

# **History of the Sheridan Guard, California Militia 1864-1866**

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SHERIDAN GUARD (Continued)

Sheridan Guard, Company C, Second Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 5, File 2

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Mustered in December 26, 1864

Mustered out \_\_\_\_\_ 1866

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Gerard Brigaert, Captain	Dec. 26, 1864	Jan. 5, 1865
John D. Lawton, First Lieut.	June 6, 1865	June 15, 1865
Gerard Brigaert, Captain (Re-elected Dec. 12, 1865)	_____	_____
Francis Murry, First Lieut.	Dec. 12, 1865	Jan. 3, 1866

Activities:

On December 13, 1864, forty-five men all residents of the City and County of San Francisco, signed a petition and presented it to County Judge Samuel Cowles, requesting that he appoint some suitable person to superintend the meeting to organize a volunteer militia company. Judge Cowles named Colonel Fred Tittle as the supervisor, and selected the Headquarters of the California Fusileers on the corner of Bush and Montgomery Streets, San Francisco, as the place to hold the meeting. On December twenty-sixth the Sheridan Guard, Company C, was organized and mustered in as an unattached company of the Second Brigade, under the command of Captain Gerard Brigaert.

There is only a meager source of information concerning this company's activities, but it is assumed that interest in military affairs waned with the close of the Civil War in 1865. The records show that the Sheridan Guard in 1866 was virtually disbanded and the company so demoralized that a muster roll could not be obtained.\*

In 1866 when the military system of the State was reorganized, the force was reduced to eighty companies in all and those left in service were to compose the new National Guard. The State Legislature created a Board of Location and Organization

\*California Statutes, 1847-1866, Chapter 534, page 722.

\*Historical Record of the Second Brigade, 1864-1868, page 183.

SHERIDAN GUARD (Continued)

Eureka Guard, Company I, First Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade  
Activities: (continued)

with the power to reorganize or disband companies with reference to the military needs,\* and upon the recommendation of the Board, the Sheridan Guard in 1866 was mustered out of the State Service.\*\*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Columbus Sims, Captain (Resigned 1865)	Jan. 24, 1865	Mar. 11, 1865
Robert G. Wilgore, Captain	April 25, 1865	May 2, 1865
James T. Wallace, Captain	May 24, 1865	May 2, 1865
Andrew J. Schrader, Captain (Resigned 1866)	1866	Jan. 20, 1866
F. B. Harrison, Captain (Resigned Mar. 1866)	Oct. 18, 1866	Oct. 23, 1866
Robert A. Marden, Captain	1866	Jan. 20, 1866
John Edmondson, Captain (Resigned 1866)	1866	Jan. 23, 1866
George W. ...	1866	June 9, 1866
Frank Gray, First Lieut.	Jan. 7, 1866	Mar. 27, 1866

Activities:

The Eureka Guard was organized as an artillery company with a membership of fifty-nine men, -000- meeting held in the St. James Hall, San Francisco, January 24, 1865. Their commanding officers were elected at the same meeting, namely Columbus Sims, Captain, and Wallace F. James, First Lieutenant. On October 18, 1866, a Bond for \$4000.00 was filed with the Adjutant General's Office, and on October nineteenth, of that year, the company received eighty stand of rifles, eighty uniforms, and the necessary accoutrements. The uniforms that were sent to the company proved to be too small as a few days subsequent to their arrival Colonel J. W. McKenzie communicated October twenty-third by letter, and informed the General that the members of this company ranged from five feet eight inches to six feet five inches and would require uniforms in larger sizes.

Under the Military Law of 1866, the Eureka Guard was reorganized as Company G, Second Infantry Regiment, Second Brigade. Aside from drills and parades on annual and special occasions, there were no further activities recorded regarding this unit.

The efficiency of this company fell below the standard required by the Military Law of 1866, and upon the recommendation made by Brigadier-General John Hewson Jr., commanding the Second Brigade, the Eureka Guard was disbanded and mustered out of the service of the State July 19, 1867.

\*California Statutes, 1865-1866, Chapter DXLI, page 722.

\*\*Adjutant General Report, 1865-1867, page 92.