

# **History of the Grant Guard, California Militia 1864-1866**

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GRANT GUARD

Grant Guard, Second Infantry Battalion, Second Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 7, File 4

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Mustered in December 16, 1864

Mustered out \_\_\_\_\_

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
R. F. Lewis, Captain	Dec. 16, 1864	Dec. 24, 1864
John Hay, First Lieut.	Dec. 16, 1864	Dec. 24, 1864
Hugh Gorley, Captain	April 12, 1865	April 28, 1865
W. H. Boon, First Lieut.	Dec. 6, 1865	Jan. 3, 1866

Activities:

A petition signed by forty-five persons all citizens of the City and County of San Francisco, was presented to County Judge Samuel Cowles requesting that he appoint some suitable person to superintend the meeting to form a volunteer militia company in that city. Judge Cowles appointed Colonel Fred Tittel to organize the company and on December 16, 1864, the unit known as the Grant Guard, under the command of Captain Lewis, was mustered into State service.

The first record of this company's activities appeared on April 16, 1865, when the news of the assassination of President Lincoln, caused rioting in San Francisco by the people. Immediately the Grant Guard, together with other military units were called out to protect life and property. At dusk the Second Regiment of California Volunteers came in from the Presidio, and later in the evening they were re-enforced by the Eighth Regiment. These combined companies soon quelled the riots, and cleared the streets.\*

In 1866, the military system of the State was changed. The military force was limited to eighty companies in all, and the organized uniform troops were to be known as the National Guard of California. A Board of Location and Organization was created by the State Legislature having the power to reorganize or disband companies with reference to military needs.\*\*

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\*Daily Alta California, April 16, 1865, page 1, column 4.

\*\*California Statutes 1865-1866, Chapter DXLI, page 722.

Reference: Desq Office BITE, BOM A, BITE  
 Grant Guard, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade

GRANT GUARD

GRANT GUARD (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The Grant Guard was one of the companies that the Board ordered to be mustered out of service in the early part of 1866. The Captain of the company upon being mustered out stated that he was unable to return the company arms as they had been lost during the riots of April 1865, and that his company was badly demoralized and he would be unable to obtain a muster out roll. Therefore, the exact date of the disbandment of the Grant Guard was not on record.

Name	Rank	Commission
Gerard Brigaert, Captain	Dec. 28, 1864	Jan. 5, 1865
John J. Jarnes, Captain	June 6, 1865	June 16, 1865
Gerard Brigaert, Captain (Retired Dec. 19, 1865)		
Francis Werry, First Lieu-	-o0o- Dec. 12, 1865	Jan. 3, 1866

Activities:

On December 12, 1864, forty-five men all residents of the City and County of San Francisco, signed a petition and presented it to County Judge Samuel Coates, requesting that he appoint some suitable person to superintend the meeting to organize a volunteer militia company. Judge Coates named Colonel Fred Smith of the militia, and selected the headquarters of the California Volunteers at the corner of San and Montgomery Streets, San Francisco, as the place to hold the meeting. On December twenty-sixth the Sheridan Guard, Company C, was organized and mustered in as an unattached company of the Second Brigade, under the command of Captain Gerard Brigaert.

There is only a meager source of information concerning this company's activities, but it is assumed that interest in military affairs waned with the close of the Civil War in 1865. The records show that the Sheridan Guard in 1866 was virtually disbanded and the company so demoralized that a muster roll could not be obtained.\*

In 1866 when the military system of the State was reorganized, the force was reduced to eighty companies in all and those left in service were to compose the new National Guard. The State Legislature created a Board of Location and Organization