

History of the Veterans of the Mexican War, National Guard of California 1870-1872

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VETERANS of the MEXICAN WAR (contd)

Veterans of the Mexican War, Company A, Second Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 4, File 2

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Mustered in February 17, 1870

Mustered out June 1, 1872

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
DAVID Daniel Hungerford, Captain	Feb. 17, 1870	Feb. 21, 1870
DAVID David Scannell, First Lieut. (Resigned Sept. 26, 1870)	Feb. 17, 1870	Feb. 21, 1870
Thomas Knipe, First Lieut.	Oct. 5, 1870	Oct. 22, 1870
Thomas Knipe, Captain	Aug. 1, 1871	Aug. 26, 1871
William Lee, First Lieut.	Aug. 1, 1871	Aug. 26, 1871

Activities:

On September 30, 1869, several citizens residing in the city and county of San Francisco, who had served in the Army or Navy of the United States during the Mexican War were desirous of forming a military company in conformity with the Military Law of California. They, therefore, asked that James M. Allen the Adjutant General appoint some suitable person to superintend the meeting to organize and enroll the company into the service of the National Guard of California. The petition of the associated Veterans of the Mexican War, was approved by Adjutant General James M. Allen, and the organization was to be mustered immediately into the State service.*

On February 17, 1870, in the city and county of San Francisco, the Veterans of the Mexican War, Company A (Foot Artillery) was sworn into the service of the State, under the command of Captain Daniel Hungerford, formerly Captain of the Sierra Guard and later Major of the Sierra Battalion. This company was composed of seventy-five men all of whom had served in the Mexican War, also many of them including Captain Hungerford were veterans of the Civil War. The company on April fifth of the same year posted a \$1,000 penal Bond for their equipment, and although they were an unattached foot Artillery company of the Second Brigade, the Adjutant General issued them Infantry equipment.

Unfortunately this company had only a brief existence in the National Guard of California. The Military Law passed by the State Legislature of 1872, reduced the military companies in the State to forty in all. The Board of Location and Organization

*Adjutant General Report, 1870-1871, Special Order No. 5, page 99.

VETERANS of the MEXICAN WAR (Continued)

GRENADIERS

Activities: (Continued)

had the power to reorganize or disband companies throughout the State with a reference to the military needs.* In accordance with the decision of the Board, and in order to carry into effect the requirements of the Law as embodied in paragraph three, title one of the Political Code, General Order No. 7 was issued and the Veterans of the Mexican War, Company A, was honorably mustered out of the service of the State June 1, 1872.**

The Oakland Grenadiers, California, 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. In the past, grenadier companies were formed of the most powerful men in the Regiment and maintained their existence as the "elite" companies of their Battalions, under the right of the line of parade and wearing distinctive uniforms. Three months after organization upon request of the corps, Adjutant General James H. 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 made in compliance with Adjutant General Allen's view, and he believed all unattached companies should be organized into Battalions as the general interest of the service would be promoted and also would allow the officers to receive instruction and special attention.**

*Political Code of California 1872, Section 1958.

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

*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.