

History of the Sherman Guard, National Guard of California 1871-1875

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SHERMAN GUARD

SHERMAN GUARD (Continued)

Sherman Guard, unattached, Fourth Brigade.

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 3, File 3

Location: Marysville, Yuba County.

Mustered in November 23, 1871.

Mustered out May 4, 1875.

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
James M. Newhard, Captain (Resigned July 6, 1874)	Dec. 9, 1871	Jan. 3, 1872
John A. Hall, First Lieut.	Dec. 9, 1871	Jan. 3, 1872
E. W. Sawtelle, Captain	Aug. 13, 1874	Aug. 25, 1874
M. Dixheimer, First Lieut.	Aug. 13, 1874	Aug. 25, 1874

Activities:

Adjutant General Thomas N. Cazneau approved the application of certain residents of Marysville, Yuba County, and the Sherman Guard was organized November 23, 1871, and mustered into service of the State immediately. The elected commanding officers were James M. Newhard, Captain and John A. Hall, First Lieutenant. A Bond for \$4000 was filed and the arms were received in January 1872. Brigadier-General Josiah Howell recommended the formation of a new regiment in the Fourth Brigade. As a result Special Order No. 7 was issued and the Sherman Guard was designated as Company H and attached to the newly organized Fourth Infantry Regiment, February 19, 1872.

With Captain Newhard's resignation July 6, 1874, it is evident the company's ardor for military activities did not survive long after organization. The ranks of the unit dwindled to twenty-five members in the three years, which put the company below standard. Attendance at drills and target practice was also approached in a perfunctory manner. Captain Newhard's indignation was thoroughly aroused over the act of First Lieutenant Hall deserting the Sherman Guard and parading with the Fire Department during the Fourth of July celebration. Captain Newhard's resignation was approved but the request for disbandment was not considered, and a special election was held to appoint officers to fill vacancies caused by the resignation of the Captain and First Lieutenant John A. Hall.

The affairs of the company declined rapidly into a demoralizing state after Captain Newhard's resignation, and from B. Eilerman's (late Lieutenant Colonel) report to the Major in command, dated March 24, 1875, it is made clear that the Sherman Guard was inactive and it would be impossible to revive the company under Captain Sawtelle's command as the Captain had no interest in the unit, and neglected to call meetings and performed no routine duties of any kind.

