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SAN BERNARDINO CAVALRY

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San Bernardino Cavalry, Unattached, First Brigade
Reference: Dead Office File, Row 3, File 4
Location: San Bernardino, San Bernardino County
Mustered in January 10, 1880
Mustered out April 2, 1883

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
W. D. Covington, Captain	Feb. 23, 1880	Mar. 2, 1880
H. W. Rice, First Lieut. (promoted to Capt.)	Jan. 10, 1880	Feb. 4, 1880
Alexander Rier, First Lieut.	Feb. 23, 1880	Mar. 2, 1880
Byland Rice, Captain	Feb. 28, 1882	May 13, 1882
Alexander Rier, First Lieut. (Reelected Feb. 28, 1882)		

Activities:

The application of the citizens and residents of San Bernardino, San Bernardino County desiring to organize a company of cavalry was approved by the Adjutant General. Brigadier General F. W. Murphy, commander of the First Brigade, issued all orders necessary and appointed a resident of the County to organize the company according to the provisions of the militia code.* On January 10, 1880, the company designated and known as the San Bernardino Cavalry was organized as an unattached company of the First Brigade, with W. D. Covington as Captain.

During the month of February 1880 this company had a rating of 100 percent for attendance at company drill.** But from that time records indicate gross inefficiency on the part of the officers and men in attending to their company duties. The San Bernardino Cavalry was delinquent nearly every month in filing the company returns. On May 3, 1881, for failure to send in the company report, the Adjutant General withheld the demand for allowances of the company from the Board of Military Auditors for thirty days, and notified the unit that if further delinquencies occurred other penalties were to be imposed.*** On September 5, 1881, the company again failed to file their returns and the Adjutant General again withheld their demand for allowances from the Board of Military Auditors for a period of sixty days.†

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*Adjutant General Report 1880, Special Order No. 39, page 72.

**Adjutant General Report 1880, General Order No. 10, page 62.

***Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 8, page 79.

†Adjutant General Report 1881-1882, General Order No. 19, page 86.

SAN BERNARDINO CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

For the next two years there was a steady decrease in the membership of the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of the San Bernardino Cavalry, and a continual failure on the part of the officers to send in the company reports.

At the inspection of the company February 4, 1882, made by orders from Headquarters, Colonel J. A. Turner inspecting officer reported very unfavorably of the company, saying that there was a lack of drill, discipline and appreciation of the duties of the National Guard; and recommended that if there was not a marked improvement by the next inspection that the company be disbanded. The unit instead of improving steadily deteriorated, and fell below the standard of efficiency which was required of all companies in the National Guard. Brigadier General W. W. Smith commanding the First Brigade detailed an officer to receive all property in the possession of the company and forward it to Brigade Headquarters.

On April 2, 1883, upon the recommendation of the Board of Location and Organization, and by virtue of the authority conferred upon the Commander-in-Chief, the San Bernardino Cavalry was disbanded and ceased to be an organized company of the National Guard. The officers and men of the unit were honorably discharged from the service of the State.*

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In response to the request General Backus issued Special Order No. 22 which authorized William Russell of Los Angeles to supervise the organization of the unit. In recruiting members for the company it was especially directed that only such men be enlisted that give evidence of desiring to become useful members of the National Guard of California. William Russell was ordered to report within five days after the election of officers for the company his actions to Brigade Headquarters. On June 9, 1881 in the City of Los Angeles the company designated and known as the Eagle Corps was duly organized and mustered into State service as an unattached company of the First Brigade, filling the vacancy left by the mustering out of the Los Angeles Guard. The Eagle Corps was composed of fifty-four men under the able leadership of Captain Russell.

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*Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, General Order No. 17, page 67.

Eagle Corps redesignated Company A Seventh Infantry Battalion July 22, 1885.

Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, General Order No. 18, page 70.