

# **History of the Oakland Grenadiers, National Guard of California 1870-1872**

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652

OAKLAND GRENADIERS

Oakland Grenadiers, Unattached, Second Brigade

Reference: (No material on file Adjutant General's Office)

Location: Oakland, Alameda County

Mustered in April 25, 1870

Mustered out June 3, 1872

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Jeremiah Callagher, Captain	April 25, 1870	April 30, 1870
Peter Carr, First Lieutenant (Died in office)	April 25, 1870	April 30, 1870
Thomas Ahern, First Lieutenant	Aug. 20, 1871	Aug. 31, 1871

Activities:

The Oakland Grenadiers, Oakland, Alameda County, was organized and mustered into the State service April 25, 1870, to be designated as an unattached Infantry company of the Second Brigade.\* The derivation of grenadier was a soldier whose special duty was to throw hand grenades, and was in use before any special organization was given to the troops who were to use them. Later grenadier companies were formed of the most powerful men in the Regiment and maintained their existence as the "crack" companies of their Battalion, taking the right of the line of parade and wearing distinctive headdress. Three months after organization upon request of the corps, Adjutant General James M. Allen issued Special Order No. 25, which attached the company to the First Infantry Battalion, Second Brigade with rank and designation of Company G.\*\* This change was a wise one and in compliance with Adjutant General Allen's views, as the General believed all unattached commands should be consolidated into Battalions as the general interest of the companies would be increased and also would afford the officers more opportunity for instruction and practical experience.\*\*\*

Although no doubt an efficient corps, the Oakland Grenadiers due to location and absence of military activities, was ordered disbanded and honorably mustered out of the service of the State, June 3, 1872. This Special Order No. 7, was in compliance with the Military Ruling of that year when the Legislature materially reduced the National Guard in the State as an economy measure.\*\*\*\*

\*Adjutant General Report 1870-1871, page 101.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1870-1871, page 107.

\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1870-1871, page 33.

\*\*\*\*Adjutant General Report 1872-1873, page 89.