

History of the Lassen Guard (Red Bluff Guard), California Militia/National Guard of California 1863-1873

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LASSEN RANGERS (Continued)

Activities:

Activities: (Continued)

The Lassen Rangers was organized at Red Bluff, Tehama County, May 11, 1863, under the command of Barnett Neel as Captain. The company immediately made application for their uniforms, arms and other needed equipment in form of a requisition, and at the same time a Bond was furnished for \$3,000 which was approved by the Adjutant General. Records indicate that on August 31, 1863, the arms and accoutrements were received in good order, but the uniforms did not arrive. Apparently the members of the Lassen Rangers felt that their company's requests were not accorded the proper attention from Headquarters, for in a letter to the Adjutant General, Captain Neel stated that their County's military tax amounting to \$1,200 had already been turned in to the State and that the County would soon remit an additional \$700, but stated that if the neglect of his company continued little or no military funds could be collected in that County the following year. The Captain further indicated that dissatisfaction with existing conditions had reached such a state that the members talked of disbanding the corps. Captain Neel concluded his letter with the following statement: "I have a splendid company and I have done my utmost to maintain harmony and tranquility in face of some very discouraging circumstances".*

The Lassen Rangers were armed for any emergency having muskets, bayonets and all necessary equipment with the exception of uniforms. During the period this company was in service there was considerable trouble with the Piute Indians in that locality, but the records do not mention this company as taking any active part in subduing them.

On September 1, 1866, at a meeting of the Lassen Rangers it was decided to change the name of Lassen Rangers to Red Bluff Guard, which procedure was approved by the commanding officer on October 15, 1866, and also approved on October twenty-ninth by the Governor of the State, F. F. Low. The reorganization of this company into the State National Guard took place in accordance with the law of the State Legislature of that year, with Samuel Crossen as Captain and William Neel, First Lieutenant. A requisition for arms and other equipment was forwarded to the Headquarters accompanied by a bond for \$4,000. On February fourth of the same year the company received their arms, uniforms and other supplies.

arms and equipment to Headquarters at Sacramento, the company was mustered out of the State Service on April 23, 1873, for ineff-

*Letter dated January 12, 1864, from Captain Neel to Adjutant General Kibbe, Adjutant General's Office.

LASSEN RANGERS (Continued)

HOOVER GUARD

Activities: (Continued)

Even after the reorganization of the company the activities of the Red Bluff Guard consisted primarily of regular drills and target practice and occasional parades, and on one occasion mention was made of the company giving a ball for the benefit of the Monument Association Fund on which the company realized \$120.00, which was forwarded to the treasurer of that organization. This company sustained a loss by fire of their equipment on August 26, 1868, and it is assumed that it had considerable bearing on the reason for the company being mustered out of service of the National Guard, in accordance with the law passed by the State Legislature.

In the year 1869, on March fourth by Special Order, the Red Bluff Guard was again mustered into the State Service as an unattached company of the Fifth Brigade by Adjutant General James M. Allen. On March 15, 1869, the company assembled and officers were elected, John S. Hale as Captain and Gerald Keegan, First Lieutenant. A requisition was made for arms and supplies and a Bond for \$4,000 was supplied. On May twentieth the company received their full quota of uniforms, arms and the necessary equipment and accoutrements, enabling them to be thoroughly equipped for any emergency. However, the Red Bluff Guard never participated in active service, although Tehama County was harassed by Indian depredations during that period. Perhaps the inactiveness experienced by this company was one of the reasons contributed to the demoralization of the unit, as it was recorded that the Red Bluff Guard neglected their required duties and did not attend drills or parades. The Adjutant General, in his annual report, stated that for a number of months the Red Bluff Guard had not sent in their required reports, indicating a decided lack of interest on the part of the members. On January 18, 1873, Captain Crossen tendered his resignation and on March nineteenth of the same year Gerald Keegan, First Lieutenant also resigned. Both resignations were approved by the Adjutant General.

On April 15, 1873, by Special Order of Governor Newton Booth the Red Bluff Guard was disbanded upon recommendation of Adjutant General L. H. Foote, and after being requested to properly pack and ship their arms and equipment to Headquarters at Sacramento, the company was mustered out of the State Service on April 23, 1873, for inefficiency.