

History of the Hooker Guard, California Militia/National Guard of California 1863-1868

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HOOKER GUARD

Hooker Guard, unattached, Fourth Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 3, File 7

Location: Oregon House, Yuba County

Mustered in May 17, 1863

Mustered out July 23, 1866

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Simon D. Webb, Captain	May 17, 1863	June 13, 1863
T. H. Owen, First Lieut.	May 17, 1863	June 13, 1863
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Simon D. Webb, Captain (Re-elected 1864) (Resigned Oct. 26, 1864)		
A. H. Julian, Captain	Oct. 21, 1864	Nov. 10, 1864
G. H. Leland, First Lieut.	Mar. 18, 1864	April 9, 1864
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L. Myers, Captain	April 3, 1865	April 29, 1865
T. E. Cook, First Lieut.	April 23, 1865	April 29, 1865

Activities:

The Hooker Guard of Oregon House, Yuba County, was organized May 17, 1863. The commanding officers elected were Simon D. Webb, Captain and T. H. Owen, First Lieutenant. Brigadier-General Collins advised General Kibbe, June eighth by letter that the membership numbering fifty men were of sterling character and in sympathy with the Union. He recommended the commissions be forwarded to the officers immediately.

Arms and accoutrements were shipped September fifteenth by steamer, and evidently were received in time for the encampment held later in September of that year. Due to the misplacement of the original Muster Roll, only twenty-nine uniforms were received by the company on April 8, 1864, which greatly inconvenienced the unit which had a membership of fifty-seven. There was a dispute between the county and company as to who was responsible for the expenses incurred during the unit's encampment. The county claimed they were not liable until the corps arms were received, but General Kibbe stated that the county had to bear the expense from the date that the officers were commissioned.

HOOKER GUARD (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Although the Hooker Guard was a patriotic and well officered unit, with the resignation of Captain Webb on October twenty-sixth, who joined the United States Service, the ranks dwindled rapidly and members lost interest in company drills and military activities. On the Muster Roll March 1865, there appears only thirty-three names which put the corps below the required minimum strength of forty-seven, and consequently the unit was not entitled to its annual company allowance.

After the War of the Rebellion it was not necessary to maintain such a large militia, and the Military Law of 1866 was passed, providing for a Board of Location and Organization to muster out companies which due to location were unnecessary for defense purpose and others unable to maintain their organizations up to the stringent requirements of the law. This ruling materially reducing the militia was an economy measure. The Hooker Guard was mustered out July 23, 1866, for non-compliance with the law.

A. J. W. Palmer, First Lieutenant	March 23, 1864	April 7, 1864
Amos Mathews, Captain	April 10, 1864	May 8, 1864
Joseph Gillis, First Lieutenant		
Amos Mathews, Captain (Re-elected 1864)		
Joseph Gillis, First Lieutenant (Re-elected 1864)		

Activities:

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By request of the citizens of Washington, Yolo County, the Washington Guard was organized May 18, 1863, with sixty volunteers enrolled for Military duty. Officers were elected during the same meeting. A Bond for the arms and accoutrements was approved and this equipment was received in August of that year.

As there is no evidence on file that this company engaged in Indian skirmishes or quelling the Secessionists, it is highly probable this corps was organized for social purposes only, as the Washington Guard was not active in military affairs. When the State Legislature enacted the Military Law of 1866 as an economy measure, the company was mustered out of service June 21, 1866.