

**BATTERY A FIELD  
ARTILLERY, M.  
V. M., 1895-1905**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649071807

Battery a Field Artillery, M. V. M., 1895-1905 by Jr. Sherburne

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JR. SHERBURNE**

**BATTERY A FIELD  
ARTILLERY, M.  
V. M., 1895-1905**



**BATTERY A**  
**FIELD ARTILLERY**  
**M. V. M.**

## PREFACE

THIS record of the Boston Battery of Field Artillery has been prepared in the hope that the many men who have given their time and energy to the organization in the past may be interested to recall their days of service, and in the hope that the failures and successes of these first ten years may be instructive and, perhaps, inspiring to the men who are going to continue the record of the Battery in the future.

The editor is indebted to Captain Arthur Blake for a part of the story of the first camp; to the late Nathan G. Horton for the story of the march from Sandwich to Boston in 1900; and to Sergeant Roger D. Swaim for the account of the camp at Lakeville in 1902. Acknowledgment is also due to General Samuel D. Parker, Colonel Ormond F. Nims, Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. R. Peabody, the late Major Edward J. Jones, Captain Howard L. Rogers, Sergeant R. H. Weld, Sergeant Fulton Blake, and to many other past and present members of the Battery for their interest, information, and advice.

The facts and figures have been taken, so far as possible, from the records of the Battery, from the official reports upon it, and from the contemporaneous accounts published in the daily papers.

The editor has tried neither to minimize the criticism nor to magnify the praise bestowed upon the Battery from time to time. That many items of interest are omitted is inevitable, and that many facts are set down which might better have been left out is probable. But the book is not written with any idea that it will be a work of literature, and if it serves to keep alive the records and to bring the old men and the new men into closer relations, it will more than fulfil its purpose.

J. H. SHERBURNE, Jr.

**BATTERY A**  
**FIELD ARTILLERY**  
**M. V. M.**



## CHAPTER I

1853-1895

### THE PREDECESSORS OF THE PRESENT BATTERY

THE order of April 24, 1895, disbanding Captain Follett's battery and accepting in its place Captain Ewing's battery, directed that the new battery, "as direct successor of the battery disbanded, will continue the service record of that organization." It seems fitting therefore that this work, although intended primarily as the story of the reorganized Battery, should contain a short history of the Battery from its organization in 1862, the date when its official life began, and of its predecessor, the Boston Light Artillery Company, as it was called, organized in 1853.

Field or light artillery, as it is to-day, is comparatively modern in its development. The United States had a regiment of light artillery in service during the War of 1812, but it appears to have been such in name only, and was discontinued at the close of that war. In 1821 Congress passed an act providing for the organization and training of field batteries, but none were organized until 1838. Then four companies -- one from each artillery regiment -- were detached and trained in mounted work. These did good service in the Mexican War, and

[ 1853-1895

the military authorities began to realize the importance of the arm. About 1852 an effort was made to interest the militia in this branch of the service, and the army batteries were sent to many cities to give exhibition drills, one of them coming to Boston in 1853 and drilling on the Common.

The militia of Massachusetts was larger then than now, comprising a little over seven thousand men. It was divided into three divisions, each commanded by a major-general, and into six brigades commanded by brigadier-generals; there were twelve regiments of infantry, or so-called artillery, which drilled and ranked as infantry, many independent companies, some cavalry, but no artillery practised in handling or maneuvering field or heavy guns. This battery drill by the army battery was a great innovation to the militia and aroused great enthusiasm. A battery was at once organized by a number of Boston men headed by Major Moses G. Cobb, and on November 17, 1853, was accepted by the Governor. It was one of the first militia batteries organized in this country.

There was apparently considerable delay about the issue of necessary equipment, for the Battery did not receive its six brass six-pounders until June 17, 1854. In August of the same year the Battery went to the annual three-day encampment of the First Brigade, First Division, at Quincy, and, to quote from the adjutant-general's report, "the proficiency which it has made and the rapidity with which it executes the various movements, and the drill, as per

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9