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COLUSA GUARD

Colusa Guard, unattached, Fifth Brigade

Reference: (no material on file in Adjutant General's Office)

Location: Colusa, Colusa County

Organized October 10, 1887

Redesignated February 15, 1890\*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Burr H. Mitchell, Captain	Oct. 10, 1887	Nov. 17, 1887**
Frank Wilkins, First Lieut.	Oct. 10, 1887	Nov. 17, 1887**

Activities:

During the year of 1887, the National Guard of California was granted an increase of ten new companies which were to be selected from various sections of the State. Under this enactment the provisional company at Colusa designated as Colusa Guard, was admitted to the National Guard on October 10, 1887, and designated as Colusa Guard, unattached, Fifth Brigade.\*\*\*

As a provisional company prior to its attachment to the National Guard, the Colusa Guard was called into active service in connection with the lynching of Hong Di, a Chinese. A mob of two hundred citizens threatened to storm the jail at Colusa where the prisoner was held, until transferred to prison to serve a life sentence. The citizens disagreed with the court in sentencing the prisoner to a life term in prison. They believed he should be hung as he had murdered Mrs. Billiou, who was a resident of Colusa. The Colusa Guard was called into service at this critical time. The troops were assembled in front of the

The only recorded activity that the Colusa Guard participated in was the general encampment held during 1889, in which every organization of the National Guard was present. The Colusa Guard, accompanied by the Chico Guard, encamped at Siskiyou, Siskiyou County from August eleven to

\*Colusa Guard, unattached, Fifth Brigade, redesignated Company B, Eighth Infantry Battalion, February 15, 1890.  
Adjutant General Report 1890, page 4.

\*\*It is assumed that Captain Mitchell and Lieutenant Burr retained their commissions until 1890, as there was no election held during 1889.

\*\*\*The San Francisco Call, December 20, 1887, page 3, column 1.

COLUSA GUARD (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

jail when it was discovered their firearms were unfit for use and had been condemned. Aside from this, they had but thirty cartridges; and to face an armed mob of two hundred citizens under these conditions would mean a decided loss to the mere handful of Guardsmen. Therefore, the sheriff was forced to release the Colusa Guard and give way to the mob. The company stood helplessly by and witnessed the gruesome affair which could have been prevented had the men been properly supplied with arms and cartridges. This lack of supply was due to the fact the Colusa Guard did not receive any money from the State until after they were admitted to the National Guard.

Following this disgraceful affair the Colusa Guard was organized as a company of the National Guard on October 10, 1887, and Captain B. H. Mitchell was given command. The Captain had seen two years of previous service with a company of academy cadets and was determined to build up a unit that would command the attention of other companies. The members were regular at attending their weekly drills as reports show but very few absentees.

The first issuance of firearms from the State was during February of 1888. The allotment provided for ten new and fifty old rifles as there was an enrollment of sixty-eight men.\* The company's percentage of attendance at drills during the year of 1888 was 74%, with an average membership of sixty-three. Although the Colusa Guard was a comparatively new company, it ranked high in comparison to the remaining companies of the Fifth Brigade.

The only recorded activity that the Colusa Guard participated in was the general encampment held during 1889, in which every organization of the National Guard was present. The Colusa Guard, accompanied by the Chico Guard, encamped at Sisson, Siskiyou County from August eleventh to eighteenth. The camp was designated as Camp Montgomery in honor of General J. B. Montgomery, commanding the Fifth Brigade.

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\*Adjutant General Report 1890, page 4.

\*Adjutant General Report 1887-1888, page 228.

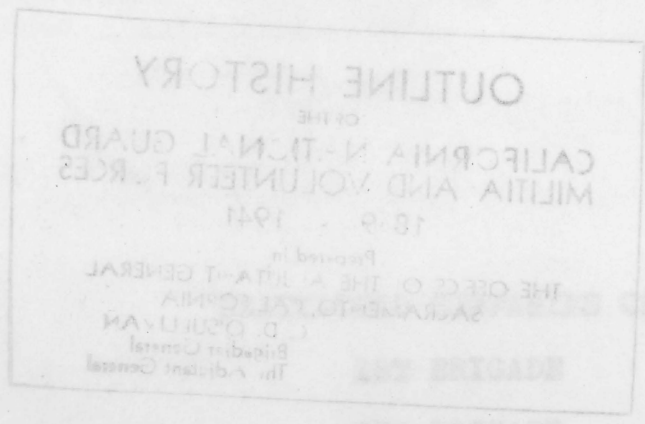
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COLUSA GUARD (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The Colusa Guard was in existence as an unattached company but a short period when a new battalion was formed in the Fifth Brigade. The company was on February 15, 1890, attached to the battalion and redesignated as Company B, Eighth Infantry Battalion, Fifth Brigade.\*



- 1ST BRIGADE
- 2ND BRIGADE
- 3RD BRIGADE
- 4TH BRIGADE
- 5TH BRIGADE

- SAN BERNARDINO CAVALRY, UNATTACHED
- EAGLE CORPS.
- SAN DIEGO GUARDS.
- FIRST TROOP CAVALRY.
- OAKLAND LIGHT CAVALRY
- FORSYTH GUARD.
- COLUSA GUARD.

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\*Adjutant General Report 1890, page 4.