

BHM 2019 021 28

Head Quarters

Department of the Pacific

San Francisco, January 16 – 1854

Sir,

Your letters of the 12th & 13th instant have been received.

The General Commanding was informed by an Agent employed for the purpose, that the cannon referred to were at the State prison on the day of the sailing of the expedition against Lower California, and he thinks the report heard by you cannot be true.

The General thinks that existing laws will provide for the possession by the U.S. of the water front of the reserve, but he will examine the subject. I am, Sir, Very Respectfully

Yr. Ob Servt

E.D. Townsend

Asst. Adjt. Genl.

Capt C.P. Stone

U.S. Ordnance

Benicia

Cala

----- biography -----

Edward Davis Townsend (August 22, 1817 – May 10, 1893) was Adjutant General of the United States Army from 1869 to 1880.

The son of David S. & Eliza (Gerry) Townsend and grandson of Vice President Elbridge Gerry, Townsend was educated at Boston's Latin School before graduating from the United States Military Academy in 1837. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Second U. S. Artillery and served as that regiment's adjutant and participating in the Second Seminole War and the relocation of the Cherokee Nation. In 1846 he was transferred to the Adjutant General's Corps and assigned to duty in Washington, D.C. He served on the Pacific coast from 1851 to 1856, after which he returned to Washington for the remainder of his career. In February 1869 he was promoted to brigadier general and became adjutant

general. Townsend retired in 1880. He died in Washington in 1893 after an accidental shock from a cable car and is buried at Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

