

History of the Saragossa Light Guard, California Militia 1865-1866

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#274

SARAGOSSA LIGHT GUARD

Saragossa Light Guard, Company H, Fourth Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 3, File 5

Location: Marysville, Yuba County

Mustered in January 30, 1865

Mustered out July 10, 1866

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Manuel Murua, Captain	Jan. 30, 1865	Feb. 8, 1865
Pedro Lorsa, First Lieut.	Jan. 30, 1865	Feb. 8, 1865
I. Bustillas, First Lieut.*	July 15, 1865	Aug. 1, 1865

Activities:

The Saragossa Light Guard, Company H, was organized at a meeting held in the Spanish-American Hall at Marysville, January 30, 1865. The officers were elected at the same meeting and received their commissions February eighth of that year. The rank and file composing this company were all of Spanish extraction. It is interesting to note that the company received their arms the eighteenth of February, which was only ten days after the mustering in of the unit. This was contrary to the usual custom at that period, for sometimes months would elapse before the companies would receive their arms and equipment.

From the little correspondence on file it is apparent this unit saw little if any active service, although the men were well trained and armed. However, some of the members enlisted with the California Volunteers at the beginning of the War of the Rebellion. The membership in this Guard was small and when the Adjutant-General recommended that as many of the interior mining towns with a transient population, who could not keep up their company organization under the stringent requirement of the law be disbanded, the Saragossa Light Guard was mustered out of service July 10, 1866, under that Military Ruling.

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*I. Bustillas was promoted from Second to First Lieutenant to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Pedro Lorsa's.