

TABLE ROCK UNION GUARD (continued)

Table Rock Union Guard, Company G, Seventh Infantry Regiment,  
Fourth Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 4, File 7  
Location: Howland Flat, Sierra County  
Mustered in: September 26, 1864  
Mustered out: \_\_\_\_\_

Commanding Officers		
Name	Rank	Commission
E. M. Purinton, Captain	Sept. 26, 1864	Oct. 26, 1864
H. Squire, First Lieut.	Sept. 26, 1864	Oct. 26, 1864
F. A. Gourley, Captain	Oct. 3, 1865	Feb. 12, 1866
Alvah. F. Wyckoff, First Lieut.	Feb. 18, 1865	Feb. 27, 1866

Activities:

Residents of Howland Flat felt the need of military protection for that vicinity, probably owing to the fact that in many sections of the country there was a considerable number of Copperheads who were causing disturbances and threatening to frustrate the activities of the Union.\* At any rate the proper steps were taken to form the volunteer militia company and S. B. Davidson, County Judge, appointed George H. Moyle of Howland Flat as enrolling officer for the new company. Under the date of September 17, 1864, the regular call for the meeting was published in the Mountain Messenger (a newspaper published in Downieville) announcing that Mr. Moyle had been so appointed and the meeting was to be held at the Theater of Howland Flat, 7:30 P. M. on Monday, September twenty-sixth. At this organization meeting the roll was signed by fifty-one men, thus signifying their desire to form the nucleus of the Military Company.

The corps was not given its official title at this meeting, but Second Lieutenant Moyle communicated with Brigadier-General Howell on October sixteenth wherein he informed the General that a meeting had been held on the ninth of the month, and it had been decided to name the corps the Table Rock Union Guard, no doubt taking their title from the peak Table Rock, one of Sierra County's mountains. Lieutenant Moyle also noted in this letter that the company expected to be attached to the Fourth Infantry Battalion under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Hubbard. A

\*Encyclopaedia Britannica, Volume 6, page 409.

TABLE ROCK UNION GUARD (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

month later (November 15, 1864) the company made formal application, and approval was given (November twenty-third) by Governor Low for the Table Rock Union Guard to become attached to the Fourth Infantry Battalion, and designating them as Company G. Then on March 4, 1865, the company was reassigned and it became Company G of the Seventh Infantry Regiment of the Fourth Brigade. A notation was made in the Historical Records, Fourth Brigade, 1864-1865, that the Guard was transferred to the Fifth Brigade, but there are no records to verify this action, as the records of this company are very meager. The Adjutant-General's Report of 1864-1865 shows that sixty stand of arms had been issued on March 24, 1865, but there is no record of when the same were returned to the State Arsenal.

On September eleventh Captain Purinton was obliged to tender his resignation from the command as he was leaving the State for a few months, and on his return to California expected to be residing in another section of the State. An election was held and F. A. Gourley was elected Captain. Then in February 1866 another election was held on the expiration of the three Lieutenants terms, at which time Alvah F. Wyckoff was elected First Lieutenant.

The Muster Roll of March tenth shows that several of the members had enlisted in the California Volunteers, and the Muster Roll of September of the same year has the information that the members had procured uniforms at their own expense, which consisted of fatigue coats, black trousers and regulation caps. There were but forty-one men listed on the second roll whereas the previous one had fifty-six members.

Considering the fact that the company was not listed in the Adjutant-General's Report following the 1865 Report when it was to have been transferred to the Fifth Brigade, it is to be assumed that the Table Rock Union Guard was one of the organizations that was ordered mustered out when the general reorganization took place in 1866. The entire militia force was materially reduced at this time and the military department became redesignated as the National Guard.