

History of the San Francisco Fusileers, National Guard of California 1871-1880

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SAN FRANCISCO FUSILEERS (Continued)

San Francisco Fusileers, Company C, Second Infantry Regiment,
Second Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 7, File 7
Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County
Mustered in November 27, 1871
Mustered out _____

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
George Cantus, Captain	Nov. 27, 1871	Nov. 27, 1871
Ludwig Siebe, First Lieut.	Nov. 27, 1871	Nov. 27, 1871
Ludwig Siebe, Captain	Jan. 8, 1877	Jan. 17, 1877
H. D. Naber, First Lieut.	Jan. 8, 1877	_____
Ludwig Siebe, Captain (Re-elected 1879) (Retired Oct. 19, 1880)	_____	_____
Herman Wobber, Captain	Nov. 8, 1880	Nov. 22, 1880
David Schoefeld, First Lieut.	Apr. 7, 1879	May 9, 1879

Activities:

On November 6, 1871, Adjutant General Thomas Cazneau received a petition, signed by sixty-seven citizens of San Francisco, who requested to be mustered into the National Guard as Company C, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade. The petitioners were all German citizens of San Francisco, and their petition was heartily endorsed by Colonel John W. McKenzie of the Second Infantry Regiment. Special Order No. 39, dated November 13, 1871, provided for the mustering in of the San Francisco Fusileers which was accomplished on November twenty-seventh. George Cantus was elected Captain of the new company and Ludwig Siebe was selected as First Lieutenant.

On January 6, 1872, Captain Cantus filed a requisition for a stand of sixty United States Springfield muskets complete, and a like number of uniforms. The date of the receipt of the arms is not available, but on May twenty-seventh of the same year another requisition for twenty more muskets was filed with the Adjutant General and on June twelfth the company received the additional arms. The Captain stated he had ninety-five men in his company at that time. The annual return of the National Guard for 1874, shows a membership of one hundred and four men. The only other company to equal the unit's

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SAN FRANCISCO FUSILEERS (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

membership was Summer Light Guard, Company E, of the First Infantry Regiment which also had one hundred and four members.*

The news of the treacherous assassination of Brigadier General Edward R. S. Canby, of the United States Army commanding the Department of Columbia, by the Modoc Chief Jack, reached San Francisco on April 13, 1873, and caused a feeling of grief and indignation. This was particularly felt by the United States Army, where General Canby was held in great esteem and affection, and utterances of an earnest desire to adequately punish the Modoc tribe were frequently heard. An official report of the massacre was sent to the President by Adjutant General Edward D. Townsend, resulting in General Wm. Sherman issuing the following announcement and order:

"It again becomes the sad duty of the General to announce to the army the death of one of our most illustrious and most honored comrades, when Brigadier General Edward R. S. Canby, commanding the Department of Columbia, was on Friday last April eleventh shot dead by the Modoc Chief Jack, while he was endeavouring to mediate for the removal of the Modocs from their present rocky fastness on the northern border of California, to a reservation where the tribe could be maintained and protected by the civil agents of the government. That such a life should have been sacrificed in such cause will ever be a source of regret, yet the general trusts that all good soldiers will be consoled in knowing that General Canby lost his life on duty and in the execution of his office, for he had been especially chosen and appointed for this delicate and dangerous trust by reason of his well known patience and forbearance. He had already completed peace negotiations, and with three commissioners proceeded to attend what was supposed to be a friendly and peaceful council. The General and one of the commissioners were shot dead, another mortally wounded, but the third escaped unhurt."**

The demonstration on Wednesday, May fourteenth, attending the departure of the remains of General Canby for the East, was a splendid affair, and San Francisco worthily honored the dis-

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*Adjutant General Report, 1874, page 32.

**San Francisco Bulletin, April 14, 1873, page 1, column 2.

SAN FRANCISCO FUSILEERS (Continued)

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Activities: (continued)

tinguished dead. In consequence of the absence of the regular Federal troops at the scene of the Indian troubles, with the exception of small detachments assigned to guard duty at the forts, the duty of superintending the funeral arrangements was conferred upon General John Hewston Jr., commanding the Second Brigade of the National Guard. At five o'clock in the evening the military column formed on New Montgomery Street and marched to the military Headquarters at the corner of Stockton and O'Farrell Streets, where the body of General Canby had been lying in State. General John M. Scofield, United States Army and Staff, and a large number of officers of the Army and Navy were there collected, awaiting the arrival of the grand escort. At half past five the military column forming the funeral procession moved from the Headquarters in the following order: General Hewston and Staff; Third Regiment National Guard, Colonel Wason commanding; French Zouaves, National Cadets, Second Regiment National Guard (to which the Fusileers belonged) Colonel McComb commanding; First California Guard (Light Battery), First Regiment National Guard of California, Lieutenant Colonel Granniss commanding; and a special guard of twenty men from the Third Regiment, Captain Quinn, Officer of the Day, and Lieutenant Casey in command. The military numbered a thousand men, and among the distinguished civilians who attended were Governor Newton Booth of California and Governor G. L. Woods of Utah. The line of march was from Stockton to Market Street, thence through Montgomery, California, and Davis streets to the wharf of the Central Pacific Ferry. On reaching that point the militia regiments formed in line on the West side of the street, and proceeded by the special guard and followed by the officers and officials, the hearse was driven on board the "El Capitan". The escort accompanied the remains across the Bay, where they were taken in charge by the Oakland Guard. Thursday they departed Eastward under charge of Major Hawkins, Lieutenant Cariare and Lieutenant Anderson.*

On October 20, 1876, the San Francisco Fusileers with the Second Brigade were called to their armories in anticipation of trouble, when a mass meeting was called by labor leaders to denounce the Chinese Coolie laborers. However, no act was committed that called for action by the National Guard, and they were dismissed the next day. Again in November the agitation against the Chinese was renewed and threats were made that the arms of the State would be seized. This resulted in the calling of the guard companies to protect the

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*Adjutant General Report, 1877-1878, page 76.

**Adjutant General Report, 1880, page 84.

*San Francisco Bulletin, May 15, 1873, page 1, column 1.

STOCKTON LOUAVE GUARD
SAN FRANCISCO FUSILEERS (Continued)

Stockton Louave Guard, (Stockton Guard) unattached, Third Brigade
Activities: (Continued)

armories, and also to hold themselves in readiness for any riotous demonstration. For several consecutive nights anti-Chinese sympathizers invaded "Little China" and beat and intimidated the Chinese, sometimes burning washhouses and other places of business belonging to the Orientals. The anti-Chinese feeling was caused by the railroadmen and mine owners who brought into this country large numbers of Coolie labor, and placed them in competition with white labor. Although the rioters committed acts of lawlessness no arrests were made. The National Guard was not called upon to restore order until the evening of October twenty-ninth, although the troops were under arms and ready to answer any call made upon them. On October thirty-first, the militia companies were disbanded. Again in January of the following year the National Guard was called out in anticipation of riotous assemblages.*

When General Ulysses Grant returned to the United States in 1880, after having been absent about two years on a world tour, the entire Brigade paraded in his honor. On September ninth of that year, one of the best showings ever made by the Second Brigade was when President Hayes made a visit to San Francisco, and they paraded at the reception. The splendid showing led to personal compliments for Brigadier General John McComb by the President, Major General Irvin McDowell and General Wm. Sherman. On August 23, 1880, the entire Brigade was called to arms, when the shooting of Mr. Kalloch stirred up the citizens to the point of mob violence, and the troops were called to surround the jail. On the occasions of threatening violence to prisoners, or riotous conduct on the part of ill-advised citizens, it was necessary that the arms of the troops be guarded against seizure by the mob. On this occasion the arms in the armories of companies in the outlying districts were brought into the armories centrally located, where special guard duty was held in order to keep the arms from the people.**

In 1880, Adjutant General Backus issued an Order that after March twenty-sixth of that year, all official correspondence of companies would be recognized by company letters only. Under this Order the San Francisco Fusileers was designated as Company C, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade, to which designation refer for further activities of the unit.

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*Adjutant General Report, 1877-1879, page 76.

**Adjutant General Report, 1880, page 84.