

History of the Ellis Guard, California Militia 1863-1866

This history was completed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in conjunction with the California National Guard and the California State Library.

Digitized by the History Office, Camp San Luis Obispo, 16 January 2015

ELLIS GUARD

Ellis Guard, Company C, Sixth Infantry Regiment, (German Battalion)
Second Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 7, File 2 (date not appearing)
Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County (ever, that the
Mustered in June 23, 1863 (at the mustering out officer was
Mustered out 1866 (roll of the members.**)

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Bernard Schroeder, Captain (Resigned Jan. 5, 1864)	June 23, 1863	July 9, 1863
Fred Michaelis, First Lieut.	June 23, 1863	July 9, 1863
Frederick Michaelis, Captain	Mar. 9, 1864	April 9, 1864
Louis Schulze, First Lieut.	Mar. 9, 1864	April 9, 1864
Frederick Michaelis, Captain (Re-elected July 6, 1864)	_____	_____
Louis Schulze, First Lieut. (Re-elected July 6, 1864) (Resigned Oct. 24, 1864)	_____	_____
Frederick Michaelis, Captain (Re-elected July 19, 1865)	_____	_____
Valentine Schuleman, First Lieut. (Resigned Feb. 2, 1865)	Oct. 29, 1864	Nov. 22, 1864
Julius Thiergach, First Lieut.	Feb. 2, 1865	Oct. 20, 1865

Activities:

The Ellis Guard, composed of fifty-five citizens of German extraction was organized in San Francisco and mustered into the service of the State as a unit of the First Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade on June 23, 1863. Arms and equipment were received in August of the same year. The unit became active in drill and parade as the members provided their own uniforms. The Ellis Guard attended the Second Brigade Encampment at Camp Allen, Alameda County, in October of that year and made a creditable but not a brilliant showing. In February 1864, the company was transferred to the Second (German) Infantry Battalion and in 1865 was again transferred to the Sixth Regiment of Infantry, Second Brigade. The activities of the company during these years according to the records were limited to routine work, and the organization was held intact until 1866. The act of the State Legislature approved April 2, 1866, requiring a reorganization of the State Military forces resulted in the mustering out of

ELLIS GUARD

ELLIS GUARD (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

the Ellis Guard during that year, the exact date not appearing on record.* The record does give evidence, however, that the company was so demoralized that the mustering out officer was unable to procure a muster out roll of the members.**

Commanding Officers			
Name	Rank	Commission	Commission
Cornelius Cole, Captain	-oOo-	June 23, 1863	July 9, 1863
Albert Jones, First Lieut.		June 23, 1863	July 9, 1863
Orval Root, Captain		Nov. 9, 1863	Nov. 23, 1863
George Anthony, First Lieut.		Nov. 9, 1863	Nov. 23, 1863
Orval Root, Captain (Re-elected Feb. 11, 1865)			
Jacob Parsons, First Lieut.		Feb. 11, 1865	Feb. 28, 1865

Activities:

The Santa Cruz Cavalry Company was organized at a meeting held in the Court House, Santa Cruz, June 23, 1863, and the following officers were elected: Cornelius Cole, Captain; Albert Jones, First Lieutenant; Henry Jenkins, Senior Second Lieutenant; and Joseph W. Scott as Junior Second Lieutenant. Sixty-one persons joined the organization, and the papers were sent to Brigadier-General John S. Ellis, of the Second Brigade, for approval, July 6, 1863, and were sanctioned the following day with rank of officers-elect taking effect June 23, 1863.

Following is an illustration of the procedure adopted in forming military companies in the early days.

*The first step taken at organization of Santa Cruz Cavalry was made September 7, 1861, by application of a sufficient number of citizens, fifty-eight, who signed a call for the organization of a Volunteer Company of Cavalry in Santa Cruz County and filed it

*Adjutant General Report 1865-1867, page 91.

**Historical Record, Second Brigade, 1861-1868, page 137, Adjutant General's Office.

**Proceedings of Organization dated September 19, 20, 1861. This seems to be an example of the procedure as required by California State Law for the organization of Military Companies.