

History of the Germania Guard, California Militia 1864-1866

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GERMANIA GUARD

Germania Guard, Company G, Second Infantry Regiment, German Battalion,
Second Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 7, File 1
Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County
Mustered in March 25, 1864
Mustered out July 24, 1866

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Henry C. Mund, Captain	Mar. 25, 1864	April 9, 1864
Hugo Herzer, First Lieut.	Mar. 25, 1864	April 9, 1864
Henry C. Mund, Captain (Re-elected April 7, 1865)	_____	_____
Hugo Herzer, First Lieut. (Re-elected April 7, 1865)	_____	_____

Activities:

Peter Sesser, Major of the Second German Battalion was appointed by the Honorable Samuel Cowles, Judge of San Francisco County, to superintend the organization and election of an independent military unit, as requested by the citizens of the city and county of San Francisco. After a notice had appeared in the local newspaper, for ten days the members met at Turn Verin Hall on Bush Street, San Francisco, on March 25, 1864, when the following officers were elected, Henry C. Mund, Captain and Hugo Herzer, First Lieutenant. The corps was named Germania Guard and designated as Company G, Second Infantry Regiment (German Battalion) Second Brigade. The company received their quota of arms consisting of rifle muskets (58 caliber) bayonets and accoutrements valued at \$3,000 on May thirteenth, for which a Bond had been filed. Due to the absence of material on file there is little known of the Germania Guard, and it is assumed their activities consisted primarily of military routine.

After the War, the Legislature passed the Military Law in 1866 reducing the militia to a minimum as an economy measure. In accordance with the first section of the Law, which prescribed that companies due to their location with reference to military defense, were ordered to disband on the recommendation of the Board of Location and Organization, the Germania Guard, Company G, was mustered out of service July 24, 1866.* On October 31, 1867, the unit returned the uniforms, muskets, and accoutrements to the State.

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*California Statutes, Chapter DXLI, page 722.

Reference: Second Brigade
Company C, Second Infantry Regiment, German Battalion

GERMANIA GUARD

GERMANIA GUARD (Continued)

Ellsworth Zouave Cadets, Unattached, Second Brigade.

Activities: (Continued)

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County.
The entire German Battalion was mustered out on this date and caused much unfavorable comment among the commanding officers of the Battalion, and also the German population of the city, who felt assured the mustering out order was caused by the clashing of the company's political views with former Governor Low's administration. However, they were willing to forego that issue, but requested Governor Haight in 1868 to review the facts and make remuneration for the different company claims in the Battalion. These claims had been presented in 1866 but no allowances were made for them, although the Irish Regiment had similar claims and expenses paid in full. There was no further evidence on file relating to the controversy and it is assumed Governor Haight made a satisfactory settlement.*

John C. Carroll, First Lieut.
MILITIA AND VOLUNTEER FORCE OF CALIFORNIA
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The Ellsworth Zouave Cadets were organized in San Francisco March 2, 1864. An election was held on the same date and the commanding officers were W. Kelsey Read, Captain and Lawrence Sullivan, First Lieutenant.
A Bond of \$3,000 was approved with the State Judge, April 21, 1864, and the proposition for the arms was approved by the Governor May seventh of that year. Thirty stand of arms, of the musket type were received from the Arsenal, Sacramento, June 15, 1864. The company's ranks were composed of fifty-three volunteers who gave evidence of possessing an efficient and well officered unit.

In 1868, the Cadets requested to be attached to the Second Infantry Battalion. Although Major Lewis commander of the Battalion favored this request, the entry was refused and the company remained unattached to the final mustering out.

After the War of the Rebellion, the large military force maintained throughout the State was not necessary and the Legislature passed the Military Law of 1868 as an economy measure, which greatly reduced the State Militia. Under this ruling a Board of Location and Organization was formed to

*Letter from commanding officers of the Sixth Battalion Regiment to Governor Haight, August 1868, on file State Archives, State Capitol.

located in the interior towns having a small population and therefore not able to keep their organizations up to the stringent requirements of the law; and companies located in sections where defense protection was no longer needed. The Ellsworth Zouave Cadets came under the last ruling, and therefore was mustered -2- of the State Service August 4, 1868.