

History of the Battery F, 2nd Artillery Regiment, National Guard of California 1881-1895

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BATTERY F

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

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Organized March 18, 1878

Reorganized June 1, 1881*

Consolidated and Redesignated December 9, 1895**

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Francis V. Bell, Captain (Resigned Mar. 20, 1883)	April 26, 1881	May 7, 1881***
James N. Pike, First Lieut.	June 28, 1881	June 30, 1881
William R. Quinlan, Captain (Resigned Jan. 15, 1884)	Mar. 27, 1883	Mar. 29, 1883
Thomas S. Taylor, First Lieut.	Mar. 27, 1883	Mar. 29, 1883
Thomas S. Taylor, Captain	Jan. 15, 1884	Feb. 1, 1884
Charles N. Stangroom, First Lieut.	Jan. 15, 1884	Feb. 4, 1884
Prescott Loring, Captain (Re-elected April 12, 1887) (Resigned Aug. 14, 1888)		
James A. White, Captain	Sept. 18, 1888	Oct. 16, 1888
James S. Maguire, First Lieut.	Dec. 4, 1888	Dec. 20, 1888
James A. White, Captain (Re-elected Oct. 7, 1890)		
Charles F. Kingsman, First Lieut.	July 7, 1890	Aug. 6, 1890

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*Battery F, formerly Company F, Second Infantry Regiment organized March 18, 1878, was redesignated Battery F, Second Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade, June 1, 1881.
Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 11, page 81.

**Battery F, Second Artillery Regiment, was consolidated with Battery D, Second Artillery Regiment and redesignated Company F, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, December 9, 1895.
Adjutant General Report 1895-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 86-88.

***Captain Francis V. Bell retained his former commission as of May 7, 1881, when he commanded Company F, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.

*Adjutant General Report 1880, Special Order No. 33, page 78.

**Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 180.

BATTERY F (Continued)

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Charles F. Kingsman, Captain	Sept. 16, 1892	Oct. 10, 1892
John A. Miller, First Lieut.	Sept. 16, 1892	Oct. 31, 1892
Charles A. Jenks, Captain	June 5, 1894	June 11, 1894
John A. Miller, First Lieut. (Re-elected Sept. 25, 1894)		
Charles A. Jenks, Captain (Resigned Oct. 1, 1895)		
John A. Miller, Captain	Oct. 29, 1895	Nov. 26, 1895
Wyzman M. Masury, First Lieut.	Oct. 29, 1895	Nov. 26, 1895

Activities:

When Company F, Second Infantry Regiment was redesignated as Battery F, Second Artillery Regiment on June 1, 1881, the unit was only about three years old, having been organized in March 1878. Soon after their organization the company became involved in a controversy with the National Guard headquarters about their uniforms. Captain Francis W. Bacon requested that the company be mustered out and also tendered his resignation. The Board of Location and Organization refused to muster the unit out, and ordered the Captain to change the company's uniform to conform to the regular prescribed uniform and present the bills for the same to the State for payment.* Whether that difficulty was the cause or not, the fact remains that Battery F never reached the efficiency that it should have attained.

At the annual target practice of 1886 and 1888 the company had the lowest score of any unit in the regiment. The highest score attained was during 1883 when they scored 23 per cent, which was the fourth highest in the regiment for that year. Their attendance at the annual muster was usually very good, their lowest percentage being in the year 1882 when they received 70.96 per cent. Their highest rating was in 1894 when the unit attained a percentage of 94 per cent. However, the inspection of 1894 gave the unit a rating of only fair in discipline, instruction, and appearance; the condition of property was good. The total rating was a percentage of 3.25 per cent out of a possible 6 per cent.** In 1892 their rating was at its best, when the unit was given a rating of excellent in discipline, very good in instruction and appearance, and excellent in condition of property.

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*Adjutant General Report 1880, Special Order No. 33, page 78.

**Adjutant General Report 1893-1894, page 180.

BATTERY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The first encampment that the Second Artillery Regiment took part in was the one held in 1885 from August fifteenth to twenty-third at Santa Cruz. Battery F received a large amount of help at the encampment, and Inspector Major Royal T. Frank, United States Artillery, commended the regiment as being very efficient and commanded by an able and experienced officer, Lieutenant-Colonel David Wilder.*

On August 17, 1889, Battery F with the Second Artillery Regiment went into camp at Monterey for eight days. The camp was designated Camp Cutting in honor of the Brigadier-General commanding the Second Brigade. The ground selected proved to be very dusty, and seriously interfered with the proper performance of duty. In spite of the poor condition of the site, tremendous good was accomplished.**

On June 19, 1891, the ex-members of Company F organized a unit known as the "Veterans of Battery F," Second Artillery. Five months later, on November twenty-first, Battery F was host to the veterans in the new regiment armory at Page and Gough Streets. It was a real veterans' day, as nearly all the charter members of the Company F, Second Infantry Regiment of 1878 got together and rehearsed the turbulent period of 1877. Company F was organized during the times of the so called "Kearney Riots," as the South Park Company of the Committee of Safety, commanded by Harry S. Craven, C. E., United States Navy, assisted by R. C. Hooker, an ex-Lieutenant of the Navy. With the passing of that crisis, Colonel W. R. Smedberg, commanding the Second Infantry Regiment, became interested in the company, and after securing recruits and uniforms succeeded in having the unit mustered into the National Guard. Apparently the company was unusually good at exhibition drills and "very good dancers at a military ball." The beautiful uniforms with the "stripes," that later on led to difficulties with National Guard authorities, seemed to attract the ladies. After passing in review before the present Company F, they all proceeded to the elegant quarters on the second floor. Colonel Burtis, the president of the veterans, in a few happily chosen words presented an ornate chandelier manufactured from his original design. He also presented each member with a souvenir that contained the history of the company from its inception. After a response from Captain James A. White, came an adjournment to the gymnasium hall where a banquet was served. Telegrams from Portland and a letter from ex-Captain Bacon, then living in New York City, added pleasant episodes to the evening.***

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4 *Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, page 124.

4 **Adjutant General Report 1890, page 11.

4 ***San Francisco Call, November 22, 1891, page 8, column 3.

BATTERY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Battery F with the Second Artillery Regiment took part in many parades in the nineties. On April 25, 1891, Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States visited San Francisco. It was the occasion for a great military parade, in which the Second Artillery Regiment took a prominent part.* About two years later July 19, 1893, Vice President Stevenson reached San Francisco on his tour of the country, and was received heartily by the people of the bay city. A military parade in which Battery F took part was the opening of the celebration, and was followed by a huge reception in the Mechanic's Pavilion. After the reception the troops passed in review before the honored guest.** On January 27, 1894, approximately six months later, a military and civic parade that was said to be the largest ever held in the city, marked the opening of the Midwinter Fair in San Francisco. Battery F joined in making it one of the best ever held.***

All the parades of Battery F were not those of festive character, for in the year of 1891 the unit was called upon to honor the death of three noted men, King Kalakaua of the Hawaiian Islands on January twenty-third, Senator George Hearst on March fifteenth and United States Minister to Japan, John F. Swift. All were military funerals participated in by the entire Second Brigade in San Francisco.

On July 13, 1894, Battery F, with five other units of the Second Artillery, occupied and held the Southern Pacific Railroad yards at West Oakland. For twelve days the unit helped patrol and preserve order at the railroad yards. On June thirtieth Battery F and the other National Guardsmen were ordered to San Francisco and relieved from duty.****

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*San Francisco Chronicle, April 26, 1891, page 11, columns 1-7.

**San Francisco Chronicle, July 20, 1893, page 12, columns 1-6.

***San Francisco Chronicle, January 28, 1894, page 1, columns 1-7.

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

Adjutant General Report 1893-1896, General Order Nos. 17, 18, pages 26-28.

BATTERY F (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

In the reorganization of the National Guard one year later, December 7, 1895, Battery F and Battery D, Second Artillery were consolidated and redesignated Company M, Sixth Battalion. The First, Third and Fifth Infantry and Second Artillery Regiment, were organized into seven battalion units of four companies each. The battalion unit was to comply with the United States Army plan of organization. Two days later, December ninth the battalions were organized into regiments. The Fourth, Fifth and the Sixth Battalion, to which Company F belonged was organized into the First Infantry Regiment, making it a twelve company regiment. Under this plan Company F, Sixth Battalion became Company F, First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade.*

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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, Part 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, Part 1, page 81.

***Battery G consolidated with Battery D and redesignated as Company M, First Infantry Regiment, December 7, 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,

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