, Captain (Re-elected Sept. 15, 1890)	_____	_____
John Andrew Vanni, First Lieut.	Aug. 11, 1890	Oct. 7, 1890
Thomas F. O'Neil, Captain (Re-elected Sept. 19, 1892)	_____	_____
Edward D. Carroll, First Lieut.	Sept. 19, 1892	Oct. 10, 1892
Thomas F. O'Neil, Captain (Re-elected Sept. 20, 1894)	_____	_____
Edward D. Carroll, First Lieut. (Re-elected Sept. 20, 1894)	_____	_____

**Activities:**

Company G was formed from the consolidation of the two units, G and E of the Second Infantry and was designated as Company G of the same on June 1, 1881. In the same General Order and on the same day the Second Infantry Regiment was redesignated as the Second Artillery Regiment. Therefore, Company G became Battery G

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

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

\*\*San Francisco Call, August 16, 1883, page 5, column 4.

\*\*\*San Francisco Chronicle, August 1, 1886, page 1, column 1-3.

BATTERY G (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

of the Second Artillery, Second Brigade. This change was made because the funds of the National Guard were limited, and a reduction in the number of companies of the National Guard was necessary in order that each unit would receive the amount of money necessary to carry on its activities.\*

Two years after the organization of Battery G, the unit suffered a set back which imperiled its efficiency. This decline was due to two causes. First, Captain Lee Mix was called away to Mexico on business and was unable to return for several months, and secondly, First Lieutenant Charles S. Neal resigned. This left the command of the unit to Second Lieutenant George McLeod, who had not sufficient experience to maintain an efficient unit. The members lost their enthusiasm and were discouraged by the long absence of their Captain. Gradually the membership of the Battery was reduced to forty-two, and at the Muster Inspection of July twenty-ninth but twenty-three men were present. Finding it impossible for the company to build itself up, Colonel Smedberg, with the approval of Lieutenant McLeod and the remaining men of Company G began recruiting in a Cadet Company. Forty of the oldest members were transferred to Battery G, and a number of men from the Battery were discharged honorably from the service. There remained about twenty-five old members of the Battery, who with the forty recruits from the cadets made an efficient company, and one of the best drilled in the service.\*\*

One of the outstanding activities in which the Battery participated, aside from the regular drills and inspections, was the Grand Parade and festivities inaugurated in honor of the twentieth National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic on August 4, 1886. With the advance of the morning hours, the different organizations of the National Guard could be seen wending their way to Van Ness Avenue to form in line for the parade. The troops of the Second Brigade, including the Second Artillery Regiment commanded by Brigadier-General Dimond, led the van of the militia. The Second Artillery of which Battery G, as a unit, always paraded with full rank and in every parade they made a splendid appearance. With the red facings on their uniforms the men looked very neat, swinging along with their long steady step, and when seen at a closer view the ranks looked very handsome.\*\*\*

\*The San Francisco Chronicle, January 23, 1881, page 10, column 1-4.  
The San Francisco Chronicle, -000- 18, 1881, page 10, column 1-5.  
The San Francisco Chronicle, May 11, 1881, page 10, column 1-3.

\*San Francisco Call, June 12, 1881, page 3, column 5.  
Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 11, page 81.

\*\*San Francisco Call, August 16, 1883, page 5, column 4.

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

BATTERY G (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

According to the report of George B. Cosby, Adjutant General, Battery G at inspection on September 22, 1883, was the lowest of any unit in the regiment, having a percentage of 57.14. However, the Battery increased attendance percentage and at the inspection in April of 1891 by D. E. Miles, Major and Signal Officer Second Brigade, the unit showed an attendance of 100 per cent with the discipline and instruction good; the military appearance, arms and other property were very good.\*

The activities of Battery G were varied. On April 30, 1892, the unit went on a two day outing with Battery H, Second Artillery, to what was known as the Seven Mile House near San Francisco. The unit also showed their respect by attending the funeral ceremonies in San Francisco of the following men, King Kalakaua of the Hawaiian Islands, January 23, 1891; Senator George Hearst, March 16, 1891; John F. Swift, United States Minister to Japan, May 11, 1891; and H. A. Cobb, May 5, 1892.\*\* The Battery also took part in a "march of instruction" to Golden Gate Park, in addition to parading and drilling on all occasions when ordered to do so by law.

In July 1894, a strike developed among the employees of the Southern Pacific which spread over most of the entire nation. It became necessary to call out the troops of the National Guard to maintain order. On July twelfth, the Second Artillery Regiment, of which Battery G was a unit, was ordered to West Oakland to perform guard duty in the railroad yards. The command, in charge of Lieutenant-Colonel D. Geary, proceeded from San Francisco by steamer on the "El Capitan", and landed at the Peralta Street wharf at approximately 3:00 A.M., the morning of the thirteenth, immediately taking possession of the Southern Pacific railroad yards. This move on the part of the troops was a surprise to the strikers, as they expected an attack from the side where their pickets were stationed. While the troops remained on duty,

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4 \*Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, General Order No. 36, page 75.  
Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, General Order No. 15, page 84.

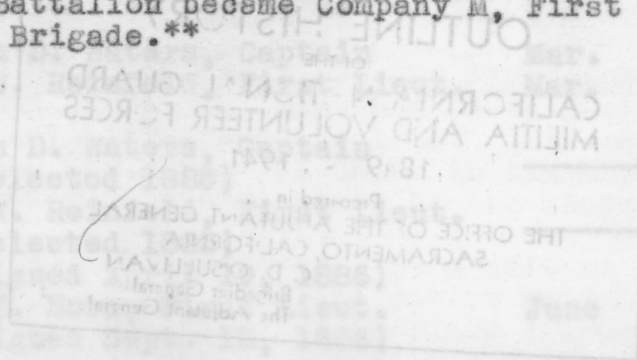
\*\*The San Francisco Chronicle, January 23, 1891, page 10, columns 1-4.  
The San Francisco Chronicle, March 16, 1891, page 10, columns 1-5.  
The San Francisco Chronicle, May 11, 1891, page 10, column 1.

BATTERY G (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

not a single striker succeeded in entering the yards in the West Oakland vicinity, although they made many attempts to do so. On July thirtieth, all troops, including the Second Artillery at Oakland, were dismissed from strike duty excepting detachments of cavalry, Naval Battalion and one unit of the Second Artillery Regiment.\*

On December 7, 1895, according to General Order No. 17, Batteries G and H, Second Artillery Regiment, were consolidated and designated as Company M, Sixth Battalion. Two days later Company M, Sixth Battalion became Company M, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.\*\*



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\*For further details refer to the National Guard and the Railroad Strike. Adjutant General's Office. Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, Special Order No. 14, pages 224, 228.

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