

# **The California Volunteers and the Civil War: 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of Veteran Infantry 1864-1866**

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FIRST BATTALION OF VETERAN INFANTRY

Reference: "Record of California Troops in War of the Rebellion" (1890)  
Adjutant General's Office.

Regimental Headquarters:

Franklin, Texas	Dec. 1864	March 1865
Fort Craig, New Mexico	March 1865	October 1865
Los Pinos, New Mexico	Oct. 1865	Aug. 1866

Mustered in (Record uncertain) organized during  
November and December 1864.  
Mustered out September 20, 1866

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
E. A. Rigg, Lieutenant Colonel	_____	Feb. 1, 1865
Joseph Smith, Major	_____	Jan. 10, 1863
James H. Whitlock, Major	_____	June 22, 1865

Companies Included in First Battalion of Veteran Infantry.

Company A.

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Erastus Wood, Captain	_____	Feb. 28, 1865
Robert Edmiston, First Lieut.	_____	Feb. 28, 1865

Location of Company

Fort Union, New Mexico	Sept. 30, 1864
Blue Water Creek, Texas	Nov. 30, 1864
Fort Bascom, New Mexico	Dec. 31, 1864
Fort Union, New Mexico	Jan. 31, 1865
Fort Sumner, New Mexico	Apr. 30, 1865

Mustered in (No record).  
Mustered out September 9, 1866.

Companies Included in First Battalion of Veteran Infantry (Cont)

Company B.

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Daniel B. Haskell, Captain	_____	Apr. 21, 1865
John S. Crouch, Captain	_____	May 8, 1865
<u>Location of Company</u>		
Fort Craig, New Mexico	Dec. 31, 1864	
La Joya, New Mexico	June 30, 1865	
Fort Craig, New Mexico	July 31, 1865	
Los Pinos, New Mexico	Apr. 30, 1866	
Fort Wingate, New Mexico	May 31, 1866	
Los Pinos, New Mexico	Aug. 31, 1866	

Mustered in \_\_\_\_\_  
Mustered out September 15, 1866

Company C.

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
J. H. Whitlock, Captain	_____	May 8, 1865
John D. Slocum, Captain	_____	May 8, 1865
James H. Toole, First Lieut.	_____	Jan. 10, 1863
John D. Slocum, First Lieut.	_____	Apr. 21, 1865
H. H. Stevens, First Lieut.	_____	July 12, 1865

<u>Location of Company</u>	
Las Cruces, New Mexico	Dec. 31, 1864
Fort Seldon, New Mexico	May 31, 1865
Fort Craig, New Mexico	Oct. 31, 1865
Los Pinos, New Mexico	Nov. 30, 1865
Fort Seldon, New Mexico	Mar. 31, 1865
Fort Garland, Colorado Territory	Apr. 30, 1865

Mustered in \_\_\_\_\_  
Mustered out Santa Fe, New Mexico, September 17, 1866

Companies Included in First Battalion of Veteran Infantry (Cont.)

Company D.

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William French, Captain	_____	May 8, 1865
John Slater, First Lieut.	_____	Apr. 21, 1865

Location of Company

Las Cruces, New Mexico	Dec. 31, 1864
Fort McRae, New Mexico	Feb. 28, 1865
Los Pinos, New Mexico	Apr. 30, 1866
Fort McRae, New Mexico	May 31, 1866
Los Pinos, New Mexico	Aug. 31, 1866

Mustered in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mustered out Los Pinos, September 15, 1866

Company E.

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Thomas P. Chapman, Captain	_____	Aug. 27, 1862
William H. Higdon, First Lieut.	_____	Apr. 21, 1865
Richard Hudson, First Lieut.	(Mustered in May 11, 1866)	

Location of Company

Franklin, Texas	Dec. 31, 1864
Fort Craig, New Mexico	Apr. 30, 1865
Los Pinos, New Mexico	Apr. 30, 1866

Mustered in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mustered out at Los Pinos, September 15, 1866

Company F.

Commanding Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
G. A. Burkett, Captain and Brevet Major	_____	May 4, 1863
William M. Smith, First Lieut.	_____	May 4, 1864

Location of Company

Las Cruces, New Mexico	Nov. 30, 1864
Fort Cumming, New Mexico	Jan. and Feb. 1865

This company was broken up and the men transferred to other companies on March 16, 1865.

Companies Included in First Battalion of Veteran Infantry (Cont.)

Company G.

Commanding officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
George A. Burkett, Captain and Brevet Major	_____	Apr. 21, 1865
John D. Slocum, Captain	_____	_____
Milton L. Glasby, First Lieut.	_____	Apr. 21, 1865

Location of Company

Las Cruces, New Mexico	Nov. 30, 1864
Franklin, Texas	Dec. 31, 1864
Fort Cummings, New Mexico	Apr. 30, 1865
Las Javis, enroute to Los Pinos	

Mustered in \_\_\_\_\_

Mustered out at Los Pinos, September 15, 1866

Activities of the First Battalion of Veteran Infantry

The First Battalion of Veteran Infantry was organized during the months of November and December 1864, by consolidating the Veterans of the First Infantry whose terms were unexpired and likewise with the men from the Fifth Infantry. Companies A and B of this Battalion were formed from the men of the First Infantry while Companies C, D, E, F, and G were made up of the men from the Fifth Infantry. Colonel Edwin A. Rigg of the First Infantry was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel and Commander of the Battalion with Joseph Smith of the Fifth Infantry as its Major.

This Battalion faced difficulty in obtaining recruits sufficiently fast enough to keep all of its companies' ranks up to the minimum required by law. A Board of Officers comprised of Colonel Brown, First California Cavalry, Colonel Rigg, and Major Smith met on the thirteenth of February 1865, to select a company from this Battalion which could be broken up and distributed among the other companies for that purpose. The Board decided by lot that Company F should be selected for this purpose and was so ordered by the Department Commander on March 16, 1865. The same order directed Lieutenant Colonel Rigg to assume command with headquarters at Fort Craig. Previous to this time, the Battalion had been under command of Major Joseph Smith at Franklin, Texas.

Activities of the first Battalion of Veteran Infantry. (Cont.)

There is very little history on record pertaining to the activities of this Battalion, except for an article written on Company D and another on Company G. On the twelfth of September 1865, a detachment of thirty men from Company D, under the command of Lieutenant John Slater, was sent in pursuit of Indians who had driven off some of the animal herds belonging to the post of Fort McRae, New Mexico. On the seventeenth, the Company overtook the Indians in the Miembres Mountain, killing several and wounding many of them, and were successful in recovering most of the stolen stock, besides many Indian ponies, mules, and etc. In this action Lieutenant Slater and two privates were very seriously wounded by firearms, which were the only weapons used by the Indians. The detachment returned to the post on the twentieth of September, having marched a distance of two hundred and seventy-five miles.

On January 7, 1866, while six men of Company G, were performing daily duty cutting wood for the garrison at Oak Grove, they were surprised and fired upon by Apache Indians. The number of Indians was estimated at about forty or more. Four men were killed and two escaped, Privates John H. Matthews and Nathaniel Goldsberry, the latter with an arrow wound in his hip. Private Matthews displayed exemplary courage in defending himself, as well as virtually saving the life of Goldsberry, who was scarcely able to render any defense. One Indian was killed and indications showed others wounded.

The Battalion left Fort Craig in October of 1865 to be stationed at Los Pinos until September 20, 1866, at which time it was mustered out of service. When this Battalion was mustered out in September, such officers and members as wished to be mustered out in California, were consolidated into a company, under Captain William F. French, and marched to the Presidio, San Francisco, where they arrived December twenty-eighth, and were mustered out on the thirty-first of December 1866.