

History of the Live Oak Zouaves, National Guard of California 1870-1872

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1825
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LIVE OAK ZOUAVES

Live Oak Zouaves, Company C, Second Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 4, File 2

Location: Oakland, Alameda County

Mustered in May 30, 1870

Mustered out June 3, 1872

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Edward J. Kelly, Captain (Resigned Nov. 9, 1871)	May 30, 1870	June 27, 1870
James J. Kelly, First Lieut. (Failed to qualify)	May 30, 1870	June 27, 1870
Thomas E. Traynor, First Lieut.	Dec. 22, 1870	Dec. 28, 1870
Thomas E. Traynor, Captain	Mar. 12, 1872	Mar. 29, 1872
Michael Hallahan, First Lieut.	Mar. 12, 1872	Mar. 29, 1872

Activities:

The petition of the citizens of Alameda County was approved by the military authorities for the organization of a company to be known as the Live Oak Zouaves, with headquarters at Oakland, Alameda County. The corps was attached to the Second Brigade with the rank and designation of Company C. At the ensuing election, Edward J. Kelly was chosen Captain and James J. Kelly, First Lieutenant.*

The organization of the Zouaves met with strong disapproval by Brigadier-General Hewston, Jr. who recommended that Order No. 17 be rescinded and gave several reasons, the most important being: that the new unit with a membership of 176 far exceeded the maximum number allowed by the State and therefore, the election was invalid. He further recommended that the company be allowed to re-apply for admission to the National Guard when they had complied with the law, and when accepted to be mustered in as an unattached unit. However, there is no record of this recommendation having been carried out, for the corps was designated as Company C until July 24, 1871, when in pursuance to Special Order No. 25, the unit was detached from the Second Brigade of Infantry to remain so until the militia of Oakland was formed into a separate Battalion. Captain E. J. Kelly approved of this change, believing it would tend to further the interests of his command. The Captain assured Governor Haight by letter July 31, 1871, that he and his men highly respected and admired their former Regimental Commander, J. W. McKenzie.

*Adjutant General Report 1870, page 104.

SARFIELD GRENADEER GUARD

LIVE OAK ZOUAVES (Continued)

Sarsfield Grenadier Guard, Company G, Fourth Brigade
Reference: Dead Office File, Row 3, File 4
Sacramento County
Mustered in July 25, 1870

Activities: (Continued)

A Bond of \$3,000 was posted and eighty stand of arms and accoutrements were received by the company June 27, 1870. The arms and uniforms arrived in time for the unit to participate in the Fourth of July celebration of that year.

The activities of the Oakland Zouaves consisted only of routine matters. Although the unit was a flourishing and efficient company with a large membership, the Board of Location and Organization was ordered in 1872, as an economy measure, to materially reduce the National Guard. The Oakland Zouaves in accordance with the Military Law of that year was ordered to disband as the Board deemed this corps unnecessary due to its location in relation to a military need. Consequently the company was honorably mustered out of service of the State on the third of June 1872.

THE OAK ZOUAVES
Company G, 4th Brigade
Sacramento County
Mustered in July 25, 1870

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|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Clement A. Laufkotter, Captain | Feb. 17, 1870 | April 14, 1870 |
| E. A. Van Alstern, First Lieut. | Feb. 17, 1870 | April 19, 1870 |
| Clement A. Laufkotter, Captain | | |
| (Re-elected February 3, 1870) | | |
| (Resigned January 15, 1870) | | |
| T. W. Sheehan, Captain | Feb. 14, 1870 | Feb. 7, 1870 |
| J. P. Dalton, First Lieut. | Feb. 6, 1870 | Feb. 10, 1870 |
| T. W. Sheehan, Captain | | |
| (Re-elected February 2, 1870) | | |
| J. P. Dalton, First Lieut. | | |
| (Re-elected February 2, 1870) | | |

The Oakland Zouaves was organized as a company of the Sacramento County National Guard in 1869. It was mustered in as an independent unit of the National Guard on the tenth of July, 1870. It was disbanded by Special Order No. 15, dated July 25, 1872.

This company, named after the famous Irish hero, Patrick Sarsfield, who was a commanding officer in the Battle of Aughrim during the reign of Charles II in the seventeenth century, was composed of young men of Irish extraction and immediately became

Sarsfield Grenadier Guard redesignated Battery G, First Artillery
Company G, Fourth Brigade, June 13, 1870.
Adjutant General Order No. 19, page 73.