

History of the Company F, 2nd Infantry Regiment, National Guard of California 1893-1895

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COMPANY F

Company F, Second Infantry, Fourth Brigade (formerly Battery F, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Woodland, Yolo County

Organized March 5, 1881

Reconstituted July 1, 1893*

Reconstituted December 9, 1895**

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William H. Carson, Captain (Re-elected April 30, 1892)	April 24, 1886	June 17, 1886***
Robert Warren, First Lieut.	April 30, 1892	June 7, 1892***
Robert Warren, Captain (Resigned Sept. 1, 1895)	Dec. 28, 1893	Jan. 25, 1894
Henry U. Prindle, First Lieut.	Dec. 28, 1893	Jan. 25, 1894
Henry U. Prindle, Captain	Sept. 16, 1895	Nov. 5, 1895
John J. Ward, First Lieut.	Sept. 16, 1895	Nov. 5, 1895

Activities:

Company F, Second Infantry, prior to the reconstitution of the First Artillery Regiment was known as Battery F of that regiment. The organization was a comparatively new one having been organized in 1881 after the disbandment of Company D, Placerville City Guard. Captain William H. Carson remained in command of the unit until December 1893 when an election of officers was held. Robert Warren former First Lieutenant of the company was elected Captain, and Henry U. Prindle was First Lieutenant, having been promoted from the Second Lieutenantcy. The officers received their commissions in January of the following year.

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*Battery F, First Artillery Regiment redesignated Company F, Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade, July 1, 1893.
Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, General Order No. 7, page 97.

**Company F, Second Infantry Regiment, Fourth Brigade redesignated Company F, Eleventh Battalion, Third Brigade, December 7, 1895. Two days later, December 9, Company F, Eleventh Battalion redesignated Company F, Second Infantry, Third Brigade.
Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 87, 88.

***Captain Carson and Lieutenant Warren retained their former commissions as of June 17, 1886, and June 7, 1892, respectively, when they commanded Company F, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade.

COMPANY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The companies paraded and camped at Grafton, July 4, 1893, following their transfer to the infantry. The unit also took part in the parades required by law, and came to Sacramento for any special regimental activities during the year.

Target practice also was required by law to be held semi-annually. The returns from these practices for the years 1893 to 1895, respectively, are as follows:

In 1893	- -	4	members	were	in	the	First	class.
		17	"	"	"	"	Second	"
		12	"	"	"	"	Third	"
1894		2	"	"	"	"	First	"
		14	"	"	"	"	Second	"
		24	"	"	"	"	Third	"
1895		2	"	"	"	"	First	"
		19	"	"	"	"	Second	"
		16	"	"	"	"	Third	"

Adjutant General A. W. Barrett was a staunch advocate for the interests of target practice, and on assuming office in May 1895 he immediately set to work formulating new rules and regulations governing this practice which would materially affect and increase the interest of marksmanship. He was assisted in this work by the Inspector General of Rifle Practice and other competent officers. The Second Infantry Regiment together with the other regiments of the service had formerly been supplied with a full set of silhouettes for field work and also one set of bench-reloading tools. With the aid of this equipment, the regiment could reload their own ammunition at a cost of from \$11.00 to \$12.00 a thousand which would enable them to save about \$7.00 or \$8.00 on a thousand. This saving on ammunition would give the men that much more to spend on target practice.

Adjutant General Barrett also endeavored to have the Springfield rifles, model of 1873, exchanged with the War and Ordnance Departments at Washington, for the 1874 models as the Federal Government had recently adopted the Krag-Jorgensen rifle. However, a special Act of Congress was necessary before the exchange could be affected. The Second Infantry to which Company F was attached was reconstituted before Congress met again, therefore, was not benefited by the proposed legislation.*

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*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, pages 4, 7.

(Continued)

COMPANY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The system used by the inspecting officers relative to the merits of a company at inspection were marked according to the following standard: Excellent, 6; very good, 5; good, 4; fair, 3; poor, 2; bad, 1.

Under this system Company F with fifty-one out of fifty-three members present at the annual inspection and muster March 20, 1894, rated an average merit of 3.8 per cent. The unit was one of the three companies of the Second Infantry to appear in the new fatigue uniforms furnished by the State. The fatigue uniforms were chosen for their serviceability and because they were well-fitting, displaying the good figures of the men to advantage. The Legislature of 1893 appropriated \$40,000.00 for new uniforms and provided for a Uniform Board who selected the best grade of material for the uniforms and also the best grade of drab hats such as were issued to the regular United States Army. The aim of the Board was to strive for utility and simplicity replacing the old dress coat with the facings which soon soiled and gave the men the appearance of already having served a campaign in the field. The helmets formerly used were heavy and ill-fitting and were no protection against the sun or rain. Major H. Weinstock was the inspection officer and he reported discipline and military appearance good, instruction fair, also arms and other property in fair condition. The arms were old and the inspector advised that they should be condemned and replaced with others of more modern design. The financial status of the unit was above reproach there being on hand a balance of \$387.15 at the time of inspection. Like the other companies in the Second Infantry Regiment, Company F maintained weekly drills for the members and required the commissioned and non-commissioned officers to attend one meeting a month for advice and instruction.

The activities of Company F during the Railroad Strike of 1894 consisted chiefly of guard duty. The unit was ordered to Dunsmuir, July twenty-fifth, under command of Major William H. Curson and remained on duty until August seventh, when the corps was ordered back to their armory in Woodland. Dunsmuir, being the head of the mountain division on the California Oregon railroad, was a stronghold for the strikers and was considered next to Sacramento and Oakland in strength and importance. It was from this point that in the early days of the strike 150 of the strikers took a locomotive and went armed to assist their friends in Sacramento.*

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*Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 262.

COMPANY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The men were kept busy maintaining a strong guard and supplying details for the various trains.*

After the Railroad Strike, the National Guard was completely reorganized, and among the changes the brigades were reduced to three, eliminating the Fourth Brigade to which the Second Infantry was attached. One December seventh by General Order No. 17 the Second Infantry was designated the Eleventh Battalion, Third Brigade. Two days later General Order No. 18 authorized organizing the Eleventh and Twelfth Battalions into the Second Infantry, Third Brigade.** Company F under this ruling, thereafter, was to be known as Company F, Second Infantry, Third Brigade.***

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*For further details concerning the activities of Company F during the Railroad Strike refer to National Guard and Railroad Strike, 1894. Adjutant General's Office.

**For further details of the reorganization of Second Infantry, Fourth Brigade refer to History of Company C, Second Infantry, Fourth Brigade.

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