

History of the Governor's Guard Cadet Corps, 1st Artillery Regiment, National Guard of California 1887-1889

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GOVERNOR'S GUARD CADET CORPS

Governor's Guard Cadet Corps, First Artillery Regiment, Fourth Brigade
Reference: Adjutant General's Files
Location: Sacramento, Sacramento County
Organized July 1, 1887*
Mustered out March 31, 1889**

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
John H. Wiseman, Captain	July 1, 1887	July 22, 1887
Jesse R. May, First Lieut.	July 1, 1887	July 22, 1887

Activities:

The Governor's Guard had been mustered in as a provisional company of the National Guard and attached to the First Artillery Regiment, June 25, 1880. The recruits were of the best families in the city and only boys with high principles were accepted for the service. The unit was not recognized as a part of the Guard until July 1, 1887, when Adjutant General George B. Cosby issued a Special Order designating the unit as part of the Cadet Corps.*** At the time of enlistment the young men were given to understand that when of age they would be required to become a member of one of the Regular companies. A year later in 1888 Brigadier-General T. W. Sheehan, commander of the Fourth Brigade, highly commended the efficiency achieved by this group, bearing out the wisdom of enlisting youths of good morale. The uniforms had been supplied through the efforts of a public spirited committee of citizens appointed for that purpose. The State furnished the arms consisting of sixty stand of Springfield rifles, caliber forty-five and sixty bayonets.

The first activity of the corps after its mustering into the Guard service was the encampment of the First Artillery Regiment at Santa Cruz, for a period of eight days in August 1887. The regiment was quartered beside several companies of Regular troops of the United States Army, under command of Colonel Shafter who imparted much useful information to the Cadets and other companies of the First Artillery Regiment. The following year the Cadet Corps attended their last outing of this nature at Camp Shafter so named for the commander of the First Infantry, United States Regulars, before being mustered out service. These Camps of

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*Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, Special Order No. 56, page 263.

**Adjutant General Report 1890, page 4.

***Adjutant General Report 1887, Special Order No. 56, page 263.

Activities: (Continued)

Instruction gave new life and vigor to the men and had an enlivening affect upon the entire command.

The corps averaged 24.71 per cent at their first target practice in 1887, scoring 791 points out of a possible 3200. Fourteen of the members received the bronze bar attached to a medal as their award for being classed as "Marksman," having made a score of 50 per cent or over.

Drills were held regularly by the Cadets and their command also participated in regimental activities during their two years of service. These activities consisted of parading on the days required by law, target practice and their attendance at Brigade reviews.

The Legislature of 1889 enacted a law requiring the members of the Cadet Corps throughout the State to attend some public school. This action necessitated the mustering out of three Cadet Corps attached to different commands. Therefore, the Cadet Corps of the First Artillery Regiment was mustered out for non-compliance with the law March 31, 1889.

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