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EAGLE CORPS *

activities: (continued)
This company was quite popular in Los Angeles and by December
Eagle Corps, Unattached, First Brigade

Reference: First Brigade papers on file Adjutant General's Office.

Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Mustered in June 9, 1881

Redesignated July 22, 1885*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William Russell, Captain	June 9, 1881	July 7, 1881
H. R. Brown, First Lieut.	June 9, 1881	July 7, 1881
William Russell, Captain (Reelected June 14, 1883)		
Charles Ketler, First Lieut.	June 14, 1883	July 26, 1883

activities:

On May 10, 1881 Adjutant General Samuel Backus received the following Petition:

"We the undersigned residents of the County of Los Angeles, subject to military duty and being desirous of organizing a volunteer company of infantry attached to the National Guard of California, respectfully request that permission be granted to organize said company and that the unit be accepted by the Board of Location and Organization."

In response to the request General Backus issued Special Order No. 26 which authorized William Russell of Los Angeles to supervise the organization of the unit. In recruiting members for the company it was especially directed that only such men be enlisted that give evidence of desiring to become useful members of the National Guard of California. William Russell was ordered to report within five days after the election of officers for the company his actions to Brigade Headquarters. On June 9, 1881 in the City of Los Angeles the company designated and known as the Eagle Corps was duly organized and mustered into State service as an unattached company of the First Brigade, filling the vacancy left by the mustering out of the Los Angeles Guard. The Eagle Corps was composed of fifty-four men under the able leadership of Captain Russell.

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*Eagle Corps redesignated Company A Seventh Infantry Battalion July 22, 1885.

Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, General Orders No. 18, page 70.

Activities: (continued)

This company was quite popular in Los Angeles and by December the membership had increased to 130 men, but due to the added responsibility on the officers the company was often delinquent in filing their reports of target practice and drills with Headquarters. On January 3, 1882, General Order No. 1 was issued which stated, "the return of the Eagle Corps did not reach Headquarters by December twentieth as required. For this delinquency the demand of quarterly allowance will be withheld from the Board of Military Auditors for the period of sixty days."*

Upon the resignation of General Banning in June 1882, Captain Russell was offered the commission of Brigadier General commanding the First Brigade. Captain Russell refused the offer, however, for fear that his leaving would seriously affect the interests of the Eagle Corps.

The attendance of the members of the company to their drills and parades had greatly increased by the first part of 1884. The monthly parade report for May showed that the Eagle Corps paraded with ninety-seven men, the highest number of all companies, reflecting great credit upon the morale and patriotism of the company.**

On July 22, 1885 the Eagle Corps and the San Diego City Guard, formed the nucleus for the newly organized Seventh Infantry Battalion, the Eagle Corps being designated as Company A. For additional information refer to Company A, Seventh Infantry Battalion, First Brigade.***

also... Douglas Gunn, Captain, and Martin Leay, First Lieutenant. These officers' qualifications were favorably passed upon by the Brigade Examining Board after an exhaustive examination, the Captain alone being before the Board for three hours during which he was worked well... squad, company, and battalion exercises. These officers received their commissions and the members of the San Diego City Guard were congratulated for their wise selection. Captain Gunn was an old National Guardsman, having served over seven consecutive years as an active member

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*Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, page 90. *Gen. Ord. No. 1 par. 2*

**Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, page 91.

***Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, page 70.