

# **History of the Battery A, Light Artillery (First California Guard), National Guard of California 1893-1895**

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763

BATTERY A, LIGHT ARTILLERY

Battery A, Light Artillery, unattached, (Formerly First California Guard)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized July 27, 1849\*

Reorganized 1863\*\*

Reconstituted June 1, 1881\*\*\*

Redesignated May 5, 1885†

Reconstituted July 1, 1893‡

Reconstituted July 23, 1895‡‡

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Hugh T. Sime, Captain	Sept. 13, 1893	_____
Royal A. Holcombe, First Lieut.	Sept. 13, 1893	_____

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\*The First California Guard organized July 27, 1849, was designated Light Battery A and attached to the First Infantry Regiment, May 8, 1861.  
Adjutant General Report 1861, page 90.

\*\*Light Battery A, unattached, formerly Light Battery A, First Infantry Regiment, detached in 1863, as an unattached company. Historical Records, Second Brigade 1861-1864, page 7.

\*\*\*Battery B, formerly Light Battery A, unattached, was attached to Second Artillery Regiment and designated as Battery B, June 1, 1881.  
Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 11, page 81, paragraph 6.

†Battery A, formerly Battery B, Second Artillery redesignated Battery A, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade, May 5, 1885.  
Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, Special Order No. 25, page 113.

‡Battery A detached from Second Artillery Regiment and designated Battery A, Light Artillery, unattached, July 1, 1893.  
Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 96.

‡‡Battery A Light Artillery reconstituted and designated Troop A Cavalry, July 23, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 11, page 76.

## Activities:

Battery A, Light Artillery was detached from the Second Artillery Regiment July 1, 1893, and designated as Battery A, Light Artillery. Battery A was the oldest militia companies in the State, having been organized in July 1849, as the First California Guard, and was the first company to be accepted into the California Militia under the Militia Law of 1850. No reason was given by the authorities for the change, but it was supposed that it was made due to the fact that it was the only company in the Second Artillery that was equipped as such, and probably had to drill separately from the rest of the regiment, which drilled as infantry.

Soon after its detachment on July 19, 1893, Battery A, Light Artillery participated in a parade that was held in honor of Vice President Stevenson, who visited San Francisco. It was a gala occasion and concluded with a review of the military companies in the parade.\* About six months later another parade was held, which was claimed to be the finest ever held in San Francisco up to that date. The occasion was the opening of the San Francisco Midwinter Fair on January 27, 1894. Battery A was one of the units in the celebration and drew their share of applause along the line of march.\*\*

During the Railroad Strike in July 1894, Lieutenant Royal A. Holcombe with a detachment of twelve men and a Gatling gun was ordered to Sacramento on July fourth of that year. Captain Hugh T. Sime, with all except twelve men left as armory guards, was ordered to Oakland with the Second Artillery Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Geary on July 13, 1894.

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- \*San Francisco Chronicle, July 20, 1893, page 12, columns 1-6.  
 \*\* San Francisco Chronicle, January 28, 1894, page 1, column 1-7.

BATTERY A, LIGHT ARTILLERY (continued)

Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade

Activities: (continued)

The twelve left on guard duty were relieved on July eighteenth, and reported to Oakland with the rest of the company. On the twenty-ninth of July, Battery A was ordered to San Francisco and dismissed on the following day.\*

The history of Battery A, Light Artillery covers a period of about two years as an unattached unit. On July 23, 1895, upon the recommendation of the Board of Location and Organization, Battery A, after forty-six years in service as an Artillery unit was discontinued, and was reorganized as a cavalry company to be known as Troop A.\*\*

\*First Infantry Battalion in the early spring of 1863, admitted its eighth company into its organization and applied for regular organization, which was accepted and the First Infantry Battalion re-designated as First Artillery Regiment. The following companies were approved at the following companies: Company A Union Guard, Company B Alameda Guard, Company C Oakland Guard, Company D San Francisco Guard, Company E Franklin Guard, Company F Santa Clara Guard, Company G San Jose Guard and Company H San Jose Guard. Colonel John G. ...

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\*For further details refer to the National Guard and the Railroad Strike, Adjutant General's Office.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 11, page 76.

\*\*\*Second Artillery Regiment, formerly Second Artillery Regiment organized August 23, 1866, was redesignated as the Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade, July 1, 1891. Adjutant General Report 1891-1892, General Order No. 11, page 81.

\*\*\*\*Second Artillery Regiment reorganized into two battalions, December 7, 1895. Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order No. 17, page 88.