

# **History of the National Guard (Placerville), California Militia 1863-1866**

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NATIONAL GUARD COMPANY D

National Guard Company D, Second Infantry Battalion, Fourth Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 3, File 8

Location: Placerville, Eldorado County

Mustered in September 19, 1863

Mustered out July 23, 1866

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
G. W. Howlett, Captain	Sept. 19, 1863	Oct. 3, 1863
G. W. Barlow, First Lieut.	Sept. 19, 1863	Oct. 3, 1863
Evan A. Edwards, Captain	Sept. 21, 1864	Oct. 4, 1864
Joseph F. Farley, First Lieut.	Sept. 21, 1864	Oct. 4, 1864
J. H. Napier, Captain	Sept. 21, 1865	Nov. 6, 1865
G. W. Barlow, First Lieut.	Feb. 20, 1865	Mar. 7, 1865

Activities:

The National Guard of Placerville, Eldorado County, was organized, September 19, 1863, through a request from headquarters, for an increase in the number of independent companies of militia throughout the State, in order to better conditions for successful defense. The majority of eligible men, it was felt, were enlisting in the volunteers and the interests of home protection was being neglected.\*

A meeting was held on September 19, 1863, in the Temperance Hall of Upper Placerville at which time the company was duly organized and the commissioned officers elected. G. W. Howlett was unanimously elected as Captain and G. W. Barlow, as First Lieutenant of the newly organized company.

The National Guard company had been issued arms, (for which no date of issuance is obtainable) but they were old supplies having been repaired many times and were still in such condition that they were practically unusable. Lieutenant Colonel Baber, commanding the Second Infantry Battalion, took the matter up with General Kibbe in an endeavor to have new arms issued in exchange for the old ones. In the Lieutenant-Colonel's letter to the Adjutant-General, March 1, 1864, he informed the General that the two Guard companies were situated but one-half mile from each other, consequently the National Guard was invited to attend all the target excursions participated in by the City Guard, but as the arms were in such condition the members of the National Guard were deprived of the privilege of taking part in such activities. Colonel Baber expressed his opinion in stating that, "Captain Howlett's company was composed of men who lived in the city or immediate vicinity and the company was as permanent as any of the other companies of the Battalion,

NATIONAL GUARD COMPANY D (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

LINDEN LIGHT DRAGOONS

also that the Captain was a careful officer who had the full confidence of the corps and deserved much credit for the high state of proficiency to which they had attained under the circumstances. In fact the company was worthy of the highest consideration from headquarters. Colonel Baber ended his letter in expressing the hope that the exchange of arms would be made at the earliest opportunity."

There is no further record to indicate whether this request was granted. In fact, the annual election of officers was the only data found on file in regards to the National Guard of Placer-ville. The second election placed Evan A. Edwards as Captain and Joseph F. Farley as First Lieutenant. The company was in existence but a few years, and its last election was held on September 21, 1866.\* The company was disbanded and mustered out of service on July 23, 1866, pursuant to the Military Law of that year. This law affected the military companies located in mining towns, which made it difficult for the units to maintain the required membership prescribed by the Military Law.

The Linden Light Dragoons were organized in Linden, San Joaquin County, September 22, 1863, under the command of Captain Tarr.

No records of this company appear on the files, but it is believed that the company was organized together with the Secessionist companies in San Joaquin County during the Civil War, and was disbanded in 1866. In 1866 the company was disbanded and its members were mustered out of service.

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\*At this election, J. H. Napier was chosen Captain of the company and G. W. Barlow, First Lieutenant.

-2-