FIRST TROOP CAVALRY

First Troop Cavalry, unattached, Second Brigade (formerly San Francisco Hussars)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files
Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County
Mustered in December 6, 1859
Redesignated September 9, 1891*
Mustered out June 29, 1895**

Commanding Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Commission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samuel P. Blumenberg, Captain</td>
<td>Jan. 7, 1891</td>
<td>Jan. 23, 1891</td>
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<tr>
<td>John M. Brunson, First Lieut.</td>
<td>Oct. 28, 1891</td>
<td>Nov. 24, 1891</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel P. Blumenberg, Captain</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Re-elected January 1893)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Retired Sept. 1, 1894)</td>
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<tr>
<td>John M. Brunson, First Lieut.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Re-elected Nov. 27, 1893)</td>
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<tr>
<td>John M. Brunson, Captain</td>
<td>Sept. 4, 1894</td>
<td>Sept. 22, 1894</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julian L. Waller, First Lieut.</td>
<td>Sept. 4, 1894</td>
<td>Oct. 12, 1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julian L. Waller, Captain</td>
<td>Apr. 2, 1895</td>
<td>June 26, 1895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. J. McKinnon, First Lieut.</td>
<td>June 6, 1895</td>
<td>June 26, 1895</td>
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Activities:

The First Troop Cavalry was created by the decision of the San Francisco Hussars to change their designation to First Troop Cavalry, unattached. This redesignation was accomplished when General Order No. 16 was issued September 9, 1891.

The First Troop Cavalry attended the Encampment of the Second Brigade held at Santa Cruz on July 5 to 13, 1891. One of the main features of the encampment was a sham battle held, which was successful and resulted in greatly improving the military...

*First Troop Cavalry, formerly San Francisco Hussars, redesignated First Troop Cavalry, unattached, September 9, 1891.
Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, General Order No. 16, page 88
Paragraph 2.

**First Troop Cavalry mustered out of Service on June 29, 1895.
Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, Par. 6, page 75.
FIRST TROOP CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

training of the National Guard. Captain John J. O'Connell, United States Army, in his report to Adjutant General C. C. Allen stated that he had nothing but words of praise for the First Troop Cavalry for their proficiency as a cavalry unit.*

The opening of the Midwinter Fair in San Francisco on January 27, 1894, was the occasion for one of the finest civic and military parades ever held in that city. General Dickinson, Grand Marshall of the procession, gave the word to start the parade and the bugler of First Troop Cavalry rang forth above the sounds to the crowd. Captain Blumenberg's Troop flashed their sabres and their yellow plumes tossed in the sun as their steeds sprang forward. Following the Regular United States Army troops marched the National Guard. Colonel MacDonald of the Second Artillery was in command of the Second Brigade accompanied by the members of the Brigade Staff. He rode at the head of the column, his immediate escort being the men of the Signal Corps, marching on foot with drawn sabres. Then came the Second Artillery Regiment parading as infantry. The Fifth Regiment commanded by Colonel Fairbanks, and composed of companies from Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Oakland, Alameda and other suburban cities, followed second in line of march, presenting a uniformed, handsome appearance. Following these troops came the First and Third Infantry Regiments of San Francisco. The two batteries of the Second Regiment came next with their rumbling cannon, under command of Captain Sime. They were followed by the new but very popular organization, the battalion of the Naval Reserve, clad in their neat sailor suits and led by Commander Stahle. The Naval Reserve was followed by the Veteran Guard who formed an escort for the officers and invited guests of the procession, and followed in a carriage immediately after. The troops were preceded by the French Zouave and other civic organizations and fraternal units.**

The First Troop Cavalry rendered splendid service during the Railroad Strike in July 1894. On July fourteenth, of that year Colonel W. R. Smedberg received the following Special Order No. 19: ***

"Colonel W. R. Smedberg, commanding National Guard forces in San Francisco, will detail the First

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**San Francisco Chronicle, January 28, 1894, page 1, column 1-7.
FIRST TROOP CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Troop Cavalry, and two companies of Naval Battalion, to proceed to Oakland by first boat on Sunday, July fifteenth inst. (6 A.M.) Broad Gauge. On arrival they will report to Lieutenant-Colonel Denis Geary. All the above forces will be fully armed and equipped for duty in the field, including camp equipment as far as practical. By order of Major General W. H. Dimond."

At eleven P.M. on July fourteenth Captain Blumenberg received orders from Colonel Smedberg to muster his troop and be ready to embark on the six A.M. ferry on the fifteenth as specified in the Special Order No. 19. Although the order was given on short notice the Captain had his company at the Ferry Building before six A.M. and boarded the ferry as ordered. The work accomplished by this company during the strike are ably described by Colonel William MacDonald, Colonel of the Second Artillery Regiment, who was in command of the troops in Alameda County. In his report to the Adjutant General on the activities of the National Guard under his command, he stated:

"While all the troops did most excellent service, I am pleased to call attention to that done by the First Troop Cavalry. They patrolled the lower portion of the city of Oakland, guarded the workmen to and from their work, and did duty upon the line, greatly to the relief of the infantry. By the excellent work done by them, they have thoroughly demonstrated the value of cavalry organizations to the National Guard."

A few months following the Railroad Strike the Board of Location and Organization recommended that the First Troop Cavalry be given the privilege of joining any company of their choosing or being mustered out of the National Guard. Apparently they refused to merge with another unit as the First Troop Cavalry was ordered mustered out of the service of the National Guard of California June 29, 1895.**

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