

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

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 H

1931

Battery H, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade (Formerly San Francisco Cadets)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized August 7, 1863

Reorganized June 1, 1881*

Consolidated and redesignated December 9, 1895**

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
George Bigley, Captain (Re-elected Jan. 21, 1881)	Dec. 30, 1874	Jan. 7, 1875***
William D. Waters, First Lieut.	June 27, 1879	July 25, 1879***
William D. Waters, Captain	Mar. 9, 1883	Mar. 26, 1883
James W. Reinfeld, First Lieut.	Mar. 9, 1883	Mar. 26, 1883
William D. Waters, Captain (Re-elected 1885)	_____	_____
James W. Reinfeld, First Lieut. (Re-elected 1885) (Resigned April 19, 1886)	_____	_____
Henry F. Horn, First Lieut. (Resigned Sept. 13, 1886)	June 3, 1886	Aug. 18, 1886
William D. Waters, Captain (Re-elected April 6, 1887)	_____	_____
William E. Cunningham, First Lieut.	Nov. 10, 1886	Dec. 6, 1886

-oOo-

*Battery H, formerly Company H, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, reorganized June 1, 1881, and redesignated as Battery H, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade.
Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 11, Par. 4, page 81.

**Battery H consolidated with Battery G 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 George Bigley and First Lieutenant William D. Waters retained their former commissions as of January 7, 1875, and July 25, 1879, respectively, when they commanded Company H, Second Infantry Regiment.

****Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 12, page 82.

*****For further details of the Santa Cruz Encampment, refer to the History of Battery H, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade.

BATTERY H (Continued)

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William D. Waters, Captain (Re-elected April 10, 1889)		
John H. Leo, First Lieut.	Jan. 9, 1889	April 9, 1889
John H. Leo, Captain	July 20, 1892	Aug. 6, 1892
Francis H. Kenny, First Lieut.	July 20, 1892	Aug. 6, 1892
Robert H. Brower, Captain	June 22, 1894	
Charles J. Wall, First Lieut.	June 22, 1894	

Activities:

Battery H was formerly the San Francisco Cadets. The unit was organized August 7, 1863, and redesignated as Battery H of the Second Artillery, June 1, 1881. This change was made in order to reduce the number of units in the National Guard, due to a reduction in appropriations by the State Legislature.*

On June 2, 1881, Battery H as a unit of the Second Artillery Regiment, paraded with the entire National Guard in honor of the 105th Anniversary of American Independence.** A year later on September twelfth, the unit was inspected by Walter H. Holmes, Major and Inspector of the Second Brigade. The percentage of attendance was good, that of 83.33 per cent. The company's activities for the two years following, consisted mainly of drills and inspections. In August 1885, the Battery attended the Camp of Instruction with the entire National Guard.***

In the afternoon of May 18, 1887, Battery H assembled at the armory in San Francisco for the purpose of proceeding to San Rafael for a night's bivouac. The battalion was also to take part in a battalion and skirmish drill on the following day with Company D of the Fifth Infantry. Before leaving the armory, Battery H was presented with a handsome, silk American Flag, the bequest of the late Captain C.E.S. MacDonald, who organized the company in 1863, under the name of the San Francisco Cadets. "Captain MacDonald is now dead," said Cameron H. King, the Attorney for the estate, in feelingly presenting the flag, "but I bear to you today his words of farewell and

-000-

*For further details of the Reorganization Plan of June 1, 1881, refer to Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 11, Par. 4, page 81.

**Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 12, page 82.

***For further details of the Santa Cruz Encampment, refer to the History of Battery E, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade.

BATTERY H (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

fit token of love which he ever had for this unit, in whose success he also had the greatest pride. In 1875, upon the eve of Captain MacDonald's departure from San Francisco for a pleasure trip, a delegation of San Francisco ladies waited upon him and presented as a compliment to him and incidentally to this company, this beautiful flag made by their fair hands. It is needless to state how much he treasured it. He kept it unspotted and unsoiled ever, with the intention of bequeathing it to Battery H. This was one of Captain MacDonald's last wishes expressed to his brother, Duncan F. MacDonald, and today at the latter's request I carry out that wish by presenting the beautiful flag to you. Captain Waters, at the request of Duncan F. MacDonald, I entrust to your charge and keeping this beautiful flag, the legacy of Captain Charles E. S. MacDonald, to you for Battery H. This glorious symbol of our independence and freedom will be as carefully preserved by you as it was by Captain MacDonald." The flag was received in reverential silence, after which the Captain commanding, gave expression to sentiments in keeping with the occasion.*

In 1891, the Battery took part in the funeral ceremonies held in San Francisco of several prominent men. They were as follows: King Kalakaua of Hawaii, Senator George Hearst and United States Minister to Japan, John F. Swift.

In the month of July 1894 Battery H with the entire National Guard was called to active service, to aid in controlling a nation wide Railroad Strike. The Battery performed guard duty in West Oakland at the Southern Pacific railroad yards from July thirteenth to thirtieth when they were dismissed from active service.**

On December 7, 1895, according to General Order No. 17, Batteries H and G, 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***

-oOo-

2. *The San Francisco Call, May 19, 1889, page 7, column 2.

3. **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 86, 88.