

History of the San Francisco Cadets, California Militia National Guard of California 1863-1880

This history was completed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in conjunction with the California National Guard and the California State Library.

Digitized by the History Office, Camp San Luis Obispo, 16 January 2015

SAN FRANCISCO CADETS

San Francisco Cadets, Company ^HK, First Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 6, File 7
 Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County
 Mustered in August 7, 1863
 Mustered out _____

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
C. E. S. McDonald, Captain	Aug. 7, 1863	Aug. 19, 1863
George Wood, First Lieut. (Resigned Mar. 21, 1864)	Aug. 7, 1863	Aug. 19, 1863
Robert C. Lamar, First Lieut. (Resigned Nov. 21, 1864)	Mar. 21, 1864	April 9, 1864
C. E. S. McDonald, Captain (Re-elected Aug. 3, 1864)	_____	_____
George Bigley, First Lieut.	Nov. 21, 1864	April 17, 1865
C. E. S. McDonald, Captain (Re-elected Aug. 14, 1865)	_____	_____
George Bigley, First Lieut. (Re-elected Aug. 14, 1865)	_____	_____
C. E. S. McDonald, Captain (Re-elected Sept. 8, 1866)	_____	_____
George Bigley, First Lieut. (Re-elected Sept. 8, 1866)	_____	_____
C. E. S. McDonald, Captain (Re-elected Oct. 12, 1868)	_____	_____
Ansel C. Robinson, First Lieut.	Oct. 12, 1868	Nov. 11, 1868
C. E. S. McDonald, Captain (Re-elected Oct. 19, 1870)	_____	_____
Ansel C. Robinson, First Lieut. (Re-elected Oct. 19, 1870) (Resigned May 1, 1871)	_____	_____
William D. Waters, First Lieut. (Term expired May 1873)	May 4, 1871	June 6, 1871
C. E. S. McDonald, Captain (Re-elected Nov. 13, 1872) (Resigned Nov. 14, 1874)	_____	_____
George Bigley, First Lieut.	June 4, 1873	July 9, 1873
George Bigley, Captain	Dec. 30, 1874	Jan. 7, 1875
A. J. Bennett, First Lieut.	Dec. 30, 1874	Jan. 7, 1875

*Adjutant General Report 1863-1867, page 106.

**Adjutant General Report 1877-1879, page 73.

SAN FRANCISCO CADETS

Commanding Officers (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
George Bigley, Captain (Re-elected Jan. 12, 1877)		
William E. Cunningham, First Lieut. (Resigned Nov. 8, 1877)	Jan. 12, 1877	Feb. 3, 1877
Alexander A. Cook, First Lieut. (Resigned June 6, 1878)	Dec. 28, 1877	Jan. 8, 1878
George Bigley, Captain (Re-elected Jan. 10, 1879)		
Ansel C. Robinson, First Lieut. (Resigned April 30, 1879)	June 21, 1878	July 2, 1878
William D. Waters, First Lieut.	June 27, 1879	July 25, 1879

Activities:

This company was organized and mustered into the State Military service in August 1863, with a membership of fifty-six young men and was designated as the San Francisco Cadets in honor of the city of San Francisco. Captain C. E. S. McDonald and Lieutenant George Wood were elected commanding officers. A Bond was posted for three thousand dollars, and the company received their arms and equipment late in November of 1863. The San Francisco Cadets was recognized as Company K, First Artillery Regiment until the year of 1864, when they were designated as Company H, Second Infantry, Second Brigade.* This unit showed an increase in attendance from the time they were organized. In fact, the entire Second Infantry showed a steady gain in attendance, while there was a falling off in the other organizations, perhaps owing to "local causes on the nights of inspection."**

This company was very active in drills and parades, encampments and target practices. In a letter dated September 16, 1864, to George S. Evans from C. E. S. McDonald, he stated that the San Francisco Cadets were second to none in drill, and they were the largest company in the Brigade.

The Second Brigade of which the San Francisco Cadets was a unit paraded for the reception of the Gatling Guns delivered in the Mechanics Pavilion on the ninth of December, 1875 and then again on February 22, 1877, in honor of Washington's Birthday, which was a remarkable and creditable display. Also the Brigade paraded for the reception of Major General Irwin McDowell, United States Army commanding Military Division of the Pacific. In 1876

*Adjutant General Report 1875-1876, page 72.

*Adjutant General Report 1865-1867, page 106.

**Adjutant General Report 1877-1879, page 73.

SAN FRANCISCO CADETS (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

at the State Prison fire at San Quentin, detailed portions of the command were sent to the scene, each supplied with forty rounds of ammunition, but aside from standing guard at the prison one night, the San Francisco Cadets were not called on for further services.*

The Brigade was under arms on October 20, 1876, in anticipation of a riot by reason of meetings called to denounce the Chinese, and threats of attacks on the Chinese quarters. However, nothing serious developed and the troops were dismissed.**

This is the last important activity recorded of the San Francisco Cadets, other than encampments, target practices, drills and parades of annual and special occasions. In 1880 Adjutant General Backus issued an order that in all future official correspondence companies would be recognized only by company letters, and as the San Francisco Cadets was one of the units to be reorganized it was redesignated, and for additional information of this company refer to Company H, Second Infantry, Second Brigade.***

Activities:

The Alvarado Guard was organized at Alvarado, Alameda County on the nineteenth of August 1863, pursuant to a petition bearing the signatures of fifty-three citizens, residents of said county, who were subject to military duty. The petition was presented to the Honorable Noble Hamilton, Judge, and the company was mustered into the service of the State on the date of its organization and became a unit of the State Militia, Second Brigade, First Regiment of Infantry. On October 18, 1866, the company was reorganized under the same command and mustered in as Company F, Fifth Infantry Battalion, Second Brigade, California National Guard, in conformity with the new military regulations of that year.

The Alvarado Guard was an active unit from the day of its organization, taking part in parades and patriotic demonstrations and its members were justly proud of their appearance and proficiency in military tactics. The membership of the company increased gradually until in June 1867 there were sixty-eight names on the muster roll. About this time considerable dissatisfaction was expressed by the officers and members of the company because of their inability to secure new uniforms and other essential equipment. On June 12, 1868, in compliance with Special Order No. 20 the arms and equipment of the Alvarado Guard were turned over to the State and the company was mustered out of the State Service.*

*Adjutant General Report 1875-1877, page 72.

**Adjutant General Report 1875-1877, page 73.

***Adjutant General Report 1880, Special Order No. 12, page 63.