



The Honolulu Cavalry

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**November
1852**

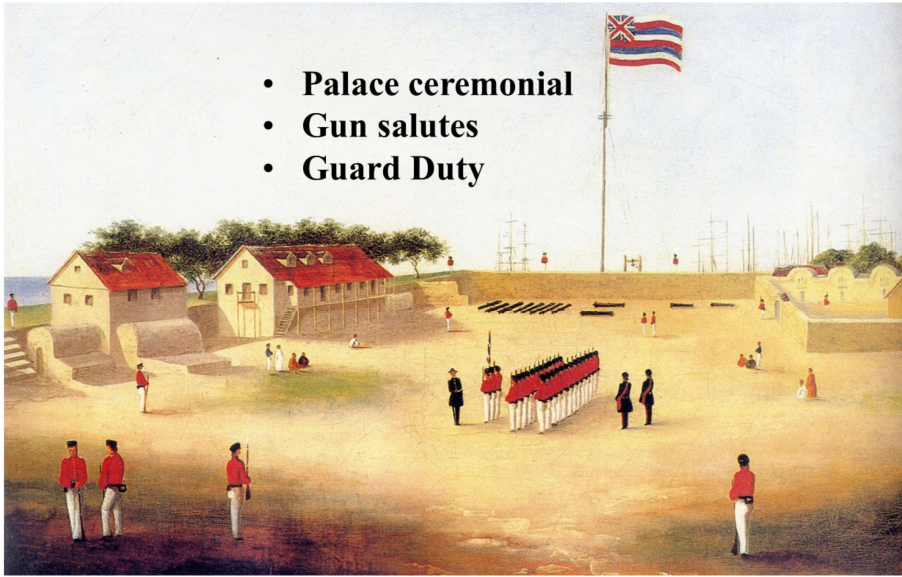


Sailors Riot – 10-11 November 1852

Citizen Volunteers + foreign troops landed in support of the government quelled the disturbances

HOUSEHOLD + GARRISON TROOPS

- Palace ceremonial
- Gun salutes
- Guard Duty



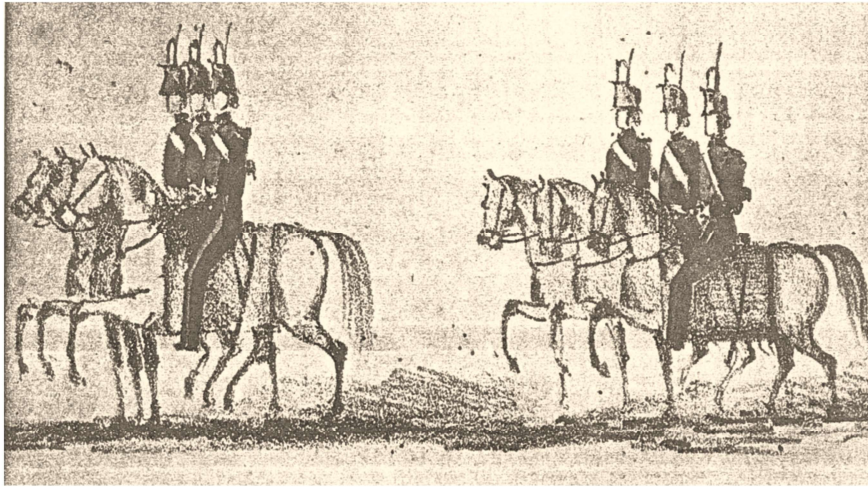
Household Troops (aka King's Guards or Royal Guards) + Honolulu Fort Garrison Troops could not be spared from primary duties (e.g., guarding the sovereign, the treasury, and the arsenal) to help in the event of insurrection or riot

First Hawaiian Guards
(INFANTRY)
Royal Sanction Nov. 17, 1852



The Citizen Volunteers had performed so well during the Sailors Riot that the government decided to formally authorize the creation of a militia organization (in Hawai'i, generally called the "Volunteer Guard") – an Infantry company was authorized and formed first, the Cavalry one month later

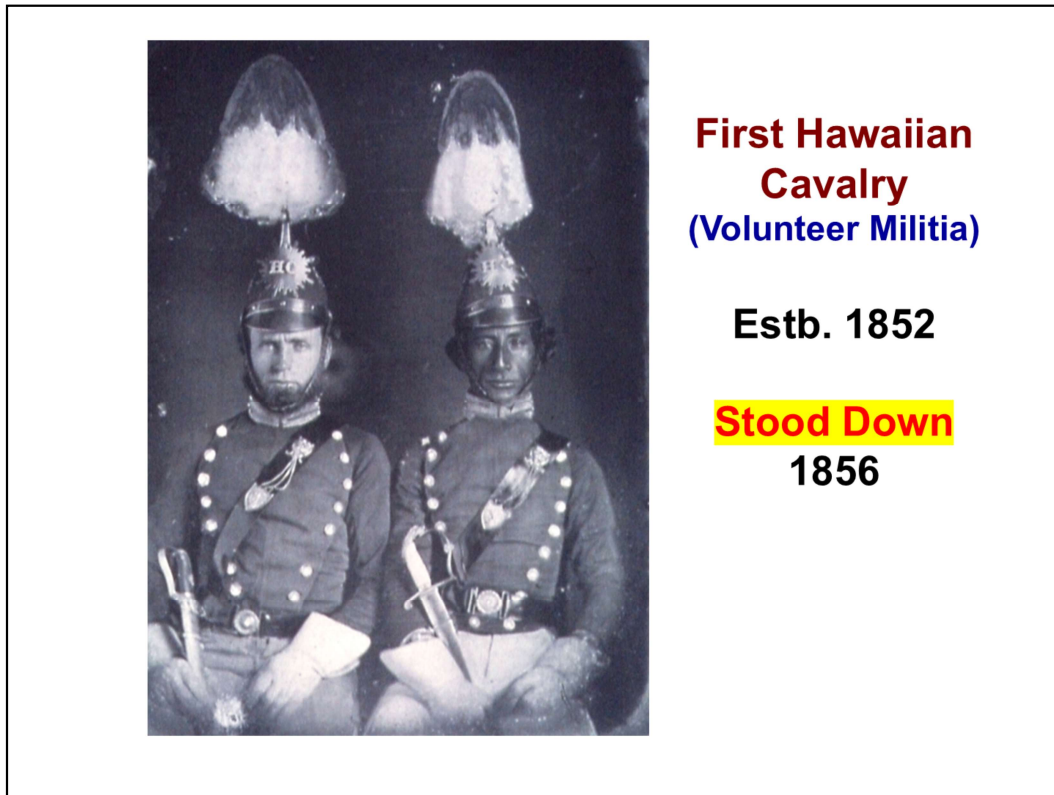
First Hawaiian Cavalry
Royal Sanction Dec. 17, 1852



January 10, 1855
(lithograph by Paul Emmert)

The Cavalry would have provided their own horses and purchased their own uniforms – only the saber (or “sabre”) was government issue

Many of the horses may have been company animals – used for hauling freight (drayage), drawing carriages, and deliveries)



The first uniform worn by the Hawaiian Cavalry (1855)

Purchased from a vendor in New England – typical “City militia” uniform worn in the eastern U.S.

Photo of Major Henry Neilson (left) and Lieutenant Paul Manini (right)

NOTE – the elaborate plumes are hand-painted; the actual helmet would be a simple horsehair “mane” streaming from the back of the crest or a woolen “comb”

Tragic side note: in 1859, Neilson, a member of Kamehameha IV’s staff, was shot by the king in a pique of anger and morally wounded



1861 American Civil War

April 1861 – Civil War breaks out in America

Note the Union Cavalry Sergeant's uniform – same overall style

- Felt Kossuth hat
- Waist length tunic
- Saber and Saber Belt with shoulder strap (aka cross belt)
- Trousers over boots

SIDE NOTE – the hat brim was sometimes pinned on the right side to **AVOID** hitting the brim with the drawn sword or saber **at the Commanding Officer's discretion**

“Volunteer Movement”



Spencer's Invincibles

Hilo (1861)

(Living History - Hawai'i Civil War Roundtable)

The First Hawaiian Cavalry “stood down” in 1856 (not sure of the reason)

Interest was rekindled in 1861 with the American Civil War – the “Volunteer Movement” spread to the Hawaiian Islands (see Spencer’s Invincibles for an example) – although Hawai’i was declared officially neutral, individuals (Native and Haole) volunteered for service in the war (later buried in Oahu Cemetery)

An effort began November 1861 to reestablish the Hawaiian Cavalry

Proclamation of Neutrality

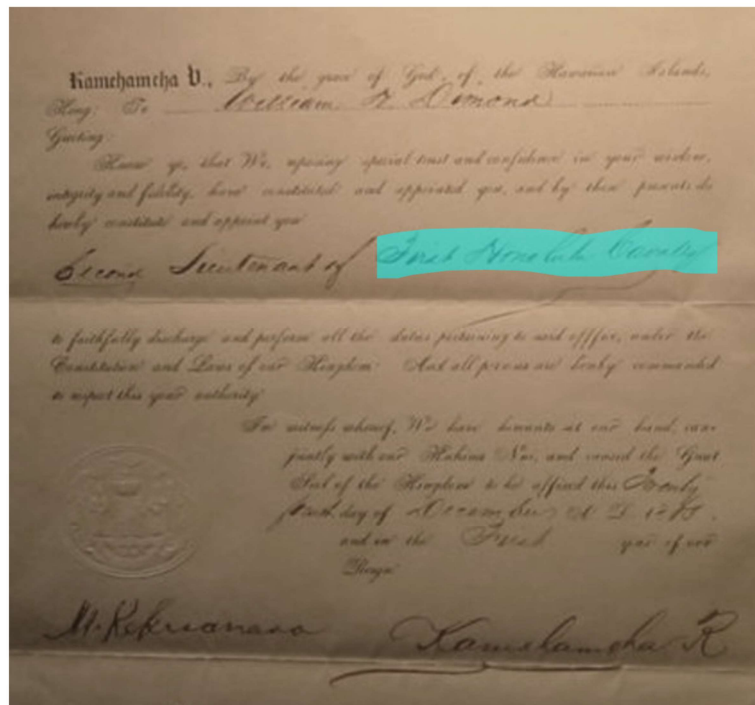
September 14, 1861

PROCLAMATION !
Kamehameha IV., King of the Hawaiian Islands.
BE IT KNOWN, to all whom it may concern, that we, KAMEHAMEHA IV., King of the Hawaiian Islands, having been officially notified that hostilities are now unhappily pending between the Government of the United States, and certain States thereof styling themselves "The Confederate States of America," hereby proclaim Our neutrality between said contending parties.

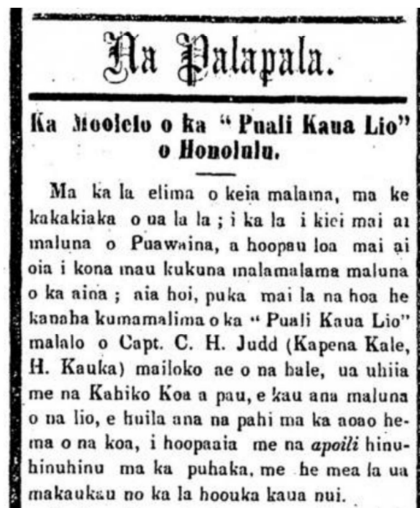
***Hawaiian* Cavalry ?**
or
***“Honolulu”* Cavalry ?**

The documentation and newspapers sometimes refer to the re-established Cavalry as “Hawaiian Cavalry” and sometimes as “Honolulu Cavalry” – both go by the initials “HC”

December 24, 1863 **First Honolulu Cavalry**



King's Commission for Second Lieutenant William H. Diamond in
the First **Honolulu** Cavalry



Ka Nupepa Kuokoa

May 11, 1865

Puali Kaua Lio o Honolulu

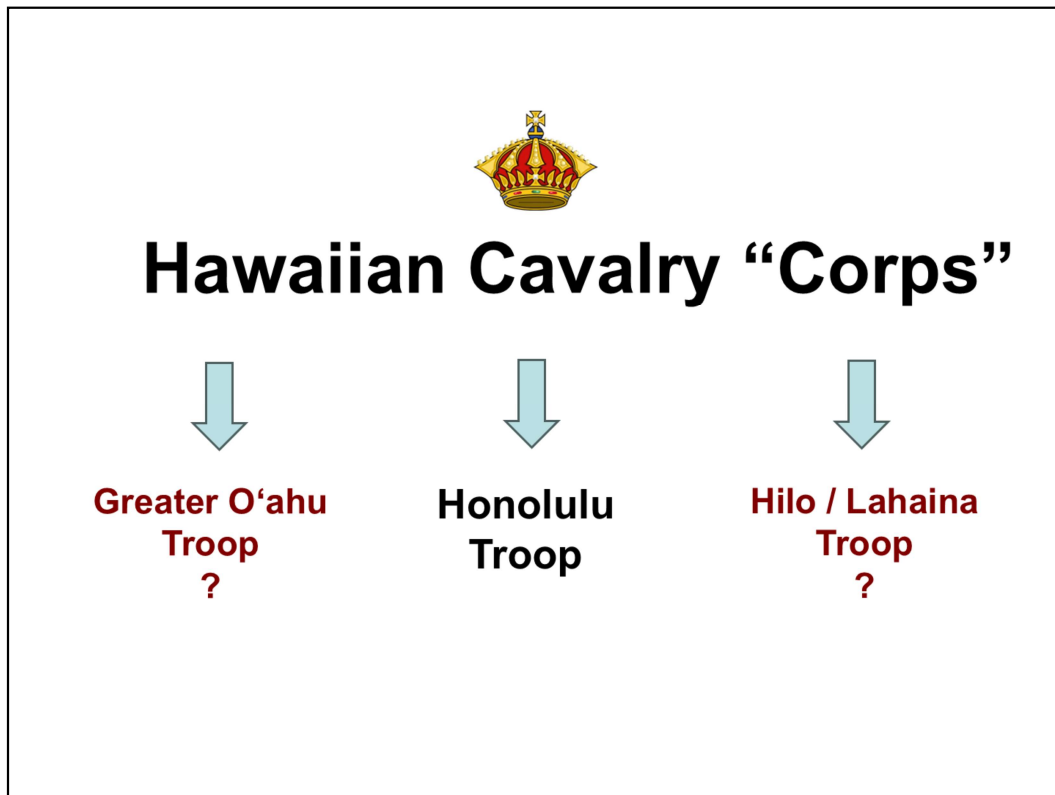
Hawaiian newspaper from 1865: “Puali Kaua Lio o **Honolulu**”

1864 – *Honolulu Cavalry Benefit Union*

1864 – Funeral Procession for King Kamehameha IV includes “*Escort of Honolulu Cavalry*”

1872 – Funeral Procession for King Kamehameha V includes “*Escort of Honolulu Cavalry*”

Other examples of the unit being called **Honolulu Cavalry** (vice Hawaiian Cavalry)



Possible and likely explanation for the difference in terms – envisioned as a cavalry “corps” with different troops (companies) stationed throughout the Islands

They are all “Hawaiian Cavalry” as a corps, with “localized” troops

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa.

KOA LIO PUALU.—Ma ka hora 11 o ka Poaha, la 17 o keia mahina, ua puka ae ke Comopane Koa Lio Pualu me ko lakou mau kahiko maikai. A mamua iho o ka Hale Hookolokolo kahi i hoomoana'i a kaheia ka inoa o na lala o'ia Comopane. Ma ia hope mai, ua hoomaka ka hele ana ma ke Alanui Papu, a huli ma ke Alanui Alii; a kono ma ka Hale Alii. Malaila, hui mai ke Kopala, o ia poe Koa, Ka Haku o Hawaii, maluna o kona lio ulaula, maikai kona holo ana. e alakaia'na e ke Kahu Lio o ka Moi; mailaila'ku ka hele ana a hiki i Ulukou, Waikiki, kahi i hoomakaukauia'i o kekahi Ahaaina maikai e ia poe. Paikau na koa ma Kaluahole, me ka makaukau loa. Hoi mai a hiki ma kahi i hoomakaukauia no ka ahaaina, paina a pau, houluu hou, hele aku a ma keia kupa'ku o ka Muliwai o Apuakehau, malaila kahi i paikau ai, a i hoike ai i na mea i aoia ia lakou. Ua hanaia kekahi apo hao poepoe a paa i kekahi laau, i wahi e holo aku ai na koa a hou aku me ko lakou mau Pahikaua, i naka'i ko lakou palaka'i ke kau

First Full-Dress Parade, Tournament & Banquet

Waikīkī
April 17, 1862

UNIFORM

The Garibaldi costume has been adopted by the company as its uniform, which consists of blue pants, red shirt, black neck tie, belt, and Kossuth hat. This style of dress has several advantages, being inexpensive, (costing not over ten dollars a suit,) and admirably adapted to our climate. The sabres will be furnished by the War Department, and we wish we could announce the whole cost of outfit as defrayed from the appropriation for the military. The company will muster on its first public drill on Saturday afternoon, at 4 o'clock.

Pacific Commercial Advertiser
December 19, 1861

“The Garibaldi costume has been adopted by the company as its uniform, which consists of **blue pants, red shirt, black neck tie, belt, and Kossuth hat**. This style of dress has several advantages, being inexpensive, (costing not over ten dollars a suit,) and admirably adapted to our climate. The sabres will be furnished by the War Department . . .”

Garibaldi ?



Giuseppe Garibaldi
“Redshirt” Patriots
Unification of Italy 1860

Why a “Garibaldi costume” of all the options available?

Hawai’i was officially neutral – authorities anxious to *discourage* any thought that Hawaiian troops could be sent to aid the Union – a military uniform NOT associated with the Civil War

An affordable design, moreover appropriate to the climate

The American Civil War was only a few months old when the Hawaiian Cavalry was searching for a new uniform and had yet to influence popular styles of dress overseas

Giuseppe Garibaldi was a world renowned figure in 1861, his heroism regularly reported in newspapers. A suitable role model for Hawai’i – struggling against all odds to create a new nation (Italy). Likewise, Hawai’i was striving at the time to assert its independence. Garibaldi’s “Redshirt” volunteers were legendary. The uniform would have been recognized by almost everyone. **A symbol of independence backed by determined volunteers.**

Honorary Corporal
First Hawaiian Cavalry

The Prince of Hawai'i

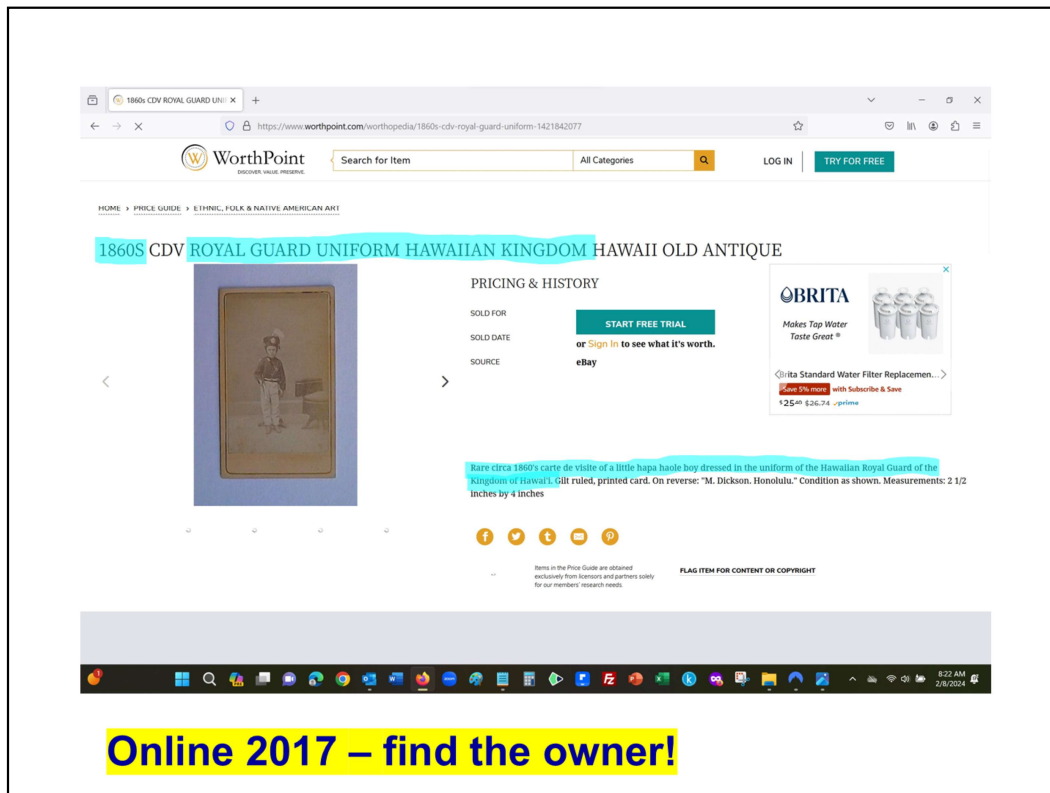
H.R.H. Albert Edward Kauikeaouli Kaleiopapa a Kamehameha



The above photo of Prince Albert is well documented

Born May 20, 1858 – Died August 27, 1862

(note the fringed chair – the stand just visible at his feet was used to keep the subject still while the photo was taken)

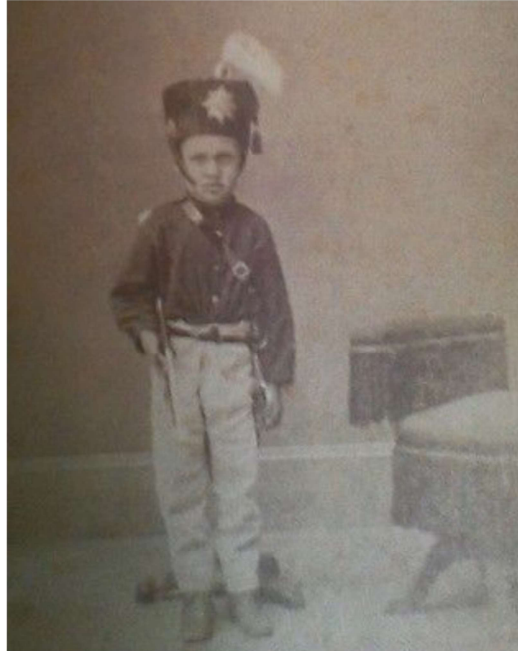


Neil Dukas – stumbled on this image that was auctioned online – the auction house didn't realize the historical significance

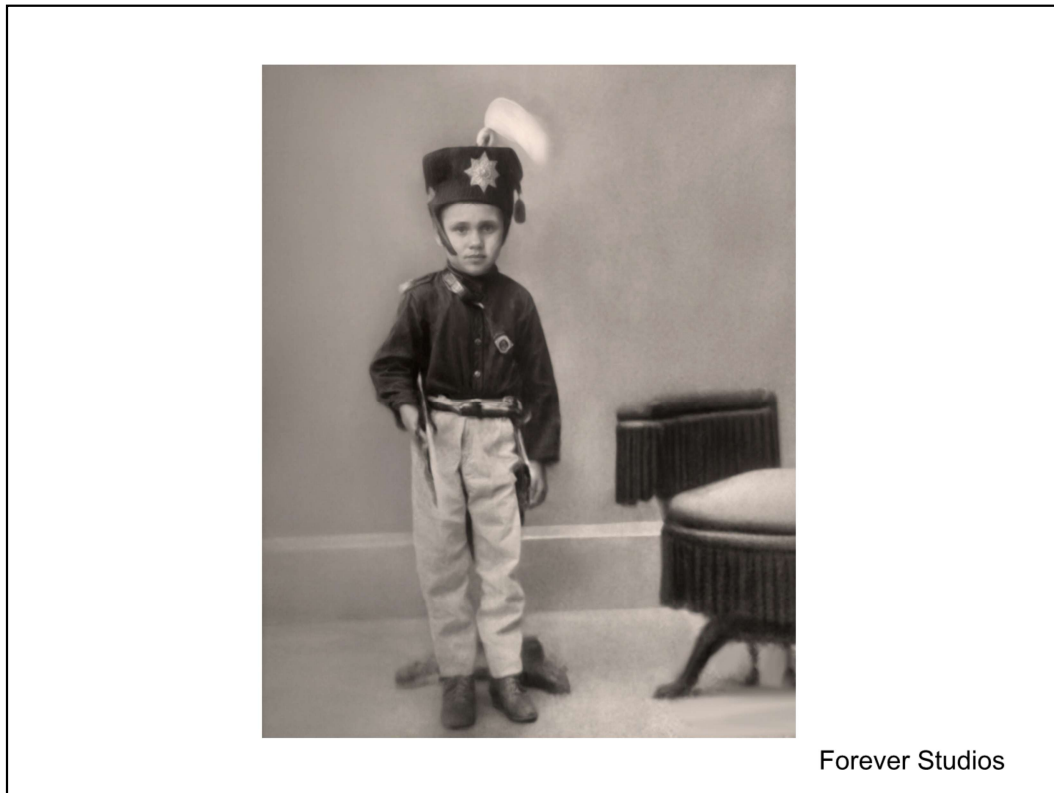
“Rare circa 1860's carte de visite of a little hapa haole boy dressed in the uniform of the Hawaiian Royal Guard of the Kingdom of Hawai'i”

carte de visite – a pocket-sized photo left as a memento of a visit, popular in the Victorian era

Efforts to locate the successful buyer have not been successful. There is no other known copy of this photograph



Enlarged (note the fringed chair and stand) – taken at the same time and the same photographer as the better known photo of the young prince



Digitally Enhanced

The appointment of Prince Albert as a “Corporal” in the Hawaiian Cavalry is well documented.

The uniform (with the exception of the fur “busby”) matches exactly the description of the 1863 Garibaldi-style uniform and is **THE ONLY KNOWN PHOTOGRAPH OF THE UNIFORM.**

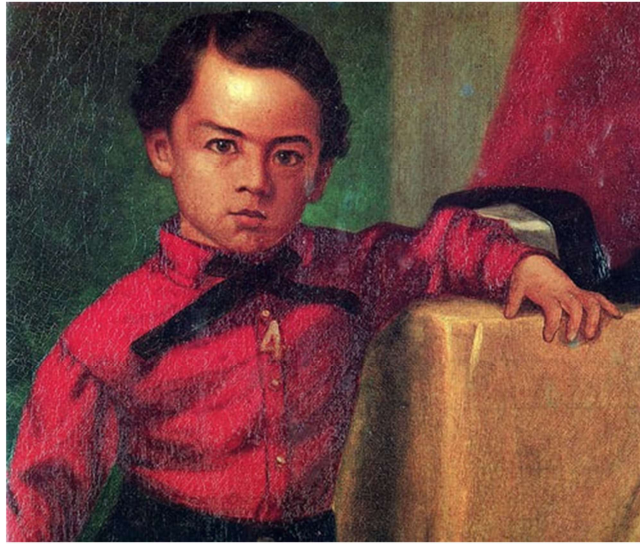
The fur busby with feather plume would have been quite expensive and difficult to maintain in comparison to the Kossuth hat. The hat badge would also have been costly.

The busby was likely only worn on dress parade, possibly only by officers and the young prince.



“Corporal Kamehameha” paraded with the Hawaiian Cavalry mounted on a pony at the company’s first dress parade, April 17, 1862

Died August 27, 1862



Detail of Prince Albert in a painting at 'Iolani Palace. He is wearing his red shirt with black tie as an honorary fire fighter with Fire Engine Company Number 4.

The shirt (less the number 4) and tie was probably the same shirt worn by the Hawaiian Cavalry.

**French-style
Busby**



DRESS

Kossuth



FIELD

Per the press account, the Kossuth hat was the standard issue headdress. The hat is named after the man that brought the style to American and popularized it – Hungarian, Lajos Kossuth.

There is NO documented evidence of the Crown or “HC” lettering being added to the Kossuth. That said, the Hawaiian Crown was a widely recognized symbol of Hawaiian sovereignty at the time. We know that the Crown and brass lettering were at least *available* to the commanding officer. As historical reenactors (living history enthusiasts), we have taken the creative liberty and applied these “devices” to the hat to enhance visibility and correct recognition.

U.S. Manufactured
1840-Model Cavalry Saber



See separate document for a detailed description.

THIS IS NOT A CEREMONIAL OR DECORATIVE SWORD – it is a dangerous weapon!

In 1863, the Heavy Saber was the only weapon issued to the Hawaiian Cavalry (at government expense).

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa.

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First Full-Dress Parade, Tournament & Banquet

Waikīkī
April 17, 1862

MEMBERSHIP

December 19, 1861

70+

Charles W. Vincent, *Captain*.
 Charles H. Judd, *Senior Lieutenant*; M. R. Harvey,
First Lieutenant; William Dinsop, *Second Lieutenant*;
 William H. Hammond, *Third Lieutenant*.
 Dr. O. P. Judd, *Surgeon with rank of Lieutenant*; Dr. H.
 Staigenwald, *Assistant Surgeon*.
 Rev. Eli Cowlin, *Chaplain*.
 Paul F. Munini, *Quartermaster with rank of Lieutenant*;
 Henry Cornwell, *Assistant Quartermaster*.
 Robert E. Wuketann, *Orderly Sergeant*; William Bennett,
Second Sergeant; John N. Gilman, *Third Sergeant*; Robert
 Bell, *Fourth Sergeant*.
 William B. Wood, *First Corporal*; Jerome Feary, *Second*
Corporal; James L. Lewis, *Third Corporal*; H. J. Nolle,
Fourth Corporal.
 William W. Hall, *First Cornet*; Edward H. Boyd, *Second*
Cornet.
 Wm. E. Henck, *First Bugler*; Jacob Hialek, *Second*
Bugler.
 H. Q. Oahih, *Secretary*; D. P. Durham, *Assistant Secretary*.
 William H. Dinsdahl, *Treasurer*.

See also handout for a list of the original officers – many from prominent Hawaiian and Kamaaina families.

OFFICERS

1861

- Charles W. **Vincent**, *Captain*.
- Charles H. **Judd**, *Senior Lieutenant*; M.R. **Harvey**, *First Lieutenant*; William **Duncan**, *Second Lieutenant*; William H. **Diamond**, *Third Lieutenant*.
- Dr. G.P. **Judd**, *Surgeon* with rank of Lieutenant; Dr. H. **Stangenwald**, *Assistant Surgeon*.
- Rev. Eli **Corwin**, *Chaplain*.
- Paul F. **Manini**, *Quartermaster* with rank of Lieutenant; Henry **Cornwell**, *Assistant Quartermaster*.
- Robert E. **Wakeman**, *Orderly Sergeant*; William **Bennett**, *Second Sergeant*; John N. **Gilman**, *Third Sergeant*; Robert **Self**, *Fourth Sergeant*.
- William S. **Wond**, *First Corporal*; Jerome **Feary**, *Second Corporal*; James L. **Lewis**, *Third Corporal*; H.J. **Nolte**, *Fourth Corporal*.
- William W. **Hall**, *First Cornet*; Edward H. **Boyd**, *Second Cornet*.
- Wm. E. **H[?]ck**, *First Bugler*; Jacob **Holek**, *Second Bugler*.
- H.G. **Crabb**, *Secretary*; B.F. **Durham**, *Assistant Secretary*.
- William H. **Diamond**, *Treasurer*.

WHY?

ernment. Such a volunteer company as this, well trained and kept in serviceable efficiency, ready at all times to be called out in behalf of the state, forms one of the best protections which our government can have to rely on against invasions or revolts. If the government assumes the expense

Pacific Commercial Advertiser, April 24, 1862

“Such a volunteer company as this, well trained and kept in serviceable efficiency, ready at all times to be called out in behalf of the state, forms one of the best protections which our government can have to rely on against invasions or revolts.”

Why join?

But also . . .

- **Patriotism / Civic Mindedness**
- **Protection of Business and Property**
- **Enhanced Social Status**
- **Social club and Women's auxiliary**
- **Mutual Aid and Benefit Society**
- **Networking and Career Development**
- **Love of horses**

Primary Activities

- **Royal Escorts** (Church Services and Opening of the Legislature)
- **Training and Tournaments**
- **Parades** (National Holidays)
- **Funeral Escorts and Honor Guards**
- **Banquets and Balls**
- **Mutual Aid / Charity Events**
- **Emergency Service**

Notable Dates – 1862-1864

Apr 17 – First full-dress parade, training, tournament & banquet

May 2 – Royal Escort opening of the Legislature

May 20 – Prince of Hawai‘i’s Birthday – **Presentation of colors to the Honolulu Cavalry by Queen Emma**

July 31– **Restoration Day parade**, training & tournament

August 28 – Official mourning for the Prince of Hawai‘i

Nov 28 – **Royal Escort (Episcopal Confirmation) / Anniversary of Anglo-French Recognition (Hawaiian Independence)**

Nov 30 ’63 – Obsequies, passing of King Kamehameha IV

Feb 3 ‘64 – Burial of King Kamehameha IV and the Prince of Hawai‘i

See also handout.

Death of King Kamehameha IV Letter of Condolence

Honolulu, December 10th 1863.
To Her Majesty, Queen Emma:
Madam:—
On behalf of the members of the First Hawaiian Cavalry, Volunteer Corps, we beg leave to state that it was with feelings of the deepest regret and pain that we heard the announcement of the death of our beloved King, your Royal Husband; and permit us, on this behalf, to express to Your Majesty, and to the Royal Family, a heartfelt sympathy and grief at the great and sudden loss which you and this nation have sustained in the death of our beloved Sovereign. Although the Nation's loss is great, we know that yours is greater, and our sympathy for you in this most unlucked bereavement cannot be expressed by words merely. We humbly pray that God, in his infinite mercy, may pour the



Funeral Procession – Kamehameha IV

Honolulu Cavalry 1865



Owing to the climate and normal wear and tear, uniforms in Hawai'i rarely lasted longer than three years.

By 1865, the Garibaldi uniforms had been replaced.

Above is a photograph of the Commanding Officer of the Honolulu Cavalry, **Charles H. Judd** wearing the replacement uniform, heavily influenced by styles popularized during the American Civil War. The Kossuth hat was replaced by a French-style "kepi."

(this photo is in the Bishop Museum archives)

Charles Hastings Judd

"1st Honolulu Cavalry"

Captain – Dec. 24, 1863

Major – Oct. 10, 1866



Chasseurs à cheval
(light cavalry badge)



A hunting horn worn by light cavalry in America and Continental Europe was adopted circa 1865 for use on the cap (kepi).



ELECTION RIOT

February 12, 1874

The Hawaiian Cavalry and all other military units were disbanded following the Election or Courthouse Riot of 1874, suspected (perhaps justifiably) of being sympathetic to Queen Emma.

Kalākaua replaced the Hawaiian Cavalry with a new mounted unit, the Leleiohoku Guards. The Leleiohoku Guards were in turn disbanded following the Wilcox Rebellion of 1889.



H.M. King David Kalākaua

1874 – Reorganization

H.M. King David Kalākaua

Commander-in-Chief

Lieutenant-General, The Hon. John O. Dominis

Secretary of War (ex officio)

William L. Green

Adjutant-General

Charles Judd

Permanent or Regular Force

- **Royal Guard**

Volunteer Guards

- **The Prince's Own** (artillery)
- **Leleiohoku Guards** (cavalry)
- **Māmalahoa Guards** (infantry)
- **King's Own** (infantry)
- **Hawaiian Guards** (infantry)



Lieut.-Gen. John O. Dominis



The Hawaiian Cavalry return to duty at Queen Emma Summer Place, Wednesday November 13, 2024.

A Living History Project of
the Forum on Hawai‘i’s Military and Warrior Past



The Honolulu Cavalry

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