

# THE STORY

OF THE

## MAINE FIFTEENTH;

BEING A

BRIEF NARRATIVE OF THE MORE IMPORTANT  
EVENTS IN THE HISTORY

OF THE

## FIFTEENTH MAINE REGIMENT;

TOGETHER WITH

A COMPLETE ROSTER OF THE REGIMENT, EMBRACING  
THE NAME OF EVERY OFFICER AND ENLISTED MAN  
SERVING WITH IT AT ANY TIME DURING ITS  
TERM OF SERVICE; AND ILLUSTRATIONS AND  
BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF NEAR-  
LY ALL THE COMMISSIONED OFFICERS  
OF THE REGIMENT.

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4 Maj. F. M. Drew

1 Col. Isaac Dyer  
2 Lt.-Col. B. B. Murray  
3 Maj. J. H. Whitmore

5 Maj. J. R. Coates



1 Col. McClusky.  
2 Surgeon Higgins.  
3 Surgeon Donnell.

4 Asst. Surg. Dodge.  
5 Asst. Surg. Kimball.  
6 Asst. Surg. Holt.

7 Adjutant Nowland.  
8 Major Hawes.  
9 Quartermaster Locke.  
13 Chaplain Brown.

10 Asst. Surgeon Holmes.  
11 Quartermaster Tilton.  
12 Chaplain Wetherbee.

## INTRODUCTORY.

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**I**N presenting this humble volume to the inspection of his old comrades of the MAINE FIFTEENTH, the author takes early occasion to disavow any purpose to produce anything like a complete historical sketch of the Regiment as an organization or of the individual members composing it. This, under the circumstances, seems impracticable.

The work, rather, is designed as a simple reminder of salient points in the career of the Old Regiment, which it must be pleasant to treasure in memory's store-house as the active participants therein shall approach the decline of life, when, if not at life's meridian, we shall delight to review the eventful years of the war-period, and especially to recall the familiar names and faces of comrades, living and dead, with whom we were so long associated amid the pleasures and the vicissitudes of army life—in "the mess," the camp, the field, the hospital, and, mayhap, prison-stockade.

The author has designedly avoided any special mention of meritorious or heroic acts of either individual officers or enlisted men, or of any short-comings that might be alleged against either, preferring rather to treat of the career of the Regiment in its capacity as an organization, whose praiseworthy record is made up of the combined services of the individuals composing it. In every emergency in which the "Old Fifteenth" was placed in its continuous service of more than four-and-a-half years, it never failed to creditably acquit itself; and this is due no more to the worth and capacity of its commanding and subordinate officers than to the stalwart manliness of those composing its rank and file.

The Roster of Officers and Enlisted Men appearing in the Appendix is as complete as it has been possible to render it with the materials at hand. The facts are mainly gathered from the Reports of the Adjutant General of Maine, and any material errors appearing must be ascribed to imperfect records on file in that office.

The author has made earnest and long-prolonged effort to procure the picture of every commissioned officer who at any time served with the regiment; that he has not been entirely successful in this respect is by no means to be attributed to any oversight of his own. With but very few exceptions the pictures are accurate copies of photographs taken during the war-period; and if any of the originals who may "have grown handsome in their old age" feel an inclination to criticise the pictures as imperfect

representations, they need only to re-examine the originals to be re-assured. The "whirligig of time" produces wonderful changes even in the human visage and expression.

With these explanatory observations "The Story of the Maine Fifteenth" is respectfully and confidently commended to the favor of the survivors of the Old Regiment, and to the families and relatives of deceased comrades, in the earnest hope that it may prove in some measure an instrumentality of re-calling the sacred memories clustering about the past and of more closely cementing in the bonds of an enduring-comradeship, the little band of veterans whom God in his infinite mercy has so long spared "to enjoy the fellowship of old soldiers and receive the overflowings of a universal gratitude," on account of patriotic and self-sacrificing services most worthily performed!

# The Story of the Maine Fifteenth.

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## CHAPTER I.

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### “THE SITUATION” AT THE OPENING OF OUR “STORY.”

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THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE WAR.—THE CALL FOR TROOPS AND THE GENEROUS RESPONSE.—INCIDENTS OF THE OPENING MONTHS OF THE GREAT STRUGGLE.—A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE SITUATION IN THE FALL OF 1861.—THE VERY GENERAL DESPONDENCY PREVAILING.—MAINE'S NOBLE RESPONSE TO THE COUNTRY'S CALL.

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OUR brief “STORY OF THE MAINE FIFTEENTH” opens with that critical period in our country's history—the closing months of the first year of the War of the Rebellion. Abraham Lincoln, the lawfully-elected chief magistrate, had been peacefully inaugurated and had registered in heaven his official oath “to preserve, protect and defend” the government entrusted to his care, followed by those portentous mutterings of dissatisfaction from the South, and the “secession,” one after another, of the Southern States. With the arms and munitions of war supplied through the treachery of government officials, the South had been rapidly placed upon a war-footing, and rebel batteries in Charleston harbor had insolently belched forth “their challenge to the fray,” which, promptly accepted by a loyal North, had transferred nearly every village and hamlet of the North, East and West, into a military camp. The flag of the rebellion had taken the place of the stars and stripes upon Sumpter's flag-staff, and in every section of the South the national authority was being openly defied. “To repossess the forts, places and property” of the Union seized by the rebels, “Father Abraham” had early called for seventy thousand men for a period of three months, followed later by requisitions framed upon a much broader scale. New England soldiers had already heroically fought their way through a howling mob in the streets of Baltimore; Washington was surrounded with national troops; and the banks of the Potomac studded with frowning cannon. Federal troops had invaded Virginia's “sacred soil,” and the intrepid Ellsworth had paid the penalty of his patriotic ardor with his life-blood. The disastrous “Big Bethel,” with the brilliant young



Maj. Winthrop as only one of many victims, had come and gone; while the numerous little better than "drawn-battles" and skirmishes of the year, in West Virginia, Missouri, and elsewhere in the border States, with the loss to the Union service of the chivalrous Gen. Lyon and others of the early heroes of the war, all conspired to dispirit the people and enshroud in gloom the patriotic heart. Furthermore, the bottom of the national money-till had early been reached, and the first war-loan of two hundred and fifty millions ordered. Mid-summer had brought its disastrous no less than disgraceful "Bull-Run,"—though with it some valuable instruction in the science of war. The venerable Gen. Scott had retired from the command of the army and the youthful yet brilliant McClellan was collecting and organizing that magnificent army on the banks of the Potomac, in full view of the pickets of the rebel hordes. In the early fall came the disastrous "Ball's Bluff," with the tragic death of Col. Baker; the threatened foreign complications incident to the Mason-Slidell episode; the depredations upon our commerce by rebel privateers; the "masterly inactivity" of the great and splendidly equipped Army of the Potomac; the depreciation of the national currency and the inevitable suspension of specie payments,—these, combined, rendered the outlook anything but encouraging, and served to very effectually dissipate the theory at first so generally entertained—that the war was likely to prove but a mere holiday recreation!

In the nearly nine months which had elapsed since the firing upon Sumpter—to the close of the year 1861—there had been no less than seventy-two skirmishes and battles between the contending forces, resulting in a loss to the Union forces of something like sixteen hundred and fifty-nine in killed and thirty-three hundred and sixty-three in wounded—the loss of the enemy, as near as can be ascertained, being thirty-four hundred and five in killed and fifty-three hundred and eighty-eight in wounded. Much gallant and desperate fighting had occurred on both sides, and many prisoners and much public property captured by each; but, on the whole, it must be confessed, the aggregate results were far from satisfactory.

At the very inception of the great struggle, Maine—in common with all of the loyal States—promptly stepped forward with tenders of men and means, for the national defense. Her record is one of which every son of Maine has reason to be proud. She generously offered at the onset ten full regiments of ten thousand men, fully armed and equipped; and these had hardly left the State when she manifested a willingness to as promptly respond to other calls in the same direction.

## CHAPTER II.

## THE MAINE FIFTEENTH AND ITS FIRST WINTER IN CAMP.

THE "MAINE FIFTEENTH" IS BORN—THE RECRUITS GATHER IN CAMP AND ARE ORGANIZED, DRILLED AND DISCIPLINED—THE FOUR MONTHS' SOJOURN AT AUGUSTA—THE DEPARTURE FOR THE SEAT OF WAR VIA PORTLAND.

IF Maine's first ten regiments, the First was dispatched to the front as early as May; three others followed in June; another in July; another in August; two more in September; and the Tenth in October. Immediately came the call, under date of Sept. 11, 1861, authorizing Maine "to raise, arm and organize, at the expense of the United States, a regiment of cavalry, five regiments of infantry, and six batteries of light artillery." It was in pursuance of this authority that the Maine Fifteenth was organized and called into the service.

Unlike the first ten regiments raised by Maine, the Fifteenth and other regiments recruited under this authorization, were from the start the "children of the general government," and only such expenses were incurred as were warranted by the army regulations. Neither municipal or state bounties were offered as an incentive to enlistments, though an assurance was given that if the recruit serve the full period of his enlistment, or during the war, if sooner ended, a bounty of one hundred dollars would be paid each recruit by the United States. The rigid regulations of the United States Army being observed in all the preliminaries of the organization and equipment of the regiment, the recruits were necessarily denied many of the little luxuries which the more liberal policy of the state government had bestowed upon the troops which had preceded us, and which in some measure served to relieve the severity of so sudden a transfer from the comforts of home-life to the hardships inevitably surrounding the experiences of the soldier, in the camp no less than in the field.

The fall and winter of 1861-2 found the region of the State Capitol at Augusta a veritable military camp, and Maine's "War Department,"—presided over by that able and industrious officer, Adjutant General John L. Hodsdon,—a scene of ceaseless activity. The First Cavalry, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Infantry, and several batteries of light artillery, were all in process of organization at one and the same time; while

the Eleventh Infantry had but just left Augusta (Nov. 12th) and only two weeks later Col. Shepley's Twelfth Infantry left its Portland camp for the Lowell (Mass.) rendezvous of the New Orleans Expedition.

Though the recruiting papers for the Fifteenth were not issued until October, as early as the first week in November a number of large detachments had already arrived upon the camp-ground, and very soon thereafter the Fifteenth was able to gather quite a formidable battalion and to take up the ordinary routine of duty pertaining to the soldiers' camp-life. The early arrival of a number of the larger detachments was due to the fact that they had been originally intended for one of the other regiments, and had in reality gone into camp with the Thirteenth upon the Arsenal Grounds; but, owing to some misunderstanding among the officers as to the assignments, a transfer to the Fifteenth was amicably arranged.

The Fifteenth Maine's Encampment was located upon the beautiful grounds of the State fronting the State Capitol, upon the east side of the highway. Though late in the fall—and our occupancy continued through the winter—our first introduction to the soldiers' experience was in the ordinary army tent, rendered inhabitable only by the various ingenious devices which the Maine Yankee is never slow to bring to his relief in an emergency. While an extra woolen blanket in those bleak winter nights might have been very acceptable, yet when the Maine Solons in their legislative capacity declined to make appropriation for such "luxuries," the boys found it by no means difficult to worry through the winter without them.

By the latter portion of November a sufficient number of recruits to answer the requirements of the law as to the "muster" of certain of the field and staff officers, had arrived in camp; and the Adjutant and Quartermaster were commissioned in November, the Surgeon a few days later, followed by the Lieutenant-Colonel, Assistant Surgeon, etc., about the middle of December. Col. McCluskey, however, was not mustered-in until late in January.

Under these circumstances the command of the regiment devolved upon Lieut. Col. Dyer during its first three months' of camp-life; and for its early instruction in discipline, drill, and other of the rudimentary details of military science,—as well as for very much that was valuable in its subsequent career,—the regiment is largely indebted to that estimable gentleman and sterling officer. The Adjutant, too, was very efficient and serviceable in those early days. A thoroughly trained soldier and conversant with every detail of military duty and requirement, his counsel and instruction were as eagerly sought as he was free to impart of his ripe experience.

The first company for the Fifteenth was mustered early in December, and during that month nearly all of the ten companies had completed

their organization and their officers received their commissions. Company A was mustered Dec. 6; B, Dec. 7; C, Dec. 9; D, Dec. 10-23; E, Dec. 24-Jan. 3; F, Dec. 12-17; G, Dec. 20; H, Dec. 21; I, Dec. 31-Jan. 16; and K, Dec. 16-Jan. 7.

In the Appendix at the close of this work, a detailed Roster of the Officers and Enlisted Men, as originally mustered-in, is given, and it seems quite unnecessary here to repeat the list. It may be of interest to state, however, that the Fifteenth, as originally organized, drew its members from nearly all sections of the State. Of the field and staff officers, the Colonel, Major, Surgeon, Adjutant, Quartermaster, and Sergeant-major, were all from Aroostook County; the Lieutenant-Colonel, from Somerset; the Assistant Surgeon and Hospital Steward, from Cumberland; the Chaplain, from Lincoln; and the Quartermaster-sergeant and Commissary-sergeant, from Washington County. Of the company officers and enlisted men, A were from Washington; B, Sagadahoc; C, Aroostook; D, Cumberland; E, Aroostook; F, about equally divided between Cumberland and Aroostook—the Captain, with his detachment, being from the former and the Lieutenants from the latter county; G, Aroostook; H and I, Penobscot; and K, Washington. Other counties were of course represented by an occasional recruit in the several companies, and later, when the depleted ranks of the regiment were filled from the recruiting rendezvous, by detachments, thus materially changing the locality classification as here stated.

The winter's sojourn at Augusta was in many respects quite uneventful though not wholly devoid of interest. The innumerable duties incident to camp-life—the daily routine of guard-mounting, company and regimental drill, the parades and reviews, and the never-failing "recreation" of guard-duty—served to occupy a goodly proportion of the time; while the liberal policy of the commanding officers as to leaves of absence, the privileges afforded both officers and enlisted men of attending the various social festivals and the religious and other gatherings in the city and its vicinity, the close proximity of the camp to the seat of government, with its attractions during the legislative sessions and its constant throng of visitors from every section of the State, all contributed towards rendering the winter's tarry at Augusta rather an agreeable experience.

Much vexatious delay attended the perfecting of arrangements for the water-transportation of the troops designed for the Butler Expedition; and as the weeks and months made their successive rounds and found us still "awaiting orders," and evidently accomplishing very little towards "the suppression of the rebellion," the soldiers became quite "eager for the fray,"—and on that bitterly cold morning towards the latter part of February, when the order to "strike tents!" was passed along the line, it was received with very general rejoicings.

As a more painful incident of the winter's stay at Augusta must be mentioned the fact that the exposure to which the soldiers were subjected in camp during the winter, quite seriously affected the general health of the command, and rendered "the sick-list," both in camp and in quarters, quite formidable. Many contracted violent colds, resulting in lung difficulties and other ailments, from which they never recovered. Not a few died at Augusta during the winter or early spring months, while many others, completely broken down in health, and unable to accompany the regiment, were left behind, in hospital or at their homes, and were finally discharged from the service for disability, or, unaccounted for, were dropped from the rolls in pursuance of general order. In this manner the services of some of our worthiest men were lost to the regiment and to the country; and, though "dropping from the ranks" earlier in the race than some of their more fortunate comrades, they are nevertheless entitled to be classified as among that noble band of patriots who sacrificed health and life upon the country's altar in the hour of her direst need.

The Fifteenth "broke camp" on the morning of Feb. 25th, 1862. The work of preparation was no mere holiday pastime, since "raw recruits" never move with the celerity of veterans. The packing of the goods and chattels constituting the entire outfit of the soldier into an ordinary knapsack, "strapped upon the back," was an entirely new experience and one attended with innumerable perplexities;—yet this and all other important lessons in "the school of the soldier" were mastered eventually. In due time the regiment was in line and proudly marched—but only as far as the depot! Here it was discovered that "some one had blundered." No cars had been provided for the transportation of the regiment! For awhile we patiently awaited developments; then we marched "back up the hill,"—to the State House, where we unsuccessfully sought temporary quarters; later, and with like results, we "moved in force" upon the U. S. Arsenal Buildings; and finally, as a last resort, we occupied the public halls of the city; where, with comfortable fires and munificent contributions of hot coffee and other appetizing luxuries from various sources, we managed to extract some little comfort from the situation—if not to obtain the restful and refreshing slumber so much desired.

On the morning of the 26th of February we again endeavored to "catch the train"—this time, happily, with success. The work of "packing" and "sandwiching" was completed in due time; a season for the exchange of parting words and caresses with the loved ones gathered at the train to witness our departure was afforded and well-improved; the shrill whistle of the engine and the "all aboard!" signal were sounded; and with the inevitable accompaniments of music, cheers, weeping eyes and waving handkerchiefs, the Fifteenth Maine was moving Southward!

## CHAPTER III.

## EN ROUTE—AT PORTLAND—AND “ON THE OCEAN WAVE.”

AT PORTLAND.—AN UNCOMFORTABLE NIGHT ON SHIP-BOARD.—THE GREAT REPUBLIC NOT IN READINESS.—THE REGIMENT TRANSFERRED TO MORE COMFORTABLE QUARTERS IN PORTLAND'S NEW CITY BUILDING.—A WEEK'S SOJOURN IN THE FOREST CITY.—THE REGIMENT AGAIN EMBARKS AND INDULGES IN A SEA-VOYAGE OF TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS' DURATION.

UPON leaving Augusta the plans contemplated immediate embarkation on board ship “Great Republic,” with the expectation that the vessel would at once proceed to sea; and, reaching Portland late in the afternoon, the regiment was at once marched to the vessel, the soldiers spending the night on board. It was very soon discovered, however, that the ship was not in readiness for “first-class passengers”—hardly for the horses, which were assigned “the steerage.” The ship was cold, damp, and exceedingly untidy. The commissary stores were not on board, and the facilities for cooking were insufficient to the supply of cooked rations for anything like the number of men we had brought on board. In some other respects the ship had failed to make the necessary arrangements for the voyage; and, in consequence of this culpable negligence in some quarter, the men experienced very great discomfort.

Happily, however, we were in a friendly port, and, furthermore, had thus early in our military career learned to—“g-r-o-w-l.” The situation was at once brought to the attention of the Mayor of the city, who—upon consultation with and the acquiescence of the commanding officers—promptly repaired to the wharf where our vessel lay, and in a neat and appropriate speech welcomed the regiment to the hospitalities of the city of Portland! With deafening shouts of applause the soldiers greeted the invitation, and the regiment at once debarked and marched to the (then) New City Building, which it occupied as “barracks” for a week, and where the soldiers were the recipients of many kindly attentions from the patriotic people of that goodly city.

The week's sojourn in Portland was characterized by no especially noteworthy incident; though in many respects it was quite pleasureable to the soldiers. Numerous opportunities were afforded for mingling with the people and of attending the religious meetings, social gatherings, etc. A

number of the members of the regiment also here received calls from relatives and friends, while not a few were given brief leaves of absence in which to visit the old home and exchange the parting words with loved ones—a privilege very highly appreciated by those thus favored.

Owing no doubt largely to the seemingly unnecessary exposure to which the men had been subjected on all hands since breaking camp at Augusta, the list of those sick in quarters and in hospital had again become quite formidable. From forty to fifty quite serious cases were upon the hospital list, to say nothing of those sick in quarters or at their homes; and despite the most faithful nursing and assiduous attentions from all quarters, it was found, when the hour of departure arrived, that quite a large number must be left behind.

On the 6th of March, the vessel's preparations for the voyage being completed, the regiment again embarked upon the ship *Great Republic*—then the largest sailing-vessel afloat—and at noon of the 7th, amid salvos of artillery and music from the forts in the harbor, and the cheers of the throngs of spectators gathered upon the wharves to witness our departure, we proceeded to sea; bidding adieu for a time—many, alas! for all time!—to the dear old “*State of the Pine Tree*,” and the loved ones scattered all along her hills and vales!

The great ship upon which we had taken passage, with its large and diversified population, seemed like a little world of itself, and was an object of unceasing interest, especially to those who were now making their first voyage “*o'er old ocean's wide expanse*.” Here were nearly or quite one thousand men—including the ship's officers and crew—quartered upon the vessel, “*bunks*” being arranged “*between decks*” and elsewhere, in such manner as to utilize every inch of space; while “*on the ground floor*” were a large number of cavalry and artillery horses—about two hundred and fifty—so closely “*stowed-in*” as to be absolutely unable to lie down—even in death!

The commissioned officers were assigned excellent accommodations in the ship's capacious cabin and saloons; but, unhappily, the enlisted men hardly fared as well. They were more numerous; hence, necessarily, less fortunate.

It was found wholly impracticable to issue rations to the several companies, as in camp, and cooked rations were served from the ship's galleys. A regular and perhaps the “*favorite diet*,” was a compound known to the “*bill of fare*” as *bean-soup*, but which the boys were wont to characterize as “*bean-swagen*”; and very often, when eagerly crowding about the cook-room at the dinner-hour, waiting to be served, the shouts,—“*swagen!*” “*bean-swagen!*” raised by hundreds of voices, and taken up and passed along in every direction, became a strikingly familiar phrase, if

not especially musical or pleasing as a chorus. Nevertheless the "swagen" "dinner-cry" seemed to afford the boys infinite amusement and the commanding officer manifested no disposition to interfere with the sport.

As to the regular bill-of-fare on ship-board, it may as well be conceded that it was hardly up to the standard of our first-class hotels, either in variety or as to the method of compounding. It was, however, very fair "army-diet"; and when the boys became accustomed to their changed situation there was no more complaint than was to have been expected. The food was certainly ample in quantity if not entirely satisfactory in quality and variety; indeed, that there was a sufficiency, and even a surplus, was clearly evinced by the spectacle frequently witnessed, especially in rough weather, of scores of soldiers benevolently sharing a but partially digested "dinner" with the sharks and dolphins following in the vessel's wake!

In chartering the "Republic" for the government transport service, by some oversight, clearly, there appears to have been no stipulation that the vessel be absolutely free of *occupants* when placed at our disposal; at all events the ship had not long been on her course ere the discovery was forced upon the soldiers that they were sharing their bunks with an innumerable, active, living, *crawling* force, which was waging relentless warfare upon the lawful tenants. The "invading army" was in some measure invisible, save upon microscopic inspection, yet its rank and file were by no means of a retiring disposition. The peculiar little intruders were never idle, and whenever they honored one with a call they seemed to understand just how to assert their presence and to compel respectful attention! Private and long-protracted interviews were daily if not hourly granted the representatives of this obnoxious clan, and many a weary tour of *pick-et* duty was rendered necessary on account of their close proximity to "our lines"—a favorite point of observation for our outposts being aloft, upon the vessel's cross-trees, or in the rigging! *Ugh!*—the vile wretches! Nevertheless, the agile, unlovely, and pestiferous *army grey-back* is among the never-to-be-forgotten incidents of the war-period.

Fortunately the weather during the entire voyage was exceptionally fine and there was much to enjoy for those whose physical condition rendered a cheerful view of the situation possible. A favorite amusement was sporting with the various representatives of the "finny tribes" over the sides of the vessel; while the frequent "speaking" of passing vessels; the mysteries as to atmospherical conditions, etc., of the wondrous Gulf Stream; the views of light-houses and points of land passed on our course; and the never-ceasing attractions of the mighty ocean itself—all served to render the trip anything but dreary or monotonous. But to the unfortunate victim of disease, and of sea-sickness and its attendant despondency, there was little of romance or of pleasure in "life on the ocean wave," and these were



rarely heard chanting that popular melody. Of a bright moon-light evening, the magnificent drum-corps attached to the regiment, and which even then had attained a high degree of proficiency in martial music, contributed immeasurably to the enjoyments of the voyage, and it was often called into requisition "to drive dull care away."

There was of course considerable sickness on board and the facilities for caring for those thus afflicted very limited. The water became scarce and poor as we neared the end of the voyage; and, in view of the situation as to health-giving and nutritious diet, it seemed a marvel that no death occurred during the voyage.

Of our cargo of two hundred and fifty horses, but nine or ten died, —a somewhat remarkable fact, all things considered.

By a very unfortunate "accident" during the trip, the beautiful regimental banner, presented by the ladies of Aroostook, was lost overboard one night off Abacoa, and it was found impossible to regain possession of it —an incident very keenly regretted by all.

Quite an amusing episode of the embarkation was the discovery, some time after the ship had put to sea, that two of those who came aboard in the garb of "soldiers" were really more appropriately clad when wearing the *female attire*. As the Quartermaster had failed to make requisition for this variety of "equipment," the ladies were at a decided disadvantage.

On the morning of the 4th of April, the joyous cry, "Land, Ho!" swept along the decks, supplemented by the welcome announcement that we were nearing our destination—Ship Island, the general rendezvous of the much-talked-of "Butler Expedition."

As our ship approached the long strip of white sand, bedecked with numberless canvass tents glistening in the sun, with its wharves, warehouses, huge piles of stores, ammunition, etc., and, in the harbor, an immense fleet of vessels of every grade and description, the port presented rather the appearance of an important commercial city than an insignificant sand-bar of the sea.

The "Republic" lay at anchor off the island until the next day—Saturday, April 5th—when we were towed as near to the wharf as was practicable, and, utilizing river steamers as "lighters," we disembarked. The boys had been upon ship-board twenty-eight days, and, as may well be imagined, were by no means reluctant to exchange the vessel's deck for even this mere apology for *terra firma*, in utter disregard of the scriptural warnings as to the folly of building upon sandy foundations!

## CHAPTER IV.

## SIX WEEKS OF BURROWING IN SHIP ISLAND'S SAND.

SHIP ISLAND.—SOMETHING ABOUT THE SANDY ISLE.—GEN. B. F. BUTLER, THE KING OF THE REALM.—THE TROOPS UPON THE ISLAND.—OUR BRIGADE ASSOCIATES.—THE GRAND REVIEW.—TROOPS AND NAVAL VESSELS QUIETLY SLIP AWAY.—THE MUSIC OF FARRAGUT'S GUNS BOMBARDING THE FORTS AT THE MOUTH OF THE MISSISSIPPI.—THE FIFTEENTH ORDERED TO "REPORT TO GEN. BUTLER," AT NEW ORLEANS.

NO sooner had the Fifteenth boys "pitched their tents" upon Ship Island than they started out, in pairs and in squads, on a "prospecting tour"—to view the new location. To their amazement they found themselves occupants of a mere hillock of sand thrown up by some caprice of the sea, and so unstable that its shape and size are liable to be more or less affected by every violent storm sweeping across the Gulf. It is only one of a chain of sand-bars, scarcely rising above the level of the sea, and perhaps seven miles in length and three-fourths of a mile in width. There were a few pine trees and scrub oak on a sand-heap at the eastern end of the island, while at the western end was a tolerably good harbor, affording a fine opportunity for the naval vessels and transports of the expedition. The location of the island proved a most eligible one for the purposes of the expedition. Though near the mouth of the Mississippi and within easy reach of the forts guarding the approaches to New Orleans, it is also but about fifty miles from Mobile Bay, and only ten miles from Biloxi, Miss. As the purposes of the expedition were not positively known to either the rebels or the people of the North, and Ship Island was quite as desirable a base for a movement against Mobile or the Texas coast as New Orleans, its selection served the double purpose of affording ample accommodations as a Union naval station and of keeping the rebel authorities in a constant state of uneasiness as to the point of attack.

As a matter of course the very first duty upon arriving within the territory of this new "kingdom" was to call upon and pay our respects to "the king of the realm," Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, the commanding general. If any essayed to do this, however, they did not find the General sitting in state at his headquarters, arrayed in full-dress uniform and closely guarded by pacing sentinels, but rather on the wharves, clad in the unpretentious fatigue cap and blouse, skipping about in a very lively man-

ner, superintending every detail, and infusing his characteristic energy and enthusiasm into all with whom he came in contact. Few officers or soldiers came ashore from the vessels without attracting the General's attention, and woe-betide any one upon whom that very peculiar eye happened to be focused who was not prepared to promptly and satisfactorily account for himself. One or two encounters of this description occurred during the debarkation of our regiment, which occasioned much amusement among the spectators.

Upon our arrival from six to eight thousand troops were quartered upon the island, including one or two cavalry companies and several batteries of light artillery. A fortress had also been constructed, manned by a detachment of regular artillerists. Gun-boats, monitors, and naval vessels of all descriptions, were hovering about the island, some at anchor and others steaming about in pursuit of blockade runners, with whom some very spirited encounters occurred not far from the island. Besides Gen. Butler and his military staff, Gen. J. W. Phelps was upon the island, having occupied it with a brigade as early as December, 1861, thus affording the eccentric Vermonter an opportunity to steal a march upon "A. Lincoln" in the matter of emancipation proclamations! The army and navy commanders were in frequent consultation, and everybody seemed absorbed in the work of preparation for a movement apparently of very great importance.

The Fifteenth was assigned to Col. (afterwards Gen.) George F. Shepley's Brigade, comprising the Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Maine, and the First Maine Battery. Brigade, regimental and company drill, and the ordinary camp duties, were at once taken up, and continued without interruption during our stay upon the island.

The hard sandy beach which skirted the island constituted an excellent parade-ground, though the tramp through the loose sand in reaching and returning from the beach, was laborious and even hazardous, as many of the soldiers learned to their sorrow. The water was excellent,—though in some cases it was thought wise to dilute with vinegar!—and was to be readily obtained by sinking a barrel in the sand. Fish, oysters, shrimps, etc., were in abundance. Wood for the cook-fires were rafted from the easterly end of the island; and this labor, with the ordinary camp-duty, the "fatigue-details" incident to the lading and unlading of stores and munitions of war constantly arriving and departing, etc., furnished about all the "exercise" deemed requisite to preserve the health of the troops while on the island.

A noteworthy event of the sojourn upon Ship Island was the grand review of all the troops upon the island, before the commanding general. The parade was formed upon the beach and presented an unusually pretty spectacle. The force then on the island numbered some fourteen thousand,

nearly all participating. The parade comprised four regiments and a battery from Maine, one or more regiments from each of the States of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and Rhode Island, three Western regiments, and a number of batteries and cavalry detachments.

By the middle of April the naval vessels and sailing-craft of all descriptions commenced to quietly slip away from the island, and soon after a large proportion of the troops embarked upon transports and sailed in the direction of the mouth of the Mississippi. A little later the reports of heavy and incessant cannonading wafted to our ears from over the water, brought the tidings that Admiral Farragut had commenced the bombardment of the Forts at the mouth of the Mississippi, and that one of the most terrific naval contests in the world's history was in progress, but a few miles away. Though, strictly speaking, not "an affair of the army," we shall have something to say of the memorable conflict when the Fifteenth passes the historic spot on its way up the river.

The first death in the Fifteenth since leaving Augusta occurred upon the island May 9th, of diphtheria, followed closely by four or five others, just before embarking for the Mississippi.

The Fifteenth received "sailing orders" about the middle of May, having tarried upon the island a trifle more than six weeks.

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## CHAPTER V.

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### THE FIFTEENTH'S FIRST TRIP UP THE MISSISSIPPI.

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ON BOARD SHIP TAMERLANE.—DECIDEDLY POOR ACCOMMODATIONS.—TWELVE DAYS AND NIGHTS IN MAKING A SEVENTEEN HOURS' TRIP.—AT THE MOUTH OF THE "FATHER OF WATERS."—THE STORY OF FARRAGUT'S PASSAGE OF THE FORTS BRIEFLY TOLD.—THE OBJECTS OF INTEREST ALONG THE RIVER.—THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS.—THE FIFTEENTH DEBARKS AT CAMP PARAPET, LA.

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**T**HE Fifteenth Maine embarked on board ship Tamerlane, for the Mississippi, May 19th, leaving but a small garrison at Ship Island—the naval vessels cruising in the vicinity being mainly relied upon for the protection of the public property upon the island.

The trip to New Orleans, under favorable conditions, ordinarily occupies from fifteen to seventeen hours; but the miserable old sailing-vessel which had been assigned us for transportation, succeeded in frittering away

twelve long and very weary days and nights in making the voyage. Of insufficient capacity, utterly lacking in accommodations for passenger-service, inadequate in her supplies, and in all respects unsuitable, the trip was one of very great discomfort. After a few days out a large number of the men were entered upon the sick-list, and these, especially, suffered intensely. As there seemed no urgent necessity for the use of a sailing-vessel for the transportation of troops at that period in the history of the expedition, there was, quite naturally, much murmuring during the weary voyage.

The record of the first ten days of the trip on the "Tamerlane" may be told in few words. It comprised head-winds; a becalmed sea; aimless drifting about at the mercy of wind and tide; and weary hours of anxious waiting for the steam-tug expected to take us in tow. And when, at the close of the tenth day out, a tow-boat took us in charge and briskly jagged us over the sand-bars—by Pilot-Town—and on up the river to the vicinity of Forts Jackson and St. Phillip.—she certainly found a grateful and appreciative company, who, if not "a ship-wrecked crew," were nevertheless upon a vessel which had long been "in distress."

At the Forts we linger for a season and are afforded the much-desired opportunity of taking a view of the scene of the ever-memorable naval contest so gallantly fought and gloriously won by Admiral Farragut's command. Let us briefly recall the story.

Forts Jackson and St. Phillip are located about thirty miles above the point where the waters of the great river break through in five different "Passes" on their way to the sea, and some seventy-five miles below New Orleans. The forts are on opposite banks of the river, their guns commanding the channel for a long distance. Besides these, the ingenuity of man seems to have been exhausted in various devices calculated to render the position practically impregnable. They comprised chain-cables stretched across the river and securely fastened, sunken vessels, torpedo boats, huge fire-rafts, battering-rams, etc. But, fortunately, Farragut had thoroughly informed himself as to the situation and was prepared to meet every emergency. He had in his powerful fleet no less than forty-eight vessels, carrying three hundred and ten guns, some of them of very heavy calibre. Many of his ships were "chain-clad," a solid armor of heavy chain-cable being skillfully interlaced about the ships, affording ample protection against shot from the enemy's heavy guns. The wood-work of the vessels had been painted the color of the muddy water of the river, while some were decorated with trees, reeds, etc., that they might not be easily distinguished from objects along shore. In fact nothing was lacking in the way of preparation, for a conflict which proved the most desperate and memorable in the annals of naval warfare, in this country or elsewhere.

On the morning of April 17th twenty-one mortar-boats, under the

command of Com. Porter, steamed up to the Forts, and on the 18th opened a most terrific bombardment, continuing three days without cessation, but with no perceptible results. At the onset the rebels sent down a huge fire-raft, piled very high with wood soaked in turpentine—a “fire monster” indeed! But a boat shot out from the fleet, and, with grappling irons, so “curbed” the “monster” that he was harmlessly led to the shore, and allowed to burn to the water’s edge! During the three day’s cannonade, the scene simply beggars description. It was a long-prolonged shower of perpetual thunder and lightning, which seemed to shake earth and heaven from their very foundations. But it was an inexcusable waste of ammunition and entirely barren of results. Neither forts or ships manifested the slightest disposition to yield. And when the brave old Admiral became satisfied that this was the situation, he heroically determined to “run the forts,” in spite of the obstructions in the river thought by many to be impassable. Under cover of the night men with hammer and chisel were operating upon the massive chain-cable stretched across the river, and in due time it was severed in twain and the hulks to which it was fastened drifted harmlessly down the river. When all was in readiness the Admiral formed his fleet into what the soldiers might have called “three ranks, open order,” or in three distinct lines or divisions. One took the middle of the stream, the others closely hugging either shore. The centre-line addressed itself to the task of looking after the rebel gun-boats and the obstructions in the river; the flanking divisions concentrating their batteries upon Forts Jackson on the left bank and St. Phillip on the right. The stately march commenced at one o’clock in the morning. The forts at once opened a most merciless fire, the ships as briskly responding; and as for a long distance the vessels were within range of the enemy’s guns, such a shower of shell, cannon-ball, grape, and other engines of death, has rarely ever been experienced, before or since. The river was gorgeously illuminated by the rapid and incessant firing, aided by the numerous great fire-rafts sent down upon the fleet from above. It seemed a marvel that our vessels were able to weather such a terrible storm of leaden hail! But, with comparatively trifling loss, the ships moved steadily forward and majestically passed the forts, and soon were beyond range of the enemy’s guns! Then a fleet of rebel gun-boats was encountered arrayed in line-of-battle on the river; but in less than thirty minutes eleven of these were riddled and dismantled and their hulks left high and dry upon the river’s banks, our war-ships making little more account of them than if they had been a swarm of pestiferous Louisiana mosquitoes! Simultaneously with Farragut’s rash exploit Gen. Butler embarked troops upon small boats and sent them to the creeks and bayous in rear of the forts, but the garrisons were “tired of the strife,” had mutinied and spiked their guns, and were right glad of an opportunity

to surrender. And, without further incident worthy of record, the great commercial metropolis of the South—filled with as bitterly rebellious a population as was ever allowed to escape unhung—awoke from its slumbers on the morning of the 24th of April, to find seventeen of the despised Yankee war-vessels at its levees, flaunting the hated stars and stripes in their very eyes, and even audaciously demanding the surrender of the city! Though, after the manner of the renowned Bombastes Furioso, there was a deal of the silliest of twaddle from the Mayor of the city and others, and the atmosphere was lurid with sulphurous threats, oaths and scowls, a small force of marines quietly marched ashore and soon after threw to the breeze the proud emblem of American nationality, from the flag-staff of the U. S. Mint! NEW ORLEANS WAS OURS! Gen. Butler at once assumed the military command to which he was so eminently adapted and in the administration of which he justly achieved very great renown.

The entire loss of the naval forces during the battles incident to the opening of the Mississippi to New Orleans, aggregated but thirty-six in killed and one hundred and twenty in wounded. The rebel loss has never been reported.

After leaving the Forts the passage up the river was one of rare enjoyment. On either bank, extending rearward as far as the eye could reach, lay fertile plantations, with their rich and diversified scenery, comprising groves of magnolia and orchards of orange; the growing crops in the fields; grand old mansions, deserted and lonely; hundreds of negroes about the quarters, or in the fields, sending greetings through the medium of various unique demonstrations—forming a variegated panorama of rare interest to those viewing the enchanting picture for the first time. Then there were those objects of historic interest associated with the closing scenes of the war of 1812, where intrepid old Andrew Jackson so signally routed the forces of Pakenham,—the very flower of the British Army,—leaving that accomplished officer dead upon the field, with over two thousand of his force killed and wounded. Soon we reach the famous crescent-shaped bend in the river, abruptly disclosing to view the great city of New Orleans, with its stately ships now lying idle at the wharves; its great public thoroughfares and squares now well-nigh deserted; its noted markets and great warehouses tenantless and mouldy with disuse; and the entire picture strikingly suggestive of war's blighting and withering effects.

Reaching the moorings at New Orleans on the afternoon of May 30th, we remained on ship-board during the night. The great city seemed wrapped in profound slumber, and as to the order and unnatural quietude everywhere prevailing, rivalled even one of our staid New England villages. It was difficult to realize that we were looking down upon a great city which but a few weeks before was teeming with an arrogant and defiant

rebel population, and now, humbled as in the dust at the feet of the hated Yankee commander, was yielding implicit if not cheerful obedience to the mandates of the military authorities.

The next morning the ship moved up the river some six miles, to Carrolton, where we at once debarked, and reported to Gen. J. W. Phelps, commanding the United States forces at Camp Parapet.

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## CHAPTER VI.

### THE EVENTFUL SUMMER OF 1862 AT "CAMP PARAPET."

CAMP PARAPET AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.—GEN. J. W. PHELPS, HIS COMMAND AND HIS ECCENTRICITIES.—BUTLER'S "IRON-RULE" AT NEW ORLEANS.—HE BRINGS THE HAUGHTY SOUTHURNS TO THEIR KNEES AND COMPELS CIVILITY.—THE MILITARY AND NAVAL OPERATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT.—RETIREMENT OF COL. MCCLUSKEY AND MAJ. HAWES.—COL. DYER SUCCEEDS TO THE COMMAND.—THE DEADLY MALARIA OF THE MISSISSIPPI SWAMPS.—THE FIFTEENTH INDULGES IN ANOTHER OCEAN VOYAGE AND DROPS ANCHOR ON THE FLORIDA COAST.

ON Saturday, May 31st, 1862, the members of the Fifteenth found themselves, for the first time in their history, located upon "the sacred soil" of the South, and surrounded by its luxurious orange-groves and fertile plantations—to say nothing of the numerous more disagreeable features incident to the location.

"Camp-Parapet" is about a mile and a half above the village of Carrolton and some six or seven miles distant from New Orleans. It derived its name from the fact that quite a formidable earth-work had here been constructed by the enemy early in the war, extending from the Mississippi River on the left, some two miles, to a dense cypress swamp on the right, which, in turn, reached to the shore of Lake Pontchartrain. It had been erected with reference to repelling an attack from up-the-river; but inasmuch as the Yankee plan of the campaign against New Orleans was based upon an entirely different one than that contemplated by the rebel engineers, the "Parapet" proved entirely worthless to the parties constructing it. Nevertheless the Union soldiers found it quite serviceable in many respects, and the rebels seem not to have labored wholly in vain.

The forces at the post comprised the 12th Conn., 8th N. H., 7th Vt., and several batteries of light artillery; now reinforced by the Maine Fifteenth. General J. W. Phelps, the eccentric and somewhat "cranky"



Vermont brigadier, was in command, his headquarters being in an unpretentious tent in rear of the centre of the brigade line, and in quite as close proximity to the quarters of the soldiers as was at all times agreeable. The General was a rigid disciplinarian, constantly on the alert, with eyes and ears wide open; and there were occasions when the boys might have been quite as well pleased had he lived further away! Nevertheless, this trifling inconvenience was more than counterbalanced in the privileges afforded the soldiers of rallying about the headquarters tent to listen to "the old man" in his frequent "lectures" to any victim so unfortunate as to be arraigned at brigade-headquarters for some trifling misdemeanor. Possessed of a wonderful vocabulary and an adept in the use of quaint expressions, bitter invective, and stinging sarcasm, the General was upon some of these occasions decidedly interesting—at least to all save the party to whom his remarks were especially addressed!

The General's most favorite "subject" seemed to be some rebel planter who had in any way maltreated his slaves; though when there was an insufficient supply of this variety to appease his appetite in a moment of irritation, any commissioned officer of high grade, a lieutenant or sergeant drilling his company, or even the most diminutive and inoffensive soldier on the extreme left of his company line, served the purpose for the time being. The "boys" will not fail to recall many of the General's ill-natured admonitions upon the occasions of his irregular rounds on drill or parade, and especially at the Sunday morning inspections!

And yet, it should be said in passing, during the General's occasional lucid intervals he manifested some very amiable qualities of head and heart. He was exceptionally well-informed as to the minutest detail of every military requirement, was assiduous in his attention to matters involving the comfort of the soldiers or the sanitary condition of the encampment, and, on the whole, was a very creditable brigade-commander. Gen. Phelps retired from service during the summer on account of a controversy with Gen. Butler as to the wisdom of supplying arms and equipments to the large number of negroes hovering about the camp, at a date prior to the government's decision to utilize "the contraband" for all military purposes to which he seemed adapted.

And speaking of the negroes, it was during this first summer on the Mississippi that the members of the Fifteenth received their first introduction to that ever-present accompaniment of camp-life in the South. The "contraband"—"intelligent" and otherwise—swooped down upon us from all directions, singly, in pairs and in swarms, and the camp was literally thronged with the dusky refugees. They were by no means unwelcome guests; indeed they and the soldiers soon became devoted friends. The negro gratefully accepted any favors bestowed, and in return diligently la-

bored about the camp, relieving the soldier of much of the drudgery which might otherwise have devolved upon him. As an auxiliary of every company and headquarters mess-tent, the negro proved to be well-nigh indispensable; and he rarely betrayed the confidence of a Union soldier.

Though located just outside of the city of New Orleans, the Fifteenth was nevertheless part and parcel of Gen. Butler's military establishment, and its members were closely identified with the vigorous measures by which the haughty Southrons were compelled to yield obedience to the mandates of the military authorities. The treasonable spirit of the people of New Orleans and its vicinity, of either sex, manifested itself in every conceivable manner, and the desperately wicked nature of the unrepentant rebel heart daily asserted itself. But Gen. Butler's rare executive abilities proved equal to the emergency, and very soon the military authorities became masters of the situation. The hanging of the audacious Mumford in the presence of the assembled thousands in New Orleans; the famous "woman-of-the-town-plying-her-vocation" order; the summary and severe punishment of the slightest indignity to the United States uniform or its flag; coupled with the benign charitable measures inaugurated for the relief of the destitute of the great city, worked their inevitable results, and the angry mutterings of the populace were in due time supplanted by an apparently cheerful acquiescence in the new order of things. Soldiers on the streets were at least treated with civility, and no longer *spat upon* by hot-blooded rebels clad in the garb of richly-dressed ladies! This wonderful revolution in public sentiment in and about the Crescent City is aptly sketched in a poem of the period, of which the following is an extract:

IV THE EARLY DAYS OF BUTLER'S REIGN.

"In the City of the Crescent, by re.l Mississippi's waves,  
Walks the haughty Creole matron with her daughters and her slaves.  
Freedom's flag is floating o'er her, Freedom's sons she passes by,  
And the olden scornful fire burns rekindled in her eye.  
How dare Freedom thus insult her? How dare mudsills walk the pave  
Whose each stone to her is hallowed by the toil-sweat of the slave?  
"What! you call that rag your banner? You, sir, hireling, hound, I mean!  
Thus I *spit* upon your emblem! Let your churl's blood wash it clean!  
Well you wear your liveried jacket, hireling bravo that you are!  
Lackey, paid to rob and murder in a thin disguise of war!"  
Thus with many a taunting gesture, speaks she to the Northern braves  
As she flaunts along the sidewalk with her daughters and her slaves!  
Naught reply the Northern soldiers, smiling, though they feel the stings  
Of the foul and meretricious taunts the Southern *lady* flings;  
So he passes, while the venom from her fragrant mouth still slips,  
Like the loathsome toads and lizards from the enchanted maiden's lips,  
And her spotless soul joys doubtless, soft her modest bosom beats,  
That she so has aped the *harlot* in her city's public streets!

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## AND A FEW WEEKS LATER IN THE SEASON.

In the City of the Crescent, by red Mississippi's waves,  
 Walks the haughty Creole lady with her daughters and her slaves ;  
 But her eye no longer flashes with its wonted fire of hate ;  
 Her tongue is strangely silent now, and modest is her gait ;  
 With quiet mien and humble she passes soldiers by,  
 Nor even on our country's flag turns a defiant eye.  
 What wondrous glamour so hath changed the haughty lady's mien ?  
 The crime of her rebellious heart hath she in sorrow seen ?  
 Or has her spotless bosom owned that Yankees there may be  
 Worthy of even a Creole's love ? Is hers no longer free ?  
 No ; it is none of these have tamed the lady's rebel soul ;  
 On each mudsill, she, *certainly*, still breathes inward curse and dole !  
 And as for love, save for her knight, no love her heart can stir,  
 Since o'er a julep's sugared brink he swore to die for her ;  
 For though he died not, but preferred another field to seek,  
 'Twas only, as she knows, because the julep was too weak !  
 'Twas none of these ! Another cause for change of mien had she !  
 For spitting once too often at the Banner of the Free,  
 And once too often, through her pure lips the venom letting loose,  
 The haughty Creole dame was shown into—THE CALABOOSE !

Whatever may have been the average judgment as to Butler's military career as a whole, the soldiers who served under him in that eventful summer of 1862, are in hearty accord with the general verdict, that in the administration of his arduous and delicate duties as military commandant of New Orleans, he proved to have been "the right man in the right place." Possessing, in rare measure, that essential element characterized by Ingersoll as "the audacity of genius," it served his purpose far more effectually than had "an army with banners" been his chief reliance.

During the entire period of Gen. Butler's reign at New Orleans the Union troops occupied but a comparatively small portion of Louisiana territory. Though we sported a "military governor," legislative assemblies, and all the paraphernalia of a reconstructed state government, Gen. Nickerson was not very wide of the mark when he taunted Gov. Shepley with the remark: "Governor of Louisiana! Why, General, you haven't territory enough in your 'State' to spread your proclamation upon!" New Orleans and its immediate vicinity was ours; more than this, with the very small military force under Gen. Butler's command, it seemed imprudent to undertake. The city itself at all times required very careful nursing at the hands of the military authorities, as treason's fires, though effectually smothered, had by no means been extinguished. It is true that very soon after the capture of the city a number of Admiral Farragut's vessels ran up the river as far as Vicksburg, with the idea of preventing the rebels from fortifying along its banks. The land forces also occupied Baton Rouge, and an extremely difficult feat of engineering was undertaken, with the design of so changing the course of the great river as to isolate the heights about

Vicksburg and render them useless as sites for fortifications. The attempt proved abortive and cost us a good many valuable lives,—from malaria and other ailments contracted by exposure on the river while the enterprise was in progress. Naval vessels, however, frequently traversed the river, and did effective service, shelling the rebels away from various fortified positions and destroying a number of the enemy's gunboats and rams. The only affair in the Department approaching in magnitude to an engagement with the enemy, was that at Baton Rouge, in August. The attacking force was gathered for the purpose at Tangipahoa and commanded by the rebel Gen. John C. Breckinridge. It numbered about five thousand; ours not more than half that number. The force attacked comprised the 14th Me., 21st Ind., 6th Wis., 9th Conn., 7th Vt., and 30th Mass., under command of Gen. Williams, who was shot dead from his horse while gallantly rallying the 21st Ind. after every one of its field and staff officers had been killed. Our troops fought most heroically and finally repulsed the attacking force. The rebels at one time gained access to our camps and a desperately fierce contest, at close range, ensued. But the enemy was very severely punished. His loss was six hundred in killed, wounded and missing; ours, fifty-six killed and one hundred and seventy-five wounded and missing. The rebel forces withdrew from the vicinity, and soon after our troops were recalled to Camp Parapet and other points. There was also quite a serious affair at Pass Manchac and Pontchitoula, in which several companies of the 12th Me. participated; Capt Thornton of that regiment was severely wounded. Also worthy of passing mention is Gen. Weitzel's foraging expedition to the Lafourche region, when that wonderfully fertile district was forced to contribute liberally to the support of the government and the relief of the destitute of New Orleans. The slaves were turned loose, the sugar-cane gathered and utilized, cotton confiscated, loyal governments set in motion, and the rebel cause weakened and our own strengthened in various directions. There was little if any resistance, no enemy being discovered in any considerable force.

While at the Parapet an important change in the Fifteenth's board of field officers was occasioned by the retirement, on account of resignation, of Col. John McCluskey and Major Benjamin Hawes. A number of the line officers also left us at this point. Both Colonel McCluskey and Major Hawes were gentlemen possessed of many most estimable qualities, who during their brief stay with us had won a large circle of warm personal friends, by whom their departure was keenly regretted. From the date of the acceptance of Col. McCluskey's resignation the command of the regiment devolved upon Lieut.-Colonel Dyer.

But the incidents of the eventful summer of 1862 which were its distinguishing characteristic—and which must ever be reverted to with

sadness by the hundreds of aching hearts there bereaved—are yet to be referred to. They relate to the frightful inroads upon our ranks resulting from climatic conditions and disease incident to the malaria so prevalent in the region in which we were located.

Barring the sickness at Augusta and Portland, attributable to the exposure inevitably attending camp-life in Maine in mid-winter, the regiment had been in a remarkably healthy condition up to the date of our departure from Ship Island. But few deaths had occurred, and these mainly among those left behind in Maine. At Ship Island several died from diphtheria and one or two from other ailments. But the enervating effects of that long-prolonged and unfortunate voyage on the ship *Tamerlane*; the sudden and debilitating changes in the temperature; the wilting influences of the mid-summer Louisiana heat; and the poisonous malaria with which the atmosphere in the region of the Mississippi swamps is constantly impregnated, proved more disastrous in their results than the grape, cannister and minnie balls of the field of carnage; and very soon the stalwart regiment which had embarked at Ship Island in May with full ranks, was depleted to a mere skeleton of its former self. Disease and death were making fearful ravages among us; and while the intense heat of a scorching Louisiana sun in June, July and August, was well-nigh unendurable even to the few remaining in robust health, to the poor fellows prostrated upon sick beds in the crowded hospitals, or in quarters, it proved disastrous in the extreme. The death-roll assumed formidable proportions. One, two and three burials per day, were not unusual during a portion of the summer, while a "sick-list" of thirty, forty, and even fifty per company, was quite frequently shown by the morning reports. Death from sun-stroke was by no means rare; while men relieved from guard-duty in the morning, apparently well, were in some instances numbered with the dead before sunset. The force required for the care of the sick was necessarily large; and with a hospital-roll exceeding in number that reported for duty, the outlook was very dispiriting. Ample and comfortable hospital accommodations were provided on a large river steamer moored to the levee not far from camp, and with the unremitting attentions of our medical force—Doctors Donnell, Kimball and Dodge—and its efficient corps of assistants, the condition of the patients was rendered as comfortable as possible under the circumstances. Where deemed practicable the hopelessly debilitated were discharged upon surgeon's certificate of disability and hurried to their homes, with the hope that a change of climate might prove beneficial, or, at least, that they might enjoy the comforts of home and the attentions of loved ones while crossing the dark river. Quite a number were also furloughed, and for like reasons. And yet, despite every effort, the number of the sick was constantly on the increase, and the solemn funeral proces-

sion filed by our tents with mournful regularity, as the dreary days and weeks lengthened into months and the fateful August had been reached.

Ah! the deadly miasma of the Southern swamps and bayous! Its casualties far outnumber those entailed by the shock of battle! For verification of this oft-quoted truism reference is made to the record of our losses for the years 1862-3, grouped under the captions "Died in Service" and "Discharged for Disability," in the Appendix.

Very fortunately, however, early in September the much-needed relief came, in the form of orders directing the regiment to prepare for a sea-voyage; and, not unreluctantly, on the 9th of September we embarked on board the fine steamship *Ocean Queen* and immediately steamed down the Mississippi and out to sea, dropping anchor off Fort Pickens, commanding the entrance of Pensacola Bay, on the evening of Sept. 10th—our destination proving to be Pensacola, on the western coast of Florida.

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## CHAPTER VII.

### THE FIFTEENTH RECUPERATES IN WESTERN FLORIDA.

THE CITY OF PENSACOLA.—A VERY PLEASANT AND HEALTHY LOCATION.—THE COMMANDERS AND FORCES.—INCIDENTS OF THE SOJOURN IN FLORIDA.—FORAGING AND SCOUTING EXPEDITIONS.—"BAGDAD," "THE FIFTEEN MILE HOUSE," AND THE FATEFUL "ESCAMBIA RIVER."—EVACUATION OF PENSACOLA.—"BARRANCAS."—THE RETURN TO THE MISSISSIPPI.

**E**ARLY on the morning of Sept. 11th the *Ocean Queen* "weighed anchor" and steamed up the broad and magnificent Pensacola Bay to the city of that name—passing Forts Pickens and McRea at the entrance of the Bay, and on the left an unsightly mass of ruins on the site once occupied by the fine buildings of the United States Navy Yard. Pensacola, some five miles up the harbor, was reached at about nine o'clock. The regiment immediately disembarked, and was assigned unusually comfortable quarters in barracks, the deserted private residences being utilized for that purpose.

Pensacola, our new location, though now wearing a decidedly dilapidated appearance, was found to be a city which in its prosperous days had numbered a population of about five thousand. Once enterprising and thrifty, supporting an extensive commerce, and engaged in prosperous in

dustries, desolation and decay were now the chief characteristics. The finest residences of the city had been vacated and many of them were now being occupied as quarters for the troops, offices for headquarters, hospital accommodations, etc. The commanding general, very properly, had appropriated the elegant residence and grounds of an ex-U. S. Senator now a member of the cabinet of the Confederacy; minor officers were luxuriating in nicely-furnished apartments fronting the public squares; while the quarters of the enlisted men were by no means unpretentious.

The forces at the post, upon our arrival, were commanded by Gen. Richard Arnold, an artillery officer, the troops comprising the 6th and 91st N. Y., and two companies of the 1st U. S. Artillery. Gen. Arnold was soon relieved, the command devolving upon the famous "Billy Wilson," the Colonel of that "desperately wicked" regiment, the New York Sixth. But in October Gen. Neal Dow was assigned to the command, and the New York regiments were relieved by the 7th Vt. (Col. Holbrook) and 28th Conn. (Col. Ferris.) In January Gen. Dow was ordered to the Mississippi, leaving Col. Dyer as the commander of the troops in Western Florida.

An important incident of regimental history, soon after reaching Pensacola, was the reorganization of the board of field officers, by the promotion of Lieut.-Col Dyer to Colonel; of Capt. Benj. B. Murray, jr., of Co. A, to Lieut.-Colonel; and of Capt. Franklin M. Drew, of Co. G, to Major. Col. Dyer had practically—and very ably and efficiently—exercised the command the larger portion of the time since the regiment's organization, and it was exceedingly gratifying to all that he was now permitted to enjoy the full rank and emoluments to which he seems to have been entitled from the start; while the selection of Captains Murray and Drew as his chief supporters, added strength, ability, and genuine worth, to the official board. The appointments proved very generally satisfactory to the members of the regiment. At about the same time an elegant regimental banner was received from Maine and formally presented in an appropriate address by Gen. Dow, to which Col. Dyer fittingly responded.

Companies "D" and "K" were quartered at the Forts during our sojourn at Pensacola, sharing with the troops of the regular army the duties of the garrison, and deriving many advantages from such association in the matter of drill and discipline. These companies rejoined the regiment, at Barrancas, March 28th, 1863.

One of the pleasant episodes incident to the very extraordinary advantages of the Pensacola location, was the organization, by the temperance element of the regiment, of a Division of the Sons of Temperance. It was known as "Army Division, No. 1," regularly chartered and supplied by the Grand Division of Maine, held weekly meetings of a very interesting character, and attained a large membership. Church and sabbath-school

facilities were also afforded; and in these and many other respects, New England's manners and customs were duplicated as closely as possible by the Maine colony which had established itself at Pensacola.

But as to the general health of the command? Happily that was very greatly improved. With a most salubrious climate, comfortable quarters, a cool and health-giving sea-breeze much of the time, excellent water, and the "abundance of the sea" to draw upon for the fish-food not supplied by the commissary department, the regiment had scarcely become located upon the Florida coast before decidedly beneficial results were experienced. The very large "sick-list" of the "Camp Parapet" location gradually gave place to a decidedly improved condition of affairs. In two months' time our number "present for duty" had increased fifty per cent., and we were able to muster quite a full line of stalwart appearing "convalescents" at the evening parades. Verily, as a sanitarium for the malaria-infected and debilitated soldiers of the Gulf Department, Pensacola proved a most happy conception. \*

The guard-duty in Western Florida was the chief employment. A picket line encircled the entire city, extending some five or six miles, and the force at the post being very small, the interval between the tours of guard-duty was necessarily very brief. Every other day was about an average diet at the start for the robust members of the regiment; though later, when fortifications had been constructed, this duty was somewhat lightened by a contraction of the lines. However, as this was about the only irksome duty devolving upon the soldiers while at this post, there was very little occasion for complaint.

While in Florida scouting expeditions to the adjacent country were numerous. Though the enemy was not encamped near us in any considerable force, occasional incursions were made by detachments of rebel cavalry in close proximity to our picket-lines, and the security of our camp

\*Under date "Headquarters District of West Florida, Pensacola, Fla., Dec. 9, 1862," Gen. Dow wrote to the Adjutant General of Maine:—

"GENERAL:—I wish to inform you of the condition of the Fifteenth Maine Volunteers, which has been at Pensacola since the 11th of September. The regiment had been encamped at Carrolton from the 31st of May to the 8th of September, during which time the health of the men was very much broken down. For some time after its arrival at this Post the regiment was in a very bad state from disease contracted amid the swamps of the Mississippi. For the last two months the men have been rapidly improving in health and strength. The sick-list, at first very large, is now reduced to a small figure, and the spirits of the men have recovered their tone. The regiment has been improved also in drill and general discipline, in which particulars its state is entirely satisfactory. The Colonel and other officers are assiduous in their attention to their duties, and exert themselves to the utmost to make their regiment everything it should be; and they have the satisfaction of seeing that their efforts are crowned with abundant success. My intercourse with the officers of the regiment has always been very pleasant, and they have been ready to do everything in their power to maintain good order and entire subordination, not only in their own battalion, but by the influence of their example among the other troops of this command.

Very Respectfully,

NEAL DOW, Brigadier General, Commanding.



seemed to require that all sections of the adjacent territory be visited frequently, to guard against the possibility of being surprised by a cavalry raid from an unexpected quarter. Furthermore, Gen. Dow, while in command, seemed to regard the confiscation-act as a very effective weapon for "despoiling the (rebel) Egyptians," and whenever opportunity was afforded to relieve rebel-sympathizers of home-comforts or the means of subsistence, he was very much inclined to strike in that direction. There were numerous villages and small settlements within a radius of thirty miles of Pensacola, and these were repeatedly "raided," stripped of their cattle and other supplies, and in some instances of their household furniture. The adjacent villages of Milton, Bagdad, Oakfield, Judge's Mills, etc., though practically deserted by their white population, were nevertheless frequently visited by the scouting parties. Though our soldiers, as a rule, were orderly and decorous upon these occasions, they were not always cordially received by the inhabitants.

Frequently upon these expeditions small detachments of the enemy were discovered, and rifle-shots exchanged at long range. A number of our soldiers were wounded, a few captured, and one or more killed. Our forces, also, were successful in taking several prisoners, with horses and equipments, while not a few rebel soldiers were killed and wounded. The Florida woods afforded small detachments of rebel cavalry excellent opportunities of "attack and retreat," enabling a small mounted party to harrass an infantry column ten times its own number with perfect impunity; and these occasional skirmishes, though rarely attended with serious results, were in some instances adventurous and exciting in the extreme. The scope of this work will admit of only a passing reference to a few of the more important of these expeditions.

One of the earliest and most notable of these excursions was the descent in force upon the pretty little village of Bagdad, some twenty-five miles from Pensacola. Nearly the entire regiment took part—and most of our field, staff and line officers, were of the party. A well-known Kennebec steamer transported the "marauders," who pounced down upon the place just before the break of day, greatly to the terror of the inhabitants. No barrier to the occupation of the town was interposed; indeed, it was practically "a deserted village." Under orders from the commanding general everything of value in the shape of cattle, hogs and other supplies, as well as some of the choicest of the household furniture, was seized, transferred to the steamer, and taken to Pensacola. Some very pleasant homes were thus broken up, or at least stripped of their luxurious surroundings if not of the necessaries of life: the inmates being tendered transportation and protection within the Union lines. To many this policy seemed unnecessarily harsh, fruitless of good results, and wholly without justification.

Yet there was no alternative for our soldiers but to obey orders. Much of the furniture taken was appropriated by the employees of the transport-steamers, and the remainder turned over to the quartermaster's department and utilized for furnishing the barracks of officers and soldiers at Pensacola.

During the latter part of February an expedition was sent out to break up a rebel cavalry rendezvous at a point known as the "Fifteen-Mile House." The party comprised about one hundred men from the Fifteenth and an equal number from the 28th Connecticut. Col. Ferris was in general command, with Lieuts. Shorey of "B" and Dwinal of "G" in charge of the Fifteenth's detachment. After a long night-march through the open woods—rendered exceedingly picturesque by myriads of fires running the entire length of the tall forest trees—and a brief halt for rest and refreshment, at day-dawn a few of the enemy's cavalymen were espied at some distance away, and shots exchanged. As usual, the Johnnies fired a few volleys and then disappeared. Somewhat later, however, on the return march, quite a detachment of cavalymen put in an appearance, harassing our flanks and rear for several hours. Their tactics were to ride up as close to our line as they deemed prudent, discharge a volley and fall back beyond rifle-range, only to reappear later, at another point on the line of march, to repeat the experiment. Various efforts were made to decoy the enemy into a position which would enable us to effectively return their fire, but to no avail. Flankers were thrown out, a skirmish-line established, and a good many shots fired, but without satisfactory results. There was but one horse in our party, and, practically, the rebel cavalymen were masters of the situation. The skirmish was lively and exciting, and continued until late in the afternoon. No one was in any way injured on our side; and, so far as we were able to discover, the rebels were not much—if any—more unfortunate than we.

Late in the afternoon—when within but a few miles of Pensacola—an incident occurred which proved a very narrow escape from fatal results. Near the close of the skirmishing before mentioned, a party of horsemen put in an appearance in rather closer proximity to our column than those with whom we had but just been exchanging shots; and our boys of course at once opened fire in that direction. The new-comers were not disposed to show fight, but instead raised a cry of alarm and vigorously manipulated hats and handkerchiefs as a signal that a cessation of hostilities was desired! Upon investigation the horsemen were found to comprise five of the officers of our own regiment, who, learning of our little affair with the enemy's cavalry, had come out to greet us and render any aid desired! Their escape was well-nigh miraculous. Chaplain Brown, who was of the party, especially regarded the presence of mammoth trees of sufficient size to afford protection for his reverend head and stalwart form, as

providential; and with good reason, considering the bullet-defaced condition of the trees behind which the officers had taken refuge.

But by all odds the most unfortunate and disastrous of the scouting expeditions of that period was that of March 6-7, up the Escambia River and across the country to Acadia. The party comprised about fifty men from each the 15th Me. and 28th Conn. Col. Ferris was in general command; Lieuts. Shorey and Dwinal in charge of the 15th Me. detachment. The expedition left Pensacola at 4 p. m. of the 6th, in eight row-boats furnished and manned by the naval authorities. The boats steered directly for the mouth of the Escambia, making a passage of about twenty miles mainly under cover of the night, and landing at a point known as Judge's Mills at about midnight. Seven of the boats effected a landing without difficulty; the other one, unfortunately, passed the point of disembarkation a considerable distance, and did not respond to the signals sent up for her recall. A fire was built on the shore in the hope of attracting the attention of the boat's crew; and after vainly waiting an hour or more it was discovered that the missing boat was aground some two miles up the river. Dispatching another boat to her assistance, Col. Ferris deemed it prudent to push on, as the object of the expedition could only be attained by reaching Acadia before day-break.

Scarcely had the party commenced its eleven miles' march through a dense forest, when the rain commenced to descend in torrents, continuing during the entire march, and drenching to the skin every mother's son of us. The little village of Acadia was reached at about 3 o'clock; the men at once taking refuge in a large unoccupied house on the outskirts of the village, and which proved to be the favorite resort of a small force of rebel cavalry. The remnant of a recent lunch was still upon the table, and a number of sabres, carbines, etc., were found about the premises. In the negro quarters it was learned that a small cavalry force was likely to breakfast at the house that morning. Under these circumstances it was deemed prudent to secrete our party in the various buildings in the neighborhood, with the view of allowing the "Johnnies" to drive into the yard without molestation, where they might easily be surrounded and captured. Unfortunately, however, five of the rebel cavalymen rode along in advance, and quite unsuspectingly, carelessly shouting to the negroes, "Turn out, and get us some breakfast!" Three of our soldiers eagerly, if not hospitably, met the new-comers at the door, and rather prematurely demanded their surrender. Two of the rebels obeyed very promptly; the others recklessly attempted to run, were fired upon, and one mortally and the other slightly wounded. The other escaped. One of the horses was killed instantly. The cavalryman who was fatally wounded received one ball in the face and another through the lung—a most pitiable spectacle and an object of much

sympathy. All four of the captured ones were young men, two of them not more than nineteen. They were kindly cared for: the one severely wounded left in the care of friends called to his aid—the others taken to Pensacola, with the horses and other captured property. Very soon after the occurrences mentioned above a small cavalry detachment was espied in the woods a considerable distance away, but, upon learning the situation, they took a hurried departure and were not afterwards seen. At 9 o'clock Col. Ferris concluded that there was nothing more to be accomplished, and we at once proceeded upon the return march.

But, alas! the missing boat! No tidings had reached us as to the boat or her passengers, though, quite naturally, no one entertained apprehensions of any serious mishap. But upon reaching the point of disembarkation—at about three o'clock in the afternoon—most painful tidings awaited us—intelligence which served to enshroud the entire party in a pall of gloom and of sad bereavement. It appeared that the missing boat had run aground the night before; and when the boat dispatched to her aid arrived and attempted to relieve her, so eager were the men to reach the shore that an unfortunate scramble ensued, in which the relief-boat was overloaded and swamped, and all on board—most of them encumbered with the dead-weight of a soldier's equipments—were precipitated into the river and compelled to struggle for life in the waters of the Escambia. The night was very dark, the rain descending in torrents, the location unfamiliar, and the situation as a whole so unfavorable, that, despite the earnest efforts of the survivors, eleven of the party found a watery grave. Eight of these were of our own regiment, and three of the crew from the naval vessels sent to row the boats. The unfortunates ones from the Fifteenth were all faithful and exemplary soldiers, most of them young men of most amiable qualities, and with excellent family connections. They were: Corporal Charles W. Greeley, Frank P. Roundy, William B. Marson and Samuel S. Colbath, all of Co. H; Charles Gilker, William Keef, and Augustus C. Bean, of Co. C; and Marriner T. Green of Co. B. The bodies of the drowned men were recovered, after diligent search, a few days subsequent to the sad and fatal accident.

About the middle of March—1863—the exigencies of the military situation on the Mississippi demanded a concentration of the forces, and the evacuation of Pensacola was determined upon: the troops occupying the vicinity of the forts and the more eligible point under the protection of their guns, known as “Barrancas.” The new location gave us undisputed control of Pensacola Bay—a most desirable harbor and naval station—all that was really requisite in a military point of view, with a much less area to guard or defend in case of attack.

The work of evacuation was very laborious. It was commenced March 17th and occupied several days. Nearly the entire population desired to accompany the troops to their new station, and for days and nights large numbers of the inhabitants, of every age, condition and sex, with all their goods and chattels, were gathered upon the public squares, awaiting transportation. While in this unsettled and very uncomfortable state, a destructive fire broke out on Palafox street, burning several buildings and other property, and throwing the citizens into an excitable state, tending to increase rather than alleviate the discomforts of "evacuation-week." Two days later other and more destructive fires occurred, evidently of incendiary origin. Meanwhile large fatigue parties were constantly employed, removing not alone the government stores and property, but the household goods of "Union-loving citizens," who not only claimed the protecting care of the military authorities but were also in a measure dependent upon our commissary department for supplies. The work incident to the evacuation was not completed until the 22d; and as the last steamer pushed off from the wharf, a scene of desolation and decay was presented such as is rarely witnessed. An unofficial enumeration just before leaving revealed the fact that ten men, thirty women, and about as many children, constituted the entire population of a city whose census-rating was from four to five thousand! The Spanish Consul declined to accompany the troops, and later his flag of "neutrality" afforded protection for frequent rebel marauding parties, who rode in and out of the city at pleasure.

"Barrancas," as our new location is popularly known—derived from the Fort of that name—is near the town of Warrington, at the extreme northwestern corner of Florida, opposite the entrance to Pensacola Bay, in the immediate vicinity of Forts Pickens, McRae and Barrancas, and about nine miles below the city of Pensacola. The government here, before the war, had supported an extensive naval-station and marine-hospital; and the place was of considerable importance in a military point of view. But as early as February, 1862, Fort Barrancas and the navy-yard were seized by the rebels; Fort McRae was abandoned; and in the ineffectual attempt to drive the heroic Lieut. Slemmer from Fort Pickens, a force under Gen. Braxton Bragg, numbering several thousand, assembled in the vicinity, and attempted to frighten the gallant garrison away. One dark night they stole across the bay in boats and surprised the camp of the 6th N. Y. on the upper end of Santa Rosa Island, killing sixty of "Billy Wilson's" brave lads; but our forces subsequently rallied, drove the rebels to their boats, firing upon them after they had re-embarked, and inflicting as great loss, to say the least, as had been sustained. But Bragg utterly failed to make any impression upon Pickens, and finally the entire force moved away, first destroying the naval floating-dock and railway and much

other public and private property. These buildings—once elaborate and expensive—were now little better than a mass of charred brick and granite. At the site of the navy-yard proper the work of demolition had been so complete as to afford no accommodations for an encampment; upon the grounds of the marine-hospital, however, superb quarters were arranged.

The natural beauty and elaborate adornments of the grounds, overlooking the ocean, and shaded by the majestic live-oak, with tastily constructed walks and drives, were a very unusual appendage to the soldier's camp-ground; and yet the boys managed to maintain the dignities of the situation very creditably to themselves and all concerned. Here the Fifteenth tarried some three months. There were the ever-present drills and parades, guard-duty, and an occasional scouting-expedition; but very little transpired worthy of record in these pages.

One of the peculiarly sad events of the sojourn at Barrancas was the untimely death, of typhoid fever, of our popular young Assistant Surgeon, Dr. Sumner G. Holt. He was appointed in the summer of 1862. His loss to the regiment was keenly lamented by the entire command.

Another notable change in the medical staff was the resignation of Assistant Surgeon John H. Kimball. He had served faithfully and with rare professional skill from the organization of the regiment, through the calamitous summer of 1862 at Camp Parapet, and had himself contracted disability which seemed to render a change of climate necessary. His departure, in June, '63, was very keenly regretted by the entire command. Dr. Kimball subsequently entered the service as Surgeon of the 32d Me., serving with distinction in the campaign in front of Petersburg and elsewhere, with the Army of the Potomac.

Upon the death of Assistant Surgeon Holt the accomplished Hospital Steward, Dr. Lorenzo Dodge, was commissioned Assistant Surgeon, and he and the Surgeon—Dr. Jotham Donnell—comprised the medical corps at the date of our return to New Orleans.

Near the latter part of June (1863) the Fifteenth was again ordered to the Mississippi and our season of "recuperation" brought to an end. We had in this manner whiled away nine months, very pleasantly, and very profitably, too, at least in one respect: we were no longer to be placed in the category of "invalids"—a statement abundantly verified in the fact that when taking passage at Barrancas, when ordered to New Orleans, the commissary department found it necessary to provide for something like six hundred stalwart beef-eaters, with scarcely a sick man on the regimental roll! The regiment embarked on the steamship *Crescent* June 19th, and on Sunday, the 20th, we steamed out by the Forts, the recipients of very hearty parting salutations from comrades with whom we had long maintained very pleasant relations.

Entering the river on the morning of the 22d, and being favored with a delightful view of the picturesque scenery along its banks by daylight, we reach our moorings, opposite the city of New Orleans, at about three o'clock the same afternoon.

While Col. Dyer steps ashore to report our arrival and receive orders, we may as well improve the opportunity to "take the lay of the land" and briefly sketch the military situation in the Department, for the purpose of placing upon record some of the more important events transpiring during our absence in Florida.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

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### THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE GULF DEPARTMENT

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GEN. NATHANIEL P. BANKS AS DEPARTMENT COMMANDER.—HE BRINGS REINFORCEMENTS AND INAUGURATES AN AGGRESSIVE MILITARY CAMPAIGN.—HE FINDS THE ENEMY IN FORCE, STRONGLY FORTIFIED, AND IN POSSESSION OF A LARGE PORTION OF THE TERRITORY ASSIGNED HIM.—GALVESTON, THE CAMPAIGNS WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI, AND PORT HUDSON.—DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO RAISE THE SIEGE BY ATTACKS UPON BRASHEAR CITY, LAFOURCIE CROSSING, DONALDSONVILLE, ETC.—GEN. EMORY GREATLY ALARMED FOR THE SAFETY OF NEW ORLEANS.—HE RAISES THE MACEDONIAN CRY AND THE FIFTEENTH COMES TO HIS RELIEF!

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**I**N December, 1862, Gen. Butler was relieved as commander of the Gulf Department, his successor being Major-General Nathaniel P. Banks. The new commander had been supplied with something like ten thousand additional troops, and instructed to at once inaugurate an aggressive campaign, with the view of co-operating with Gen. Grant in the opening of the Mississippi River, and, that accomplished, the possession of the territory in Louisiana and Texas not then held by the Union forces. About one-half of the troops brought into the Department by Gen. Banks were nine-months' men; and as he had undertaken a contract of somewhat formidable proportions for the spring and summer, very little time was consumed in necessary preparatory work. With the new arrivals the effective force in the entire Department numbered about thirty thousand, which was at once placed in position on the military check-board, ready for effective service as the exigencies of the situation might require.









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1. S. D. Leavitt, Co. A  
2. W. K. Rich, Co. A  
3. J. N. Martin, Co. A

5. Capt. S. H. Leonard, Co. B  
6. Capt. H. A. Shorey, Co. B  
7. Lt. C. E. Gross, Co. B

9. Lt. W. C. Plummer, Co. C  
10. Capt. J. A. Clark, Co. C  
11. Capt. John H. Hester, Co. C

13. Capt. C. S. Illsley, Co. D  
14. Capt. F. O. S. Howe, Co. D  
15. Lt. John C. Cobb, Co. D



Gen. Banks found the enemy in undisputed possession of nearly all of the territory in the States of Louisiana and Texas outside of New Orleans and its defenses, with the exception of a few points on the river and on the coast. At Port Hudson, on the Mississippi, most expensive and formidable fortifications had been constructed, which were defended by an army of about eighteen thousand men. Then the water-approaches to the Red River region, on the Atchafalaya, etc., and the entire Teche and Opelousas country, were strongly fortified, the salient points garrisoned, and within call was a rebel army of from twelve to fifteen thousand, exclusive of the troops at Port Hudson. The rebels also had quite an effective fleet of gunboats, floating batteries, rams, etc., of light draught, and quite serviceable in operations on the shoal bayous and rivers of Western Louisiana.

At the outset Gen. Banks seems to have been left largely to his own discretion, and a number of movements were made which appeared to indicate that he regarded the occupation of some point in Texas, and of the Red River country in Western Louisiana, of quite as much importance as the opening of the great river, that "its waters might flow unvexed to the sea." True, immediately upon Banks' arrival, Grover's Division of eight or ten thousand men was sent to occupy Baton Rouge and its vicinity, as a necessary preliminary to the Port Hudson campaign; but, simultaneously with this, a small force was dispatched to Galveston, Texas, to occupy that island, the important harbor being already held by the naval vessels. No resistance was offered at Baton Rouge, but the developments demonstrated that to have sent the larger force to Galveston would have been much the wiser course. Less than three hundred men, from the 42d Mass., occupied Galveston as an advance-guard of the army of occupation, but before they could be reinforced or even destroy the bridge connecting the island with the main land, from three to five thousand rebel troops and three cotton-clad gunboats swooped down upon the island by land and water, attacking with artillery and infantry, capturing the entire garrison and destroying a number of our finest naval vessels. The soldiers and sailors captured were confined in Texas prison-stockades for more than a year, suffering great privation.

Gen. Godfrey Weitzel, on Berwick Bay, was also reinforced, for the purpose of driving the rebels from the Teche country and destroying a very troublesome rebel gunboat on the Western Louisiana bayous known as the "J. A. Cotton." Weitzel, with the co-operation of the navy, had a desperate contest with the gunboat, which, disabled in the fight, was burned by the rebels. Weitzel's loss was six killed and twenty-six wounded, besides some serious disasters among the naval forces—including Lieut.-Com. Buchanan, who was killed. The rebels also lost severely and were driven from the region, at least temporarily. Later a combination movement un-

der Grover and Weitzel endeavored to get possession of the Atchafaylaya and Butte-a-la-Rose, but the impediments in the bayou in the way of driftwood and other obstructions, rendered the expedition a failure. The soldiers were employed nearly a month in rendering the stream navigable for the gunboats and light-draught transports.

In March the loss of several fine naval vessels on the river between Vicksburg and Port Hudson, rendered Admiral Farragut desperately cross, and he insisted upon a demonstration in force against Port Hudson by the land forces, to so far divert the attention of the enemy as to permit him to "run the batteries" with his war-ships. The entire available force of the Department was gathered at Baton Rouge, and, March 13th, twelve thousand strong, moved to the rear of the enemy's position at Port Hudson, with the design of attacking in the early morning of the 14th. But by one of the most daring and brilliant exploits in naval history, the naval officers found themselves able to "run the gauntlet" without assistance; and, "the object of the expedition being accomplished," the army was withdrawn.

Expeditions were also sent out to destroy the railroad bridge at Ponchatoula and the enemy's communications on the Amite River; and, Gen. Banks not feeling justified either in attempting to form a junction with Grant at Vicksburg or entering upon the Port Hudson campaign, with the limited force at his disposal, returned his army (in April) to the region of Brashear City and the Lafourche, where some very serious fighting took place. The enemy was encountered under the rebel Generals Taylor, Sibley, Green and Mouton. The rebels desperately contested every point where a stand was made, inflicting, and sustaining as well, considerable loss in officers and men. Indian Bend and Vermillion Bayou, especially, were scenes of most notable contests. But our troops were victorious at all points; and April 26th Butte-a-la-Rose, the key of the Atchafaylaya and Red Rivers, fell into the hands of the navy, the troops pushing on to Alexandria, compelling the evacuation of Fort DeRussey, and pursuing the retreating rebels nearly to Grand Ecore, over a road with which the Fifteenth boys became somewhat familiar a year later. The trophies of the campaign, as given in the official reports, were twenty-five hundred prisoners and twenty-two guns, three rebel gunboats and eight steamers destroyed, large quantities of public property, and the gathering in of something like six thousand fugitive negroes.

In May the exigencies of Gen. Grant's campaign at Vicksburg rendered it tolerably certain that promised reinforcements from that quarter for the long-contemplated Port Hudson campaign could not reasonably be expected; and, upon careful consideration, and conference with Grant, Gen. Banks concluded that the only course open to him was to besiege that strongly fortified position, even with the small and insufficient force at his

disposal—scarcely as many soldiers as the enemy was able to muster behind his well-nigh impregnable fortifications.

By the middle of May Gen. Banks' army commenced to "assemble for the fray" about Port Hudson. Gen. Angur, from Baton Rouge, effected a junction with Weitzel, Grover, T. W. Sherman, and Dwight, on the 25th, after severe fighting and considerable loss; and two days later a desperate assault, to test their strength, was made upon the enemy's works. Our men of course fought gallantly and heroically, but they were repulsed, with a loss of two hundred and ninety-three in killed and fifteen hundred and forty-nine in wounded. This unsuccessful assault demonstrated to the satisfaction of all that the fortifications could never be carried by storm with anything like the force at hand; and so our army deliberately planted itself within rifle-range of the enemy's position and commenced the construction of fortifications—meanwhile, day and night, keeping up an incessant and harrassing cannonade at all points of a line extending from seven to eight miles, from river to river; the naval vessels also contributing their full quota to the production of this perpetual storm of "thunder-and-lightning." On the 14th of June it was deemed advisable to again test the strength of the works in a second general assault. Though resulting in some very substantial advantages, the attack was attended with frightful sacrifice of life and limb; and again our military commanders had been taught that the slow process of sapping and mining, and a depleted commissary department within the besieged lines, were the weapons that must be chiefly relied upon in the reduction of this Gibraltar of the Mississippi. Two disastrous general assaults and twenty-one days and nights of almost continuous fighting, with very severe loss on both sides, had imprinted this important truth, as in letters of blood, upon the minds of all engaged in this memorable siege. And to this laborious work our troops were industriously addressing themselves at the period of the Fifteenth's recall from Florida—every available soldier present for duty being in the trenches and behind the works.

But while the army of Gen. Banks is thus engaged—eagerly and impatiently awaiting the signal announcing the capitulation which, at best, cannot long be delayed—stirring events were transpiring in another section of the Department. The rebel army of Major-Gen. Taylor which Banks had driven from Western Louisiana just prior to the investment of Port Hudson, and which had been unable to unite with the army within the enclosure in which it had been imprisoned, had re-organized, and had been dispatched upon a raiding tour to the Lower Mississippi, with general instructions to inflict all the mischief possible, and striking in any direction most likely to occasion alarm on the part of the Union commanders, in the hope that through fear of the loss of New Orleans and other important

points, Banks might be induced to so far release his grip upon Port Hudson as to enable Gen. Johnston to come to the relief of Gardner with reinforcements and supplies. Besides, Gen. Richard Taylor, the officer commanding the District, being a son of Louisiana, with troops from the two States of Texas and Louisiana, was extremely ambitious to achieve renown by some brilliant *coup de main* which should throw at least a portion of his army into New Orleans, even though he held it for a very brief period. This and the stoppage of river-communication between New Orleans and Port Hudson, were objects very near the heart of the rebel commander, and are frequently discussed in official communications passing between Lieut.-Gen. Kirby Smith, commanding the Trans-Mississippi Dept., and Generals Taylor and Magruder, the Louisiana and Texas commanders.

About the middle of June Gen. Taylor had collected at Shreveport an army numbering anywhere from seven to twelve thousand men, of all arms, well supplied with light artillery, and largely composed of cavalry—the latter said to have been the finest in the confederate service. The army moved in light marching order, in three separate and distinct detachments: the division commanders being Col. James P. Major, a dashing cavalry officer; Gen. Alfred Mouton, and Gen. Green. Major's command took the "war-path" during the second week in June; made a bold dash in rear of and opposite Port Hudson, driving in our pickets; striking the town of Plaquemine, on the Mississippi, capturing the garrison, with considerable property, and destroying three steamers; making a detour around Donaldsonville, a strongly fortified position; raiding plantations being run by federal interests and doing immense damage; and then striking across the country towards Thibodeaux and the Lafourche region. At Thibodeaux and its vicinity a considerable number of our soldiers were captured by the cavalry advance, including a lieutenant and fifty enlisted men of the 12th Me. The skirmishers of Major's raiders moved down to Lafourche Crossing and drove in our pickets; but, very fortunately, the main force lingered at Thibodeaux awhile for much-needed "rest and refreshment," affording the commanding officer at Lafourche Crossing opportunity to gather the scattered detachments of Union troops in that locality, preparatory to resisting the threatened attack.

Meanwhile the columns of Mouton and Green were moving, over separate routes, in the direction of Berwick Bay and Brashear City, through the Teche country, striking Franklin, New Iberia, etc., but, surprising as it may seem, so concealing their movements that neither at Department or District headquarters was there any intelligence of the presence in Western Louisiana of such a force of the enemy, until the two divisions had completely environed the forts and fortified positions at Brashear City and sent in a demand for the surrender of the garrison. The division of Major, it

was supposed, was the only one which had been let loose upon the Western Louisiana country; and this is how it came to pass that Gen. Emory was so completely bewildered at the simultaneous attacks, with large force, upon both Brashear City and Lafourche Crossing—a condition evident from the tenor of his frequent and somewhat characteristic dispatches to Col. Cahill, a few of which appear in the account of the evacuation of Lafourche Crossing, in another chapter.

But at Lafourche Crossing, happily, the dashing rebel cavalryman found foemen worthy of his steel! Lieut.-Col. Stickney, 47th Mass., had come down from Brashear City and assumed command at the first intimation of the threatened attack. He had at first a force of from three to four hundred, hastily collected from various sources, but reinforced during the day, swelling his numbers at the time of the attack to about six hundred. He was well supplied with artillery, which was judiciously posted and gallantly and skilfully manned. The rebel advance drove in our pickets at about 5 p. m. of the 20th, when a few volleys were exchanged; but several well-directed shots from an eligibly-located 12-pounder, on the bridge, speedily checked the rebels and sent them back to their reserves, with a number of their killed and wounded. The next day, the 21st, there was more or less skirmishing on the picket-line, but a drenching rain-fall, of the Louisiana variety, and continuing throughout the afternoon, seriously interfered with contemplated operations. At about 4 p. m. the enemy's cavalry and infantry engaged our outposts with increased vigor, intermittent firing continuing for an hour or more, the enemy finally retiring. But at 6.30 the rebels again appeared in large force, advancing rapidly, and compelling our outposts to fall back very speedily, upon the left wing. At about dusk the enemy opened with a 12-pound howitzer, throwing shell and solid shot, but this gun was soon silenced by a number of well-aimed volleys from the guns of Capt. Grow's N. Y. Battery. At about 7 o'clock the enemy rushed forward, close up to our lines, raising that unearthly "rebel-yell" as a fit accompaniment to a charge so reckless, firing as they rapidly advanced—all in the very teeth of the most galling musketry fire and the destructive cannister of our artillery. A desperate effort to turn our right flank was only prevented by the enfilading fire of our reserve artillery and the heroic rally of our infantry reserves. The enemy, of course, exerted themselves to the utmost to obtain possession of our artillery, the contest, at the most critical juncture, being hand-to-hand and even hand-to-throat. The rebels were most severely punished. They were driven back at the point of the bayonet, many of their men crawling on hands and knees to escape the terribly destructive fire of our artillery. They retreated in confusion to Thibodeaux, at about 8 o'clock, and did not see fit to again renew the attack.



Our force actually engaged was less than six hundred ; the enemy's not less than eight hundred, with a force of from fifteen hundred to two thousand in reserve. The Union loss aggregated eight killed and forty-one wounded ; the enemy losing not less than seventy in killed and two hundred in wounded. The ground in front of our lines was literally strewed with the dead and wounded ; and to their care, under a flag of truce, both parties devoted themselves during the night and the next forenoon.

The main force of the enemy, however, could not have tarried even to gather up the dead and wounded ; indeed, Col. Major claims that the fight was precipitated for the purpose of concealing his real movement in the direction of Brashear City—towards which point he marched at 9 p. m., moving all night. He explains his failure to bring up his reserves in the statement that the rain had destroyed his ammunition ; the arrival of federal reinforcements rendered him anxious as to his ability to connect with the other divisions of Taylor's force, on Berwick Bay, at the time designated ; and though he "could certainly have demolished the federals and the temptation was great to revenge the death of the gallant men who fell in Pyron's assault," he was compelled to move away in hot haste.

The forces of Green and Mouton commenced the combined movement upon the forts and fortified positions about Brashear City on the same night that Major's command made the forced march from the Lafourche. The attack was most adroitly planned and skilfully executed ; a "mosquito fleet" of forty-eight small skiffs being used to cross the bay under cover of the darkness, and bearing an important part in the assault. The forts were practically surrounded before the presence of a hostile force was discovered. The surprise was complete ; and after a feeble resistance on the part of the garrison and a gunboat in the harbor, the latter hauled away, and the forts were compelled to surrender, with an immense supply of stores of various descriptions, including small arms, ammunition, and guns of heavy calibre, of great service to the enemy in the Trans-Mississippi Department. By a singular coincidence, though the commanding officer at Brashear was upon the point of surrendering to the forces of Green and Mouton, which had made the attack in the first instance, the transfer was in reality made to Major's cavalry, which had put in an appearance from another direction, and had been driving our pickets before him for a considerable distance.

As will be noticed by reference to the dates of the attacks upon Lafourche and Brashear, the earlier reports were but just being received at Gen. Emory's headquarters at New Orleans when Col. Dyer called to report the arrival of the Fifteenth Maine. The General had been apprised of the attack upon Lafourche but knew nothing of the very unfortunate condition of affairs on Berwick Bay. The grand old hero of course keenly realized his responsibilities at this critical juncture, and that he was a trifle

nervous and more or less excited, is no marvel. Nevertheless he seems to have had an abiding faith in the outcome—more especially after the arrival of the Fifteenth Maine! At all events he had no sooner given Col. Dyer his orders than he hurriedly dashed off this expressive message to Gen. Banks, under date June 22: \* “The Fifteenth Maine has this moment arrived. \* \* I send them immediately forward to Lafourche. *We shall now beat the enemy back!*” Possibly that dispatch may have been intercepted at Major’s headquarters at Thibodeaux! There seems no better explanation of the intrepid cavalry leader’s hurried departure, to say the least!

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—— \*See Official Records Union and Confederate Army, page 585 of Series I, Part I.

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## CHAPTER IX.

### AT “LAFOURCHE CROSSING.”—“COMPANY CANAL.”—ETC.

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BY RAIL TO THE OPELOUSAS REGION.—AT LAFOURCHE CROSSING.—THE SCENE OF THE FIGHT “JUST AFTER THE BATTLE.”—A RECONNOISSANCE IN SEARCH OF THE ENEMY.—“WAR-TALK.”—THE ENEMY PASSES BY ON THE OTHER SIDE.—A “MASTERLY RETREAT” FROM LAFOURCHE.—A NIGHT MARCH REARWARD.—TO ALGIERS, NEW ORLEANS, COMPANY CANAL, ETC.—GEN. EMORY SOMEWHAT AGITATED.—A SKETCH OF THE MOVEMENTS OF TAYLOR’S RAIDERS.—BUT GEN. BANKS RELAXETH NOT HIS GRIP UPON PORT HUDSON’S THROAT!

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THE Fifteenth, in light marching order, stepped from the steamer to the cars of the Opelousas Railway, at the Algiers depot, at about sunset of the 22d, and at once proceeded towards Lafourche Crossing, and at daybreak of the 23d found themselves rolling through a wonderfully fertile agricultural section, with a wide expanse of territory literally groaning under the burden of thrifty crops of corn, cotton, etc., the scene presenting a most attractive spectacle.

Reaching the Crossing at about 5 o’clock a. m., we are very cordially welcomed by a force numbering from nine to eleven hundred, of all arms, our regiment increasing the fighting strength of the little army of occupation to something like seventeen hundred. Col. Cahill, 9th Conn., as senior officer, had assumed command, superseding the gallant officer who had so creditably acquitted himself in the action referred to in the preceding chapter. All were eagerly discussing the incidents of the fight, and,

by way of variety, retailing the wildest of rumors as to the movements and probable intentions of the enemy; no tidings of the departure of the enemy from our immediate front, or of the unfortunate affair at Brashear, having then been received. The participants in the fight were of course the lions of the occasion, and with pardonable pride eagerly pointed out the relative positions of the contending forces and rehearsed interesting incidents of the desperate attack and gallant and heroic repulse. The blood of the slain and maimed was plainly visible upon the field and on all hands were to be witnessed suggestive reminders of the very hotly-contested engagement. But very little time was afforded for viewing the field or even for partaking of the inevitable morning lunch of hard-tack and coffee. As early as 9 a. m. a reconnoissance, under command of Col. Dyer, was under marching orders—the troops comprising the 15th Me., 9th Conn., a Mass. cavalry detachment, and five pieces of Grow's N. Y. Battery. The party went as far as Thibodeaux, some five miles away. Here many of the enemy's wounded were found, and reliable information obtained that the main force of the raiding party had moved away. No incidents of especial importance transpired. The most of the force returned at night; and, the soldiers being exceedingly weary, they were by no means dilatory in arranging their "little beds" and stowing themselves away for the night, utterly oblivious of prevalent rumors of the advance of the entire rebel army, from half a dozen different directions!

All the next day (June 24th) the atmosphere was really lurid with "war-talk." Reports of a most sensational nature were in circulation, and the commander and his staff officers, at least, appear to have been considerably panic-stricken. Negroes and whites were flying into camp from the adjacent districts with reports as varied and well-nigh as conflicting as the number of the messengers, and little that was reliable came from any quarter. Meagre reports of the affair at Brashear, of the destruction of the railroad at various points, of the advance of the enemy in large force, etc., filled the air, but they were received with many grains of allowance. One apparently well-authenticated report, in the afternoon, set forth that the rebels, seven thousand strong and carrying eleven pieces of artillery, were within five miles of Thibodeaux; another, later, represented them as moving in two columns down either side of the Bayou Lafourche. Again and again the "long-roll" was sounded, and the soldiers were really in "line-of-battle" during the greater part of the afternoon. Finally Gen. Emory deemed the exigencies of the situation such as to render the evacuation of Lafourche Crossing, with all possible dispatch, an imperative necessity; and to protect the railroad track and prevent the rebels from obtaining a foothold between us and New Orleans, the Fifteenth, just before sundown, was dispatched on a weary eighteen miles' march on the railroad—the train

following on some time during the night and taking the jaded and foot-sore pedestrians—veritable “railroad-tramps”—on board; the train reaching the depot at Algiers a couple of hours after midnight, where we tarried until morning.

Early on the morning of the 25th the Fifteenth was ferried across the river to New Orleans; and after marching and countermarching about the streets of the Crescent City for awhile, we finally sought refuge in the Custom House Building, where we were permitted to rest our weary bones upon the hard floor of that hospitable government retreat. Here we remained until the afternoon of the 26th, when an order was received to proceed without delay to “Company Canal,” on the Algiers side of the river, and seven miles distant, which point was reached at about dark, and where the boys passed a very dreary night in wrestling for existence with a numerous army of mosquitoes, of mammoth size and evidently “very hungry and very thirsty.” It was confidently expected that the enemy would strike in that vicinity—a position regarded as of considerable importance—and the regiment was constantly on the alert in anticipation of being called into action. But the summons came not. On the following morning we went into camp, remaining until midnight of the 29th, when, upon very short notice, a steamer came along with orders to take the regiment, post-haste, to Camp Parapet, and landing us at that point on the morning of the 30th.

Our “rear-guard” at the Lafourche seems to have been seized with something of a panic while waiting for the trains, and were in some respects utterly reckless in the destruction of bridges, cannon, ammunition, the killing and turning loose of artillery horses, etc. This was justified only by a critical emergency, and it has been claimed in some quarters that the retreat was unnecessary in any event, or at least that it might have been made leisurely and most of the public property brought off; in short, that both Gen. Emory and Col. Cahill were needlessly alarmed. But that is by no means certain. It is true no enemy had appeared to molest or in any way interfere with the evacuation; but that Taylor’s army was in our immediate vicinity in force sufficiently large to have pushed its way in any direction desired, was a fact well understood at the New Orleans headquarters. At Brashear City, on the day before, Gen. Taylor’s entire force had for the first time concentrated, with the commanding general on the ground to direct contemplated movements in person. Fully understanding Taylor’s fond ambition as to New Orleans, his opportunities in view of the practically defenceless condition of the city and its surroundings, and the absolute certainty that the smouldering rebel fires among the populace would be rekindled the moment the confederate troopers appeared on the city’s public thoroughfares, it would have been foolhardy and wholly inexcusable

to have assumed any unnecessary risks. Nevertheless, in view of what actually transpired, the annexed dispatches, sent over the wires—in quick succession and as rapidly as the telegraph could dash them off—during the afternoon and night of June 24th, seem a trifle “panicky,” if not absurd. They appear in the published “Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies,” vol. xxvi, series I, part I. \*

Taylor’s raiders, after the repulse at Lafourche and the capture of Brashear City, pushed up the Lafourche to Donaldsonville, attacking that strongly fortified position on the 28th, and after a most desperate assault were repulsed, with a loss of two hundred and sixty-one in killed and wounded. Nevertheless the same force moved down the river a few miles, constructing formidable works and planting batteries commanding and seriously impeding the navigation of the Mississippi. Another column operated along the line of the railway to the Lafourche, capturing a number of

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[COL. CAHILL, LAFOURCHE CROSSING, TO GEN. EMORY, AT NEW ORLEANS.]

I. Maj. Morgan, at Thibodaux, reports seven thousand of the enemy moving down the Bayou Lafourche.

II. The enemy is advancing on both sides the Bayou Lafourche in large force, four miles above. My trains have not yet arrived.

[GEN. EMORY, AT NEW ORLEANS, TO COL. CAHILL, AT LAFOURCHE.]

I. If the report be true it is your duty to retire to Boutte Station at once with all your force. Lose no time in the matter. You might follow the track to Des Allemands and telegraph the cars to meet you there.

II. If you believe report to be true you have no time to lose in getting away from where you are, leaving a strong guard and a light train at Lafourche. \* \* \* If Brashear City is gone it will be necessary to destroy the bridge at Lafourche; if they have not the force you estimate destruction of bridge will be an awful mistake.

III. Move at once your main force to Boutte; if deceived you can move back again.

IV. Spike your guns and retire your infantry by the railroad track, destroying the bridges as your rear guard passes them.

V. Why do you wait for trains? Retire along the track of the railroad with your infantry, if nothing else. Destroy your artillery if necessary.

VI. If you cannot bring your horses kill every one on the spot. Kill them with a knife so the enemy will not hear your guns. Don’t let anything fall into their hands. Destroy all the bridges, including the one at Lafourche, after your rear has passed. \* \* \* Destroy the telegraph office and all its records. Blow up your caissons, but make no fires until your main body is at least ten miles off.

VII. If you cannot get along on the train march your men on the railroad track. Hurry your force to New Orleans, leaving one regiment at Boutte Station. Destroy the track and bridges as you pass.

VIII. Hurry to this city with such forces as you can bring.

IX. Send Col. Dyer’s regiment to Algiers. Leave one regiment at Boutte Station; if attacked fall back to the gunboat on the river. Bring all the rest of your force to New Orleans as rapidly as possible. Order train to come to Algiers and return at full steam.

[GEN. EMORY AT NEW ORLEANS TO GEN. BANKS AT PORT HUDSON.]

I. Enemy’s force at Brashear and on this side is known and ascertained to be at least nine thousand and may be more. He has part of our rolling stock and is working this way. The city is quiet on the surface but the undercurrent is in a ferment.

II. Two regiments of Col. Cahill’s force have at length reached Boutte Station. He is at Raceland with the balance of his force. His tardiness of movement is inexplicable!

garrisons, and posting its pickets in one instance within twenty-five miles of New Orleans. Some twenty guns were also posted at eligible points on the Mississippi River, keeping up a continuous fire on our transports and gunboats, and seriously crippling a number of our vessels. The enemy held the entire Lafourche region, Berwick Bay, the key to the Attakapas, had blockaded the Mississippi, and Gen. Taylor was moving upon the Barataria Canal as his favorite route in case he saw an opportunity to swoop down upon the city of New Orleans. The rebels had also been reported on the east side of the river, above Bonnet Carre, (on which account the Fifteenth was hurried across the river to the Parapet from Company Canal.) Indeed the situation appeared so critical that Gen. Emory—commanding the Defenses of Orleans—felt justified, by the exigencies of the situation, in making appeals for aid directly to the War Department, and in formally and urgently notifying Gen. Banks that he must at once come to the relief of the important interests centered at New Orleans, even at the risk of an abandonment of Port Hudson; that he must, in fact, choose between the two points—it being, in his judgment, impossible to hold them both.

Happily, however, Gen. Banks was not a victim of the prevailing panic, but patiently and perseveringly held his grip upon Port Hudson's throat, with the tenacity of a man having unbounded faith in the ultimate triumph of his cause!

Old Camp Parapet had undergone many changes since the Fifteenth Maine boys had shaken its dust (or mud!) from their feet, some nine months before; nevertheless the old land-marks were easily recognized. To be sure Gen. Phelps, the chief attraction (!) of the summer before, and the well-known regiments of the old brigade, had gone, and new forms and faces were to be seen about the parade-ground; but the old-time variety of Louisiana mud, the voracious mosquito, and the ever-present malaria, with its attendant "shakes," remained, and we were very soon domesticated as members of the military household. Col. Dyer of the Fifteenth, the ranking officer, assumed command of the post, very acceptably playing the *role* of acting-brigadier—though, it must be confessed, the new commander was not an exact duplicate of his amiable (!) predecessor before referred to.

Though when hurried across the river from Company Canal, and for a number of days later, there were apprehensions of serious trouble on account of the threatened attack of Taylor's raiders upon New Orleans, the glorious victories at Vicksburg and Port Hudson, during the first week in July, entirely changed the aspect of affairs. Notwithstanding the fact that the enemy had established himself in the Lafourche region, on Berwick Bay, and even along the banks of the Mississippi, below Port Hudson, the capture of the rebel strongholds before mentioned left our troops free to swoop down upon Taylor's raiders, very speedily regaining possession of

Donaldsonville, Brashear City, and other important points in Western Louisiana. But the task involved considerable severe fighting; Taylor making frequent raids into the Teche and Lafourche regions during the summer, at least a portion of his army remaining in the Upper Louisiana country until the commencement of the Red River campaign, a year later.

The great victory of the troops of the Gulf Department, at Port Hudson, was greeted with universal rejoicings. It had been a severe and most hotly-contested campaign, and of unprecedented hardship to the soldiers participating. The siege occupied forty-five days, of which twenty-one may be said to have been characterized by incessant fighting. Our casualties are reported at seven hundred and eight killed, thirty-three hundred and thirty-six wounded, and three hundred and nineteen in prisoners and missing. This does not include the large list of losses from disease incurred in the trenches and other exposure incident to the campaign. The rebel loss was of course very great, but there is no means of accurately ascertaining the figures. We captured over ten thousand prisoners, seventy-three guns, forty-five hundred pounds of powder, one hundred-and-fifty-thousand rounds of ammunition, twenty thousand head of cattle, ten thousand bales of cotton, and much other valuable property. The victory was a costly one, but the very decided advantages accruing from the opening of the Great Father of Waters, from its source to the sea, seems to have justified the expenditure.

Early in July—though regimental headquarters remained at Camp Parapet—the Fifteenth became considerably scattered by the detachment of a number of its companies to guard important points in various sections of the Department. Co. A was dispatched to the LeBarre Road, two miles from the Parapet; E to Lake Pontchartrain; B to Kenner Station, Jefferson Parish, and a week or so later to Pass Manchac, on the Jackson, Mississippi and Great Northern Railroad, thirty-five miles from New Orleans; I occupied a station seven miles below B, on the shore of the Lake; and F relieved B, at Pass Manchac, the middle of August. Other companies may also have been detached for a short period, but there is no data from which to ascertain the precise location of each company, or to give even a general narrative of events transpiring with the several companies while thus detached.

It is worthy of note, however, as characteristic of this period of our regimental history, that the deadly malaria of the Louisiana lakes, swamps and bayous, again played sad havoc among our soldiers, and the effects of the radical change from the salubrious climate of Western Florida to the fever-impregnated atmosphere of the Mississippi, soon became strikingly apparent. All the companies suffered more or less in this respect, according to location, but probably none more seriously than Co. B., at Pass Man-

chac. The writer being at that station, and having a more general knowledge of the situation there than at other points, treats of this as a fair specimen of all the points occupied by the detached companies.

“Pass Manchac” is the connecting link between Lakes Maurepaus and Pontchartrain. It is located mid-way of a dense cypress swamp, extending from six to ten miles on either side. The tents occupied the bridge and trestle-work “bed” of the railroad, with the miasmatic waters of the Lakes and Pass beneath and in front and rear, and the cypress-swamp on either flank. Alligators, snakes, and other hideous reptiles abounded—their unearthly “music” furnishing the morning, noon and evening serenade, in the absence of the drum-corps! All the surroundings were strikingly suggestive of “the fever and shakes,” a condition so apparent, that, upon their first inspection, Col. Dyer and the medical officer attending him agreed that “it was not a fit location for white men.” The truth of this conclusion was abundantly verified by subsequent developments. Though the men were in an exceptionally healthy condition at the date of taking up the location at Manchac, it is literally true that every man present with the company during that period there contracted the poisonous malaria to a greater or less degree, and a number of them were as a result completely broken down in health during the six weeks of the company’s service at this point. From twenty to thirty were prostrated at one time, and ten to twelve men for duty was more than could be mustered as a daily average the middle of August, when the company returned to the Parapet. But the experience of Co. B was not materially different from that of the other detached companies. Second Lieutenant J. Edwin Libby, a faithful and popular young officer, was an early martyr to this very unfavorable location, contracting the malarial poison at Manchac, and breathing his last at a private residence in Carrolton early in September, very keenly lamented by all his associates.

The duty of the companies at these detached posts comprised the reception, and escort to New Orleans, of refugees and paroled prisoners; the inspection of baggage and correspondence of those coming within the Union lines; the prevention of smuggling, by land and water, etc. Various expeditions were organized and sent into the adjacent country—one, composed of men from B and I, reaching as far as the village of Pontchatoula, in Tangipahoa Parish, a dozen miles from Manchac. Much that was exciting and adventurous transpired, and some hair-breadth escapes might be here narrated, did space permit.

At the Parapet the few companies remaining were engaged in the usual monotonous routine, with nothing especially exciting transpiring. By the middle of August all the detached companies were called in; and Aug. 23d we were so fortunate as to receive orders to break camp and take



passage on the steamer "Gladiator," for New Orleans. The transport vessel was very aptly named—as right *glad* the boys were to bid a final adieu to the fated camp-ground where they had eked out but a miserable existence during the two summers which they had spent in the South, and the scene of so many casualties in our regiment.

As a noteworthy event of the second summer's campaign on the Mississippi, should be mentioned the very perceptible shrinkage of our regimental line at the evening dress-parade, as a result of the ordinary casualties of the service. Death and disability discharges had made appalling inroads in our ranks, old comrades, by scores and even by hundreds, having "fallen out by the way." Included among the losses were quite a number of the commissioned officers. The sad death of Lieut. J. E. Libby, Co. B, has already been referred to. Of those resigned, on account of disability, were:—Adjutant James Nowland, Quartermaster Worthington S. Locke, and Chaplain J. I. Brown, of the regimental staff; Capt. Daniel M. Prescott, Co. C; Capt. Ransom N. Pierce, Co. G; Lieut. John Z. Swanton, Co. E; and Lieut. Harrison G. Prescott, Co. H. Capt. John B. Wilson, Co. H, and Lieut. John C. Cobb, Co. D, left us to accept promotion in colored organizations—the former as Surgeon and the latter as Colonel. In addition to these, Major F. M. Drew, Capt. C. S. Illsley and Capt. C. B. Smith, were temporarily detached (in August) at the North, for service in connection with gathering drafted men and substitutes into the various encampments, in Maine and elsewhere.

Upon its arrival at New Orleans the Fifteenth was assigned excellent quarters in an old Cotton-Press, in the lower section of the city, not far from the noted French Market. The Cotton-Press was a huge granite and brick structure, with a large open square, enveloped in substantial walls, admirably adapted to the purposes of a regimental parade-ground. The soldiers fared sumptuously as to quarters, the location, in many respects, being quite as desirable as that enjoyed by the regiment while in Florida. The duty was comparatively light, comprising guard and patrol service in the city, especially designed to protect the officers and soldiers of the various regiments (other than our own, of course!) from falling into the snares and pit-falls which ever beset the unwary in that great and fearfully wicked city! In the performance of this work the patrols were frequently required to penetrate the "slums" and "dens of infamy" of this "Paris of America," participating in some exciting adventures, which, if narrated might be regarded as a trifle "blood-curdling."

About the latter part of August five companies of the Fifteenth were detached, to occupy various stations. Companies A and D were sent to the village of Carrolton; G to Hickock's Landing, Lake Pontchartrain; H to Fort Banks; and K to Bayou DesAyres. These companies remained

at these stations while the regimental headquarters remained at Orleans.

While in New Orleans the officers and soldiers, when not on duty, were generally permitted to wander about the city at pleasure, enjoying many privileges which they very highly appreciated. Among these was an opportunity to meet, for the first time, that famous "man of destiny," Gen. U. S. Grant. After the capture of Vicksburg and Port Hudson, Grant visited Banks, at New Orleans, and was tendered a most enthusiastic reception, many courtesies being extended. Included in these was a social festival at Gen. Banks' residence, attended by a large proportion of the officers and soldiers stationed in the vicinity, all eager to grasp the illustrious little hero by the hand—though, as a matter of fact, few then realized that the modest and unassuming guest of the evening was the "Moses" for whom Father Abraham had so long been searching, and who, under God, was destined to lead the loyal people "through the wilderness" in which they had so long been groping, and to ultimate and glorious victory! At the complimentary review, at Carrollton, Gen. Grant was thrown from his spirited charger and so severely injured that he was unable to return to duty for weeks; indeed, it was feared at one time that his brilliant career was likely to be brought to a premature termination on account of the unfortunate accident.

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## CHAPTER X.

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### THE FIFTEENTH "ON THE ROAD" TO THE TEXAS COAST.

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AFTER PORT HUDSON, WHAT?—GEN. BANKS READY FOR ANOTHER JOB.—LOOKING TOWARD TEXAS.—TWO UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO PLANT THE STARS AND STRIPES UPON ITS SOIL.—THE FIFTEENTH "TAKES A HAND" IN A GAME THAT WINS.—A PERILOUS VOYAGE ON THE GULF OF MEXICO.—WE DROP ANCHOR OFF THE COAST OF TEXAS VERY NEAR THE MEXICAN BORDER.

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**W**ITH the opening of the Mississippi River and the repossession of important points in Western Louisiana, the troops in this region were now free to seek other fields of usefulness; and that aggressive movements of some importance were on the *tapis*, was apparent from the unusual activity manifested in military and naval circles. We had been reinforced from Grant's army to the number of thirty thousand—including the Thirteenth Army Corps and considerable cavalry and artillery, with their necessary equipments—and although our original command had

been reduced by very nearly that number by the casualties of the campaigns, the muster-out of nine months' men, and by disease, we still were able to concentrate quite a formidable body of veteran troops. A number of distinguished general officers had also joined us, including Gens. Wm. B. Franklin, E. O. C. Ord, N. J. T. Dana, C. C. Washburn, F. J. Herron, T. E. G. Ransom, and others of lesser note. All this glittering array was suggestive of active service, and there was of course considerable speculation as to the objective point. But this, for prudential reasons, was only confided to those of the inner circles of Gen. Banks' military household. As a matter of fact, moreover, it appears that this was not positively determined upon until quite late in the summer. The plan was a matter of dispute. Gen. Halleck, the then commander-in-chief, rarely agreed with the commanders in the field as to any campaign, and he seems to have been especially "mulish" in his treatment of Gen. Banks. Though affecting to give him the largest discretion as to plan and detail, a campaign was no sooner entered upon than an entire change of programme was necessitated by peremptory instructions from Washington. But this was a characteristic of the Halleck "era of blundering" in high places, from which all our fighting generals, and the country's interests as well, suffered keenly.

Nevertheless, after much correspondence and consultation among the military commanders, a plan was perfected, in August, for a combined military and naval attack upon Mobile Bay; and this was about being entered upon by Grant, Banks and Admiral Farragut, when a message was received by Gen. Banks, sent at the earnest solicitation of the State Department, setting forth that there were "reasons other than military, why our flag should be restored to some one point in Texas without delay!" And this of course, for the time being, gave to the Mobile Expedition its *quietus*.

In pursuance of orders from the Washington authorities Gen. Banks made his first demonstration towards Texas by way of Sabine Pass, in September. This had always been his favorite route, and seemed to present advantages over all others. The plan was to effect a landing at Sabine Pass, and push on, overland, to Houston and Galveston, thus controlling the railroad centres, and also maintaining communication with New Orleans by railroad and water-transportation. But the General made a fatal error at the start. He placed Maj.-General Franklin in command! It was designed that Franklin should land his troops at some eligible point and cooperate with the naval vessels in capturing the enemy's fortified position at Sabine Pass; instead of this the gunboats were allowed to bear the brunt of the assault unaided by the infantry—and although the rebel works were defended by less than one hundred men, the war-ships not only made no impression, but really ran aground in the shallow water and narrow channel of the Pass, under the guns of the fort, and were compelled to surren-

der. The infantry failed to effect a landing, and were reluctantly compelled to return to New Orleans, in very great humiliation. The expedition was worse than an utter failure, as it had advertised the plan to the rebel authorities, and brought the rebel armies of Texas and Louisiana to the threatened locality.

But, happily, the Sabine was not the only avenue of approach to the "Lone-Star State," and another expedition was at once dispatched to reconnoiter the route from the Teche to Niblett's Bluff, or, if that was found impracticable, by way of Alexandria and Shreveport. The army was transferred to the Teche Sept. 13th. Gen. Herron's Division of the 13th Corps moving from Morganza. After a careful inspection, however, both of these routes were found to be wholly impracticable. They involved a march of from three to five hundred miles, through a bitterly hostile country, without supplies or water, and the roads very difficult. The force was hardly adequate to such an undertaking. Nevertheless, the flag must be unfurled upon Texas soil all the same, and that without delay. There was still another "broad highway" to Texas "leading down," and this was by the way of the Gulf of Mexico and the Mexican frontier! There was no time to lose; and for the double purpose of bewildering the enemy and testing the skill of another commander, Gen. Franklin and the greater portion of the troops which had undertaken the overland route, were left in occupancy of Berwick Bay and the Teche, while another entirely independent expedition was quietly organized, to move by the only remaining route that seemed to offer any assurance of success.

And this is how it came to pass that the Fifteenth, while quietly pursuing the even tenor of its way at its extremely pleasant camp at the New Orleans Cotton Press, was ruthlessly disturbed one day during the latter part of October, by an order to prepare for a sea-voyage, reporting to Maj.-Gen. N. J. T. Dana, the immediate commander of the expedition.

Though receiving the preparatory word Oct. 19th, it was not until the 23d that transportation was furnished: the steamer Clinton taking us on board, receiving the 13th Me. at Jackson Square, and proceeding to Carrollton, the general rendezvous. Here we were joined by all our detached companies—with the exception of K, which could not well be relieved. The two regiments remained on the steamer during that bitterly cold night, the soldiers being sandwiched very closely together and experiencing considerable discomfort. The next morning, however, Gen. Dana ordered the Clinton relieved by the transfer of several of the companies of the Fifteenth—A, B and D—to the Gen. Banks, upon which was the 19th Iowa. Lieut.-Col. Murray—though not the senior officer—was placed in command of the "Banks,"—a very discreet arrangement, as the sequel proved. The greater portion of the day—October 24th—was occupied in necessary pre-

liminaries ; but at about 4 p. m., in response to signal-guns from the flag-ship, the steamers, one after another, pulled out into the stream, and gracefully glided down the river, dropping anchor at its mouth to await the arrival of the remaining vessels and supplies. Here we remained until the evening of the 27th. Five days' rations were issued—considerable activity was in progress in the cooking-galleys—and in various directions necessary preparatory arrangements were being perfected. The flag-ship, with Gen. Banks and staff, Gen. Dana and staff, and other officers, joined us on the evening of the 27th, and the fleet soon after proceeded to sea.

The formation of the line and sailing of the fleet constituted a very pretty spectacle. The vessels moved with the precision of troops on parade, in designated positions, deployed at prescribed distances from vessel to vessel, and every movement directed from the flag-ship by a system of signals manipulated by a staff officer of the commanding-general. The sailing-orders contemplated moving in two distinct and separate lines, one mile apart, with half-mile intervals between the vessels of the same line. The fleet, when deployed at open order, covered a very wide expanse of ocean, and at night, when the position of each ship was clearly defined by colored lights displayed in the rigging, the picture was weird and beautiful. The prescribed formation was as follows :

The Flag-ship McClellan, with Maj.-Gen. Banks and Staff, Maj.-Gen. Dana and Staff, with Headquarters Guards and Attendants.

Steamer Crescent, with Brig.-Gen. Wm. VanLever, and detachment of the 91st Illinois.

Steamer St. Marys, with 94th Illinois and the 110th Cavalry.

Steamer Empire City, with 26th Ind., 38th Iowa, and detachment 91st Illinois.

Steamer Peabody, with the 37th Illinois and 120th Cavalry.

Steamer Thomas A. Scott, with the 20th Wisconsin and 20th Iowa.

Steamer Clinton, with the 13th Maine, six companies 15th Me., and a detachment of Cavalry.

Steamer Belvidere, with the 34th Iowa and a detachment of the 120th Cavalry.

Steamer Gen. Banks, with the 19th Iowa, three companies 15th Me. and a section of Artillery.

Steamer Northerner, with the 1st and 16th regiments Corps D'Afrique.

Steamers Bagley, Pocahontas, Hufsar, etc., with Cavalry and Artillery ; and a fleet of gun-boats and other war-vessels, as a naval protectorate.

The fleet occupied but little time in getting into line, being well under way before dark of the first evening out. The weather was favorable and no notable incident occurred. But on the second day the gulf was quite rough and the vessels of the fleet became considerably scattered. Sea-sickness, of a severe type, became epidemic, with a result which may be more easily imagined than described. The Western men, especially, suffered intensely, being, as a rule, quite unfamiliar with old ocean's playful freaks. The poor fellows thus afflicted were pitiable objects, and they absolutely—like Rachel of old—“refused to be comforted.”

On the 30th the storm became really terrific and tempestuous, the surf breaking over the vessels in a manner quite disagreeable if not a trifle suggestive of the perils of “they who go down to the sea in ships.” Some

of the smaller vessels, especially, were hardly equal to the emergency, and weathered the gale with extreme difficulty. The Gen. Banks, upon which were three companies of the Fifteenth, was but barely kept afloat. An ugly breach was sustained amidships, the cooking-galley smashed into smithereens, the steering-apparatus rendered unserviceable, and the situation critical in the extreme. Perhaps three-fourths of all on board were desperately "sea-sick." The Iowa Colonel, and some of his officers, became frantic, and piteously appealed to Col. Murray to order the vessel in under the guns of the rebel forts on the coast, as, in their view, a Texan prison must be even more hospitable than a watery grave. The officers of the ship contributed not a little to the general panic, urging, very strenuously, that unless the vessel was at once relieved of a portion of her cargo she must surely go to the bottom. After a hurried consultation it was determined that discretion and valor were by no means inconsistent; and, though very reluctantly, we proceeded to "dump" a number of bulky articles into the sea. Eleven unusually large and plump mules were thrown overboard; also battery wagons, artillery equipments, and other property. The mules dropped into line in the vessel's wake, desperately endeavoring to "keep up with the procession," giving way, one by one, from utter exhaustion. But the sacrifice of property proved eminently wise, as the steamer would hardly have "pulled through" but for this course. Indeed she was well-nigh a helpless wreck when the storm cleared away, being taken in tow by the Empire City in the morning and remaining under her protection until reaching the point of destination.

The gale—which had raged furiously during the entire night—had spent its force before morning—day-break ushering in a placidity of temperament as well as an unruffled sea. The day following (the 31st) the sea continued smooth, permitting the fleet, which had become much scattered during the storm, to resume its wonted "order of march," and making such progress that on Sunday, Nov. 1st, the welcome cry, "Land, Ho!" was passed along from vessel to vessel, and at 5 p. m. of the same day we dropped anchor off Brazos Island, at the extreme south-western portion of the Texas coast, and within a few miles of the mouth of the Rio Grande River, the dividing line between Texas and Mexico.

During the voyage one of the soldiers of Company E—on the Gen. Banks—died; and while lying at anchor off the coast the solemn ceremony of consigning the body to a watery grave, after the manner of the sailors' burial, was performed—a most impressive and mournful spectacle.

With but few exceptions the vessels of the fleet reached the general rendezvous Nov. 1st; and on the 2d preparations were commenced for effecting a landing—not a mere holiday recreation, as was very readily discovered when the unloading of the horses and artillery was undertaken.

Indeed, the history of the landing of the United States troops upon the same coast at the opening of the war with Mexico—when several days was occupied in the debarkation of a single regiment, and when Second Lieutenant U. S. Grant, in attempting to manipulate the pulleys by which the soldiers were lowered down from the ship to the lighters, was hurled with great velocity some twenty-five feet, into the water, from which awkward and hazardous predicament he was rescued by means of a bucket lowered down from the ship—had prepared our commanders for the difficulties encountered.

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## CHAPTER XI.

### OUR FLAG "PROUDLY WAVES" OVER TEXAS SOIL!

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THE MAINE BOYS FIRST LAND AND THROW TO THE BREEZE THE "STARS AND STRIPES."—PERILS OF THE DEBARKATION.—THE ENEMY NOT EXPECTING COMPANY.—BUT THE REBELS BURN THEIR COTTON AND STORES BEFORE RUNNING AWAY.—A PORTION OF OUR FORCE OCCUPY BROWNSVILLE AND THE MOUTH OF THE RIO GRANDE.—OUR NEW LOCATION AND ITS HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS.—THE FIFTEENTH PREPARES FOR A COAST EXPEDITION, TO BE COMMANDED BY GEN. T. E. G. RANSOM.

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**R**UITE fittingly, the "poetry" of the occasion—"from Maine to Texas"—was kept constantly in mind, and plans made for the landing of the Maine troops first. The steamer Gen. Banks—in a disabled condition—was the first to cross the bar, followed closely by the Clinton: the two vessels containing the two Maine regiments. The first boat-load of troops to reach the shore were from the Clinton, but by some oversight, the boat carried no flag; and, it being well understood that "the planting of the stars and stripes upon Texas soil" was one of the chief objects of the expedition, there was very naturally more or less rivalry among the soldiers on the two vessels as to who should first accomplish that great desideratum. This honor fell to the lot of a detachment of Company B, of the Fifteenth Maine. The company happened to be the owner of a company flag, and this was taken ashore in the first boat landing from the Banks—the agile Private James R. Oliver most expeditiously taking it to the roof of an old building on the island, and waving it in the breeze, amidst the tumultuous cheers of the soldiers on the vessels within view of the very romantic and inspiring spectacle. The men from Maine—the extreme north-eastern state of the Union—had restored the country's flag to a point

upon the extreme south-western portion of the territory so long held by the confederate forces, and almost within sight of the inhabitants of a foreign nationality. The Maine boys were a long distance from the "State of the Pine Tree," but they were entirely "at home," even upon a barren island, with "Old Glory" proudly floating over their heads!

The landing of the troops, horses, artillery, stores, etc., was accomplished only with extreme difficulty, after a number of days of arduous labor. Many of the soldiers landed through a dangerous surf, boats frequently capsizing in the breakers on the bar, and a number of soldiers and sailors losing their lives. The seamen of the naval vessels rendered very efficient service during the process of disembarkation, a number of their boats and vessels being permanently disabled by this hazardous service on the inhospitable Texan coast.

The landing of United States troops upon Texas soil seems to have been considerable of a "surprise-party" to the rebel commanders in Louisiana and Texas; indeed, had it been otherwise, a successful debarkation must have been well-nigh impossible. The Sabine affair and the subsequent continued occupation of the Teche by the army under Franklin, with an occasional dash upon the rebels in various directions in that region, had so completely absorbed the attention of the enemy on the Louisiana border, that no tidings of the departure from New Orleans of a separate expedition seems to have reached them until the appearance of our ships off Brazos; accordingly very few rebel troops were concentrated upon the coast. Gen. Bee, commanding the forces in the region of the Rio Grande, in reporting the arrival of our ships to Magruder, volunteered the opinion: "I think the expedition is from Fortress Monroe!" That we were wholly unexpected is the only explanation of the lack of cordiality on the part of the rebels on the occasion of the arrival of so distinguished a party upon this far-away Southern coast.

The rebel commander at Brownsville, on the appearance of our vessels, at once dispatched small detachments of cavalry to Point Isabel and the mouth of the Rio Grande, to observe the movements of our forces, while he hurriedly evacuated Brownsville, destroying much valuable property, including a large number of buildings and considerable cotton in the town. He then "skedaddled," by foot and train, to the centre of the vast sandy desert, from which point he reported our coming to his superior officer, at Houston. Bee's cavalry was overtaken by our advance at Palo Alto Prairie, and driven in confusion towards Brownsville. A portion of our force pushed on to the Boca Chica and the mouth of the Rio Grande, occupying Brownsville without opposition on the 6th. Here headquarters were established and maintained for several weeks. The Fifteenth tarried at Brazos for a couple of weeks; nearly all the other regiments being dispatched in



various directions soon after landing upon the island: in the main at Point Isabel, Brownsville, and along the Texas shore of the Rio Grande.

Our curiosity to learn something of the country of which we had taken possession was hardly satisfied by anything seen upon this very unattractive island; though the location was not without interest on account of its historic associations. The island—Brazos Santiago by name—is the Southern extremity of Padre Island, separated from the main land by the *Laguna de la Madre*—a capacious bay forming a most excellent harbor. The entire island—Padre—is about sixty miles long, though subdivided into several islands, the Brazos subdivision being some eight miles long and something like a mile or more in width at some points. Immediately across the lagoon, and in full view, is Point Isabel, rendered famous as the base of supplies for Gen. Zachary Taylor's army at the commencement of the war with Mexico, when the American troops occupied both that point and Brazos Island. Here too, Gen. Winfield Scott landed in 1842 to take command of the army; and but a short distance away is the famous battle-fields of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, where, in May, '42, a then obscure lieutenant in Taylor's little army—Ulysses S. Grant by name—first inhaled the not very fragrant aroma of smoking gunpowder, as emitted from hostile cannon during the shock of battle. \*

Nevertheless, so far as we were able to see, the country could hardly be characterized "as a goodly land," or one of very great fertility. The entire coast, from the Louisiana boundary on the east to the Mexican line on the west, is low and sandy, indented by a continuous chain of lagoon bays, cut off from the sea by elongated and narrow peninsulas and islands, in the main destitute of verdure, and as desolate and uninviting as a veritable desert of sand. This condition extends from forty to sixty miles inland, beyond which is a vast prairie belt with a highly productive soil, abounding in deciduous trees, groves of live oak, etc. In the interior the soil is of great fertility, productive of fine crops of cotton and sugar, wheat, corn, tobacco, etc., the prairies affording pasturage for the finest herds of cattle to be found in America.

But the Fifteenth had something more adventurous on its docket than monotonous garrison duty on this uninviting island of sand; it being "booked" for an active campaign up the coast, in the direction of Galveston. Soon after the occupation of Brownsville Gen. T. E. G. Ransom—a gallant 13th Corps brigadier—reported for duty on the coast, and (Nov. 15th) was assigned to the command of the forces on Brazos Island and at

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——\* Gen. Grant, in his "MEMOIRS," speaking of this, his first battle, confesses that then, for the first time, he felt sorry that he had enlisted! "As I looked down that long line of about three thousand armed men," he adds, "advancing towards a larger force, also armed, I thought what a fearful responsibility Gen. Taylor must feel, commanding such a host and so far away from friends!"

Point Isabel, with instructions to prepare at once for an expedition down the coast, taking fifteen days' rations, a six days' water supply, etc. Some two thousand troops comprised his entire command: boat howitzers and several gunboats co-operating. Gen. Banks and staff, on steamer McClellan, were to accompany us, as by no means disinterested spectators.

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## CHAPTER XII.

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### UP THE COAST TO MUSTANG ISLAND AND FORT SEMMES.

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A DAY'S PASSAGE ON STEAMER BAGLEY.—WE LAND UPON THE BEACH AND MAKE A FORCED AND SEVERE MARCH UP THE ISLAND ON THE BEACH.—AN ADVANCE UPON FORT SEMMES AND A BLOODLESS VICTORY.—SURRENDER OF THE FORT AND GARRISON.—GEN. RANSOM MAKES A VERY AGREEABLE SPEECH.—REINFORCEMENTS AND A NEW COMMANDING GENERAL.

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THE Fifteenth took passage on steamer Bagley and sailed on the night of Nov. 15. After a day's passage up the coast the two Maine regiments were transferred to small vessels and lighters brought along for the purpose; and at about sunset of the 16th landed through the surf near the southern extremity of Mustang Island. The landing was effected with very little difficulty, the sea being quite smooth. After a brief rest upon the shore the command was put in motion (at about 10 p. m.) for a very fatiguing all-night march upon the hard, sea-washed beach, in the direction of a fortified position held by the rebels upon the northern extremity of the island. Marching some eighteen miles, and taking a brief rest, we resumed, in line of battle, our front being covered by skirmishers marching a considerable distance in advance of the main line. At about 8 a. m. of the 17th, a mile south of their works, the enemy's pickets were encountered, who made a slight show of resistance. Our advance at once opened fire and the gunboat *Monongahela* ran up to an eligible position and tossed a few shells into the enemy's works. The two Maine regiments were at once formed in line as a storming party, led by Gen. Ransom, and were moving steadily forward, with hostile intent, when they confronted a party of rebels bearing a flag of truce, sent out to prevent the useless shedding of blood, by an offer of surrender, without conditions. The proposition was of course very cheerfully accepted by Gen. Ransom. Nearly one hundred

stalwart Texan Rangers—tall, stout, robust looking fellows—fell into our hands as prisoners, with three heavy guns, a large quantity of stores, and munitions of war. One company from each of the Maine regiments marched within the works and took possession, Col. Dyer being placed in command of the post. The rebel flag was hauled down and the stars and stripes thrown to the breeze in its stead. The rebel flag was brought off as a trophy by the Maine captors, and now hangs immediately over the entrance of the State Treasurer's office, in the State House, at Augusta. The captured position was known as Fort Semmes. It commanded the approaches to Corpus Christi Bay and a section of country of very great importance, Corpus Christi, at the head of the bay, being one of the chief cities of the Texas coast.

A very gratifying episode of our bloodless victory at Fort Semmes was the graceful congratulatory address of Gen. Ransom to the two Maine regiments, on the parade-ground fronting the fort, as soon as the terms of capitulation had been agreed upon. General Ransom pleasantly complimented the Maine troops upon their endurance and perseverance during the exceptionally fatiguing march up the island and the steadiness and soldierly bearing manifested as they advanced in line to storm the enemy's works—having not the remotest idea as to what they were to encounter—and expressing his very high appreciation of the soldierly bearing of both officers and soldiers. In his official report Gen. Ransom also speaks in terms of the highest praise of the Maine regiments and of their commanders, Col. Dyer and Lieut.-Col. Hesseltine. That this was not merely a matter of form is evinced by the fact that in the same report he speaks of the very unsoldierlike conduct of the commander of the Iowa regiment, who, he says, "constantly discouraged his men by complaining in their presence of the hardships of the march," permitting them to straggle, scatter, etc. During this brief campaign, it may be said in passing, Gen. Ransom completely captured the affections of the Maine troops, and he and they were ever after very close friends.

Soon after the surrender of Fort Semmes the 34th Iowa and a Missouri Battery reported to Gen. Ransom, having arrived by steamer *Warrior*. Maj. Gen. C. C. Washburn—a Western officer and a brother of Maine's War Governor, Israel Washburn, jr.—also reported at about the same time, and, as the senior officer, was assigned to the command of the "Coast Expedition,"—Gen. Ransom retaining the immediate command of the brigade to which the two Maine regiments were attached.

The troops tarried at Fort Semmes nearly a week—a very fortunate occurrence, inasmuch as all the soldiers of the command were weary and "foot-sore," the pedal extremities, especially, requiring careful nursing, to ensure effective service during the remainder of the coast campaign.

But there was further important work before us, and even the brief season of rest was utilized in preparations for future campaigns. Among these was a re-organization of the command into two distinct brigades—our brigade, commanded by Gen. Ransom, comprising the 13th and 15th Me., the 34th Iowa, and Battery F, First Missouri Artillery.

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## CHAPTER XIII.

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### UP ST. JOSEPH'S AND MATAGORDA ISLANDS AND THE INVESTMENT AND CAPTURE OF FORT ESPERANZA.

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ACROSS ARRANSAS PASS TO ST. JOSEPH'S.—AN OASIS IN THE TEXAS DESERT.—COWARDLY ATTACK BY A FLAG OF TRUCE PARTY AND ITS SUMMARY PUNISHMENT.—A TEXAS NORTHER.—THE CROSSING OF CEDAR BAYOU.—ON MATAGORDA ISLAND.—THE MAINE BOYS OBSERVE THANKSGIVING ON A TEXAN ISLAND.—MORE REINFORCEMENTS.—ATTACK UPON AND INVESTMENT OF FORT ESPERANZA.—DIGGING RIFLE-PITS DURING A TEXAS NORTHER.—THE REBELS RUN AWAY, BLOWING UP THE MAGAZINES OF THE FORT.—OCCUPATION OF FORT ESPERANZA AND MATAGORDA BAY.

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**I**N the morning of the 22d (Nov.) Ransom's brigade was ferried across Arransas Pass to St. Joseph's Island, and the same afternoon we commenced the march up the island, encamping for the night at a large cattle ranch, some eight miles from the starting-point. The objective point was understood to be Fort Esperanza, a strongly fortified and garrisoned position, at the head of the island.

As a matter of justice to the apparently "God-forsaken country" along the Texas coast, it should be said that, as compared with anything else encountered, St. Joseph's Island is as a veritable oasis in a great sandy desert. Here was to be found excellent grazing land, with its attendant fine herds of cattle, with now and then flocks of deer skipping across the pathway of the army with their wonted agility. The cattle were sleek and plump, and ever ready at hand for the frequent fresh-beef ration in which the soldiers luxuriated. In the absence of the usual appliances of the butcher's profession the rifle was substituted, and unerring marksmen were always ready able to as gracefully drop a beeve with minnie-ball as if the lightning-stroke had been the agent of death employed.

On the 23d the march was resumed. As we were approaching the enemy's fortified position a guard of mounted infantry was kept some dia-

tance in advance, under command of Capt. C. S. Illsley. As the advance reached Cedar Bayou a small party of rebels, displaying a flag of truce, was espied upon the opposite shore, the southern extremity of Matagorda Island. With that due respect for a flag of truce which has ever characterized civilized warfare, Sergeant James Saunders (Co. F, 15th) was sent over to ascertain the wishes of the party. He disrobed and swam the bayou; our advance-guard remaining upon the lower shore. The flag-of-truce was in charge of the rebel Maj. Hill (said to have been an artillery officer of considerable capacity sent to conduct the defense at Fort Esperanza in the threatened attack.) The Major undertook to inquisitively interrogate Sergeant Saunders upon various matters connected with the expedition, and especially as to the disposition of the rebel garrison at Fort Semmes, (the rebel authorities affecting to believe that they had been cruelly dealt with and that two citizens of Texas had been hung in the rigging of our vessels.) The Sergeant very properly refused to give any information upon the subject, and in the dispute that ensued the Major drew his revolver and shot at Saunders,—unarmed and naked as he was—wounding him quite severely. Our soldiers on the opposite shore witnessed the struggle, fired, and the Major was very soon seen to limp away; the Sergeant taking to the water and returning to his comrades on St. Joseph's Island. The dead body of the Major was discovered when our force crossed, lying upon the sand a few hundred yards from the spot where he received the fatal shot. Thus speedily was the inhuman outrage upon Sergeant Saunders avenged.

The crossing of the Bayou was found to be a more difficult task than had been anticipated; the presence of one of those terrific gales, termed "Texas Northers," rendering any effort in that direction during its prevalence practically unavailing. The Pass was deep and something like three hundred yards wide, with a very strong current, exposed to the fierce gale sweeping down the Gulf—the angry waves being dashed upon the beach with very great velocity. We could, therefore, only stand idly by, endeavor to keep ourselves from freezing, and await developments.

And while the subject of "Northers" is under consideration it may as well be said that these periodical gales are really a terror. Swooping down upon the bleak, unprotected coast, once or twice a week during the winter season, and holding high carnival for two or three days at each visit, they are well-nigh unendurable. For genuine fridity they completely throw our New England winter gales into the shade. The loose sand is scattered, in vast clouds, in every direction, toppling over tents, filling eyes, ears and nostrils with sand, and inflicting innumerable indignities. The only resort of our soldiers—having a limited supply of clothing and camp equipage—was to burrow in the sand, in pits dug from eight to ten feet deep, and covered with raw-hide from cattle recently butchered—a custom

giving some point to one of the jokes of the regimental wag—the inimitable Lieut. Plummer—“it’s a mighty mean country where a man must dig his own grave and crawl into it, without the aid of mourners and waiving the customary ceremonies!” But a “Texas Norther” cannot be adequately described; it must be experienced to be fully appreciated.

It was found, when the gale had somewhat abated, that it was wholly impracticable to bridge the bayou; indeed, to cross by any means was no holiday recreation. The crossing by means of rafts was finally concluded upon as the most practicable method. The engineer corps had brought along four large yawl-boats, and by lashing these securely together a ferry was provided of sufficient capacity to carry the troops, wagons and artillery, the horses and mules being compelled to swim, with the assistance of leaders. A number of days was occupied in crossing the force, and the task was laborious and disagreeable. Our brigade held the advance and was the first to cross, (on the 25th) our first duty upon reaching Matagorda being the burial of the dead rebel major, whose comrades, in their haste to get away, left the body lying stiff and cold upon the sand. We made a seven-mile march up the island the day of crossing, going into camp at 9 p. m. to await the arrival of the remainder of the force.

By a most happy coincidence the line of march led us by a ranchman’s abode whose poultry-yard was exceptionally well-supplied; and one of the boys was so inconsiderate as to pass the word along the line that Nov. 25th, in Maine, was being observed in that joyous festal season so dear to the heart and *stomach* of every New Englander—Thanksgiving Day! That the soldiers were unable to resist the temptation to make timely requisition upon the poultry-supply goes without the saying; but the appetizing repast established a connecting link between us and “the dear ones at home” so ennobling as to amply atone for any wrong-doing in the matter of depredations upon that far-away Texas hen-roost!

During the night we were joined by the additional brigade just landed upon the coast. The troops were mainly from Indiana and Illinois—a Thirteenth Corps brigade, commanded by Col. Henry D. Washburn. This accession gave us two full brigades for the attack upon Fort Esperanza.

Bright and early on the morning of the 26th the advance upon the island was commenced—the troops making a march of some twenty-three miles before reaching the camp agreed upon: a large cattle-ranch, but ten miles from Fort Esperanza’s outer works. On the 27th the march was resumed—Ransom’s brigade moving up the centre of the island, and Washburn’s, in a parallel line, on the beach. Before noon we had reached the light-house, close by the Fort. The rebel pickets were encountered at about eleven o’clock and very unceremoniously driven within their works. After reconnoitering the position our line was formed, occupying a range

of sand-hills within three hundred yards of the outer works—Ransom occupying the left and Washburn the right. The fortification was found to be very formidable, extending from the bay to a lagoon running from the bay to the main-land side of the island. It was anywhere from ten to fifteen feet high, and at least fifteen feet thick. That it mounted heavy guns was clearly apparent when the enemy opened upon us with 128-pounders and 24s, throwing shells, but with very little effect. The position and calibre of the works being ascertained, our advance was withdrawn, the afternoon and the day following being occupied in reconnoitering, with occasional skirmishing and sharpshooting, diversified by artillery shots from the enemy.

Unfortunately, just as we had reached the vicinity of the works, another of those unearthly "Northers" sprang up, continuing some forty-eight hours, and not only rendering the operations on land disagreeable in the extreme, but practically preventing the proposed co-operation in the attack by the gunboats laying off the island. The soldiers suffered intensely all through the gale. The sand-pit excavations furnished the only shelter, and these were only accessible as an occasional resort, the troops having more pressing work in hand than promoting their own comfort. During the night of the 28th fatigue parties from all the regiments were put at work digging rifle-pits running parallel with the enemy's works—the boys diligently and adroitly plying the spade until after midnight, eagerly seeking their "sand-holes" when the job was completed for the refreshing slumber which they had so richly earned.

As a result of the effective labors of the "engineers," along the front of both the right and left sub-divisions of the line, our artillerists were enabled to plant batteries in much more eligible positions than formerly, and in the morning they commenced to drop shells into the enemy's stronghold, driving his men from their guns, and doing very effective work. Our guns were advanced and brought into position under a constant though quite inaccurate fire from the heavy guns of the Fort. On the right, by skillful manœuvring, Washburn planted his guns within seven hundred and twenty-five yards of the Fort before nightfall, some of his movements being so much exposed as to have been attended with great hazard had the enemy been throwing "the shell that scattereth" instead of the solid shot which may be so easily "dodged." Our batteries kept up an incessant and effective fire all day, the infantry leisurely standing by and watching the effect of the cannonade, and rejoicing at every substantial victory attained. By noon the rebels were compelled to seek refuge within the inner works of the fortress, when, following up the advantage, our guns were concentrated upon "the last ditch," rendering the enclosure so intolerably hot for the "Johnnies" as to overcome, for them at least, the effects of the very frigid temperature which the "Norther" had brought to the entire Texas coast.

Had the gale so far subsided during the day as to have permitted the gunboats to take a hand in the fight, a white flag must have taken the place of the confederate ensign on the flag-staff of Esperanza quite early in the day.

The artillery duel had been prolonged during the day mainly in the hope that the gale would have spent its force before morning so far as to enable the gunboats to run by the Fort to render the escape of the garrison impossible; nevertheless all the arrangements had been perfected for an assault by the infantry early in the morning should the gunboats fail to put in an appearance. But the rebels seem to have anticipated our plans; as, at about midnight, a terrific explosion was heard within the Fort, followed by others. The enemy was preparing to run away and was blowing up his magazines! An advance of the skirmish line was at once ordered, who, gaining the interior of the Fort, found that the rebels had made good their escape, leaving behind his stores, ammunition, the personal baggage of the officers, etc. Cotton was piled around the different magazines, with loose powder scattered in various directions. Only two of the magazines were saved. Our advance pushed on to the rope-ferry, but were too late to overtake the retreating rebels. The rope had been cut, allowing the floating bridge to swing around upon the shore; the destruction of the bridge being prevented by the close pursuit of our advance, who extinguished the fire and captured six of the eight rebel soldiers left to fire the train. The garrison at the Fort comprised from five to seven hundred men, who owe their escape to the prevalence of the gale, which so effectually prevented any participation in the affair on the part of the naval vessels. So far as is known the rebels lost but one man in killed; our loss was one killed and ten wounded. Considerable valuable property in the shape of ordnance and other stores fell into our hands. A small fort on an adjoining island, as well as Esperanza, was taken possession of.

The capture of Fort Esperanza cost but little in the way of bloodshed, yet, nevertheless, the campaign was one of very great privation, severely testing the powers of endurance of all participating. Gen. Washburn, in his official report, very aptly said:

“I cannot express in too strong language my admiration of the conduct of the officers and men engaged in this expedition. We left the foot of St. Joseph's Island without transportation of any kind, except twelve wagons used for transporting supplies. With this small train I had to supply twenty-eight hundred men, together with the animals belonging to the train, and horses for two batteries, nearly sixty miles from my base of supplies. The weather much of the time was very inclement, water very bad, and fuel scarce, but I never heard a complaint or murmur of any kind.”

The possession of Fort Esperanza and Matagorda Bay gave to the expedition one of the finest harbors on the Texas coast. The bay extends into three counties at the mouth of the Colorado River, protected from the tempestuous waters of the Gulf by a long and narrow peninsula, and hav-



ing a most eligible avenue for the approach of vessels known as Pass Cavallo. The point occupied is only about forty miles from Indianola, and is in close proximity to Galveston, the largest city and the natural commercial centre of a country comprising nearly one-half the entire State. Nevertheless the rebels had considerable territory still in their control, including a strongly fortified position at the mouth of the Brazos River, and the island of Galveston, where, it was understood, Gen. Magruder's principal force was concentrated, numbering from twenty to twenty-five thousand, anxiously awaiting developments.

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## CHAPTER XIV.

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### ON MATAGORDA ISLAND AND "DECROW'S POINT."

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THE FIFTEENTH AGAIN SETTLES DOWN TO THE MONOTONY OF CAMP-LIFE.—NEW ARRIVALS.—A NEW MINISTER AND DOCTOR.—VARIOUS SCOUTING EXPEDITIONS.—WE OCCUPY MATAGORDA PENINSULA (DECROW'S POINT).—GEN. DANA AGAIN AT THE HELM.—THE FIFTEENTH RE-ENLIST AS VETERAN VOLUNTEERS.—A REVIEW OF THE SITUATION.—WE "PULL UP STAKES" AND LEAVE TEXAS TO THE REBELS.—EVACUATION OF MATAGORDA PENINSULA.—THE FIFTEENTH AGAIN AT SEA!

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**I**MMEDIATELY after the occupation of Fort Esperanza the Fifteenth made a reconnoissance extending some four or five miles, but without discovering even the shadow of an enemy, and the troops quietly settled down to the monotony of camp and garrison life—a very radical change from the ceaseless activities of the preceding month's campaigns. There were the frequent rides down the island and the sport incident to the driving of cattle after the manner of the ranchmen; an occasional reconnoissance to some portion of the mainland; the weekly and even the semi-weekly visits of the "Northers," etc., but very little transpired that was adventurous or noteworthy. A number of the regiments went into camp on Matagorda Peninsula soon after the taking of Esperanza. Gen. Washburn's headquarters, however, were continued on Matagorda Island during the entire month of December, and the Fifteenth and other regiments of its brigade lingered on the island until about the middle of January.

Early in December Col. John C. Cobb's colored regiment arrived on the island to garrison Fort Esperanza. The Colonel and a number of

the staff and line officers were formerly of the Fifteenth, and a very pleasant reunion of old comrades long separated was the incidental result.

The Fifteenth here also received very important accessions in the coming of the newly-appointed Chaplain, Rev. S. F. Wetherbee, and the Assistant Surgeon, Dr. George Z. Higgins. These popular and worthy officers were as cordially welcomed as the circumstances of the situation would permit; but with a terrific "Norther" under full sway upon their arrival and no means of providing artificial heat, there was not very much of "warmth" in the reception. Indeed the truth of history compels the confession that during the first night on Texas soil the Chaplain was compelled to lay his reverend head in an inhospitable pool of water, formed from the exceptionally heavy rain-fall, the gale toppling the tent over the heads of the field and staff officers as effectually as if it were constructed of straw!

Capt. C. S. Illsley, of Gen. Ransom's staff, commanded a large scouting expedition up Matagorda Bay the middle of December, which was quite adventurous. The party penetrated the rebel country for a considerable distance after leaving the row-boats. No enemy was encountered; but on the return, near midnight, a gale sprung up, compelling landing from the boats on the beach a considerable distance from shore, on an unoccupied island. It was a dismal experience which the participants will not fail to recall.

About the 28th of December Lieut.-Col. Hesseltine, with one hundred men of the 13th Maine, had a very lively affair at the head of Matagorda Peninsula. They went up in a gunboat, landing in small boats through the surf on a reconnoissance. A gale sprung up completely cutting off communication with the gunboat soon after the party had landed. The rebel pickets were encountered and driven up the peninsula, but early in the afternoon a rebel force of from eight to ten hundred, mostly cavalry, put in an appearance, and endeavored to surround Col. Hesseltine's little party, who had hastily thrown up breastworks, and prepared to make a gallant resistance. The gunboat poured shot and shell upon the rebel force with good effect. Hesseltine's party were besieged within their works all night and during a portion of the next day, being taken upon the gunboat in the afternoon, without loss. A light-draught rebel gunboat came upon the scene just after our party had returned to their vessel, and opened fire, but she was soon driven ashore and became a total wreck. The affair was very creditable to the 13th Maine boys and the gunboats co-operating. The same day Gen. Ransom went up the Bay on a gunboat as far as the mouth of the Brazos River. He saw a large rebel force with strong works at Velasco, Quintana, and at the mouth of the San Bernard. The entire Texas army had concentrated in that region, prepared to show fight when-

ever we should leave the islands and make a movement towards the interior.

Early in January Maj-Gen. Dana moved his headquarters from the Rio Grande to Matagorda Peninsula, and commenced concentrating all his available force in that direction. The brigade to which the Fifteenth had been temporarily assigned crossed over Jan. 17th; nearly all the troops, excepting the garrison at the Fort, now being upon the main land. The brigade (comprising the 13th and 15th Me., 20th and 34th Iowa, 64th Ohio, and 130th Illinois) was commanded successively by Gen. Ransom, Col. Dyer, and Col. Rust of the 13th Me.—Gen. Ransom becoming commander of the division in the re-organization of the troops.

Quite an amusing affair occurred soon after the brigade had become comfortably established upon the Peninsula. A sensational report was current that a large rebel force had landed upon the lower end of Matagorda Island and was moving up the island to attack Fort Esperanza. The Macedonian cry, "come over and help us," was speedily responded to, a large force being hastily ferried across by steamer—the Fifteenth being of the party. There was considerable of a panic at the Fort and every preparation had been made to resist what was interpreted as a threatened attack. The troops from the Peninsula reached the vicinity of the Fort at about 9 p. m. and immediately formed a line of battle a short distance from the Fort, the right taking position in the rifle-pits. Scouts were dispatched in all directions but no enemy was discovered. The line was preserved during the night. The next morning Lieut.-Col. Murray, with six companies of the Fifteenth, was dispatched upon a reconnoissance, "doing" the entire island, and making a very hard march of from fifty to sixty miles. Nothing more "rebellious" than the cattle roaming at will upon the island was discovered; and the boys, weary and foot-sore, returned in due season, thoroughly disgusted at what they were pleased to characterize "a very great scare." From prudential reasons the force remained upon the island several days, returning to the Peninsula (more frequently termed "Decrow's Point") January 25th.

At about this period the project of re-enlistment, as "Veteran Volunteers," was much agitated among the regiments eligible under the liberal offer made by the War Department, and the Fifteenth, especially, manifested a very lively interest in the matter. Under the provisions of an order from the War Dep't, under date Sept. 11, 1863, it was stipulated that all volunteers serving in three years' organizations, who had less than one year to serve on their original enlistment, and who should re-enlist for three years or the war, should be entitled to a bounty and premium of \$402 from the general government; the state government further promised a bounty of \$100 from the State; and \$200 more was promised from the towns—a total of \$702. In addition the re-enlisted soldier was prom-

ised a furlough of thirty days, with transportation home and back. The Fifteenth men who joined the regiment at its original organization were eligible to re-enlistment under this order. The matter was thoroughly investigated and discussed, and the proposition was so very favorably regarded by our soldiers that a large proportion of those entitled to do so promptly entered their names as "Veteran Volunteers." Nearly or quite three-fourths of those present for duty re-enlisted, and under the provisions of the order the regiment thus became, in name as well as in fact, a Veteran Regiment, and was mustered as such Feb. 22d, 1864, to take rank on the re-enlistment from Jan. 25th, 1864. The commissions and rank of the officers were continued from the original date. The names of those Re-enlisting—not including the commissioned officers—as given in the Maine Adjutant General's Report, are appended. \*

So far as any aggressive movements were concerned the Texas coast expedition seems to have terminated with the occupation of Matagorda Island, Bay and Peninsula. Esperanza had been captured the latter portion of November; yet the months of December, January and a portion of Feb-

N. C. STAFF.—Sgt. Maj. Edwin A. Low, Hos. Stew. Charles P. Storer.

COMPANY A.—Edwin P. Bridges, Andrew J. Bulmer, Wm. A. Caswell, Stephen H. Case, Augustus F. Chambers, Wm. H. Chambers, Patrick Conners, Dougald Cameron, Sylvester Davis, Hiram Davis, Hammond Davis, Peter Decoster, Albert H. Hallett, Andrew J. Hankins, Edward P. Hodges, Terrence Healey, Wm. H. Johnson, James E. Knight, Joseph Lee, Nelson Leary, John F. Leighton, James N. Martin, Alonzo V. Moore, Angus McGilvery, Wm. H. McLaughlin, Asbury F. Pottle, James L. Pierce, Jonathan Randall jr., Lyman Rumerey, Henry Richardson, David Reynolds, Charles Swan, Hosea Smith, Elisha Sherman, John Sherman, Thaddeus Touse, Ralph L. Teed, Henry A. Whitney, Wm. F. Walker, John A. Wheeler, Hilton B. Wright.

COMPANY B.—James E. Alexander, William C. Allen, William Henry Bosworth, Leemon H. Bard, Andrew Bubier, John E. Christopher, James Coombs, 2d, George H. Douglass, Frank Deojay, Charles E. Graves, Dennis Gatchell, Abram T. Green, George M. Green, B. Franklin Higgins, Carlton Lancaster, Joseph E. Latham, David C. Merryman, William Maxwell, James McGrath, Augustus R. Oliver, James R. Oliver, Bradford H. Pushard, Loring O. Pushard, Wm. W. Penny, Jacob Powers, James E. Rollins, Frazier T. Shorey, Isaac F. Swan, John B. Tarr, Adam O. Trufant, Orrin A. True, Eben B. Whitney.

COMPANY C.—Wm. P. Barker, James Bell, George W. Christopher, Daniel Everett, Alexander Graves, Michael Gallagher, James Johnston, William P. Morris, Benj. F. Owen, Hezekiah S. Owen, Whitman L. Orcutt, Jeremiah Perrowe, Sanford B. Preble, Melvin S. Preble, Charles C. Pomroy, Alfred W. Roberts, James Roax, Harrison H. Robinson, George Roy, Lyman R. Seigers, James M. Story, Samuel W. Stratton, Jeremiah Snow, Jonathan D. Snow, Wm. Smith, Wm. H. Sutter, Charles H. Shaw, Leander M. Wyman, John P. Walker, Charles S. Whitney, Samuel Wilson.

COMPANY D.—Warren T. DeCraney, Charles E. Emery, Duncan Falkner, Lyman W. Hanson, Clark Lewis, Joseph P. Martin, John Meara, Alexander Noble, Augustus W. Plummer, Edward Pearson, Henry S. Rich, George R. Ray, Octave St. Peter, Simeon Small, Asa B. Tuttle, Sidney Verrill, Parris R. Winslow, Robert B. Welch, Isaac C. Welch, Orlando Winslow.

COMPANY E.—Thomas Adams, Samuel Brown, Robert Boyd, Edward M. Bennett, John H. Bennett, John D. Blake, James H. Belton, Charles Cunningham, Joseph Casey, Patrick Collins, Richard Decorcey, Cornelius J. Desmond, James Furlong, Cornelius Fish, Daniel W. Garey, Patrick Gallagher, Shepherd Hoyt, Merrill B. Hanning, David Lindsay, Charles W. Lake, Daniel McCarty, John H. McCormick, Dana B. Morrill, Thomas McKee, Wm. Murphy, Lewis Myshrall, James McGinnis, John Noble, Robert S. Palmer, Alfred F. Perkins, Gordon Perkins, David T. Sawyer, Orville L. Sawyer, Michael Tasnane, James P. Witham. [See foot-note page 70.]

ruary, wore away, with nothing further accomplished, or even attempted, though troops were constantly arriving, and the preparations in progress seemed to indicate an attack upon some strongly fortified position of the enemy further up the coast or in the interior. Maj.-Gen. Dana had transferred his headquarters from Brownsville to Matagorda Bay, and taken command of the coast expedition; Franklin's troops were held in readiness to be transferred to the coast at any moment; and it was well known that Gen. Banks was very anxious to occupy Galveston, as easy of access both to Berwick Bay and New Orleans, and as affording an excellent base for contemplated operations against Mobile. But he was very reluctant to move with an inadequate force, understanding very well that in whatever direction he struck he must encounter at once the entire available force of Gen. Magruder, which, concentrated in the region of Indianola, Houston and Galveston, was quietly awaiting developments. But the government was unable to furnish the additional troops deemed requisite, and our army unwittingly lapsed into a state of "masterly inactivity." Gen. Banks, however, was quietly maturing his plans for the capture and occupation of Galveston, when he was again disconcerted (January 23d) by imperative instructions from Gen. Halleck, outlining another campaign, and one which

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\*—————[From Page 69.]

COMPANY F.—Stephen J. Bailey, Alfred Corbett, Enoch Coburn, Robert R. Corbett, James R. Corbett, Thomas F. Coffin, James T. Durgin, Wm. Dixon, John Fitzgerald, John E. Gatchell, Joshua N. Gatchell, Michael Higney, Joseph F. Harmon, John Kelly, Patrick Kelly, James Maladay, John Mehegan, Patrick Murray, Oswald McBrian, Eugene McCarty, Maurice Murphy, Francis Martin, William Mitchell, William Ryan, Thomas Smith, Patrick Sweeney, James Saunders, Seth Toothaker, Abizer York.

COMPANY G.—Fernando C. Bolster, Joseph Bolier, Philip Bolier, Charles H. Bolster, Charles A. Brawn, Charles T. Blackington, John Brown, Fabyan Crock, Joseph Cyr, Raymond Cormair, Thomas Donnell, Maguire Dubay, William Duke, George F. Emerson, Charles F. E. nerson, Mark Ellis, Daniel O. Edgecomb, George O. Fields, Francis Govern, Henry Hodson, Lorenzo D. Hatch, Bradford W. Laiten, Alonzo Lawton, Albert Marshall, George Martin, Edward Murphy, William Morin, James Rideout, Thomas Violette, Wm. H. Ward.

COMPANY H.—Oliver S. Barker, Alonzo Coan, William H. Carr, Jedediah Cole, Oscar A. Coombs, Charles F. Dearborn, Joseph Davis, Jasper I. Fisher, John H. French, Henry W. Gay, Samuel W. Goodwin, Sylvester L. Hatch, Benjamin C. Hatch, Fred'k A. Haskell, John C. Libby, Jere. R. Leathers, Byron Libby, Wm. Mansfield, John McKinney, George L. Marson, James Noble, William E. Pullen, Daniel Pinkham, John L. Russell, Samuel Robshaw, Warren Robbins, John C. Sweet, Chesley Shaw, Joseph W. Skillin, George Smith, Wm. E. Skillin, Francis M. Skillin.

COMPANY I.—George A. P. Bryant, Calvin G. Burkett, William Chaplin, Edward Cunningham, John Devlin, Stephen H. Davis, Charles H. Edgecomb, Otis Gilmore, Orrin J. Gaul, Luther V. Gilmore, Elijah N. Howes, Albert O. Hall, Patrick Jordan, Reuben K. McFarland, Peter Nolen, Freeman Peaslee, Emerson Pease, Wm. F. Perry, Charles R. Rice, Frank Russell, Wallace Russell, Martin Sweeney, Patrick Summers, Albert P. Tolman, Thomas Tobin, Joshua L. Tibbetts, Charles Wood, Robert Wilson.

COMPANY K.—Henry H. Archer, Benjamin Blyther, Isaac C. Bourness, John W. Boynton, Cyrus S. Crocker, Wm. Ellison, John A. Fenerty, Payson E. Fairfield, Jacob Foss, Joseph Hinton, Henry Hasnipp, John E. Hanson, Daniel Hurley, Charles N. Joslin, Otis Ludwig, Frederick Leighton, George H. Lingley, Thomas F. Lamson, Wm. Murphy, Peter F. McCann, John McNutt, Daniel McNutt, Thomas H. McDonald, Thomas Myers, Peter Matherson, Alonzo Morang, George Morrison, Augustus H. Morse, Thomas Osborne, Robert Pearson, Henry C. Peasley, Josiah Page, Jeremiah Quinn, John Quinn, Henry Ramsdell, Frank E. Stickney, Ether W. Sprague, Aaron Wakefield, James F. Wakefield, James Wallace.

could only be undertaken by the practical abandonment of all that had been gained by the only expedition which, during the war, had been able to secure a foothold upon Texas soil. But other western generals were involved in the proposed campaign and were expected to co-operate, and like a good soldier, the commander of the Gulf Department could only obey orders, though entertaining very grave apprehensions as to the wisdom of the plan and its probable outcome.

The new campaign contemplated retaining small garrisons, strongly fortified, on Matagorda Bay and at Brownsville, and the evacuation of all other points on the Texas coast. The order reached us Feb. 14th, and the work of demolition was at once commenced. Large fatigue parties were kept at work night and day, and very laboriously, in preparing for the abandonment of the coast, regiment after regiment slipping away as rapidly as transportation could be provided. The Fifteenth, which had been the first to land upon the coast, was the last to depart—we, in this respect, holding the post of honor—"covering the retreat." The regiment "struck tents" Feb. 25th (1864) though not going upon shipboard until two days later, when, the government wharf being demolished and the public property removed, we left the barren and desolate peninsula and slipped across to Matagorda Island to await transportation.

A dreary, tiresome week, was that of the evacuation of the Texas coast. Its experiences were quite unlike those at Pensacola, save in the laborious work involved. The caravan of homeless men, women and children, with goods and chattels strewn upon the wharves and public squares, were in this instance lacking, yet the huge piles of public property to be loaded upon the transports and otherwise provided for or destroyed, were a very vivid and realistic object lesson. As the scribe recalls the scene, glancing back through the dim vista of more than a quarter of a century, he espies the old camp ground, lonely and desolate, with not a tent standing upon the narrow peninsula, while here and there, grouped about brightly-burning camp-fires, reclining upon the sand or mayhap seated upon empty "hard-tack" boxes, sipping their coffee, chatting with mess-mates, or smoking dull care away, were officers and soldiers of all grades, very happily comingling. In the harbor, receiving freight, were those well remembered Texas coast-transports—the Clinton, Crescent and St. Mary's, of the Morgan line; the Planter, Bagley, Warrior, etc.; while skipping to and fro, actively engaged in the all-absorbing work of the hour, were shouting teamsters, stevedores and staff-officers, a veritable medley of confusion and discord. The tall flag-staff is lowered—the finishing touches of demolition are given to the wharf—the regimental line is formed, dismissed, re-formed, and the process repeated over and over again, during the comfortless days and nights in which we drearily "wait for the wagon,"

when the wagon cometh not. "Oh! those were the weary days of waiting!"

Though the Fifteenth "struck" and packed its tents and camp and garrison equipage Feb. 25th, it was not until the 29th that we proceeded on board the Steamer St. Mary's, and noon of March 1st that we steamed out of Matagorda Bay and proceeded to sea.

## CHAPTER X V.

### AGAIN IN LOUISIANA AND THROUGH THE TECHE REGION TO ALEXANDRIA, ON THE RED RIVER.

A SEA-VOYAGE AND UP THE MISSISSIPPI TO ALGIERS.—BY RAIL TO BRASHEAR CITY.—  
A TWO-HUNDRED-MILE MARCH TO FRANKLIN AND ALEXANDRIA.—NEW DIVISION  
AND BRIGADE ASSOCIATES.—A LARGE ARMY GATHERED ON THE RED RIVER.—  
THE REBELS REPULSED AT FORT DEKUSSEY AND AT HENDERSON'S HILL.

**S**TEAMER St. Mary's, upon which the Fifteenth had taken passage, encountered quite severe weather before leaving the Texas coast, which continued during the entire passage to the mouth of the Mississippi, the soldiers suffering intensely from the cold as well as from sea-sickness. She entered the South-West Pass at ten o'clock on the morning of March 3d, arriving at the Algiers Depot of the Opelousas Railroad the same evening, and disembarking at about midnight, seeking temporary quarters at the Algiers Iron Works. Transportation was furnished a few days later, the regiment taking the train at about night-fall of March 6th and reaching Berwick City, on Bayou Teche, the next morning. Here were a large number of troops, all under marching orders for Franklin, La.

The Fifteenth was here re-joined by Co. K, which had been stationed at one of the Forts since the previous summer, and which did not participate in the Texas campaign.

At noon of March 7th the Fifteenth joined the general caravan on the road to Franklin—the route traversed being through a country of surpassing beauty and fertility, the garden of Louisiana, if not of the world. Large plantations lined the way, the buildings and general surroundings indicating prosperity in prosperous days. A number of pretty villages were passed on the route. The regiment reached Franklin at noon of the 8th, where were encamped large bodies of troops, a considerable proportion

being cavalry. Maj.-Gen. Franklin was in command; and from general indications it soon became evident that an active campaign in the direction of the Red River country was the object of the gathering.

Immediately upon our arrival we were assigned to the 2d brigade, 1st division, Nineteenth Army Corps, with Gen. James W. McMillan as brigade and Gen. W. H. Emory as division commanders—Gen. Franklin commanding the corps as well as all the forces at the station. Our associates in the brigade were the 13th, 15th and 29th Maine, 47th Penn., and 162d New York. The 30th Maine was in an adjoining brigade, encamped not far away. The 29th and 30th were new organizations but just arrived from Maine, and the meeting of the members of the four Maine regiments was an exceedingly pleasant event, bringing together, as it did, old friends and townsmen long separated.

The troops comprised in Gen. Franklin's command numbered about sixteen thousand, of all arms, including, besides the two divisions of the 19th corps, two divisions of the 13th corps, a force of about five thousand cavalry, under Gen. Albert L. Lee, and an artillery brigade, under Gen. Richard Arnold. This was by far the largest force we had ever seen together; and, encamped about a city of from four to five thousand hostile inhabitants, with the attendant brightly-burning evening camp-fires, the soul-stirring music of the bands and drum-corps, the shrill bugle "calls" of the cavalry command, etc., all served to constitute a military pageant of quite magnificent proportions.

The cavalry force, with its immense forage and baggage-trains, commenced the forward movement March 13th; and during that night and the day following, a continuous line of cavalymen were tramping by our camp, with their ceaseless rumble and jumble, the jingling of sabres, the neighing of horses, and a degree of confusion and up-roar well calculated to impress the looker-on with profound appreciation of the immensity of the menagerie. Requiring a long stretch of road in which to straighten itself out, the cavalry preceded the infantry by a couple of days, reaching Alexandria nearly a week earlier.

The infantry column "took the road" March 15th, Emory's Division filing into its prescribed position at about noon—the Maine troops not forgetting to greet, with "three hearty cheers and a tiger," the gallant little General (Ransom) with whom they had "roughed it" in Texas, as we passed the Thirteenth Corps headquarters on the road.

The first day out from Franklin we made some fifteen miles, along the banks of the Bayou Teche; the 16th, passed through New Iberia, where our cavalry had a sharp skirmish with the cavalry of the enemy a few days previous; Vermillion Bayou on the 17th; Carrion Crow Bayou on the 18th; Opelousas and Washington on the 19th; "resting upon the



Sabbath Day," the 20th; striking Bayou Bœuf, with its well-filled sugar-houses, on the 21st; Cheneyville the 23d; the Gov. Wells plantation—with its memorable rain-storm and ankle-deep mud—on the 24th; and Alexandria, the general rendezvous, at about noon of March 25th. From Brashear City to Alexandria is about two hundred miles; and, in fearfully hot weather, over dusty roads, and with water dipped up from stagnant pools over which a yellow sediment had formed in many instances, the march was justly regarded as a very creditable feat of pedestrianism.

As Franklin's corps entered the city—the bands playing their most popular airs and the streets crowded with soldiers from the western commands, camp-followers, and throngs of citizens—the "grand entree" presented a most inspiring spectacle. Among those who witnessed our arrival were military and naval officers of high grade, including Maj-Gen. Banks, Admiral Porter, Gen. A. J. Smith, etc.

The city of Alexandria is on the right bank of the Red River, one hundred and fifty miles from the Mississippi, and one hundred and seventy miles from Shreveport: the place last mentioned being the very important point so highly prized and tenaciously held by the rebels, on account of its communications by railroad and water, and its many strategic advantages from the rebel point of view. The population rating of Alexandria was about eight thousand. Here the troops under Gen. Franklin formed a junction with forces "loaned" by Grant from his Vicksburg command and coming down the Mississippi and up the Red in transports; with the naval force co-operating; and with those coming by water from other directions—a combination of from twenty-five to thirty thousand soldiers of all arms. \*

By a very curious and unprecedented assumption, the detachments of the 16th and 17th corps were operated as a distinct and independent force, commanded by Gen. A. J. Smith, who, in every emergency, insisted upon "paddling his own canoe." Gen. Franklin was the immediate commander of the entire force other than the exceptions mentioned—Gen. Banks exercising the functions of Department Commander as to all the troops save those commanded by His Royal Highness, General Andrew Jackson Smith!

In reaching Alexandria the troops from Grant's army made a

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\* The troops comprised:

Grover and Emory's Divisions of the Nineteenth Corps; two Divisions of the Thirteenth Corps, under Gen. T. E. G. Ransom; and Gen. Lee's Cavalry Division, all under the command of Gen. W. B. Franklin.

A finely equipped Artillery Brigade, commanded by Gen. Richard Arnold.

Two Divisions of the Seventeenth Corps, commanded by Gen. T. Kilby Smith.

Two Divisions of the Sixteenth Corps, commanded by Gen. A. J. Smith.

The Naval Fleet, under Admiral Porter, comprising from sixteen to twenty armed vessels—rams, monitors, gunboats, etc.

A Marine Brigade, about 3000 strong, (which, however, was ordered to return to Vicksburg.)

brilliant little diversion at a strong-hold of the enemy known as Fort DeRussy. The fleet of transports which conveyed them from the Upper Mississippi formed a junction with the naval vessels at the mouth of Red River, moved up an arm of the Red known as Old River, entered the Atchafalaya, landed the troops at Simmsport, marched overland twenty-five miles to Fort DeRussy, and, after a brisk skirmish, carried the works by assault, capturing 260 prisoners, ten heavy guns, and considerable other property. The Fort was a very strong one and much relied upon by the rebels in their defensive operations in that region. Smith lost nine men in killed and thirty-nine in wounded; the rebels five killed and four wounded.

Gen. Mower, of the Sixteenth Corps, also put in a little good service before the arrival of Franklin's command at Alexandria. With three brigades of infantry and one of cavalry, he moved to a point known as Henderson's Hill, twenty-five miles from Alexandria, capturing three hundred rebel cavalymen and a four-gun battery. Col. H. B. Sargent, of Gen. Banks' staff, was severely wounded in the fight.

The rebels in the region of Alexandria hastily scampered away after the affair at Fort DeRussy, passing to Shreveport through Cheneyville, having a two days' lead of our cavalry. Several brigades from other points endeavored to come to the relief of the Fort DeRussy garrison, but, finding themselves too late, a general stampede towards Shreveport was commenced, large trains crossing the Red River March 19th. Having thus put the rebel army "upon the run," Alexandria was taken possession of without further difficulty.

Prior to the arrival of the military commander at Alexandria the naval officers and the cotton speculators are said to have been very thrifty in gathering in that valuable product of this fertile region. Thousands of bales were seized, and much demoralization was the result. Under the law regulating the disposition of property captured by the navy, a portion of the proceeds accrues to the naval officers and crew; and so eager were they to profit by this opportunity that it seemed to many that the naval officers were far more solicitous in the matter of cotton-seizures than for the success of the expedition. When the rebels came to understand the policy of the naval authorities they at once commenced burning their cotton to prevent its falling into the hands of the government, and vast quantities were destroyed throughout that entire region. Gen. Banks heroically resisted all pressure for permission to trade in cotton after he had assumed command, and on this account became very obnoxious to the army of speculators hovering about headquarters with letters of introduction from very influential sources at Washington. Before leaving Alexandria Gen. Banks directed that all seizable cotton be taken for the government by the quartermaster's

department and turned over to the treasury agent, pursuant to the law of Congress and the Treasury Regulations.

The low stage of the water in the channel of the Red River was a cause of very serious apprehension on the part of the military and naval commanders. There was scarcely six feet of water at some points, and few of the gunboats or transports could float with a less amount. The only expectation of success was based upon the hope of an increased amount of water occasioned by the annual spring freshets.

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## CHAPTER XVI.

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### “UP RED RIVER,” TO GRAND ECORE AND NATCHITOCHES.

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AGAIN ON THE TRAMP.—THE “CARAVAN” MOVES UP THE RED RIVER REGION IN DETACHMENTS.—THE NAVY A VERY SLOW COACH.—THE CAVALRY SKIRMISH WITH THE ENEMY ALL ALONG THE ROAD.—INCIDENTS OF THE VERY TEDIOUS MARCH.—WE TARRY AT GRAND ECORE AND NATCHITOCHES TO “RATION-UP” PREPARATORY TO THE ANTICIPATED VERY LIVELY WORK.

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THE combined military and naval advance up the Red River, in the direction of Shreveport, was obstructed several days by the great difficulty experienced in getting the transports and naval vessels over the shoals at Alexandria. Several of the larger vessels were unable to make the ascent; but by March 26th some twelve gunboats and about thirty transports were started up the river, the infantry commands of Gens. A. J. and T. K. Smith going along on the transports as far as practicable, and debarking and marching along the banks when it became necessary to lighten the vessels or silence a rebel battery. They made very slow progress, however, ascending the river but about twenty miles, and tarrying at Bayou Cote until the 3d of April.

On the 26th the main army, under the immediate command of Gen. Franklin, commenced its march in the same direction, but by a different route. Our “caravan” moved in about the following order: First, three or four brigades of cavalry, followed by its long train of one hundred and eighty cavalry wagons; then followed the two divisions of the 13th corps; the ammunition wagons; Emory’s division of the 19th corps; the wagon-trains of both the 13th and 19th corps, with ten days’ supplies in the wagons; the balance of the cavalry bringing up the rear. Gen. Grover’s

division of the 19th corps, comprising a force of about three thousand, remained at Alexandria to garrison that post; while the Marine Brigade, upon which considerable reliance had been placed, was withdrawn and returned to Vicksburg. The column, being compelled to move mainly on one narrow way and occupying a very long stretch of road, made comparatively slow progress. On the first day out we accomplished but seventeen miles, and the day following but half that distance. We had now reached a section of country entirely different in its general aspect from anything before encountered in the South. The narrow road led through a densely wooded country, with high hills, deep ravines, and rough, precipitous points, rendering rapid progress, especially for the artillery and heavily-loaded ammunition trains, extremely difficult. The growth in the wooded districts comprised the pine, beech, rock-maple, sassafras, etc., in pleasing contrast, as to scenic effect, with the monotonous aspect of Eastern Louisiana. The third day out we make but seven miles, travelling at a snail's pace, the roads being blockaded by the cavalry trains, and the cavalry by constant skirmishing with the enemy. On the 31st we cross Cane River, an arm of the Red, on pontoons, making a fifteen miles' march. Here we leave the wooded path and strike the public road, with its dense clouds of dust, very disagreeable to taste, eyes and nostrils. The army passes through the pretty little village of Clouterville, in Natchitoches Parish, twenty-three miles from Grand Ecore, encamping for the night a few miles beyond. "April Fool's Day" finds us re-crossing Cane River and making a sixteen miles' march, through a region abounding in abandoned cotton plantations, with their red, clammy soil—desolate, barren and uninviting. Only the negroes are to be seen about the premises—and the aged and infirm at that. On the 2d our column reaches the pretty little town of Natchitoches, once on the banks of Old Red River, but owing to a curious freak of that very eccentric stream, now an inland village, the present course of Red River passing at a point four miles away known as Grand Ecore. The town boasted a population of one thousand, not a few of whom deigned to witness our advent from the windows and assumed a most unlovely cast of countenance as our bands struck up the popular and inspiring national airs.

The fleet had not yet arrived at Grand Ecore; though, in company with the independent command of Gens. A. J. and T. Kilby Smith, it put in an appearance the evening of the day following: Gen. Banks and staff also came up from Alexandria by steamer, arriving at Grand Ecore April 2d. A brigade of colored troops also arrived at about the same time, direct from Port Hudson.

But it must not be imagined that no enemy had appeared during this long and tedious march, to dispute the right of way of the Yankee

army and navy. He was, in fact, all about us, and nearly every day the rebel cavalry and ours were crossing sabres, some very lively skirmishing taking place and a good many prisoners falling into our hands. From Natchitoches Gen. Lee rode out twenty-three miles to a place known as Crump's Corner, where from three to five thousand of the enemy were encountered in a very desperate contest. The rebels were driven from their position, leaving from fifty to sixty of their dead upon the field. The rebels fought most impetuously. They dismounted, left their horses in the rear, came forward, meeting our advance from behind trees, dead logs, and fallen timber. Our cavalry was obliged to send their horses to the rear, drive the enemy, who fell back to their horses and were off before our horses could be regained to give chase to the enemy—one of the many disadvantages encountered in campaigning along a single road in a region so heavily wooded. Artillery as well as cavalry was used on both sides, the enemy showing no less than six cavalry regiments in the skirmish. A day or two later Col. Gooding's cavalry brigade drove a force of fifteen hundred of the enemy from their camp near Campte, capturing their equipage, and inflicting considerable loss in dead and wounded, but at a sacrifice of his own force of about forty in killed and wounded.

In the various cavalry skirmishes it was conclusively demonstrated that Taylor's army was in full strength in our immediate front; that he had been largely reinforced from the rebel commands in Arkansas as well as Texas, and that a general engagement at or before reaching Shreveport, was inevitable.

Grand Ecore—four miles across from Natchitoches—was the first point of access to the transports and supply of "provender" for man and beast, since leaving Alexandria; and here the re-supplying of the forage and commissary wagons, the re-arrangement of land transportation, etc., constituted the important and all-absorbing business during the brief tarry at these two points.

By this time it had become evident to all intelligent observers that neither gunboats or transports could be relied upon to further ascend the river; indeed the navy and the vessels accompanying seem to have been, from the start, a very troublesome "Jonah." At Alexandria the navy had impeded our progress from six to eight days, at Grand Ecore from three to four; and now the very perplexing conundrum was presenting itself for solution, "If, by any chance, the water in the river should fail to rise, and the army be compelled to fall back, what is to become of the valuable fleet, so indispensable to the free navigation of the Mississippi?" A very stupid blunder had evidently been made in the class of vessels assigned for the expedition.

But Gen. Banks was not disposed to shrink even from a task which



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- 1 Capt. C. B. Smith, Co. E
- 2 Capt. James Walker, Co. E
- 3 Lt. John Z. Swanton, Co. E
- 4 Lt. A. W. Hunt, Co. E

- 5 Lt. M. B. Hanning, Co. E
- 6 Lt. E. A. Low, Co. E
- 7 Capt. L. J. Joyce, Co. F
- 8 Capt. C. F. Knight, Co. F

- 9 Lt. Patrick Neville, Co. F
- 10 Lt. J. H. Hackett, Co. F
- 11 Lt. John Fitzgerald, Co. F
- 12 Capt. E. J. Battee, Co. G

- 13 Capt. L. Dwinall, Co.
- 14 Lt. James Rideout, Co.
- 15 Lt. R. N. Pierce, Co.
- 16 Lt. B. F. Brown, Co.







seemed to present insurmountable barriers. Ten days' supplies were therefore taken on board the wagons, and arrangements made for a two weeks' separation from the base of supplies, with an absolute certainty of meeting the rebel clans in battle array before again coming within reach of the commissary, forage and ammunition supplies.

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## CHAPTER XVII.

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### THE MARCH FROM GRAND ECORE AND THE DISASTROUS "SABINE CROSS ROADS."

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"UP THE RED" TO MEET THE JOHNNIES.—THE CAVALRY HAS LIVELY WORK FROM THE START.—REPEATED CALLS FOR INFANTRY SUPPORT.—A BRIGADE SENT IN, OVERPOWERED, AND STILL ANOTHER.—A GENERAL ENGAGEMENT UNEXPECTEDLY BROUGHT ON.—THE CAVALRY AND THIRTEENTH CORPS GALLANTLY FIGHT BUT ARE BADLY WHIPPED AND SWEEP AWAY WITH GREAT LOSS.—A VERY DISASTROUS AND UNFORTUNATE AFFAIR.

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THE plans for the movement upon the enemy being well-nigh perfected, the line of march in the direction of Shreveport was taken up on the morning of April 6th. Gen. Lee, with three brigades of cavalry—one of his brigades being detached as guard to the wagon-trains—and three small batteries of artillery, took the advance, with orders from Gen. Franklin to "attack the enemy wherever found," but not to bring on a general engagement. The long train of wagons of the cavalry corps—numbering three hundred and fifty and carrying ten days' rations, three days' forage, ammunition, camp equipage, etc.—followed the cavalry and occupied a very long stretch of road between the mounted men and the infantry. Of the infantry force Gen. Ransom's detachment of the 13th corps had the advance; followed by Gen. Emory's Division of the 19th corps and Col. Dickie's brigade of colored troops. Gen. A. J. Smith's force tarried at Grand Ecore a couple of days later; while Gen. T. Kilby Smith's troops remained on the river's bank with the gunboats and transports, which were under orders to move up the river to Loggy Bayou, where Gen. Banks hoped to be able to establish communications with the land forces from Sabine Cross Roads, a distance of fifty-four miles by land and one hundred miles by water. Gen. Banks remained at Grand Ecore until the entire army had taken the road, and then (on the 7th) rode towards

the front. Our Division took up the line of march at about 9 a. m., travelling through a rough and thickly-wooded region all day, uninhabited, and encamping for the night in a dense forest, some fifteen miles inland from the River. The cavalry pushed on twenty-three miles, briskly driving the enemy's pickets before them, and having no serious trouble. The next day (the 7th) the cavalry moved to Pleasant Hill and three miles beyond—a march of thirteen miles for the day. A couple of regiments of the enemy's cavalry impeded the march, with a much stronger force at Pleasant Hill, where they had dismounted and made a decided stand, compelling Gen. Lee to put in all three of his brigades. The action continued an hour and a half. Lee's loss in killed and wounded was seventy-five, the enemy losing about the same number, besides twenty-five prisoners. Gen. Lee, seeing that the enemy was in force in his immediate front, dispatched a staff officer to Gen. Franklin with an urgent request to send an infantry brigade to his support. The brigade was started on the road, but, the artillery fire having ceased, it was at once ordered to return, by Gen. Franklin's command. The infantry column, meanwhile, made a twenty miles' march, going into camp at Pleasant Hill at 5 p. m. Notwithstanding the enemy had so unmistakably shown his hand, there was no other effort at a concentration of the scattered detachments on the road than an order from Franklin to Lee to keep his trains well up, that the infantry might advance as far as possible on the morrow. Gen. Lee, on the contrary, earnestly begged that a brigade of infantry might be sent him, and also that his trains might be dropped back of the infantry column, as he found it difficult to advance through that thickly-wooded country, fighting an enemy equal in force to his own, and at the same time adequately guarding his immense train. But upon receipt of Franklin's order Lee continued his advance until night-fall, driving the enemy to Carroll's Mill, ten miles beyond Pleasant Hill, the infantry column having gone into camp at the latter point. But at Carroll's Mill the cavalry found the enemy in strong force, estimated at five thousand, with four pieces of artillery posted, and a creek and a ravine between our forces and the confederates. Rather a critical situation, with Franklin's advance "ten miles away!"

But Gen. Lee's brave cavalymen bivouacked in line-of-battle in the enemy's immediate front—the wagons in the road and faced to the rear, as there was no clearing near by in which they could be "parked." Lee then again very clearly reported the situation to Franklin by a special staff-officer, to which, however, Franklin only made response in the following very extraordinary messages: "Must crowd the enemy vigorously!"—"Will send the 16th Ind.!" (cavalry)—"Will send Goodwin's Brigade!" (also cavalry)—"Artillery and all are up in good order; if wanted will reach Mausfield to-morrow!" (twenty miles away!)"—"Will

send infantry at any time if certain enemy is in force!"—"Smith is coming on Grand Ecore road; must help ration him!"—"Keep your train well up!" Lee had asked for bread and Franklin had returned a juiceless stone! Nevertheless, late in the evening, Lee again and even more earnestly and formally, reported the situation, urging that infantry support be furnished, and also renewing the request that the wagons be taken to the rear. This urgent request reached Franklin's headquarters at about midnight, and soon after this important reply was returned: "Gen. Franklin is in receipt of your dispatch. He directs me to say that *Gen. Banks is here, and by his orders* a brigade of infantry will move to your support at 3 a. m. on the morrow."

The early morning of that memorable and fateful eighth of April found at Gen. Lee's temporary bivouac, Landrum's infantry brigade of the 13th corps, which had reported at about sun-rise. Lee at once threw out a strong cavalry skirmish line, placed the entire infantry brigade in line of battle, and at once opened upon the enemy, driving him from his position, and slowly pressing him back, about half a mile an hour, until noon, making five or six miles, and reaching a position within five miles of Mansfield and just beyond the clearing known as Sabine Cross Roads. The enemy contested every hill and were only dislodged by shelling with the artillery and flanking with cavalry and infantry. Lee's loss, as well as that of the enemy, was severe. The troops soon became utterly exhausted, and at noon Landrum sent word to Gen. Ransom: "My men have skirmished and marched through the bushes and thickets for eight or nine miles, making, in all, a march of fifteen or sixteen miles. They have no water and are literally worn out. Can you have them relieved *soon*? Gen. Lee insists upon pushing ahead."

Gen. Franklin, it was evident, had made no plans for fighting on the 8th, if indeed he seriously contemplated engaging the enemy at all. He had assigned an eight-mile march as the work of the day for the infantry and their trains, the column starting out at 8 a. m. and going into camp before noon. Gen. Ransom's camp—and Franklin's headquarters at noon—were two miles in advance of Emory's. The Fifteenth went into camp in a shady grove by the road-side six or eight miles from the position held by the cavalry. But, from the reports coming from the front by special messengers riding at reckless speed, it was evident that the season of rest was to be very brief. At noon Gen. Banks and staff overtook Franklin on the road, and, after a hurried conference, he decided to push on to the front and view the situation for himself. About this time came Col. Landrum's appeal for relief, and Gen. Ransom obtained permission to accompany the brigade to the front and see that it was used to relieve the exhausted troops of Landrum's brigade rather than to increase the infantry support. Ransom

arrived on the field at about half past one to find that our forces had just driven the enemy across an open field and were shelling him from a fine position on a ridge occupied by the infantry and Nim's battery, and where it was thought best to await the coming of reinforcements, hourly expected.

Upon riding to the front Gen. Ransom was able to perceive two batteries and a large force of infantry in line of battle in the edge of the woods from one-half to three-fourths of a mile in front, with considerable bodies of infantry moving down the road leading to our right and rear. Gen. Banks and staff soon after appeared upon the field, and when made acquainted with the situation gave instructions as to the disposition of the troops, and hurriedly dispatched orders to Franklin to hurry forward reinforcements as rapidly as possible and to himself accompany them to the front.

Our infantry on the right of the road was posted in a narrow belt of timber dividing two large plantations, having open though broken ground in front, and in the rear cultivated fields which descended to a small creek and thence rose to the edge of the timber one-half mile to the rear of our line. Nim's battery was placed on a hill near the road, about two hundred yards to the left of the belt of timber, supported by infantry on the left and behind the crest of the hill, with open fields in front. The battery was supported on the right by seven infantry regiments and a section of mounted artillery. The cavalry and mounted infantry were posted on the flanks and rear with cavalry skirmishers deployed in front of the infantry. There were twenty-five hundred infantry in line besides the cavalry, perhaps six thousand being the combined force. The skirmishing was quite lively, but there appeared no other indications of an immediate attack on the part of the enemy than that he seemed busily engaged in moving his troops on a cross-road, strengthening his left and enveloping our right. He evidently had from fifteen to twenty thousand troops. While quietly awaiting developments—at about 4 p. m.—Gen. Lee was amazed by an order from Banks to so dispose his force as to move immediately upon Mansfield! He rode to Gen. Banks and protested that he could not move ten minutes without bringing on a general engagement, in which we were sure to be overpowered. Banks reluctantly withdrew the order and again dispatched a staff officer to hurry forward the infantry.

Some fifteen minutes later the picket-firing became very brisk, and "the entire line of the enemy," says Gen. Lee, "advanced on our front and on our flanks and marched straight up to our line." Our forces at once opened with artillery, with cannister, and with musketry, and fought in line perhaps twenty minutes. The right of our line, five regiments, was advanced, bringing the enemy into good range, and rendering our firing much more effective. The enemy's first line was driven back in confusion upon his second line, but he recovered and again advanced, and so heroic-

ally contested the position that when unable to endure our galling fire, the rebels halted two hundred yards away, dropped to the ground, and in that posture continued firing. Our line was unyielding on the right, but the enemy pounced upon our left with great force in a desperate assault, turning our flank and soon crumbling our line at all points. Many of the battery-men and their horses were killed, Lee losing three guns of one of his batteries on that account. Having captured Nims' Battery the enemy were soon in strong force on the hill it occupied, and began pouring a most destructive fire upon the batteries and infantry of the 13th corps. Ransom promptly ordered the batteries to the rear and to a new position, and dispatched Capt. Dickey, his assistant-adjutant-general, to communicate the order for the withdrawal of the infantry to the edge of the timber in the rear. But before that gallant officer could execute the mission he fell senseless from his horse, mortally wounded. Gen. Ransom, too, while assisting Col. Landrum in the re-formation of his shattered lines, under cover of the woods, was severely wounded and carried to the rear. Our line became thoroughly disorganized and broken into fragments in all directions. The rebels were now clearly the masters of the situation, very persistently following up their advantage, and crowding our forces back perhaps three-fourths of a mile, capturing many prisoners, and wounding and killing a large number of our men. At about the time Gen. Ransom was carried to the rear, Gen. Cameron brought the remnant of the 13th corps upon the field, Gen. Franklin coming with him. These officers ably assisted in rallying the troops for another desperate effort to turn the tide of battle, but, unfortunately, they were too late to offer effective resistance to the exultant and victorious enemy, who, charging across the clearing with great impetuosity, and attacking in front and on either flank, carried everything before them. A rash and bloody struggle of half an hour's duration ensued, Cameron's force temporarily checking the enemy's advance beyond the inner edge of the woods, and, with such as could be rallied of those previously driven in, putting in some very gallant work—until, completely overwhelmed by largely superior numbers, they were all swept away in confusion and crowded back upon the impassable jam of wagons of the cavalry train, which so blockaded the road and woods that it was impossible to move the artillery or extricate mules, horses or wagons, from the perilous situation. All of the 13th corps artillery, the remaining guns of the famous Nims' Battery, the ambulances containing the wounded, and one hundred and fifty-six wagons loaded with rations and forage, here fell into the hands of the enemy.

A wild and utterly indescribable panic here ensued—a veritable “Bull-Run-stampede,” excepting that here was infinitely better excuse for such demoralization than at the memorable “skedaddle” alluded to. Ev-

ery man seemed to strike out for himself, eager to reach a safe place in the rear as rapidly as possible ; and what with the riderless horses and mules, the overturned wagons, the wagons faced to the rear, to the front, and but partially turned about, the fleeing cavalrymen, the frantic and riderless horses, the dead and wounded encumbering the way, the hatless officers, with drawn sabres, endeavoring to check the stampede, and the advancing and jubilant rebel hordes, pouring their hot shot into the panic-stricken crowd and rushing upon the "jam" with their glistening bayonets poised at a "charge,"—it was one of those very frequent occasions encountered in active service, when the bravest of soldiers might have been very glad to have exchanged places with the inoffensive babies at home—"and the girl babies at that!" \*

It is but just to say, in passing, that at every point of this unfortunate and disastrous affair, Gen. Banks and staff and all the subordinate commanders most gallantly acquitted themselves. Gen. Banks, especially, was ever in the thickest of the fight, personally directing every movement, utterly reckless as to personal danger ; and when the line crumbled away finally he first implored the soldiers to remain, and then, hatless and with drawn sabre, he made a desperate effort to rally the disorganized crowd for another determined effort to check the stampede. Lee and Ransom and Landrum were brave as lions. These officers commanded the forces which bore the brunt of the attack. Franklin and Cameron were at the front but a short time before the breaking of the lines, but did excellent service during the brief but gallant resistance made by Cameron's Division, and also during the stampede ; while Gen. Stone and other officers of Gen. Banks' staff, early on the field and actively engaged, are deserving of the highest praise. The brigade of cavalry guarding the trains also perpetrated an act of gallantry deserving of mention. Hearing the rapidly-approaching firing the commander, with most of his brigade, rode rapidly to the front, and, wheeling into line in excellent order, delivered a most destructive volley into the ranks of the rebels swarming the road, and afterwards falling back in as good order as was possible under the circumstances.

The "masterly retreat" was continued for more than a mile from

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\* An eye-witness of this remarkable scene, writing to a Philadelphia paper at the time of its occurrence, thus graphically describes this utterly indescribable affair :—"Suddenly there was a rush, a shout, the crashing of trees, the breaking down of rails, the rush and scamper of men. It was as sudden as though a thunderbolt had fallen among us and set the pines on fire. What caused it, or when it commenced, no one knew. We found ourselves swallowed up, as it were, in a hissing, seething, bubbling whirlpool of agitated men. We could not avoid the current ; we could not stem it ; and, if we hoped to live in that mad company, we must ride with the crowd. \* \* Behind the rebels were shouting and advancing. Their musket balls filled the air with that strange, file-rasping sound that war has made so familiar to our fighting men. The teams were abandoned by the drivers, the traces cut, and the animals ridden off by the frightened men. Barcheaded riders rode with agony in their faces ; and, for at least ten minutes, it seemed as if we were going to destruction together."

the point where the line of Cameron's Division was broken: the rebels following closely upon the heels of our retreating forces with a continuous and destructive fire, taking prisoners by scores and by hundreds, and easily "scooping in" artillery, wagons, horses, and other valuable property within their reach, to say nothing of the more serious damage inflicted in the way of the fearful harvest of dead and wounded left in the track of the pursuing army.

But, happily, the end was not yet! Though every detachment of the army that had preceded Emory's Division on the march (on the morning of the 8th) had been separately and successively moved up to the battle-line, whipped, routed, and hurled back upon the wagon-trains hopelessly demoralized, the veterans of the Nineteenth Corps were yet to put in their work!

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## CHAPTER XVIII.

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### EMORY'S DIVISION MEETS THE ENEMY AT "PLEASANT GROVE" AND GALLANTLY CHECKS THE STAMPEDE AND TURNS THE TIDE OF BATTLE.

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EMORY'S DIVISION TAKES A HAND.—HURRYING TO THE FRONT THROUGH A PANIC-STRICKEN MOB.—WE FORM LINE OF BATTLE AT PLEASANT GROVE.—A DESPERATE FIGHT OF AN HOUR AND A HALF'S DURATION.—WE HOLD THE ENEMY IN CHECK. TURN THE TIDE OF BATTLE, AND ARE CREDITED WITH SAVING THE ARMY FROM DESTRUCTION.—THE PART OF THE MAINE FIFTEENTH.—THE ARMY QUIETLY RETIRES AT MIDNIGHT AND TAKES THE ROAD FOR PLEASANT HILL TO SEEK A MORE FAVORABLE POSITION.

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**A**LTHOUGH the battle of "Sabine Cross Roads" had been "on" since early morning, and by noon the enemy had taken a position in Gen. Lee's front in great force and was clearly making his dispositions preparatory to a general engagement, very little seems to have been done by our commanding generals in the way of meeting the emergency. As early as two o'clock in the afternoon—as will be seen in the preceding chapter—the rebels confronted Gen. Lee's five thousand men with an army of from ten to fifteen thousand—and with Cameron's force but five and Emory's eight miles away! Cameron's Division was not sum-



moned to the front until the middle of the afternoon, while no word came to Emory's Division until after the enemy had attacked with his whole force and our little army at the front had been overwhelmed, as set forth in the preceding chapter. In other words, as Gen. Dwight states the situation, "our army stood dormant in the presence of the enemy" several hours, supinely allowing a force three times its strength "to completely envelope our little army," and finally to attack with crushing force, with no preparation to meet the assault.

But at about four o'clock mounted aides, riding at break-neck speed, reached Emory's head-quarters, with orders for us to "hurry to the front with all possible dispatch;" the Division then being in bivouac in a pleasant grove some eight miles from the battle-front. Instructions accompanied the order to "take, if practicable, two days' rations and cooking utensils." We hastily gathered in a limited supply of "hard-tack," leaving the "utensils" and other useless appendages behind, with the wagons of the commissary department; and, in a surprisingly short space of time, the Division line had been formed and we were "humping it," at a "double-quick" pace, for the scene of the conflict, making rapid progress so long as the road was free of obstructions. The Division at this time comprised three full brigades, aggregating about five thousand men. Gen. Emory commanded the Division, with Gens. Dwight and McMillan and Col. Benedict as brigade commanders. The order of march was in single column and by the flank; our (McMillan's) brigade having the right of the Division line—the Fifteenth being the third regiment of the brigade-line.

Only a few minutes after starting out excited aides-de-camp were encountered frantically appealing to us to "fly to the rescue;"—(though no swings were provided) a little later the ambulance passed us, under cavalry escort, carrying the gallant Gen. Ransom\* to the rear, severely wounded; while some four miles out we met the advance-guard of the fugitives, gallantly leading the "masterly retreat" before referred to. And such a medley! The crowd comprised a commingling of every variety conceivable—negro servants and camp-followers of both sexes and of all ages and conditions, some mounted on horses or mules and others on foot, intermixed with the cavalymen, artillery soldiers and carriages and infantry of the army—all combining in frantic efforts not only to reach the rear, or any

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\* Gen. T. E. G. Ransom, here referred to, never returned to duty in the Gulf Department. He was severely wounded and at once proceeded North, sending a report of his part in the battle from New York. He died soon after at Chattanooga, Tenn. Though quite young he was really a brilliant officer, and universally beloved. Gen. Ransom distinguished himself to such an extent in Grant's Vicksburg campaigns, that in making up his estimate of his subordinate officers, in his "Memoirs," Gen. Grant says of Ransom: "Most of the brigade-commanders (at Vicksburg) were equal to the command of a division, and one, Ransom, would have been equal to the command of a corps at least." The officers and soldiers of the Thirteenth and Fifteenth Maine were among Gen. Ransom's most ardent admirers.

place of safety, but also to benevolently share their demoralization and frenzy with the advancing troops! Closely following the first "jam" came another crowd composed of disorganized soldiers of the cavalry and artillery, with wagons of various descriptions, ambulances, artillery appliances, loose and infuriated animals, etc.—all swooping, in a heterogenous mass, down the road and through the woods bordering the narrow highway on either side, completely obstructing the only thoroughfare, and of course rendering the march of our Division extremely difficult. Every inch of the ground was contested, and "right of way" for the advancing column was only secured by the most decisive measures—the fugitives, meanwhile, seeming very anxious to convince our soldiers that in pressing forward, under the circumstances, they were surely rushing to certain destruction!

To say that Gen. Emory became desperately cross at this critical juncture is stating it very mildly. He was as savage as an infuriated bear, and his conversation was quite sulphurous if not really profane! But he grandly met the emergency. Ordering his "flankers" and the leading regiments to "fix bayonets" while yet on the march, and to use violence where necessary to open up a path for his advancing column, he very expeditiously worked his way through the "jam." Officers vigorously brandished their sabres in beating the fugitives out of the road; while the soldiers firmly held their muskets, with fixed-bayonets, poised at a "charge;" and by scolding and pleading at turns and a persistency and perseverance rarely excelled, we were finally enabled to push on, though frequently stepping aside to allow an irresistible jumble to pass to the rear. As the "path-finders," from our position in line, the brunt of this attack fell upon our brigade.

Soon, however, there was a more serious annoyance. The minnie-balls of the rapidly advancing rebels commenced to whistle by our ears and to drop about us, with quite disastrous effects. It was evident that no time was to be lost in getting into line of battle! Indeed, under orders from Franklin, Gen. Emory had been for some time anxiously watching for a favorable position in which to form the Division line, and had really advanced half a mile or more after being warned by the surroundings of the rashness of such a course, from sheer lack of territory upon which to make his change of front. But the rebel hordes were upon us, and further delay would have been fool-hardy.

Happily, and just in the nick of time, a clearing was reached—which afterwards became known in the literature of the campaign as "PLEASANT GROVE," and which, in the annals of Emory's Division, very soon became historic! It extended to either side of the main road, and on the whole proved a very favorable position. With keen perception of its possibilities and under a very severe fire from the enemy's advance, Emory skilful-

ly brought his splendid Division into line, and with great celerity of movement. Himself posting the 161st New York across the road deployed as skirmishers some distance in advance of the position selected, the First Brigade was placed directly across the road, at right angles, leaving a gap, or "sluice-way," for the escape of that portion of the 13th corps which constituted the rear-guard of that detachment of our army and which had not already gone to the rear. The Second Brigade (in which was the Fifteenth) was posted on the right and a little in reserve, with the Third Brigade on the left. During the time occupied in the formation Gen. Emory was on the skirmish line with the 161st New York; indeed, he remained there so long that when the formation of his line was completed and it was in order for the skirmish line to be withdrawn, the feat was only accomplished with great difficulty and with severe loss. The rear-guard of Cameron's Division—cavalry, artillery and infantry—had barely passed through the "gap" in the line left for their accommodation, and the aperture closed, when, close upon the heels of the fugitives, and in large force, came the jubilant and victorious rebel army. Our skirmish-line was quickly driven back upon the main line, and the rebels rushed on, apparently without the slightest expectation of meeting any more formidable resistance than that heretofore encountered since the line of Cameron's Division had crumbled to fragments and detachments, but which, however, had gallantly rallied and made occasional spirited stands all along the road.

The rebels were moving in three distinct columns; and when within from eighty to one hundred yards of our line, Dwight's Brigade opened upon them a most terrific fire, which was steadily maintained until the rebels were overwhelmed and compelled to break and fall back. They appeared to be "t. under-struck" no less than bullet-riddled at their unexpectedly warm reception. Something had transpired not down on their programme! Such volleys of musketry as they had just encountered could not have come from the retreating and demoralized army which they had so long had "upon the run," and still were rapidly pursuing! Evidently fresh troops had come upon the scene, and here the enemy seem to have obtained their first intimation of that fact. Just at this juncture—a very fortunate coincidence—Maj. Gen Banks appeared upon the scene. He was in full uniform, finely mounted, and, hat in hand, and sitting very erect, appeared as cool and self-possessed as if on a Massachusetts muster-field. He gracefully rode along the front of our line, in a very exposed condition, exclaiming, in his rich, eloquent voice: "*The victory is ours; the enemy is exhausted; remember Port Hudson!*" This episode of course inspired great enthusiasm among the soldiers and evoked most hearty cheers all along the line, the fugitives lining the road, and, even far to the rear, taking up the refrain—an incident proving as inspiring to ourselves as it was

unaccountable and suggestive of disaster on the confederate side of the line.

After the enemy's repulse in Gen. Dwight's immediate front and a brief pause in which to confer as to the changed situation of affairs, the rebels re-formed their line and moved around towards the right flank of our position, where they were received with the well-directed and incessant fire from that quarter, and again repulsed with heavy loss. They then pounced down upon the left of the position, making three distinct and desperate efforts to gain the crest of the ravine held by us, and which, carried, would have given them the road leading to Pleasant Hill and a position in the rear of our forces, which must have resulted most disastrously. Our brigade line ran along the crest of this ravine, with a sloping hill-side in our front and a valley beyond. The 13th Me. and 47th Penn. were on the Fifteenth's right and the 160th New York on its left. The enemy's assault upon this portion of the line was met by a concentrated and most galling fire from our entire Division line, the 160th New York being in a position to pour a most withering cross-fire into the enemy's ranks, with most effective results. The rebels' fire was sharp and incessant from the moment of formation, gradually increasing in volume as they began to realize that they were now encountering "foemen worthy of their steel." They fought gallantly, heroically, desperately; but, though having a force largely superior to our own, they were unable to force back the line of Emory's Division a single inch from the position it had first taken! The tide of battle had been gallantly turned, and the veterans of Emory's Division had clearly saved the army from destruction and capture! \* In killed and wounded this desperate assault had been very disastrous to the rebels—the casualties on their side being at least double those sustained by us.

By this time the darkness of night—and darkness of a most intensified variety—enshrouded the field, compelling an abrupt cessation of hostilities. The fight had continued for about an hour and a half, and from first to last the firing was incessant and severe. The precaution of the commanding officers, in ordering our men to lie down and fire in a reclining posture, undoubtedly saved many lives on our side. The rebels, advancing up the slope of the hill, furnished an admirable target from our position, while their shots, for the most part, glanced harmlessly over our heads and into the adjacent trees. Emory's Division was the only force engaged, everything else having passed to the rear and retired along the road leading to Pleasant Hill: the demoralization among the troops en-

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"Nothing could surpass in impetuosity the assault of the enemy but the inflexible steadiness and valor of our troops. The First Division of the Nineteenth Corps, by its great bravery in this action, SAVED THE ARMY AND NAVY. But for this successful resistance of the attack at Pleasant Grove, the renewed attack of the enemy, with increased force, could not have been successfully resisted at Pleasant Hill on the 9th of April."—[GEN. N. P. BANKS, in his Official Report.

gaged at Sabine Cross Roads being so great as to render them practically unserviceable during the subsequent engagements of the campaign.

The Fifteenth, in common with all of the troops of Emory's Division, was actively engaged during the entire contest, and, as was the invariable rule during its term of service, most creditably acquitted itself. Officers and soldiers alike performed excellent service. Col. Dyer, when carefully superintending the establishment of the line and cautioning his men to lie down and watch for the flash of the enemy's guns, was as cool and self-possessed as when on battalion drill; and he was ably supported by Lieut.-Col. Murray and the staff and company officers, who, one and all, did their entire duty, and demonstrated their worthiness to share the glory of the victory with the veterans of Emory's Division. The casualties on our side were not numerous; those in our regiment being surprisingly few. But one man was killed, four wounded, and eleven missing. Appended is a complete list. \*

Soon after the firing had ceased a heavy infantry picket was thrown out in front of the entire line. The darkness was total, completely obscuring the vision; and it was necessary to instruct the guard to advance three hundred yards, the soldiers keeping so close to their associates on either flank that the orders might be passed from one man to the other, in a whisper. If the enemy was encountered he was to be captured, if possible, but no muskets were to be discharged. In pursuance of this order from seventy to eighty of the rebel pickets were captured, but not a gun was fired. The enemy, surprised at the strength of our picket-line, recalled their infantry guard and threw out cavalry videttes, moving their main body a considerable distance away. The men not on guard lay in their positions on the battle-line until near midnight, amusing themselves by listening to the conversation on the rebel side of the line, and noting their movements as they gathered up and hauled to the rear the captured spoils and united in jubilant shouts as they discovered the generous supplies of forage, ammunition, provisions, etc., which had fallen into their hands. The story that the rebels were disgusted at finding a number of packages of paper-collars, and asked, under a flag of truce, that they be exchanged for "hard-tack," was no doubt coined by some genius of an imaginative vein, while lying upon the picket-line! The sad duty of gathering in the dead and wounded of course received careful attention. The ground was literally bestrewed with the bodies of the dead and maimed—a phase of

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 KILLED.—Private James P. Witham, Co. E. WOUNDED.—Privates Cornelius Fish and Joseph Casey, Co. E; Private William E. Skillin, Co. H; Private Charles Wood, Co. I. MISSING.—Sergeant Joseph E. Latham and Privates Page F. Grover, John H. Hayden, Leemon H. Bard and Abram T. Green, Co. B; Privates John F. Leighton and Angus McGilvery, Co. A; Private John Houston, Co. D; Private James Brennan, Co. I; Privates Thomas McDonald and George Morrison, Co. K.

war which ever sheds a pall of gloom over even the camps of the victorious.

But what of the morrow? A "council of war" was held late in the evening at which the situation was freely discussed. Though we were the victors and held the field, it was evident that hostilities must be renewed at daylight; that Smith's troops and the other detachments not in the battles of the 8th could not be brought up; and therefore we must retire to another field, where a junction could be formed with reinforcements deemed absolutely essential to success. The order to retire was quietly circulated at about 10 o'clock; and before midnight we had replenished our cartridge-boxes and were slowly wending our way towards Pleasant Hill—some fifteen miles away.

As it was deemed important that the contemplated change of base be kept from the enemy as long as possible, all orders were communicated in a whisper, with an admonition that no noise or confusion be tolerated. In pursuance of this policy it unfortunately happened that many of the men on the picket-line did not receive the order to retire in season to re-join their commands. Many of these fell into the hands of the enemy, either on the picket line or while on the march to Pleasant Hill the next morning. This in a measure accounts for the large number reported as "missing." The movement was so quietly performed that the enemy was not aware that we had retired until daybreak the next morning; when, of course, their cavalry advance pushed on in hot haste to ascertain our whereabouts—presumably very reluctant to part company with their new-made friends!

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## CHAPTER XIX.

### ANOTHER DESPERATE BATTLE, AT PLEASANT HILL," IN WHICH WE WIN A DECISIVE VICTORY.

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A WEARY EARLY-MORNING MARCH TO "PLEASANT HILL."—THE ENEMY'S CAVALRY FOLLOW AND SHOW FIGHT.—EMORY'S DIVISION AND SMITH'S CORPS IN LINE-OF-BATTLE.—THE ENEMY MAKES A DESPERATE ASSAULT LATE IN THE AFTERNOON, AND AFTER A BLOODY CONTEST IS REPULSED, WITH LOSSES HEAVY ON BOTH SIDES.—DETAILS OF THE BATTLE.—GHASTLY SCENES ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.—THE FIFTEENTH'S SHARE IN THE ENGAGEMENT.—LIST OF THE CASUALTIES, ETC.

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**E**ARLY dawn of April 9th found our weary, foot-sore, well-nigh famished soldiers, slowly wending their way towards Pleasant Hill. There was very little of romance in the situation. The officers and soldiers were all nearly exhausted with the fatigue incident to the campaign. Many of us had marched thirty miles and endured the hard-

ships of a very fierce engagement, without food, sleep or rest, since the morning of the 8th; and it is a somewhat remarkable fact that many of the officers while riding their horses, and even some of the soldiers when marching in their places in the ranks, were found fast asleep, and could only be aroused by a vigorous shaking! The road-side was strewn with stragglers, abandoned wagons, gun-carriages, and litter of every description: "flankers" being kept out the entire distance, and a strong provost-guard engaged in taking charge of those absolutely unable to keep up with the marching column.

The advance brigades reached Pleasant Hill at about 9 o'clock in the morning. No serious difficulty was encountered during the march, save that soon after daylight small detachments of rebel cavalry commenced harrassing our rear, picking off stragglers, and wounding quite a number of the soldiers composing our rear-guard. Somewhat later the rebel force was strengthened to such an extent that it became evident that a general engagement could not well be avoided at Pleasant Hill. A cavalry brigade was sent out to engage the enemy's advance and continuous skirmishing during the day was the result. Col. Gooding's cavalry brigade was actively engaged during the day and suffered considerable loss.

Upon reaching Pleasant Hill Emory's Division for the first time formed a junction with the detachment of the 16th corps commanded by Gen. A. J. Smith. These troops had not participated in any of the battles of the campaign, with the exception of Fort DeRussy. It was found, however, considerably to our surprise, that the troops of Emory and those of Smith constituted the only force available for the impending battle, save only one small brigade of cavalry. The 13th corps had been badly shattered at Sabine Cross Roads; the small detachment remaining, under Gen. Cameron, with Dickey's colored brigade and the remainder of the cavalry, being started towards Grand Ecore and Natchitoches, with the wagon trains and public property, early in the morning. Gen. Kilby Smith's detachment of the 17th corps was still on the river with Porter's naval vessels; while Grover's Division of the 19th corps remained at Alexandria, and was not in any of the engagements of the campaign. We had, therefore, but about thirteen thousand effective men; while the enemy was able to bring upon the field anywhere from seventeen to twenty thousand, of all arms, and finely equipped.

Though it was not until late in the afternoon that the battle may be said to have really opened, our entire force was disposed in order of battle immediately upon the arrival of our Division, remaining in this position throughout the day. This proved not only a wise precaution, to guard against surprise, but also enabled the commanding officers to become familiar with the field upon which some very important evolutions were

made later in the day. With the enemy's infantry twenty miles away at daylight, there was an absolute certainty that he could not put in an appearance in force until late in the afternoon; indeed, the prevailing opinion seemed to be that the battle was not likely to occur until the next day.

The now historic field of "Pleasant Hill" comprises an extensive plain, or "clearing," of about a mile square in area. The "Hill" is more or less imaginary, since the slight rise of ground which the Louisiana people dignify with such characterization would hardly be recognized as such in New England. The clearing had at some time been cultivated, but now was barren and unfruitful. It is surrounded on all sides by extensive tracts of woodland, with a gentle slope to the west. The main and only road from Mansfield to Natchitoches divides this plain diagonally very near the centre. Upon the borders are a number of scattered residences. The heavy growth of timber skirting the field afforded an excellent opportunity for shielding our batteries and lines of infantry from the enemy's view, and also rendered good service in affording protection for the soldiers during the unprecedentedly severe shower of iron and leaden missiles which burst upon them during the afternoon.

The line of battle and its reserves occupied the entire clearing. As first established Emory's three brigades constituted the front line of infantry, with its cavalry and artillery suitably disposed; while Smith's corps, constituting the reserves, was drawn up in three lines on the opposite side of the clearing, on the left side of the road and considerably to the rear; being entirely secreted in a thick growth of timber bordering the open plain. Dwight's brigade held the right of the front line, McMillan's the centre, and Benedict's the extreme left. A brigade of Gen. Smith's corps was drawn up within easy supporting distance of the centre of our line, near the road; and later, when the enemy appeared to be manœuvring towards the right, McMillan's brigade was dispatched to the support of the extreme right flank, and the brigade of Smith's corps moved up to the front line, constituting its centre at the time of the enemy's first assault. Later McMillan's Brigade was ordered from the right to the reserve, occupying a position on the right of the road in line with the reserves of Smith's corps, (the latter being on the left of the road) while another of Smith's brigades was posted on the extreme left, in *echelon*, and to the rear of the left main line. The line crossed the road, which pierced it near its centre—the supposition being that the enemy could only approach by the road and attack at that point. The cavalry and several batteries of artillery held the road, being judiciously posted on the infantry flanks and upon positions commanding a full sweep of the public thoroughfare. In the afternoon, as the enemy's plans became more fully developed, the front line was moved from its position in the woods to a position in open ground, the left brigade



being in rear of a deep ditch near the buildings of the "village." Thus "disposed," the infantry was allowed to "rest" near the line, to cook and sip their coffee, and to lie at ease, awaiting developments.

Meanwhile the drizzling and monotonous cavalry skirmishing continued unceasingly, without any perceptible increase or diminution, until late in the afternoon. Indeed, at four o'clock it looked very much as if we were to remain undisturbed for the night. The attack, all agreed, must come upon the right when made; and in that direction eager eyes were constantly turned, very great care being taken to keep that portion of the line, at least, well protected, on the alert, and properly supported. But as there seemed no unusual movement in that direction there was good reason to infer that the battle was to be at least postponed for another day.

Sad delusion! In a measure the rebels had cunningly misled our commanding generals. At a little past five the weary soldiers on the reserves, no less than along the front line, were suddenly aroused from the lethargy into which they had fallen, by the most unearthly "yell" which ever fell upon mortal ears. It came from thousands of voices, so sudden, so unexpected, as to be really appalling. All eyes were of course turned in the direction from which this indescribable battle-cry emanated, only to see a large force of rebel cavalry advancing at a slow trot, brandishing their sabres, followed closely by three solid battle-lines of the enemy's infantry, their artillery belching from the woods its loud-mouthed summons to the fray. The assault was upon our left and centre—its severest blow falling upon the brigade of the 16th corps which had relieved McMillan's in the morning, and that of Benedict on the extreme left, and extending to the brigade of Dwight on the right. As their approach appeared to Gen. Emory, who was at the front, "there emerged from the woods, on our extreme left, three or four heavy masses of the infantry of the enemy, charging close to our left flank before firing a shot." The column moved obliquely, from left to right, striking the brigades of Shaw and Benedict almost simultaneously, and with such force as to break their line and press them back upon the reserves, leaving Dwight's brigade as the only portion of the front line retaining its position. Col. Benedict, and many of our leading officers, were killed at the first onset, in the very desperate struggle which ensued. The air was full of lead and iron hail; the roar of musketry and of artillery was deafening; and the loss on both sides heavy. Col. Shaw's brigade is said to have emptied the saddles of nearly an entire cavalry regiment in the first charge, not more than ten escaping of a charging party of from three to four hundred. The fire of our artillery was terrific, opening wide gaps in the lines of the assaulting rebels with their deadly volleys of grape and canister; the infantry line joining in the chorus and putting in most heroic service. But the rebels far outnumbered our

troops engaged, and our entire centre and left crumbled back upon the reserves. Taylor's Battery fell into the hands of the enemy, and was turned against us, and for the moment the situation seemed extremely dubious. Gen. Emory, however, decisively cautioned Dwight to hold his ground at all hazards; and riding to McMillan's Brigade—then in reserve—in great haste, he brought it to Dwight's left just in season to constitute the connecting line between the troops of Emory and of Smith in the gallant charge which drove the rebels back across the plains and into the woods, and gave us the victory. To use the terse yet graphic words of Gen. Emory: "I went to my Second Brigade and brought it out and deployed it to the left and rear of the First Brigade. They formed a line and charged and retook a battery I had lost; and at this moment I saw A. J. Smith's whole command emerging from the woods on my left in line of battle. The two lines charged abreast of each other, Gen. Smith's line continually throwing forward its left flank and enveloping the enemy, who were driven from the field." A gradual change in the direction of the entire line was made during the final charge—a very skillful and successful movement.

In its general aspects the story of the fight is admirably sketched in the appended extract from Gen. Banks' dispatches to Gen. Grant. \*

The Fifteenth Maine was one of the regiments of McMillan's Brigade and participated in all the movements of that command, being actively engaged from about half-past five to very near nine o'clock. Col. Dyer was in command, efficiently aided by Lieut.-Col. Murray and the officers of his staff. Though on the reserve when the first blow was struck, we were, happily, in a position to render very valuable service at a critical juncture

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\* At about 5 o'clock the enemy abandoned his manœuvring and made a most desperate attack upon the brigades of the left centre, commanded by Cols. Benedict and Shaw. The line wavered at this point momentarily, but, supported by the 1st Vt. Battery, soon regained its position and the enemy was repulsed; finding the position so much stronger than anticipated, or in pursuance of other plans, he gradually worked his way to the centre and right, where the same desperate attacks were repeated upon our right flank. The whole force of the enemy gradually concentrating upon our right, the brigades of McMillan and Dwight repelled every attack, and drove him back with terrible loss. The brigade commanded by Dwight had been suddenly changed at the commencement of the action so as to cover the right of our centre and a part of the right flank, and became, in the end, the pivot upon which the centre line changed front to meet the altered plans of the enemy. The battle lasted until 9 o'clock in the evening. The rebels had concentrated their whole strength in futile efforts to break the line at different points. The most severe pressures occurred towards the close of the engagement upon the front, occupied by Gen. Dwight's Brigade. The troops held in reserve moved forward at the critical moment, and maintained our position, from which the enemy was driven precipitately and with terrible destruction of life. He fled to the woods upon the right and was pursued with great energy by the whole of our forces, until it was impossible in the darkness to distinguish friend from foe. The losses were great on both sides, but that of the rebels, as we could judge from the appearance of the battle-field, more than double our own. Many valuable officers fell in leading their troops. The enemy we encountered numbered from twenty-two to twenty-five thousand, embracing all the troops west of the Mississippi, excepting a small force on the Texas coast, and a small portion of cavalry on the north side of the river. Gen. Kirby Smith is said to have commanded in person on the 9th and was supported by Price, Green, and the most distinguished generals of the rebel army. Gen. Mouton was killed and two officers commanding brigades. We have captured in the campaign twenty-three guns and fifteen hundred prisoners who are now in our possession.

of the affair; and although, in its general details, the battle has already been sketched, it seems necessary to be somewhat more minute and specific in chronicling the especial achievements of our own regiment—which, although perhaps secondary in interest to the casual reader, is, from the stand-point of our own regimental family, of supreme importance.

As has already been stated the Fifteenth's first position in line was that which the enemy finally selected as the point of attack. It was withdrawn and sent to the right when the enemy seemed to be manœuvring in that direction; and at about noon it was ordered to the reserve line on an eminence in rear of the right centre, on the right of the Mansfield road, as our line was then faced. While the cavalry of both armies were amusing themselves in the long-protracted skirmish already referred to, our boys gladly seized upon the opportunity afforded of utilizing the coffee-kettle, partaking of a delicious draught of that exhilarating beverage, and then of dropping upon the grassy knoll for a few minutes of much-needed slumber, all the while keeping eye and ear poised in the direction of the picket-line, and being frequently aroused by some change in the direction of the firing and the flying reports as to the movements of the enemy's infantry. From this easy-going, "place-rest" position, we were very suddenly called by the tremendous uproar incident to the enemy's impetuous charge. We were in brigade-line in the twinkling of an eye and marching by the right flank towards the extreme right of our position; while executing this movement we had been re-called by one of Emory's couriers, and were marching by the left flank down a narrow farm-road running parallel with the battle-line at the moment the two brigades on left and centre were being pursued up the sloping clearing—the Johnnies still shouting their savage battle-cry and the air lurid with the flame of cannon and of musketry, while minie-balls and grape and canister were being scattered on either side of the open plain with a recklessness calculated to create more or less anxiety for the safety of one's cranium. Gen. Emory and staff, while looking sharply after the brigades of his division already engaged, was also conducting "my second brigade" to its new position, and also superintending the change of front of Dwight's brigade rendered necessary by the development of the enemy's plans. When the Fifteenth reached a position where its line might easily connect with Dwight's left, all was confusion, uproar, and uncertainty, as to the front-line. The two brigades had broken and were being rapidly crowded back upon the reserves. Taylor's Battery had just been captured, and the remaining batteries were being "limbered" in great haste and taken to other positions in the rear. Cavalrymen and mounted officers were precipitately "getting in out of the shower," and there were some indications that another "masterly retreat" was on the programme. Even the sturdy and heroic Gen. Emory seemed for a moment bewildered,

and undecided as to whether the line should be ordered rearward or pushed to the front. The brigade line of-battle was hastily formed, under cover of a board-fence in rear of some buildings of which the rebels had already taken possession; our line being considerably strengthened by detachments of regiments from the brigades already driven in, including the well-remembered Zouave regiment of another brigade. Col. Dyer, with his characteristic "grit," was quick to perceive and meet the exigencies of the situation. He carefully formed the line; and, cautioning his men to make every shot count, opened a most galling and effective fire upon the rapidly advancing rebels, in which the entire brigade and its new accessions heartily joined. With the exception of the three companies on the left (A, D, and F) our line was well-protected by the fence before mentioned, which, happily, received the greater portion of the musket-balls sent in our direction. The companies mentioned overlapped somewhat and were considerably exposed, especially as the rebel assault came from that direction. A very spirited contest here ensued—it was, in fact, the pivotal point of the engagement—and the firing was rapid and incessant and really terrific on both sides. Gen. Emory was an eye-witness of the gallantry of our officers and men, and ever after was enthusiastic in his praise of the "Old Fifteenth," and its sturdy commander. After a most stubborn resistance, the rebel line wavered, and finally gave way, our regiment and brigade promptly pursuing, and, in common with the entire line, making a gallant and heroic charge across the plain, driving the rebels, "pell-mell," into the woods. Gen. Emory followed closely, shouting, in his eccentric style, the savage and profane battle-cry, "Give 'em hell, boys!" "Give 'em hell!" The enemy made a very stubborn resistance, contesting every hillock and clump of trees, and in the woods making a desperate effort to rally. The contest here was hand-to-hand; the musket being found quite as serviceable at the butt as at the muzzle-end. For perhaps an hour or more this desultory "bush-whacking" in the woods continued; and while it seems impracticable to attempt to recount them, numerous exciting adventures occurred. Many on both sides were killed and wounded, and prisoners by scores and by hundreds were taken and carried to the rear. At one time, in the excitements of the charge, three of our left companies pursued a group of rebels quite a distance from our main line, considerably exposing themselves, and but for the intervention of a staff-officer, they might have gone as far as Shreveport—and to a Texas prison! Five of our wounded men received their bruises within as many minutes. A number of the wounded were not aware of the mishap until apprised of the situation by some sympathetic comrade. The details of the fight were of absorbing interest from the commencement to the cessation of hostilities; indeed, to many of us, that brief period was among the most exciting and adventurous hours ever experienced. A lit-

tle before dark, and a few minutes prior to the demolition of the rebel line, our regiment—and brigade—pursued the rebels a considerable distance beyond the troops on either flank. The enemy, though retreating, perceived our exposed condition, and made a desperate assault upon our right, the outlook appearing a trifle dubious. But we quickly re-formed our line, changing front, and after a brief yet severe contest the “Johnnies” yielded to the inevitable and took to the woods, leaving us in undisputed possession of the field, as victors in the very severe engagement; but not until the coming of night had rendered it well-nigh impossible to distinguish friend from foe. The rebels, however, were “upon the run,” and all who were able to do so made their way a long distance from the battle-line before venturing to go into camp.

It was nearly 9 o'clock when the Fifteenth filed out of the woods, into the open plain, to “look over the score” and await developments.

Though the Fifteenth was in the thickest of the fight from its opening to the firing of the last shot, it was especially fortunate in the number of its casualties. Not a single member of the regiment was killed, and only twelve were wounded. A number of the latter died subsequently of wounds received. Appended is a list of the casualties. \*

The tumult of battle having subsided, at a late hour the woods adjacent to the battle-field were illuminated with torches of pine, and the sad duty of caring for the dead and wounded was as faithfully and carefully performed as was possible under the circumstances. It was a ghastly spectacle, such as not even the most unsympathetic nature could have witnessed without emotion, and one which the changing scenes of more than a quarter of a century have failed to efface from the memory of the survivors of that band of “Good Samaritans,” who on that memorable April night, roamed the Western Louisiana forests in search the bodies of their comrades—the wounded, the dying and the dead. Every tree and shrub seemed to be the shelter for some mangled form, and from every hillock and ravine some poor fellow, wearing either the blue or the gray—there was in that hour, happily, no distinction—might have been heard gasping a piteous appeal for aid—a tender message for the loved ones at home—a call for a draught of water with which to moisten the parched lip or soothe the fevered brow—or, mayhap, an urgent call to the medical officers for professional aid in staying the rapidly-flowing life-blood while earthly aid

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\* WOUNDED.—Adjutant Joseph A. Clark, in right arm; Lieut. John R. Coates, (Co. A) in leg; Lieut. Patrick Neville, (Co. F) in ankle; First Sergeant Henry S. Rich, (Co. D) in hip; Private Jonathan Randall, (Co. A) in right leg; Private Hilton B. Wright, (Co. A) in left arm; Private Richard Ryan, (Co. A) in left leg; Private James Roax, (Co. C) in left side; Private Alexander Graves, (Co. C) in right leg; Private Albert Hatchinson, (Co. C) in neck; Private Wm. H. Ward, (Co. G) in right hip; Private John C. Libby, (Co. H) in left arm.

might prove availing. The dead and maimed of both armies, strangely commingled, lay in winrows all along the front of the line, and indeed in all directions in the vicinity. As far as possible the wounded were taken from the field and competent surgeons and assistants assiduously devoted themselves to their welfare during the night; and such scenes as the hospitals presented where the large corps of operating surgeons pursued their labors, it is hoped the reader may never be called upon to witness. Unfortunately the medical supply-train, with the necessary and indispensable appliances for surgical work, had gone to the rear in the morning—a stupendous blunder—and the physicians labored under very many disadvantages; nevertheless they wrought faithfully, industriously, heroically, and are deserving of very great credit for what they were able to accomplish.

One of the incidents of that dreary night which under other circumstances might have been regarded as a trifle barbarous, was the search of the well-filled haversacks of the rebel dead, by our hungry soldiers, and the “confiscation” of the dainty morsels of biscuit and cold-meats found therein—a donation, it was learned, from the rebel ladies of Shreveport and Mansfield, who, doubtless, little dreamed that by their generosity they were feeding the hungry and thirsty soldiers of the invading Yankee army, as well as their rebel friends. Water was very scarce throughout that entire region, and it was found that the rebels had taken the precaution to guard against this deprivation by carrying in their canteens a liquid which it is not lawful even to look at in the dear old State of the Pine Tree. If any were so reckless as to imbibe, therefore, they were careful to close at least one eye while so doing.

As to the general balance sheet of the two days' battles, it is even now difficult to make it up with accuracy. The prophet of old, who “said in mine haste, all men are liars,” might generally have said this with deliberation, as to the commanding generals of both armies, in making up their list of losses. Exaggeration and underestimates was the rule. As near as can be stated, however, the Union loss at Sabine Cross Roads and Pleasant Grove, comprised one hundred and ninety-five in killed, nine hundred in wounded and eighteen hundred in missing; a total depletion of twenty-eight hundred and ninety-five. The Confederate loss is estimated at three hundred in killed and twelve hundred and five in wounded; a total of fifteen hundred and five. In property we lost one hundred and fifty wagons loaded with forage, rations, ammunition, etc.; eight hundred horses and mules; the small arms left on the field; and a large number of valuable guns. At Pleasant Hill we recaptured enough of the guns and batteries to render that part of the account about even, while our loss in killed is stated at but one hundred, with six hundred and eighty wounded and three hundred and eight missing; the Confederate loss being three hundred in

killed, twelve hundred wounded, and twelve hundred prisoners. To recapitulate: the total casualties of the Confederates figure up forty-five hundred and five and the Unionists thirty-nine hundred and eighty-three; or, on both sides, eight hundred and ninety-five in killed and four thousand and thirty in wounded. If the figures are correct it is only another illustration of the well-known fact, that in war, ancient and modern, an immense amount of powder is burned and vast quantities of lead and iron hurled promiscuously through the air, without accomplishing the murderous results designed.

The soldiers—or, at least, those not otherwise engaged—were ordered into a comfortless bivouac for the night, soon after ten o'clock. Notwithstanding they were cold, hungry, and excessively fatigued, no fires were permitted anywhere on the line, no rations were accessible other than those referred to in the preceding paragraph, and, on the whole, very little of the refreshing repose so much desired, and which in fact seemed an urgent necessity, was extracted from the night's "lodgings" upon the cold, damp, blood-stained field of "Pleasant Hill."

As to the wounded, and the very shabby treatment accorded them, we shall speak in detail in a succeeding chapter, devoted entirely to that subject.

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## CHAPTER XX.

### THE ARMY, WITH UNDUE HASTE, FALLS BACK TO THE LINE OF THE RED RIVER, AT GRAND ECORE.

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ON THE MOVE, BEFORE DAY-BREAK, FOR GRAND ECORE.—NO WATER OR FOOD AND THE ARMY COMPELLED TO FALL BACK UPON ITS SUPPLIES.—UNIVERSAL AMAZEMENT AND INDIGNATION AT LEARNING THAT OUR WOUNDED AND UNBURIED DEAD HAD BEEN LEFT WITHIN THE REBEL LINES.—ARMY AND FLEET CONCENTRATE AT GRAND ECORE, FORTIFY, AND LAY BY A COUPLE OF WEEKS.—THE NAVY AND TRANSPORTS ROUGHLY USED ON THE RIVER, ABOVE GRAND ECORE.—ADMIRAL PORTER AND THE NAVAL VESSELS THE "JONAHS" OF THE EXPEDITION.

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**G**MORY'S Division having handsomely repulsed the enemy at Pleasant Grove on the evening of the 8th, and, with the aid of A. J. Smith's Division, won a substantial victory at Pleasant Hill on the 9th, it was natural to assume that the army's next movement would be towards the enemy, wherever found, or Shreveport, at all events. Sure-

ly no one imagined that a hasty retreat was on the docket for the morning following our glorious victory at Pleasant Hill. But, alas! it seems to have been the logic of this decidedly illogical campaign to interpret victory as a reverse and defeat as a brilliant success.

As a matter of fact, however, it was found, at midnight of the 9th, an imperative military necessity that the army establish a connection with its supplies, on the transport steamers on the river, at the earliest moment practicable. The "larder" had become well-nigh empty. There was food for neither man or beast. The horses had been without forage for thirty-six hours; there was no water to quench the thirst of the famishing beasts; and, to increase our grievous burdens, much of our transportation, in the shape of army wagons, had fallen into the hands of the enemy. It was in view of these exigencies—as well as to keep them out of the way during the fight—that the wagons remaining in our possession were dispatched to Grand Ecore, well-guarded, on the morning of the 9th; and that the entire army was put in motion in the same direction early on the morning of the 10th. Couriers were also dispatched, at the same time, across the country, to Red River, with directions for the fleet and the military forces accompanying the vessels, to join the army at Grand Ecore.

The entire command was on the move as early as 4 o'clock, no previous notice having been given, and no opportunity afforded even for inquiring into the condition, or learning the whereabouts, of our wounded comrades; the tidings first reaching us, on the march, that the poor fellows had been left within the rebel lines, though in charge of some of our medical officers detailed to remain with them. Lieut. Neville of Co. F, though badly wounded, nevertheless pluckily beat a retreat from the hospital, mounting a stray cavalry horse and following our rear-guard within the Union lines. The soldiers were amazed and indignant at the apparently unnecessary abandonment of the wounded, and some of the expressions indulged in savored strongly of those sometimes construed as tending "to the prejudice of good order and military discipline," in which it was deemed very imprudent for soldiers to indulge.

The column continued its march leisurely, and without notable incident, going into camp at noon. The next day the march was renewed, the army reaching Grand Ecore at about noon. The distance from Pleasant Hill is from thirty-five to forty miles. Here our regimental teams and supply-trains awaited us, and the boys were very glad of the opportunity to draw rations, pitch tents, and prepare for a night of refreshing, undisturbed slumber—a luxury in which we had not before indulged since the night of the 6th. The five days and nights intervening, as some may remember, had not been entirely devoid of stirring incident and exciting events in the annals of the veterans of Emory's Division! We here remained quietly in



camp for a couple of weeks, surrounded by all the troops of the expedition excepting Kilby Smith's Division, which was still exercising a military protectorate over the naval vessels and transports a few miles up the river. We were the recognized masters of the situation save in one very essential particular—the waters of the Red River still stubbornly refused to indulge in the annual spring freshet. The rebels had diverted important sources of supply of this river to other channels, and for the first time in twenty years the stream was un navigable above Alexandria. The army might at any time have taken possession of Shreveport—that is, the army as a whole, its various detachments within supporting distance of each other—but to have done so with the naval vessels aground would have been at the risk of surrendering to the enemy a fleet of vessels constituting the bulk of Admiral Porter's Mississippi squadron, and much relied upon in that important section of military and naval operations. Useless and even burdensome as the vessels had all along been to us, there seemed very little disposition to encumber the rebels with any of them, they being supposed to have a sufficiency of troubles of their own!

And speaking of the Navy, what of that portion of it which ascended the river in conjunction with the military movement against Shreveport? Like the army they found "the Red" a hard road to travel. Gen. T. K. Smith, with about two thousand soldiers, had taken charge of the river transportation, with directions to conduct it up the Red River to the mouth of Loggy Bayou, opposite Springfield, at which point Gen. Banks expected to be able to connect with the boats and obtain necessary supplies, overland from Mansfield. There were twenty-six large vessels, most of them drawing six and a half feet of water, loaded with supplies, fixed and loose ammunition, siege guns, etc., besides the smaller vessels and the naval convoy, the whole constituting a very large, a very unwieldy and yet a very valuable "caravan." The fleet moved slowly up the river April 7th, encountering snags in the river innumerable, and frequently debarking troops to drive away detachments of rebels on shore. They reached Loggy Bayou April 10th; debarked the troops, making a reconnoissance towards Springfield; and were moving to secure an important bridge at Bayou Pierre at the moment when the courier arrived with tidings of Gen. Banks' Sabine Cross Roads disaster and his orders to fall back upon Grand Ecore. The rebels had seriously obstructed the river just above, sinking a large steamer across the channel, rendering the river impassable. The vessels at once commenced moving down the river. But very soon the rebel troops and batteries commenced to appear upon either bank of the river, opening upon the boats with musketry and artillery. On the 12th a force of 2500 men and a battery appeared upon one shore, while on the other, and near at hand, was most of the force which had fought us at Pleasant Hill. While a

number of our steamers were aground a rebel cavalry brigade, (Gen. Jack Green's, from Texas) with a four-gun battery, formed upon the bank and put their pieces in battery within point-blank range of one of our boats, and opened fire. The boat quickly moved out of range, and with the guns of several of our light batteries and the siege guns from the decks of a number of vessels, Smith opened a terrific fire upon the rebels. The battery-horses of the enemy were speedily killed, but the position of the pieces was changed by hand, the rebel sharpshooters deployed behind the timber lining the banks, and a most incessant fire was continued. Our soldiers were upon the hurricane decks, protected by cotton bales, bales of hay and sacks of oats, covered by soldiers' blankets kept constantly wet with the hose of the steamboats, which furnished adequate foil against rifle bullets. The gunboats soon came up and took a hand in the fray. The enemy's batteries were quickly silenced, and the entire force beat a precipitate retreat. The rebels had a reserve force of four or five thousand three-fourths of a mile away, which was reached by our heavy guns, and many were killed at that distance. The rebel loss is believed to be seven hundred. The rebel commander, Gen. Green, had his head blown off in the fight. Gen. Smith's loss was less than fifty. The next day, a few miles further down the river, the rebels opened upon the fleet from a two-gun battery, and, a number of the vessels being aground, the boats were under shell about five hours. Reinforcements were on the march from Grand Ecore, however, and the rebels soon moved away. Gen. Smith was able, therefore, on the 15th of April, to report his valuable charge to Gen. Banks, in tolerably fair condition—his only loss being in men; and as men were no longer "property," that, in some quarters, was regard as of but trifling importance.

The army tarried at Grand Ecore about a week after the arrival of the transports, seemingly undetermined in which direction to move; or, at all events, very careful to so dispose its forces as to give the enemy the impression that the Shreveport plan had by no means been abandoned. By a singular coincidence the army commenced the construction of fortifications about Grand Ecore upon the same day that the gunboats and transports reached us—a branch of industry which was energetically pursued for several days. Whether the object was in the line of rebel mystification, or through fear that Admiral Porter, in his wrath at the adverse criticisms to which he was constantly subjected, might turn his guns in our direction, did not appear. At all events there seemed to be no reason for any apprehensions of an attack from any other source. The enemy were in force all about us, but, nevertheless, they were sufficiently discreet to avoid precipitating an engagement in any position where they were likely to encounter our entire army, as would have been the case here.

During the week following the arrival of the fleet the army was in

line of battle nearly every day; and for several days preceding the evacuation of Grand Ecore the command was under marching orders—but whether for front or rear, was entirely enveloped in mystery.

Adjutant Clark was, unfortunately, among our wounded left in the hands of the enemy at Pleasant Hill, and was a prisoner-of-war for several months. Licut. H. A. Shorey (Co. B) was appointed Acting Adjutant, serving in that capacity until September, 1864.

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## CHAPTER XXI.

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### FIFTEENTH BOYS AS PRISONERS OF WAR—AT PLEASANT HILL HOSPITAL AND IN A TEXAS STOCKADE.

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A DIGRESSION TO LOOK AFTER THE POOR FELLOWS LEFT WITHIN THE REBEL LINES.—THE DESERTION OF THE WOUNDED AT PLEASANT HILL WHOLLY INEXCUSABLE.—ASSISTANT SURGEON HIGGINS' HOSPITAL.—THE GENIAL DOCTOR TAKES A HAND AT "BLIND-MAN'S BUFF" WITH THE REBELS.—THE DETACHMENT AT TYLER, IN TEXAS.—THEY EKE OUT THIRTEEN MONTHS OF A MISERABLE EXISTENCE IN A PRISON-PEN.—A NARRATIVE OF THEIR PRISON EXPERIENCE.

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**B**EFORE leaving Grand Ecore—through the medium of special messengers, under the protection of flags of truce, and through various other sources—some information was obtained concerning the fate of our men left within the rebel lines; and, in the case of those at Pleasant Hill, of contributing in some measure to their relief. In the light of the intelligence thus obtained, the desertion of these poor fellows can be characterized as nothing less than criminal neglect. There appears to have been a reasonable excuse for leaving the wounded behind, inasmuch as there was absolutely no transportation by which they could be conveyed forty miles, over a rough road, without imperilling life; but their heartless abandonment without timely notice or necessary provision for their care and comfort, was so cruel, and even culpable, that under our civil code, the crime of manslaughter might easily have been sustained. As the rebels were then in full retreat, there appears to have been no occasion for haste in falling back upon Grand Ecore; indeed, with our right well-covered by the gunboats on the Red River, the left of the line might easily have sustained a hospital protectorate at Pleasant Hill for a few days, or at least until the dead had been decently interred and the wounded conveyed to



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Apt. J. B. Nickels, Co. H    5 Lt. T. H. Wentworth, Co. H    9 Capt. J. E. Callaghan, Co. I    13 Lt. W. H. Morey, Co. K  
 Apt. J. B. Wilson, Co. H    6 Lt. W. H. Carr, Co. H    10 Capt. M. Boyce, Co. I    14 Lt. Geo. Capen, Co. K



the rear. Viewed in the most charitable light imaginable, this seems to have been the champion blunder of a blundering campaign.

About half of the wounded at Sabine Cross Roads were brought off, but of those maimed at Pleasant Hill only such as could walk away. The medical officers were busy all night in caring for the wounded, but had taken the utmost precaution to ascertain the contemplated movements of the army; despite which, between six and seven o'clock on the morning of the 10th, they were surprised to see drawn up in front of the hospital a squad of cavalry, whose commander informed Medical Director Sanger that it was the rear-guard of our army, about leaving the place! Gen. Franklin and Gen. Banks' adjutant-general had both given positive assurances not only to keep the medical officers posted, but also that the medical supply train should be ordered back to the hospital with all possible dispatch. Dr. Sanger could only hurriedly voice his amazement and indignation, give a few hasty instructions to Assistant Surgeon Higgins, of the Fifteenth Maine—who was left in charge—mount a horse and ride away, in the wake of the retreating army. He was able subsequently to return, under flag of truce, with some supplies and surgical implements very much needed.

Besides the genial and skillful Assistant Surgeon Higgins, in medical charge, the Fifteenth was represented at this Union hospital within the rebel lines by Adjutant Joseph A. Clark, Lieut. John R. Coates, and Private Libby, of Co. H., all severely wounded. The entire number of the wounded left behind, in hospital and on the field, was about one hundred and seventy-five. The reports received represented that neither rations, medical supplies, or any of the furnishings of a hospital, were at hand; such being improvised as could be supplied by foraging parties made up by the surgeon and his attendants. They found themselves, for awhile at least, in supreme control. Both armies were running away! During the forenoon tidings were sent to the rebel clans on the Mansfield road of the situation, and in the afternoon a rebel cavalry force occupied the place, apparently very much surprised to find Pleasant Hill garrisoned by a solitary assistant-surgeon, the wounded, and the unburied dead of both armies still lying exposed upon the battle-field of the day before! Col. Jack Green's Texas cavalry first entered the place, tarried several hours, and then struck out for the Red River, to harrass the gunboats and transports; a large force of rebel infantry following during the night. But it was not until late at night of the 11th, that a relief party from Mansfield put in an appearance, bringing provisions and necessary assistance. Early on the morning of the 12th the work of gathering the wounded from the battle-field was undertaken. The wounded of the Union army were placed in the two large brick buildings on the left of the battle-field, the Confederates occu-



pying the buildings to the right, nearly in front of the fence from the rear of which the Fifteenth made its gallant fight on the evening of the 9th.

Among the poor fellows brought in near night of the 12th was Private John C. Libby, of Co. H, Fifteenth Maine. His right arm was terribly shattered, and was successfully amputated by Dr. Higgins, on the 13th, at the shoulder. He died of diarrhœa and exhaustion on board a rebel steamer going down the Red River, ten weeks later, when within but a day's journey of the Union lines. Three dreary nights and days of a lingering death upon the battle-field, supplemented by the privations of hospital life, with its lack of nourishing diet for the debilitated patient, was a severe strain upon the constitution even of those in robust health.

About the 13th—the fourth day after the battle—the Union hospital may be said to have been placed in fair working order. The surgical force was increased by the addition of two surgeons and an assistant surgeon, who were duly installed as medical and surgical staff, ward-masters, hospital nurses, cooks, burial squad, etc. The diet comprised musty corn-meal, and salt and very rotten bacon. Three tin plates, picked up on the battle-field, were the only cooking utensils. The physicians, under parole, were given the liberty of the town, and the wounded the freedom of the hospital grounds—when the poor fellows had sufficient strength to crawl so far. During the ten days succeeding the battle a large number died; indeed, it was found well-nigh impossible to sustain the lives of the severely wounded on the fare afforded. Of medical and surgical stores there were virtually none to be obtained. Happily, however, at about this time a ray of sunshine enlivened the hitherto gloomy horizon overshadowing the unfortunate sufferers, in the form of an incident which is graphically sketched in a private letter to the author, from an inmate of the hospital, an extract from which is here appended. \*

The wounded—or at least such as survived—remained at Pleasant Hill until about the 20th of June, when those able to endure the journey were transferred to army wagons, jostled over the rough roads a distance of eighteen miles, placed on board a steamer at Blair's Landing, and transported to the Mississippi River. But, alas! the company was very small as compared with the roll at the date of establishing the hospital! More

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\* About the 23th of April a Confederate Lieutenant, with two privates, all comfortably mounted and leading a spare horse, made their appearance at the hospital, and inquired for Dr. Higgins, of the Fifteenth Maine. The Doctor quickly made his appearance, when he was informed that four army wagons, loaded with supplies, would be at the Union picket-lines at Grand Ecure at daylight the next morning, for the prisoners at Pleasant Hill and Mansfield; and the Doctor was to accompany them back, to report to Gen. Banks, under flag of truce, of their distribution. The Doctor was at the same time informed that he was to mount the spare horse, be securely blind-folded, and that all would go well provided the bandage was kept on his eyes until the picket-lines were reached; but if he raised the bandage or attempted to escape, death was the penalty! The Doctor readily assented to these conditions, and mounted the horse, blind-folded. The horse was taken by the bridle by one of the guard, and the pair started on the thirty miles' journey towards the Union picket-lines, where they arrived safely

than one-half of the one-hundred and seventy-five poor fellows left at Pleasant Hill by our retreating army found their last earthly resting-place in the lonely burial ground at the rear of the brick building which had been utilized for hospital purposes. The graves were rudely marked, with name and regiment of deceased, and the spot rendered sacred as one to which many a sad heart will involuntarily revert upon the recurrence of the annual Memorial Day, when the graves of our soldier-dead are being bestrewed with those beautiful and expressive floral offerings—symbols of the Glorious Resurrection, assurances of which a Loving Father hath written in every leaf of spring-time.

The representatives of the Fifteenth in the party reached the regiment at Marganza Bend June 25th—the wounded *en route* for the parole camp at New Orleans, and Assistant Surgeon Higgins to return to duty.

But the record would be inexcusably incomplete were a brief narrative of the privations suffered by the “wounded and missing” at Pleasant Grove not to appear. It will be remembered that our line fell back during the night of the 8th, leaving a strong picket-line unrelieved. A number of these fell into the hands of the enemy and suffered untold miseries for a long term, in the filthy and overcrowded prison-stockade at Tyler, Texas. Remaining on picket-duty until daylight they were ordered to rejoin their regiments, and, not overtaking them on the road, they were captured by the rebel cavalry about half-way between Pleasant Grove and Pleasant Hill. Taken to Mansfield, they were confined in the Court House four days, and then, a party of five hundred, they were marched to Tyler, Texas, a distance of one hundred and twenty-five miles. After a weary march, with miserable fare—many falling out by the way and never being heard of afterwards—the prisoners were corraled in a ten-acre enclosure, or “stockade,” in which, at one time, were grouped between four and five thousand prisoners. The water was good, and plenty of it, but the fare very unsatisfactory, for a regular diet. The number of prisoners was gradually decreased, by exchange, but the Fifteenth boys, with eighteen hundred of their comrades, eked out a miserable existence in the weary watchings for the daily anticipated order for exchange, for thirteen long and dreary months. Up to the first of November they were absolutely without shel-

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at about six o'clock the next morning. The Doctor found everything here as promised. The supplies were in charge of an Assistant Surgeon, who turned them over to Dr. Higgins; also an unsealed letter from Col. Dyer, of the loved Fifteenth Maine, with fifty dollars enclosed, for himself and Adjutant Clark. This was the first bright spot that had appeared in the Doctor's life for two long weeks. He was allowed to converse freely with the ‘boys in blue’ for thirty minutes or more, when the order came for the guard and drivers to retire back within their lines. Rebel guard and drivers quickly took their places, and the train started for Pleasant Hill. The Doctor had the use of his eyes on the return trip, and was enabled to take a view of the rebel troops which were giving Gen. Banks so much trouble. The train reached Pleasant Hill before daylight the next morning; soon after which the boys luxuriated in a delicious cup of coffee, the first they had imbibed for more than two weeks. From this on our death-rate diminished.”

ter; then they were allowed to cut timber and build log huts, which they occupied during the winter. The hardships endured by these poor fellows during those anxious months may be imagined; they cannot be adequately described. Three hundred and sixty-five of the inmates of the prison-stockade were buried during the term of confinement. The party started for the Union lines—an overland march of over a hundred miles—May 1st, 1865, being exchanged, at the mouth of Red River, May 26—the term of imprisonment covering a period of thirteen months and seventeen days. The entire party was discharged from the service immediately upon reaching Augusta, with the extra pay and allowances to which they were entitled as prisoners of war.

The party comprised: John F. Leighton and Angus McGilvery, Co. A; Leemon H. Bard, John H. Hayden and Page F. Grover, Co. B; Albert H. Hutchinson, Co. C; John Houston, Co. D; Stephen J. Bailey, Co. F; Frank Russell and James Brennan, Co. I; and Thomas H. McDonald and George Morrison, Co. K. Angus McGilvery died in the stockade. John H. Hayden escaped by a shrewd Yankee trick, answering to the name of a poor fellow called for exchange, but who died the night before the party left the prison. Hayden, by a very circuitous route, made his way to the regiment while it was in the Shenandoah Valley, in the spring of 1865.

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## CHAPTER XXII.

### FROM GRAND ECORE TO ALEXANDRIA, IN "POST HASTE."

ARMY AND NAVY RETIRE TO ALEXANDRIA, FIGHTING ALL THE WAY.—A "NECK AND NECK RACE" WITH THE REBELS FOR RIGHT OF WAY.—A DESPERATE BATTLE AT "CANE CROSSING," IN WHICH THE REBELS ARE REPULSED.—THE SMITHS SKIRMISHING EVERY DAY.—VERY SERIOUS TROUBLE FOR THE NAVY.—THEY LOSE ONE OF THEIR FINEST VESSELS, AND GALLANTLY FIGHT THEIR WAY THROUGH A LINE OF REBEL BATTERIES WHICH STUDDED THE RIVER'S BANKS.—THEIR LOSSES VERY SEVERE.

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**A**S late as the 17th of April there appears to have been no settled purpose on the part of the military authorities to abandon the Red River Expedition. On the contrary, orders had been dispatched to New Orleans for additional troops, and Gen. Steele, in Arkansas, was urged, by special courier, to make a desperate effort to co-operate with our forces in the movement against Shreveport. The naval authorities,

also, had been directed to keep their vessels headed up stream, with a view of operating in that direction. Nevertheless, inexplicable as it may appear, a day or so later the programme was radically changed; and April 21st orders were issued involving a "masterly advance" rearward, if not a disorderly retreat.

When the movement to the rear had been determined upon, the commanding general very fully realized that he had not only assumed the odium inevitably attaching to the failure of an elaborate military campaign, but likewise the innumerable perils involved in a forced march of over three hundred miles through an enemy's country, enveloped on all sides by a powerful rebel army divided into detachments through a region with which they were entirely familiar, handicapped by a large and costly fleet whose vessels were then aground, and encumbered with immense quantities of public stores, whose loss to the government must have proved a national calamity. To successfully conduct such a movement was a task calling into requisition the highest type of generalship and of executive ability. It was, in fact, a "neck-and-neck race" between Gen. Banks and the rebel commanders—the prizes contended for being the possession of our base of supplies at Alexandria in the first instance, and, secondly, the avenues of approach to the Mississippi below that point. Should Kirby Smith succeed in first reaching Alexandria—with either Taylor's Louisiana or Magruder's Texas army—and of effecting a strong lodgement at Fort De-Russy and salient points on the Atchafalaya, the chances of the capture of our fleet, its immense quantities of public property, and even of the bulk of our army, were so promising as to stimulate the rebel commanders to most desperate efforts in accomplishing a desideratum so alluring. That this was the plan contemplated is evinced by the disposition of the rebel forces. Their army operated in detachments, within easy supporting distance, along the banks of the river, on the rear, flanks and front of our army, as well as devoting themselves to the blockade of the river below and the destruction of our supply steamers on the river, between Alexandria and the Mississippi.

Our army finally commenced its movement rearward April 22d; though for a number of days diversions had been made in various directions, with the view of misleading the enemy as to our real intentions. The divisions of Gens. A. J. and T. K. Smith, with most of the cavalry and artillery, were given the rear; the 13th corps the centre, covering the wagon trains; and the 19th corps the front. The enemy was in considerable force, with cavalry, artillery and infantry, six miles away, and every movement was made with the expectation of being called into line-of-battle at any moment; as, indeed, we were several times during the day.

The first day out from Grand Ecore a very severe march was made

—some thirty-five miles. Gen. Banks had learned that the enemy was endeavoring to concentrate a large force on the high bluffs commanding the only available crossing of the river, with the purpose of there engaging our front while another force should operate upon our rear. The gaining of a day's time in the march would give the enemy very limited time for fortifying what might have been made a well-nigh impregnable position. There was considerable skirmishing in the rear and some in front during the day, but nothing transpired of a very serious nature. The army went into camp at about 8 p. m., near Cloutierville, some eight miles from "Cane Crossing."

Early on the morning of the 23d—6 a. m.—the army was again on the road, moving towards the Crossing, well understanding that the enemy was there in force, occupying a very strong position. Gen. Franklin had relinquished the command to Gen. Emory, who directed the movements of all the troops, and took considerable pride in announcing himself as "the general commanding." Emory's Division (Gen. McMillan commanding) with a brigade of cavalry and a large force of artillery, had the lead, with Cameron's Thirteenth Corps and a detachment of Grover's Division of the Nineteenth Corps (under Gen. H. W. Birge) within easy supporting distance. The Smiths, as before, brought up the rear. Three miles out the cavalry of the enemy was encountered and quickly driven to the river and across. Closson's Artillery was at once pushed forward to batter the enemy's position, and in an inconceivably short space of time a brisk artillery fire was opened and continued for some time. It was soon discovered that we had in our front the rebel Gen. Bee, with about eight thousand men and considerable artillery, posted on bluffs something like one hundred feet higher than the land adjacent, his heavy guns effectively commanding the ferry and its approaches. Some of his artillery was of very heavy calibre and capable of doing considerable mischief. After carefully looking the matter over Gen. Emory concluded not to risk an assault in front, and brought up his batteries to engage the enemy's attention while he organized a little diversion in the way of a flank movement. Our infantry was drawn up in line to support the batteries. We occupied a clearing on the left of the road, well-surrounded by timber, and in range of the enemy's artillery. The river was shallow, narrow and treacherous, and could only be forded at great risk. The enemy's guns were well protected, both his artillery and infantry support being practically out of harm's way. Our division "stacked arms" in the clearing, and "rested in place" several hours, idle yet not disinterested spectators of the progress of the very lively artillery duel which, on our side of the river, was the only entertainment afforded. It was entirely "musical," with little to break the monotony other than the desperate attempts of some of the soldiers at

“dodging” the dangerous missiles constantly ploughing the air. Whiz! whiz! a sharp buzzing sound! now resembling the roar of the whirlwind and again the snorting of the most powerful steam locomotive! You locate the trail of the huge engine of death high in the air! Now it descends, with the circumlocution of a falling rocket, and you imagine that you stand in its pathway! You involuntarily shrink to permit the iron missile to pass your head! and, lo! you follow its track and note that it has buried itself in the earth perhaps half a mile from you! A peculiar sound, producing most indescribable sensations, is that of such terrific artillery-firing as this! The shell and solid shot dropped all about us, a number within fifteen and twenty feet of our regimental line. Under the pressure of such an experience, continued for hours, the “dodging” art is reduced to a science. The infantry of our division was not called into action during the day.

Not so on the other side of the stream, however. Gen. H. W. Birge—with Cameron and the 13th corps detachment; Col. Frank Fessenden's brigade of Emory's Division; a detachment from Grover's Division of the 19th corps; and a strong cavalry force—had been started during the forenoon on an expedition designed to turn the enemy's left flank. The force encountered bayous, swamps, and well-nigh impenetrable woods, but proved equal to every emergency. Forging the stream with great difficulty three miles below the ferry, Birge reached his position late in the afternoon. A strong skirmish line was thrown out and the rebel pickets easily pushed from two apparently strong positions, when the enemy was discovered in force, on the crest of a hill, concealed in a belt of timber, commanding an open field, across which our troops must pass in making an assault. But, undismayed, Fessenden's brigade, (in which was the 30th Maine) led by that gallant officer, pushed forward in a heroic charge, assaulting the enemy directly in front. It was necessary for our troops to leap a high fence, under fire, cross an open field, scale another fence, and advance up a hill where the enemy was formed; all in face of the most galling musketry fire imaginable. But the sturdy veterans followed the skirmishers closely in a solid line of battle, pushing across the opening, over the fences, and up the slopes, with such impetuosity as to drive the rebels before them, after a gallant resistance. They soon rallied, however, taking position upon another hill; but Fessenden's brigade moved steadily forward, and while charging the second position had the satisfaction of seeing the enemy's lines crumbling away, the entire force joining in precipitate retreat over a road leading to Texas. The heights were carried and the victory was ours. In the assault the gallant Fessenden was severely wounded. Our entire loss was about two hundred and fifty, nearly half of which was sustained by the 30th Maine. The enemy was able to get away,

with his artillery, the Smiths not having succeeded in effectually closing that road to public travel. The pontoons were stretched across the river at about dark and the army, with its immense supply train, passed over during the night. Both Gen. A. J. and T. K. Smith were conspicuous in the fight, though on the other end of the line. They were skirmishing with the enemy during the entire day, inflicting and receiving considerable loss. Some portion of their force was engaged nearly all the time. The enemy had undoubtedly contemplated a combined attack on the morning of the 24th, front, rear, and along the flanks, and signals were given that morning as early as 3 o'clock evidently designed to precipitate the contest. But Gen. Banks' forced march from Grand Ecore and the carrying of the heights at "Cane Crossing" the day before, seems to have frustrated the rebel plans. The signal referred to was responded to by the Smiths and Gen. Kilby Smith fought a sharp engagement on that morning, (the day following the battle at Cane Crossing) driving the rebels away, but losing fifty men in the fight. Emory's Division camped for the night on the heights, on the Alexandria side of the river.

The army continued its march to Alexandria on the morning of the 24th, and, without further exciting incident, reached that city on the 25th. The Fifteenth, with its brigade, went into camp on the upper side of the city, above the Bayou Rapids.

The Navy, in dropping down the river, had a most thrilling experience. Though the vessels were all afloat before Gen. Banks issued his final marching orders, the Eastport, the finest iron-clad of the fleet, moved but a few miles away before being disabled by a torpedo. Herculean efforts, extending over a period of six days and nights of incessant labor, were put forth in the hope that she might be saved. Finally, on the 26th, it was determined that she must be sacrificed, and the necessary preparations were made to destroy her by explosion, a ton of powder and other combustibles being distributed about the vessel. Just before the fuse was lighted gangs of guerrillas commenced to line the river banks and a large rebel force appeared on the right bank and made an attack upon the boats. Twelve hundred muskets suddenly opened upon the squadron, and made a rush for Admiral Porter's flag-ship; which, dropping out from under the bank, opened an effective fire with grape and canister. The other vessels aided by a heavy cross-fire, and the rebels were soon driven away. The Eastport was then fired and completely destroyed, seven successive explosions effectually riddling the fine vessel to atoms, her iron-plating soon dropping to the river's bottom. The delay, in futile attempts to save the Eastport, had placed the fleet a long distance in rear of the army, and they found themselves enveloped on all sides by the rebel forces, intent upon the capture or destruction of the vessels. Fortunately the transports and

the heavy-draught naval vessels had dropped down to Alexandria earlier, only half a dozen of those drawing but little water having lingered with the party engaged in the effort to relieve the Eastport. Immediately following the Eastport's destruction the fleet again commenced working its way down the river. Twenty miles below a strong rebel force was encountered, with eighteen pieces of artillery, commanding a range of the river for a considerable distance. The vessels, in close order and ready for action, opened fire; which was briskly returned by a pelting shower of shot and shell concentrated upon the little squadron. The Cricket, upon which was Admiral Porter's headquarters, was struck no less than thirty-eight times with shot and shell, the other vessels faring but little better. The Cricket's decks were cleared in a moment. Her after-gun was disabled and every man about it killed or wounded; the crew from her forward-gun was swept away and the men in the fire-room wounded. A gun's-crew of contrabands was made up, who gallantly worked the gun during the fight. The engineer was killed and the pilot wounded. Some of the vessels soon became more or less helpless and were taken in tow by those more fortunate. In this critical emergency Admiral Porter took charge of the Cricket, and, closely followed by the other vessels, heroically "run the batteries," under one of the most galling storms of fiery flame and iron and leaden hail ever experienced. The gunboats responded to the rebel fire as best they could, but they were at a very great disadvantage. Wheel-ropes were cut away, the vessels disabled in hull and machinery, some driven aground, and at least one-half of the crew of each of the vessels killed or wounded. But the plucky little squadron succeeded in "weathering the storm" and passing the batteries, only to find themselves harassed by sharpshooters, on either bank of the river—an entertainment which was continued until the vessels reached the vicinity of Alexandria—on the 28th, some three days after the arrival of the army. Other gunboats were engaged with the enemy at the same time a few miles below, but were not as roughly handled. The vessels were all injured more or less, and it is a marvel that any of them reached Alexandria. The casualties, in killed and wounded, are reported at from fifty to sixty. Of these, the Cricket alone lost twenty-five and the Joliet fifteen. Officers and men on the naval vessels endured great privation and toiled night and day in their efforts to extricate the gunboats from their perilous situation. For their heroic conduct and noble achievements each and all are entitled to a nation's gratitude.

The naval vessels, at Alexandria, anchored above the Upper Rapids, a considerable distance from the city; while the troops of the several commands were judiciously posted at eligible points covering the various approaches to the city. In and about the place, soon after our arrival, was encamped an army numbering, of all arms, not less than thirty thous-



and men. These, with the naval vessels, transports, refugees, hangers-on, cotton-speculators, etc., gave to the little city a very lively aspect, and served to render its post commissary a department of more than ordinary importance.

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## CHAPTER XXIII.

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### THREE WEEKS AT ALEXANDRIA BUSILY ENGAGED IN "DAMMING" FOR THE NAVY'S RELIEF!

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THE NAVAL VESSELS HIGH AND DRY ABOVE THE RAPIDS.—ARMY AND NAVY ENVIRONED BY THE REBEL FORCES.—GEN. "DICK TAYLOR" REINFORCED.—PERPETUAL FORAGING, SKIRMISHING, ETC.—AN INGENIOUS FEAT OF ENGINEERING RAISES THE WATERS OF RED RIVER AND PERMITS THE NAVAL VESSELS TO PASS THE RAPIDS.—DETAILS OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE REMARKABLE DAM.—NAVAL VESSELS AND TRANSPORTS SAVAGELY ATTACKED ON THE RIVER BELOW ALEXANDRIA WITH DISASTROUS RESULTS.

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**A**T Alexandria both army and navy were effectually environed and blockaded for three weeks. The naval vessels were high and dry above the Upper Rapids, with hardly water enough in the river's channel to float a skiff; and the army was of course required to hover near to see that no harm befell the defenceless iron-clads. Furthermore, the rebel army had been reinforced by three fresh divisions, from Arkansas, which gave Taylor a force sufficient not only to constantly harass our rear, but also to pass around our lines and establish batteries and a strong position thirty miles below Alexandria, on the river's banks, thus rendering navigation between our base of supplies and the Mississippi extremely hazardous. Every day and every hour of the day and night constant watchfulness was required, the troops being frequently called into line of battle. Reconnoitering parties were daily scouring the adjacent country, the cavalry, especially being very actively employed. Foraging expeditions were also numerous; and, on the whole, the tarry at Alexandria was not entirely uneventful. Our troops were reinforced while here by the 13th corps detachment which had occupied the Texas coast, Gen. McClelland commanding. A portion of this force, under Gen. Fitz Henry Warren, was unable to ascend the river, on account of the rebel blockade, but fortunately effected a landing at Ft. DeRussy in season to prevent the enemy from obtaining a foot-hold at that strongly fortified position.

The reason of the long delay at Alexandria was the determined effort to relieve the utterly helpless naval vessels. A dozen of the finest iron-clads of Porter's fleet lay above the Upper Rapids, only to be rescued by some miraculous intervention; and this, happily, was suggested by a Wisconsin lumberman—Lieut. Col. Bailey—through whose skill and industry a remarkable engineering feat was proposed and pushed to a successful completion. The "Rapids," or falls, nearly opposite Alexandria, comprise a craggy, rocky reef a mile or more in extent, composed of rugged, ugly-shaped boulders, which, protruding from the bottom of the river's bed like an immense cluster of granite icicles, seemed an insurmountable obstacle to navigation when the water was very low, with a rapid current running down stream, at this time at the rate of nine miles an hour. Bailey's plan was to dam the river—not as it had been "dammed" ever since the navy undertook its ascent, but in the more practical manner with which our Maine lumbermen have long been familiar. A tree-dam, made of logs of huge proportions, brush, brick, stone, etc., cross-tied with heavy timber, and strengthened by various ingenious devices, was run out three hundred feet into the river, with four large coal barges, filled with brick, sunk at the end; this was met, from the opposite shore, by cribs, filled with stone, built out to meet the barges. It was a gigantic undertaking, involving days and nights of ceaseless activity. Three thousand men and from two to three hundred mule-teams were constantly employed. Several of the Maine regiments were put at work felling trees; neighboring steam-mills were torn down for material; teams were bringing in brick and stone from all directions; quarries were opened; flatboats transported granite by the river; and, in brief, for two weeks "dam-building" was the all-absorbing duty of the day and night, and upon this work everybody's attention was concentrated. For more than a week the labor progressed with at least one-half of the thirty thousand men standing by utterly incredulous as to beneficial results; but about the seventh or eighth day the glad tidings ran along the lines that the water was surely rising, and the "dam-builders" worked more energetically than before, if that were possible. O! those anxious days and nights! The writer very vividly recalls that eventful, exciting period, in which thousands of men thronged the river's bank eagerly watching for the slightest indication of an increase of the depth of water in the channel. One night, especially, as the dam approached completion, and when rumors were afloat to the effect that a very perceptible rise had been noted, he lingered by the river's bank until a very late hour. While sitting astride his horse noting every movement of the busy workers a lone horseman rode up, and in a rich, clear, familiar yet trembling voice, inquired: "*Do you notice the slightest indication of a rise?*" The anxious, heavy-hearted interlocutor was none other than Gen. Banks, the command-

ing general, who, night and day, with an ever-abiding faith, had watched the work with an interest so intense that failure must have produced a fearful shock. At the moment one of the crack bands of Emory's Division was discoursing enchanting music at headquarters, but the chief of the official galaxy was vastly more interested in the music of the ax and hammer, at the river's bank, at that critical moment so fraught with very great responsibility to the commander of the Expedition. Had the naval commander been equally interested and on the alert, the work would sooner have reached its successful completion.

By the afternoon of the 8th of May the structure was well-nigh complete. For a mile and a quarter in extent the water had been raised seven feet. There was a descent of six feet below the falls, giving a precipitation of thirteen feet above and below the falls. The pressure was tremendous! Whatever was to be done must be done quickly! But the Navy was listless, and inexcusably indolent. True, three of the lighter-draught vessels had been made ready to run the gauntlet, and moved down to the vicinity of the dam, but all the others remained serenely and provokingly undisturbed, at anchor above the Upper Rapids. At about midnight Gen. Banks went over the works, and was much impressed with the conviction that the dam could withstand the pressure but a few hours. He was, of course, very strenuous that the vessels make the passage at the earliest moment possible. He rode, post-haste, to where the fleet was anchored, a mile or more above, only to find the vessels enshrouded in darkness, with scarcely a man anywhere to be seen! He aroused Admiral Porter, sent a staff officer on board to apprise him of the situation and urge him to make ready; and three hours later—at 5 a. m. of the 9th—a considerable portion of the dam was swept away. Two of the stone-laden barges had swung in below the dam on one side, allowing the water to escape in torrents. Porter, seeing the catastrophe, rode up to the vessels above the Upper Falls and ordered the Lexington to attempt to make the passage. She passed the Upper Falls just in season, the water falling very rapidly. The water was rushing through the opening in a furious torrent; nevertheless the vessel made for the narrow aperture—and thousands of men lining the river's banks held their breath and anxiously awaited the result! Entering the gap under a full head of steam, she pitched down the roaring torrent, made two or three spasmodic rolls, lingered a moment on the rocks below as if to gather courage for the final effort, and then safely leaped into deep water and the current below, and was soon moored by the river's bank! Did anybody cheer? Well, the boys now living who were lookers-on very well remember! The Lexington was soon followed by the three vessels that had early come over the Upper Falls. The Neosho's pilot lost courage as she approached the abyss and stopped his engine.

The hull of the vessel was entirely submerged under water, and all supposed that she was hopelessly wrecked. She soon showed herself above water, however, jumped over the rocks, irresistably swept by the current, and escaped with only slight bruises. The other two followed quickly and successfully—and the gunboats were rescued. The stone-barges swept away had fortunately so swung around as to form a cushion against which the vessels might strike, preventing them from rushing to certain destruction upon the rocks on the river's bank. But the water had now all passed out, the rocks were again bare, and six of the most valuable gunboats, and two tugs, were still above the Upper Rapids! And up to the hour of the carrying away of the dam no effort had been made to lighten the vessels, either in the way of the removal of cargo, armament, or iron-plating. There was no alternative but to make a second experiment. Engineer Bailey was by no means disheartened, and he renewed his exertions with redoubled energy. In the re-building the plan was changed; instead of a continuous dam of six hundred feet across the river, the gap in the old dam was but partially closed and a series of eight or ten wing-dams constructed at the Upper Falls, on either bank of the river. This plan turned the current of water directly upon the channel, raising it at different points sufficiently to allow the vessels to pass, and work their way to the chute in the dam, fifty-five feet wide. Three days were occupied in the construction of the second dam. On the 12th of May all the vessels worked their way over the Upper Falls, and two of them through the opening in the dam; and by 9 o'clock on the morning of the 13th all the vessels had safely passed to deep water below. The ingenious engineering feat of a Yankee lumberman had proved a grand success, and had saved to the government a fleet of naval vessels valued at more than two millions of dollars.

While the work upon the dam was in progress the rebel Gen. Polignac was waging savage warfare upon our navigation, on the stream below, effectually blockading the river from the 4th of May until army and navy had passed below. Two gunboats, convoying a transport steamer upon which was from four to five hundred soldiers, bound down the river, were compelled to run the gauntlet of a very severe fire, from infantry and batteries, for many miles, the vessels being completely riddled with shot and shell, disabled, and rendered helpless. From four to five thousand infantry were in the attacking party. One gunboat was abandoned and burned; the other, and the transport, surrendered to the enemy. Our poor boys were exposed to this barbarous warfare for five hours. Many were scalded to death; some were drowned; and others met with death in various tragic modes. Of the four hundred or more soldiers over one hundred were killed and wounded and one hundred and fifty captured; the residue took to the shore and escaped—a party of them making their way to Alexan-

dria, pursued to within ten miles of the city by the enemy's cavalry. Another vessel coming up the river, with an Ohio regiment on board, was most cruelly assailed, only two hundred out of a party of four hundred and fifty escaping. The second shot from the enemy's batteries cut the steamer's smoke-stack, filling the vessel with steam and smoke, and placing all on board completely at the mercy of the rebels on shore. Half of those on board were either shot down, burned to death by the escaping steam, or found a watery grave in the river, into which they had jumped as the only avenue of escape. Three Ohio Colonels were killed outright. The annals of the war may be searched in vain for more tragic incidents than those experienced on the naval vessels and transports along the line of this river, while the rebels were holding high carnival along its banks.

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## CHAPTER XXIV.

### FROM ALEXANDRIA TO THE MISSISSIPPI AND "THE END" OF AN EVER-MEMORABLE CAMPAIGN.

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THE IMPRISONED GUNBOATS RELEASED AND ARMY AND NAVY STRIKE OUT FOR THE MISSISSIPPI.—THE EVACUATION AND BURNING OF ALEXANDRIA.—SKIRMISHING IN FRONT.—THE REBELS MAKE A SPIRITED STAND AT MARKSVILLE AND AGAIN ON THE PLAINS OF MANSURA.—OUR ENTIRE ARMY EXHIBITED ON THE PLAINS.—A NOVEL BRIDGE ACROSS THE ATCHAFALAYA.—SMITH AND POLIGNAC WRESTLE AT YELLOW BAYOU.—END OF THE RED RIVER EXPEDITION.—THE CAMPAIGN AND ITS BLUNDERS.—THE CREDITABLE PART IN THE DRAMA PLAYED BY EMORY'S DIVISION.

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**N**O sooner had the last of the imprisoned gunboats been released than the entire army was put upon the move for the Mississippi, on the river-road—the naval vessels and transports keeping us company. The head of the column marched out of Alexandria May 12th; the entire command following during the next day. A cavalry brigade and the 19th corps took the right; the trains, guarded by the 13th corps, the centre; the 16th and 17th corps, with cavalry and artillery, bringing up the rear. Before the rear-guard had left the city—early in the morning—fire broke out in a building within a few yards of a depot of ammunition on the wharf, and contiguous to the transports laden with ordnance and ammunition. The soldiers were able to rescue the ammunition by some very lively work, and the steamers by hurriedly pushing them away from the levee; but, unfortunately, a high wind prevailed, and a considerable

portion of the town was destroyed before the flames were subdued. Soon after the column was well under way cavalry skirmishing became quite brisk; the gunboats frequently "lending a hand" by tossing ten-inch shell into the woods, on either side of the river, to scatter any of the "Johnnies" within reach. Abandoned earth-works and batteries, constructed by the rebels, were frequently passed; and at one point a huge mass of mail matter was found in the road, the letters torn into shreds—the pile being the ruins of a mail captured by the rebels from some of our vessels. No incident of importance transpired until the afternoon of the 15th, when near the town of Marksville. The cavalry skirmishing had increased in intensity and some infantry support was thrown forward. A vast, level plain, was reached, beyond which, in a belt of woods, the enemy made a decided stand, and for awhile disputed our passage. Our army was formed in battle-array, in column of regiments, making four distinct lines of infantry, besides the cavalry and artillery. It presented a very pretty spectacle. After a little manœuvring and some sharp work between the cavalry and artillery of the two armies, the enemy retired beyond the village of Marksville, Gen. Banks making his headquarters at that place during the night. On the 16th, however, after passing through the town, the enemy was discovered in force on the outskirts of the village, with cavalry and infantry, and considerable artillery in position. Our line was formed on a vast plain fully ten miles in extent, slightly undulating, and seemingly especially designed for the purposes of a military pageant. At all events Gen. Banks could not resist the temptation to put his entire force into position, thus forming one of the most attractive military spectacles ever witnessed. Here, in the extreme front, was a strong cavalry skirmish line, extending across the entire clearing, and also encircling either flank; then came a line of artillery, posted along the front and flanks. In the rear of the artillery line was Grover's infantry, forming the artillery support and the first line of infantry. Five hundred yards in rear of this was Emory's Division, with its artillery. On the right flank was the 13th corps; while on the left were the commands of the two Smiths. The various "headquarters" flags were conspicuously posted; while across the plain, in the edge of the timber, was to be seen the curling smoke emanating from hostile cannon, briskly responded to by a number of pieces of our own artillery. When all the dispositions had been made our whole line—deployed nearly the entire width of the vast plain—slowly advanced in order-of-battle, gradually pushing the rebels from our front, skirmishing across the prairie, and soon taking possession of the three roads so spiritedly contested by the enemy, and especially valuable as points of divergence from Mansura to the Atchafalaya. The "engagement" will be chiefly remembered as a most brilliant military pageant. The entire field was in full view; the movements

of the rebel as well as of our own troops easily discernible; and in all respects the spectacle was beautifully impressive. Though the artillery-firing was sharp and incessant for three hours or more, but trifling damage was inflicted on either side. The infantry on the flanks, by adroit manœuvring, early got possession of the woods, and the enemy soon after "dusted," in the direction of Cheneyville. We captured quite a good many prisoners, and also re-captured quite a number of our own men taken by the rebels on the river. The loss was not large on either side.

At the little village of Mansura our boys "inspected" the dwellings of some of the inhabitants, and were so fortunate as to obtain choice morsels of meats and other dainties, from heavily-laden tables evidently spread as a royal feast for the rebel officers, who, at a late hour, concluded to dine elsewhere. The Yankee soldiers were not at all backward in partaking of the repast, even though the host was not in all cases especially agreeable.

Pushing on, through Moreauville, crossing the bayou on pontoons, encamping early to await the arrival of the teams, and resuming in the morning, the army's advance reached Simmsport, on the Atchafalaya, on the afternoon of the 17th. Here another ingenious engineering feat was made available. The river was six hundred yards wide, and no bridge-material at hand. Engineer Bailey promptly met the emergency by lashing a sufficient number of the steamers side by side to extend across the river, upon which wagon-trains, artillery, and troops, safely crossed.

While the army was crossing the river—a slow, tedious process—Gen. Polignac savagely attacked Gen. Smith's troops at Yellow Bayou. The engagement continued several hours. Smith lost one hundred and fifty men. The enemy's loss was much greater; and we captured a good many prisoners, three hundred or more. During the fight Smith's men charged the enemy across the bayou several times, driving him back three miles from the pontoons. Nine infantry regiments, with cavalry and artillery, were engaged on our side. The ambulances brought in a large number of frightfully wounded men. We were delayed three days at Simmsport; renewing the march on the morning of May 20th; reaching the Mississippi on the afternoon of the 21st; and going into camp at Morgauzia Bend, May 22d—thus completing our period of "wanderings" in the "Red River Wilderness," which covered a period of seventy-seven days, during which we had "tramped" not less than eight hundred miles!

At the junction of the Atchafalaya and Red Rivers, near Simmsport, we parted company with the troops of Gens. A. J. and T. K. Smith, and also with the large fleet of naval vessels and transports. The Western troops and the naval vessels proceeded up the Mississippi River to re-join the Army of the Tennessee; and the forces of the Gulf Department returned to the Defenses of Orleans and the Mississippi. Gen. N. P.

Banks, also, was relieved at about this time, Maj. Gen. E. R. S. Canby having arrived to take command of the troops, as a portion of the new Military Division of West Mississippi, to which he had been assigned.

Before entirely parting company with the ever-to-be-remembered Red River Expedition, it seems proper to briefly consider its purposes, its accomplishments and its failures, with the view of fixing the responsibility for the numerous misfortunes attending it, and which seem to have given the Expedition an undisputed claim to be characterized as "a campaign of blunders."

It should be said, at the outset, that the Expedition's first and most inexcusable blunder was in being born. It never should have been. Success was never among the possibilities, under the conditions—at least with anything like the force placed at the disposal of Gen. Banks. The campaign was of Gen. Halleck's conception. He had formed a plan, as he evidently supposed, by which he was to concentrate from forty to fifty thousand troops at Shreveport, in a combined movement, from the armies of Steele in Arkansas, Sherman at Vicksburg, and Banks at New Orleans; the ostensible object being to open up to commerce the fertile region west of the Mississippi, and at the same time deprive the rebels of its advantages as a source of supply for their armies. The permanent occupation of both Western Louisiana and Texas was involved in the scheme. The success of the undertaking depended mainly upon such a combined movement, unheralded and unannounced—which, as Gen. Sherman expressed the idea—"should be made rapidly by simultaneous movements from Little Rock on Shreveport, from Opelousas on Alexandria, and a combined force of gunboats and transports driving up Red River—the whole to appear at Shreveport at about a day appointed." That was the programme which Gen. Banks undertook to carry out, but only as general manager and one of the performers. But after the audience had gathered and the curtain had been "rung up," the much-advertised star, "Steele from Little Rock," failed to materialize. Sherman's troops, only about half the number promised, came as an independent side-show; while the naval appendage really proved an embarrassment rather than an efficient aid, on account of the heavy draught of the vessels and an insufficient supply of water to float them. The tardiness of the naval vessels in ascending the river gave the rebels abundant opportunity to concentrate their forces and interpose obstructions well-nigh impossible to overcome. In a severe criticism of this arrangement Gen. Banks utterly disclaimed all responsibility, protesting—"had it been left to my discretion, I should have reluctantly undertaken, in a campaign requiring but eight or ten light draught gunboats, to force twenty heavy iron-clads four hundred and ninety miles upon a river proverbially as treacherous as the rebels who defended it, and which had given



notice of its character by steadily falling, when, as the Admiral reports, all other rivers were booming." Clearly, when Admiral Porter found no water in the river at Alexandria—even though a rise was confidently expected—he should have possessed the nerve and the discretion to decline further attempts at its ascent; just as Gen. Banks should have protested against embarking upon the campaign with an inadequate force, without more positive assurances of aid from the commanders beyond his reach. In his justification, however, Gen. Banks urges that even as late as the day of the battle of Pleasant Hill, Gen. Sherman had dispatched the message that Steele and his entire force (from Arkansas) had been ordered to cooperate with him (Banks) and the navy in a movement upon Shreveport; and that he (Banks), confidently expected to form a junction with that force, somewhere in the Red River region, even as late as his concentration upon Grand Ecore. Nevertheless, the upshot of the matter seems to have been, that instead of the force of forty-two thousand men, as promised, we were at no time able to bring twenty thousand effective men against the enemy; not to mention the utter uselessness of the naval fleet which Admiral Porter had brought to Alexandria, and which he undertook to haul over the shoals and mud-flats, where a sensible turtle would hardly have undertaken to navigate.

But, the Expedition having indiscreetly been entered upon, the most serious and reprehensible blunder of the entire campaign was that of fighting the battle of Sabine Cross Roads. To the uninitiated it may seem strange that a soldier, whose business it is supposed to be to fight always, should ever be censured for engaging an enemy whom he finds in his path-way; nevertheless it is a well-recognized truth that to engage in battle with the troops so illy prepared to fight that defeat seems inevitable, is a most stupendous blunder, if the wager of battle can honorably be declined. Gen. Banks' command had not planned to fight at Sabine Cross Roads, was in no condition to do so, and the bringing on of a general engagement, under all the circumstances, was wholly inexcusable. The battle might easily have been avoided, had the cavalry commander been a competent officer; indeed, it would have been had he implicitly obeyed the instructions of Franklin,—“attack the enemy, wherever found, but do not bring on a general engagement.” That of course involved the retreat as well as the advance—the withdrawal of the cavalry skirmishers when the enemy stubbornly refused to give way. Instead of this—and with our infantry scattered over a single road for a distance of from forty to fifty miles, leisurely preparing for a much needed rest—infantry support, brigade after brigade, was ordered into the fight, a general engagement brought on, the army in front whipped in detail and by detachments, and the first and only reverse of the campaign, on the battle-field, sustained. The responsibility

for this unfortunate blunder has been charged both upon Franklin and Banks; but, clearly, Gen. Banks seems to have been the responsible party. It was he who ordered forward the infantry support after Franklin had repeatedly declined so to do; and not only this, but he at the same time neglected the necessary precautionary measures for bringing the troops in rear within supporting distance, until too late to avoid the disaster which seemed inevitable as early as noon. The situation of the cavalry wagon-trains proved a serious impediment, to be sure, but they would not have been found at all troublesome had no general engagement been fought that day. The loose talk of Banks' "charging the enemy with a wagon-train," will be seen to be meaningless, if it be remembered that the rebels were doing the "charging" upon that occasion, and that the wagon-blockade was not reached until our battle-line had been broken and our demoralized troops driven back a distance of anywhere from two to three miles. With our army compactly "closed-up," as was the plan for the following day, the Sabine Cross Roads stampede never could have occurred; hence the cavalry wagon-trains would have been found just where they were needed.

The retreat of the army from Pleasant Grove to Pleasant Hill seems to have been a necessity; and perhaps the cruel desertion of our dead and wounded, already commented upon, was Pleasant Hill's only conspicuous blunder. The abandonment of the campaign—not fully determined upon until about the time of the departure from Grand Ecore—seems to have been forced upon Gen. Banks not so much on account of the unfortunate condition of our army or navy, as by instructions from Washington, inspired by Lieut.-Gen. Grant's determination to concentrate every available soldier of the Union army in a position to be serviceable in the campaigns soon to open on the Potomac and the James. True, after the army's concentration about Alexandria, with the naval vessels high and dry on the rocks, permission was given to renew the movement against Shreveport, but then, under existing conditions, it was found wholly impracticable, and even impossible, to have made such an attempt. Indeed, the chances are that had there been no interference from Washington, the disasters of the campaign would have proved much more serious than they were.

The Expedition, from first to last, was a disjointed, incongruous, and an entirely illogical combination. Admiral Porter and the Navy, in conjunction with the officers and troops "loaned" by Gen. Sherman "for thirty days," seem to have conspired to render the duties devolving upon the commanding general much more difficult than they might otherwise have been. The Smiths arrogated to themselves the prerogatives of independent commanders, while Admiral Porter and many of his subordinates seemed much more concerned as to the matter of cotton-gathering than for

the success of the campaign. The western troops were jealous of the officers and soldiers from the eastern states—claimed to have done all the fighting—and, in short, contrived to render themselves excessively disagreeable—in some instances closely bordering upon decidedly unmilitary acts and expressions. Especially was this true of Gen. A. J. Smith, who, had he received his just deserts, would have gone to the rear in arrest.

In justice to Gen. Banks it should be said, that barring the errors of judgment in the instances attributed to him, he proved himself a wise and sagacious commander, extricating the army and navy and vast stores of public property from a most perilous situation, with a skill rarely excelled in any campaign of the war. In battle he was ever cool and brave even to rashness, and his rare executive ability served the country an excellent purpose in the management of a campaign in which such diversified interests were involved. For the failure of the Expedition—due in a large measure to circumstances entirely beyond his control—he must of course ever be held responsible, and be criticised quite as severely for the faults of others as for those justly chargeable to himself. Nevertheless, much as he has been maligned, Gen. Banks is deserving of the country's gratitude for the substantial services rendered the government in the management of this unfortunate campaign.

It is but just to add, in closing, that while the average judgment of the country insists upon a verdict of "failure" as to the Red River Expedition—and for the quite sufficient reason that a great and costly expedition, fitted out and organized for a special purpose, had signally failed to accomplish its object—the disaster was rather in the matter of prestige and sentiment than in reality. In every battle of the campaign save one our arms were victorious. We inflicted upon the enemy much greater loss in killed, wounded and prisoners, than he upon us. In the matter of artillery and small arms captured the account is pretty evenly balanced. We lost a large number of wagons and an immense amount of property in the form of forage, rations, horses and mules, etc., but in the value of cotton captured and turned over to the government—to say nothing of the rebel impoverishment on account of the destruction of vast quantities of this staple upon which the confederate authorities so much relied to provide the "sinews of war"—the balance is very largely in our favor. However, the decidedly impertinent rebel prisoner who pencilled upon the wall of his guard-house at Alexandria the extremely tantalizing inquiry—

"Who skedaddled from Grand Ecore?  
With Smith behind and Banks before—  
As men never skedaddled before?" etc.,

undoubtedly voiced the average judgment of the country at the time; and the participants, with bowed heads and suffused cheeks, must gracefully submit to what may have been, after all, an unrighteous verdict.

As to the really brilliant services of the Division in which the Fifteenth served in the Expedition, no special commendation is required, since its heroic achievements are indelibly written upon the historic page. Nevertheless, the annexed congratulatory address is worthy of preservation :

GENERAL ORDERS }  
No. 48. }

HEADQUARTERS NINETEENTH ARMY CORPS, }  
SEMMESPORT, LA., MAY 18TH, 1864. }

Soldiers of the First and Second Divisions Nineteenth Army Corps :—It is my duty to express to you my high appreciation of your uniform good conduct throughout the late eventful campaign. This duty is rendered the more imperative by the false reports of your operations which have met you at this point.

On the 8th of April, at the first notice that our troops in front were engaged, the First Division, the only troops of the Nineteenth Corps then present, marched in double-quick time seven miles to the front, formed line of battle under fire of the enemy, checked him, and drove him back, under circumstances the most trying that could befall troops. The whole advance, composed of eight or ten thousand troops, were thrown back upon you in utter disorder and confusion, pell-mell, with the enemy. You formed line of battle under his fire, and amidst this frightful disorder, with the regularity of forming for parade, you drove the enemy from before you, and held the ground until ordered to fall back.

The next day, at Pleasant Hill, you of the First Division bore the brunt of the enemy's furious attack ; and only one brigade—that on the left—gave way, because its left was unsupported, but this soon rallied and joined in the final charge which drove the enemy from the field.

On the 23d, at Cane River, you, supported by the Thirteenth Army Corps, found the enemy strongly posted to dispute the crossing of the river. Led by the Third Brigade of the First Division, you turned his flank and drove him at the point of the bayonet from the hill he occupied.

At Alexandria, you contributed your labor, by day and night, for seventeen days, under the engineering skill of Lieut.-Col. Bailey, to the great work which relieved the fleet from its perilous situation above the falls, and restored it to the country.

At Mansura, on the 1st of May, you met the enemy on an open plain, and, supported on your right by the Sixteenth Army Corps, drove him from the field.

This, in brief, is a summary of your services for the last two months, and I know, when it becomes known to the country, the judgment will be that you, at least, have done your duty faithfully.

(Signed.) WM. H. EMORY, Brig.-General, Commanding.  
Official : DUNCAN S. WALKER, Asst. Adjt. General.

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## CHAPTER XXV.

### ON THE MISSISSIPPI AND ON THE OCEAN WAVE ON THE WAY TO THE POTOMAC AND THE JAMES.

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AT MORGANZIA BRND.—A FEW WEEKS OF QUIET REST IN CAMP.—DOWN THE RIVER. TO ALGIERS.—ANOTHER OCEAN VOYAGE AND A LONG FAREWELL TO THE CRESCENT CITY.—WE SAIL NORTHWARD AND IN DUE TIME JOIN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC AND LATER THE ARMY OF THE SHENANDOAH.—THE FIFTEENTH'S "RIGHT WING" WITH BUTLER, AT BERMUDA HUNDREDS, AND ITS "LEFT WING" CHASING EARLY UP THE VALLEY OF THE SHENANDOAH.

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SOON after reaching the Mississippi the Nineteenth Corps went into camp at a point near the intersection of Red River with the Mississippi known as "Morganzia Bend," upon the banks of the river and within full view of the steamers and shipping constantly passing to and fro over that great commercial thoroughfare. It was a new experience

to again find ourselves comparatively idle and we were very glad to settle down to the monotonous routine of camp-life. As our soldiers again found themselves within reach of the broad Mississippi, permitted to drink "at will" of its refreshing waters—in pleasing contrast with the yellow, slimy, malaria-impregnated compound with which we had vainly endeavored to quench the thirst during the campaign in Western Louisiana—they were not slow to appreciate the very gratifying change. The transition seemed a return to "God's country," after weary wanderings in a wilderness within the dominions of some other potentate.

The troops were for awhile commanded by Gen. J. J. Reynolds, but hardly made his acquaintance. Our brigade, at Morganzia, comprised the 13th and 15th Me., 47th Pa., 12th Conn., and 8th Vt.—Col. Harry Rust, 13th Me., acting brigadier. Gen. McMillan commanded the division and Gen. Emory the corps. There were a number of notable reviews, including one before Gen. Daniel E. Sickles. A number of reconnoitering parties were also sent out, furnishing the boys some excitement and exercise, without encountering much in the way of a hostile force. One of these, in which the Fifteenth participated, made a two days' march to the "Old Mississippi" region, Gen. Frank S. Nickerson being the detachment commander. An expedition which went out on the Atchafalaya road encountered a party of rebels running a saw-mill, and there was quite a lively little skirmish, resulting in the loss on our side of one officer killed and several enlisted men wounded.

While at Morganzia the Fifteenth boys were glad to welcome Maj. F. M. Drew and party, on their return from a nine months' tour of duty on detached service in Maine. Assistant Surgeon Higgins and others also joined us from their enforced absence at Pleasant Hill; while Lieut. John B. Nickels, Adjutant Clark, Lieut. Coates, and others, prisoners of war on parole, made us a flying visit, on the way to the parole camp at New Orleans. Lieut. Nickels contracted small-pox on the steamer upon which he made the passage from Grand Ecore to Alexandria, and was left at the latter place, in hospital, when the army evacuated the Red River region. The Paymaster also smiled upon us here, with the greenback-rations representing six months' pay and an instalment of government bounty. A number of our officers and soldiers made the trip to New Orleans, also, on business or pleasure, during the sojourn here. Many of our men were sick in the hospital in that city, and this fact, and various business matters, necessitated as frequent communication as practicable.

But about the first week in July "sailing orders" were received for the entire Nineteenth Corps, and the various regiments embarked on steamers for New Orleans as rapidly as transportation could be provided; dropping down river, one after another, as ready, and disembarking on the Al-

giers side of the river. The Fifteenth, with Gen. McMillan's headquarters, the 165th N. Y., and a detachment of the 47th Pa., took passage on the St. Marys, sailing July 3d and reaching Algiers the same afternoon. Most of the troops of Emory's Division arrived within three or four days. We were destined to remain here but a brief period; a sufficient time, only, to perfect arrangements for a more prolonged sea-voyage—as to the objective point of which, however, all were in ignorance. Mobile was yet in the hands of the rebels, and, very naturally, that was surmised to be the scene of the pending campaign. Steamers in considerable numbers were being rapidly assembled; ten days' rations for men and horses were provided; and the preparatory work of the contemplated voyage was being briskly pushed in all departments. Nevertheless the soldiers who were permitted to visit New Orleans, call upon the sick comrades in hospital, and inspect their treasures stored with surplus baggage in the government warehouses, little realized that they were so soon to take a final leave of the Gulf Department. In the period of two and a half years that we had radiated about the Crescent City it had become a very familiar haunt, and, as the chief commercial centre of that region, was ever visited with pleasure by the officers and soldiers of all the older regiments, and here many pleasant acquaintances had been formed. Here, also, all of the surplus baggage had been stored at the commencement of the Texas campaign, an additional cause of anxiety and interest.

The troops commenced to embark for the voyage July 5th. The Fifteenth was so unfortunate as to be divided into two detachments—regimental headquarters, with Companies A, C, D, F, G and K, Col. Dyer commanding, taking a small, awkward, incommodious low-pressure steamer named the Exact; while Companies B, E, H and I, Lieut.-Col. Murray commanding, found more comfortable quarters on the fine Morgan steamer St. Marys. Major Drew and Assistant Surgeon Higgins were with Lieut.-Col. Murray's detachment; the Surgeon, Adjutant, Quartermaster, etc., being on the Exact. Both vessels sailed July 6th. The vessels were all under sealed orders, endorsed "Not to be opened until after discharging pilot at the mouth of the Mississippi." When well out from the Passes and the pilot had gone ashore, the "seal" on the documents was eagerly broken and our "destiny" ascertained. The order read: "You will proceed direct to Fortress Monroe, Old Point Comfort, Va., reporting on your arrival to Brig.-Gen. Emory, commanding detachment 19th army corps!" Indeed! And New Orleans, with its many associations, pleasant and otherwise, our sick in hospital, surplus baggage and stores, etc., far in the rear! For the moment there were murmurings and keen regret; and yet the consciousness that the veterans of the old Nineteenth Corps were henceforth to share the glories of eventful campaigns with the grand old Army

of the Potomac, served somewhat to counterbalance the score and induce a praiseworthy degree of satisfaction with an order of exercises which seemed to be imperative. But, alas! how many of the poor fellows who with us had ascended the Mississippi in the spring of 1862 had been left behind, sad mementoes of the ravages of disease and death in the malaria-infected region of Louisiana!

The passage across the Gulf and along the Atlantic coast to Chesapeake Bay—speaking from the stand-point of the *Exact*, upon which the writer had taken passage—occupied some ten days, and was quite monotonous and uneventful. We were now becoming quite familiar with seafaring life and acclimated to the eccentricities of ocean air and the sea's ceaseless motion; nevertheless, the dread scourge of sea-sickness was not entirely unknown among us, and many of our passenger list were compelled to seek the seclusion of state-room or bunk frequently during the voyage. Indeed, heroic and plucky upon other fields, our commanding officer's example in this respect was not entirely free from criticism! The *Exact* sighted the northern coast of Cuba the third day out; skirted the upper extremity of the Florida shore the day following; and soon espied the glistening sand-banks of the Carolina coast, where all became eagerly absorbed in noting the objects of interest along shore. Here were the Edisto lights; the famous federal batteries on Morris Island; and, most interesting of all, a mass of battered and blackened masonry, lonely and isolated, flying no ensign and yet feebly responding to the incessant cannonade concentrated upon it from hundreds of guns on war-ships and batteries—none other than Fort Sumter, the "cradle of the rebellion." Running sufficiently near the coast to enable us to view the fortress through field-glasses, a very interesting spectacle was afforded. The large blockading squadron, too—some of the vessels running out to exchange compliments with what some of the naval officers took to be a blockade-runner—rendered the scene quite lively and entertaining. When off Hatteras—on the 14th—the *Exact* encountered a violent gale, which continued to hold high carnival two days and nights. The tempestuous waves dashed about the vessel furiously, swooping over the decks, and creating considerable consternation. The steamer had no chart, was short of coal, and for awhile was really in a perilous situation. Happily the gale abated somewhat on the afternoon of the 16th; and, by the liberal expenditure of a number of whole barrels of salt pork, as a substitute for coal, in spurring the engine of the steamer to more energetic endeavor, we succeeded in gallantly rounding Cape Henry before dark. By 9 o'clock we had entered Chesapeake Bay; and at midnight the *Exact* dropped anchor off Fortress Monroe.

Upon reporting, next morning, Col. Dyer learned that the *Exact* was some four days behind the *St. Marys* and other steamers leaving New

Orleans at about the same time ; and furthermore, that these steamers had all been ordered to Washington, with their troops, to defend the national capital against an impending rebel raid. Gen. Emory was of the party ordered to Washington ; and we were directed to report for orders to the Lieut.-General commanding, at City Point. Accordingly, after taking coal and looking about Fortress Monroe and other objects of interest, we leisurely steamed to the point designated, where Col. Dyer went ashore to pay his respects to the noted little man whom some of us had seen thrown from his spirited charger at Carrolton a year previous, but who had not only recovered from his bruises but within the year had made such rapid strides as a military commander as to have reached the summit of position and honor—U. S. Grant, Lieut.-General, commanding the armies of the United States. The General's headquarters were in full view—a row of unpretentious wall-tents, utterly destitute of ostentation, surrounded on all sides by immense piles of commissary and ordnance stores, and in the offing, a large fleet of vessels of all descriptions, indicating that the base of supplies of the great army now besieging Richmond and Petersburg, is a place of importance as well as of ceaseless activity. The *Exact*, it was found, contained the advance-guard of the Nineteenth Corps detachment to arrive at army headquarters, and we were directed to proceed to Bermuda Hundreds, reporting to a well-remembered commander of two years before—Gen. B. F. Butler, commanding the right wing of Grant's army, on the James River. Here we were glad to find a resting place upon *terra firma*, disembarking and going into camp on the afternoon of July 18th, having passed thirteen weary days upon the little steamer. Two days later the third brigade of our division arrived, followed soon after by other troops from New Orleans and some of those which had been ordered to Washington. By the 25th of July a considerable proportion of both divisions of our corps was encamped at Bermuda Hundreds.

Our four left-wing companies—B, E, H and I—found the *St. Marys* a very rapid sailing craft and eminently sea-worthy. Leaving New Orleans at 7 p. m. of July 5th and steering clear of the Hatteras gales which the *Exact* had encountered, she reached Fortress Monroe on the afternoon of the 12th—some four days in advance of that vessel. Besides the four companies of the Fifteenth the *St. Marys* transported the 8th Vermont, Col. Thomas commanding. At Fortress Monroe the vessel was intercepted by orders to proceed at once to Washington for the defense of the national capital. The steamer sailed for that place the same evening ; and on the morning of the 13th the troops found themselves coursing up the historic and beautiful Potomac River and noting with eagerness the objects of interest along shore. Mount Vernon, the tomb of him who was “first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen,”—in the remote



age in which he lived, at all events,—was very appropriately signalized by tolling bells, as a sacred spot only to be passed with reverence by patriotic Americans. The St. Marys reached Washington at noon of the 13th—the day following Early's attack in front of Fort Stevens—the troops at once disembarking at the foot of Seventh street; and, as may well be imagined, finding the city in a state of intense excitement, owing to the close proximity of the rebel forces to the national seat of government.

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## CHAPTER XXVI.

### THE FIFTEENTH WITH THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC AND CHASING EARLY UP THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

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A BRIEF GLANCE AT THE MILITARY SITUATION ALONG THE POTOMAC AND THE JAMES AND ALSO IN THE VALLEY OF THE SHENANDOAH.—THE JUBAL EARLY RAID UPON WASHINGTON.—THE FIFTEENTH'S LEFT WING TAKES A HAND AND JOINS IN THE CHASE.—AN EXCITING AND ADVENTUROUS CAMPAIGN.—THE RIGHT WING PROCEEDS TO WASHINGTON AND THE REGIMENT IS RE-UNITED, AT MONOCACY, MD.

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**B**UT in giving an intelligible narrative of the Fifteenth's career after its arrival in Virginia, it seems proper to place upon record a brief statement of the military situation in that region at the date of our arrival—the middle of July, 1864.

Lieut.-Gen. Grant had then commanded all the armies of the United States for a period of about five months, and was most energetically pushing his campaigns in various quarters, with the determined purpose of depleting the rebel armies and exhausting their resources through his favorite method of incessant "hammering away" at the military power of the rebellion, wherever concentrated. With this object constantly in view he had made his plans carefully and deliberately, called about him the lieutenants most fully sharing his confidence, gathered an army numbering not less than one hundred thousand men in front of the principal armies of the confederacy; and, early in May, had "started in" with the avowed purpose of "fighting it out on this line if it takes all summer!" Gen. Grant commenced manœuvring for position the first week in May, when the Rapidan was successfully crossed. Being attacked he was compelled immediately to fight the fearfully disastrous series of battles, covering an entire week, known in history as the battles of "The Wilderness," in which no less than fifteen thousand brave men were butchered on each side.

These battles were followed in quick succession by the series of bloody contests of Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, the North Anna, on the banks of the James, about the Chickahominy, etc., frightfully disastrous, yet so far successful as to secure the establishment of a federal line of battle substantially encircling on three sides the rebel strongholds of Richmond and Petersburg, about which, strongly intrenched, were gathered the principal armies of the confederacy, commanded by its ablest military chieftain. The right of Grant's line, commanded by Butler, rested upon the north side of the James River, with connections, under other commanders, extending to the left fully fifteen miles, strongly fortified the entire distance, and at several points running so close to the rebel works as to be within speaking distance, and very near the limits of the city of Petersburg on the extreme left. In the successive battles which had resulted in the occupation of the position now held, no less than seventy thousand men had been sacrificed on our side alone in two months of incessant fighting; nevertheless every day of this period witnessed the tightening of Grant's tenacious grip upon the throat of Lee's army, with not the slightest indication of relaxation, whatever the cost. While our frightful losses were being made good by the constant arrival of reinforcements, the enemy's casualties, if not so numerous, were far more serious, since his recruiting ground was much more circumscribed than ours; hence the advantage was clearly with the Union cause. The campaign could only end in the gradual melting away of one or the other of the confronting armies, and it was very easy to discern which of the commanders must soonest yield to the inevitable. And so, all through that eventful summer, there occurred the continuous assaults, daring and destructive cavalry raids, subterranean mine explosions, constant artillery bombardment, and incessant fighting all along the line, by the pickets, sharpshooters, and infantry. Just now the extreme right of the line was being reinforced for a contemplated movement from the banks of the James, at Deep Bottom, and to aid in this campaign the Nineteenth Corps had been ordered to Bermuda Hundreds, and brigade after brigade was being placed in position as they arrived, disembarked, and had gathered up the fragments of the regiments and brigades which had become so widely scattered during the sea-voyage.

But there was still another section of the vast chain of shotted guns which Grant was so adroitly weaving about the armies of the confederacy. Not only were the commanders in the South and West dispatched upon important missions, designed to occupy the attention of the rebel troops in those sections, but Grant was taking very great pains to prevent the escape of Lee's army northward through any link of the chain which might become broken through undue pressure at any given point. The section of this environment represented by the Shenandoah Valley avenue of approach

to Lynchburg, Petersburg and Richmond, on the one end, and Baltimore, Washington, and fertile regions in Maryland and Pennsylvania, at the other extreme, was a source of constant anxiety to the Union commander as well as to the Washington authorities, since the ever-threatened rebel raids through the Valley were mischievous and disastrous in many respects. Accordingly, when Grant pushed across the Rapidan he organized a number of expeditions for campaigning up the Valley, over various routes, with the view of effectually covering the mountain passes, and also of cooperating with the armies besieging Lee on the other side of the circle. For some time previously the Union and Confederate forces had been racing up and down the Valley without substantial results, the honors being about equally divided. About the middle of June Gen. Hunter, the Union commander, had worked his way very near to the rear of Lynchburg, but was so suddenly pounced upon by rebel troops hurriedly concentrated by rail from Petersburg, that he was soon overpowered, and forced to retreat in disorder by a route other than the one over which he had approached, leaving uncovered an important thoroughfare to Maryland and Pennsylvania. Lee was very ready to seize upon the opportunity to work mischief, and, promptly moving Gen. Jubal Early into the "king's row"—to use the nomenclature of the checker-player—with a large force, he dispatched him upon a destructive raid through the Valley northward, hoping thereby not only to "despoil the (Northern) Egyptians" and obtain much-needed supplies for his starving soldiers and horses, but, more important than all, to compel Grant to turn his attention in the direction of the national capital, to the abandonment of the Richmond-Petersburg siege. Early moved rapidly down the Valley the first week in July, crossing the Potomac, and audaciously levying contributions of money, cattle, forage, etc., upon Maryland and Pennsylvania villages, inflicting much damage and creating a flutter of consternation in Washington and throughout the North. Gen. Lew. Wallace, with a small force of Union troops, was able to move out from Baltimore and give battle to a portion of Early's troops at Monocacy Junction, on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, but at a loss of nearly fifteen hundred men in killed, wounded and prisoners. The rebel cavalry swooped down upon Maryland and Pennsylvania towns, stopped and robbed railroad trains, burned villages, railroad bridges, etc., while the main column headed directly for Washington. Early's infantry advance pushed within six or seven miles of the outer defenses of Washington July 11th, and on the 12th actually menaced that city. A column of one-hundred days' men, home-guards, etc., under Gen. Augur, left the fortifications and heroically marched out to repel the invaders, giving battle, and losing, in the very brisk little engagement, some two hundred and eighty in killed and wounded, almost within rifle-range of the national capitol. But Early, learning

of the coming of reinforcements, very wisely concluded not to venture nearer Washington just then—though, as a matter of fact, he might easily have made the entrance if not so successful an exit.

It was at this very critical juncture that the Nineteenth Corps detachment, preceded by a few hours by the Sixth Corps, opportunely reached Washington; for though the reports of Early's guns were no longer heard reverberating through the streets of the city—in the skirmish of the day before with Augur's hastily collected forces—a renewal of the attack, with increased force, was hourly anticipated. Wright, of the Sixth Corps, was assigned to the command; and the arrival of these two corps of veterans gave gratifying assurance that "the government at Washington still lives."

Immediately upon disembarking—from the steamer—the brigade of the Nineteenth Corps, under the gallant Emory, took up the line of march through Pennsylvania Avenue, in the direction of Tenallytown. As may well be imagined, Washington was feverish with excitement, and in a condition to very fully appreciate the coming of the newly-arrived troops. The "boys in blue" had not then become "treasury wreckers," and the anxious populace were glad to throw open the doors and windows of their residences to extend cordial greetings in lusty cheers, waving handkerchiefs, jubilant shouts, etc. The tall form and anxious face of President Lincoln was discerned at the eastern gate fronting the White House, and enthusiastically cheered by the rapidly-marching veterans. The brigade in which was Lieut.-Col. Murray's detachment of the Fifteenth—Col. Thomas, 8th Vt., commanding—bivouacked for the night near the Catholic College, and the next morning the regimental detachment was detailed in charge of the division and corps property. The other troops were ordered across the Potomac in pursuit of Early. Before the column got well under way on the march, however, Gen. Emory directed Lieut.-Col. Murray to rejoin the brigade, being apprehensive that a great battle was imminent, in which every soldier would be needed at the front. Just here—and the fact is not generally known—the Washington authorities were only prevented by accident from perpetrating a stupid blunder in the displacement of Gen. Emory from the command of the corps. Gen. Q. A. Gilmore had been designated, but, happily,—at least from our stand-point!—sprained his ankle while riding to assume the command, thus leaving the hero of "Pleasant Grove" to lead the corps and share in its renown and really brilliant achievements to the end of the war. Gen. Emory, well-nigh heart-broken at the receipt of the order of displacement, was highly elated upon being restored to the command, and, with his troops, at once commenced making long, tedious marches, first on the Maryland side of the river; fording the Potomac on the afternoon of the 17th; and climbing the steep banks of "Ball's Bluff," rendered historic

as the field which, early in the war, was enriched by the life-blood of the lamented Col. and U. S. Senator Baker.

From this point our forces engaged in a "neck-and-neck" race with the rebel raiders, pursuing Early through Leesburg and Snicker's Gap and the Shenandoah River, fording streams, fighting guerillas, climbing mountains, marching and countermarching, and enduring fatigues and hardships rarely surpassed in so brief a campaign. The boys marched night and day, over rocky roads, through mountain gorges, fording streams and rivers, with feet wet and sore, until, unable further to endure, many a weary soldier was compelled to fall out by the way, either to be cared for by the ambulance corps or picked up by the guerillas constantly hovering about our rear and flanks. The route traversed led through Tennytown, Edwards' Ferry, Rockville, Frederick City, Harper's Ferry, etc. A valuable train of wagons was in charge, constantly exposed to capture by prowling rebel troopers, and was an object of deep solicitude on the part of the officers and soldiers especially responsible for their safety. Some very thrilling and adventurous incidents occurred all along the march.

During the campaign, while on the road, Lieut.-Col. Murray was detailed upon the staff of Gen. Dwight, in the first instance, and later upon that of Gen. Emory, commanding the corps detachment, and placed in charge of the quartermaster's department, division and corps. Major F. M. Drew succeeded to the command of the Fifteenth battalion. \*

While fording the Shenandoah, at Snicker's Gap—the Eighth Corps having crossed and Early being "on the run" up the Valley—the rebel rear-guard suddenly and fiercely turned upon our advance, driving them back across the river under a most galling fire of artillery and musketry, and inflicting a loss in killed, wounded and prisoners, of not less than five hundred. Our forces soon re-crossed the Shenandoah to continue the chase, but were afterwards recalled to Leesburg, upon the supposition that

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\*——It was during this march that the Nineteenth Corps train, at that time under the care of an inexperienced officer, had taken the wrong road and become separated from the army, and thus exposed to danger of capture or destruction. Lieut.-Col. Murray was sent, with that portion of the Fifteenth then under his command, with orders to take charge of the train and bring it back to the army as soon as possible. The train was long, being the entire Nineteenth Corps wagon-train; and the route over which it was to travel was both difficult and dangerous. Lieut.-Col. Murray, on reaching the train, directed its course towards the army. Arriving at the Potomac the river was forded at Edward's Ferry, the last wagon crossing at midnight. Here information was obtained from friendly negroes that the army was then at Leesburg, where it had halted for the night. By exercising the utmost energy and vigilance, and constantly fighting Mosby's guerillas, who were hovering upon both sides and rear of the long train, causing much annoyance to both men and animals, the party finally reached Leesburg, bringing the train to the army at about daylight in the morning. When the Lieut.-Col., after an absence of two days and nights, reported his arrival to Gen. Emory, he was informed that four officers, who had been sent out to meet him and advise him by what road to travel and the point at which he might reach the army, had all been captured. By rare energy and fidelity the army was thus spared a serious misfortune and loss. The officers and soldiers of the Fifteenth detachment acquitted themselves most heroically, enduring great hardship and fatigue during the tedious march.

Early was returning to Lee in front of Richmond, and Grant was anxious to use both the Sixth and Nineteenth Corps in the contemplated movement from the south side of the James, at Deep Bottom. But later developments demonstrated that Early was simply "playing possum," and a radical change of programme was ordered. Though not actively engaged, the Fifteenth battalion was in the immediate vicinity of the desperately bloody fight at the crossing of the Shenandoah on the 19th of July, encamping for the night on a beautiful spur of the Blue Ridge overlooking the field of carnage. With the other troops they re-crossed the Shenandoah, and made their way through Leesburg, via Goose Creek and Long Bridge, to Washington, going into camp, near Chain Bridge, the 23d. On the 26th the battalion again started "on the tramp" for Harper's Ferry, reaching that historic spot—from which the soul of "Old John Brown" set out upon its ceaseless "marching on"—after a hard three day's march, on the 29th. Next day, the race up the Valley is continued; but, diverted by further intelligence as to Early's movements, the command retraces its steps, by another route, towards Washington, going into camp a few miles beyond Frederick City on the 31st. August 2d the troops again move in the direction of Washington, but are halted at Monocacy Junction, where the three weeks' game of "hide and seek" is terminated by a re-union with that portion of the Nineteenth Corps—including the six companies of the Fifteenth's right wing, Col. Dyer commanding—which had been so fortunate as to escape the "Snicker's Gap Campaign," by rigidly adhering to sailing orders, and "proceeding" to Fortress Monroe, rather than Washington.

One of the incidents of the three weeks' march up and down the Valley most gratifying to our soldiers, was the opportunity afforded the old Nineteenth Corps to test its powers of endurance on the march with the veterans of the Army of the Potomac. One fearfully hot day the Nineteenth Corps, which had the lead on the march, changed places with the Sixth Corps. As the Sixth Corps soldiers marched by, their men shouted

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On another occasion, after our troops had succeeded in fording the Shenandoah River, which was quite broad at the place of crossing—though then only about four feet deep—Lieut. Col. Murray rode forward, with Gen. Dwight and staff, in advance of the army, for the purpose of noting the movements of the enemy. A force of rebel cavalry, which was partly concealed in the woods not far away, was discovered, and Col. Murray was requested by Gen. Dwight to ride around to the left, and Capt. Underhill, of the staff, to ride around to the right, for the purpose of making an estimate, if possible, of the rebel force then immediately in front. As the two officers were about starting on their tour of observation, Col. Murray's field-glasses were generously loaned to Capt. U., and the "two solitary horsemen" rode away, in opposite directions. They rode so far as to be exposed to the danger of capture, and two small bodies of rebel troopers dashed out of the woods, headed in opposite directions, for the purpose of cutting off retreat and effecting their capture. Underhill, after a short race, was taken prisoner; but Murray, more accurately estimating the chances of escape, made a long detour to the left, leading his pursuers farther and farther away from the rebel army, until they abandoned the pursuit, and he returned uninjured. Capt. Underhill was taken to Libby Prison, but six months later returned the field-glasses by an officer who had been duly exchanged. And this is how it happened that Col. Murray's glasses were "taken prisoner" and the Colonel himself escaped.

derisively, "Good bye, Nineteenth!" "We'll now show you an Army of the Potomoc march!" etc. Both corps marched nearly all night. The heat and fatigue very seriously affected the Sixth Corps boys. There were many stragglers; a number of cases of sun-stroke; all the ambulances were full; and every variety of vehicle was pressed into the service for carrying their men who had given out on the march. The next day the Nineteenth Corps boys took the lead. Though the weather was very hot for the Virginia climate, the clear air, pure water, and radical change of surroundings from the Louisiana region, seemed to inspire our men to their best endeavors. The march of the day seemed to them like boy's play in contrast with some of their Texas and Louisiana tramps, and before night-fall they in turn pass the Sixth Corps boys on the road, with well-closed ranks, and, taking the lead, good-naturedly return the "Good bye, boys!" having by their achievements during the day fully established a reputation for first-class marching qualities, which was always respected in subsequent campaigning with the veterans of the Army of the Potomac as associates.

The re-uniting of the two wings of the Fifteenth—after over a month's separation—was of course a very gratifying incident, furnishing the boys an excellent opportunity to rehearse their experiences and "swap lies" with their comrades,—a very agreeable recreation during as well as since the war-period!

But by the last of July, Gen. Grant had become convinced that more radical measures were necessary to rid the Valley of the rebel raiders, and he determined to cease further trifling and make thorough work of the matter. Early had given great provocation for this conclusion by again moving down the Valley at about this time, sending a party of cavalry raiders on the 30th, which, extorting princely sums as ransom in some towns and burning others, was the cause of great uneasiness in Washington and at the North. Our Gen. Kelley had given the rebels battle at Cumberland and driven the raiding detachment into the mountains of West Virginia, but Early's main force still lingered and seemed to be concentrating in the region of Winchester. The exigencies of the service seemed more critical in the Shenandoah than on the James. Grant therefore organized a separate military department for the defense of the Valley, with that intrepid and dashing cavalry officer, Gen. Phil. Sheridan, in command. Withdrawing the Sixth and Nineteenth Corps from the Army of the James and assigning them to the Army of the Shenandoah, he speedily collected a considerable army at Monocacy Junction. In pursuance of this arrangement the Fifteenth's six companies—in common with other troops of the corps—left Bermuda Hundreds by steamer July 27; reached Washington next day; and, making various marches and countermarches, travelling on foot and by rail, finally reached Monocacy, Md., Aug. 1st, where







1 Sgt. Wright, A.  
 2 Sgt. Smith, "  
 3 G. F. Vose, "  
 4 Sgt. Lancaster, B.  
 5 Sgt. Shorey, "

6 Cop. True, B.  
 7 Cop. Merryman, B.  
 8 Cop. Higgins, B.  
 9 Q. M. Sgt. Lewis.  
 10 W. W. Burrill, B.

11 M. T. Gilmore, B.  
 12 Cop. E. H. Pushard, B.  
 13 Cop. I. O. Pushard, B.  
 14 L. H. Bard, B.  
 15 Robert Breckinridge, B.  
 20 Sgt. Sutter, C.

16 J. H. Hayden, B.  
 17 W. H. Megguier, B.  
 18 Sgt. Johnston, C.  
 19 S. S. Rideout, C.





1. J. H. ...  
 2. ...  
 3. ...  
 4. ...  
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 6. ...  
 7. ...  
 8. ...  
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 20. ...

the general corps re-union already mentioned was effected. At about the same time Gen. Sheridan came down and assumed command of the army at whose head he was destined to win imperishable renown in the near future. Gen. Grant also "ran over" from City Point to confer with "Little Phil," but, examining the new commanders's plans, felt entirely justified in leaving Sheridan in supreme control, with no other orders than the simple yet expressive injunction—"Go In!" The manner in which Sheridan executed this trust is indelibly recorded upon the historic page as among the most brilliant exploits of the war.

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## CHAPTER XXVII.

### THE FIFTEENTH'S "VETERANS" TAKE IN THE LONG-PROMISED "VETERAN FURLOUGH," IN MAINE.

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FROM THE VALLEY OF THE SHENANDOAH TO THE VALLEY OF THE KENNEBEC.—THE NON-RE-ENLISTED MEN TEMPORARILY TRANSFERRED TO THE THIRTIETH MAINE AND FIRST MAINE BATTERY.—THE RE-ENLISTED MEN TAKE TRAIN AT MONOCACY AUGUST 5TH AND REACH AUGUSTA, ME., AUG. 10TH.—A MONTH AND A HALF OF HOLIDAY RECREATION.—WE RE-ASSEMBLE AT AUGUSTA AND LEAVE FOR THE SEAT OF WAR, SEPT. 27TH.—AT BALTIMORE, THENCE TO MARTINSBURG, VA.

**B**UT before "taking a hand" with "Little Phil." in the extermination of the rebels from the Valley of the Shenandoah, the boys of the Fifteenth Maine have in view a long-contemplated campaign to the Northward, upon which the soldiers interested had fondly set their hearts, and which, in fact, could not well be longer postponed. When, something like six months before, upon the bleak and desolate sand-hills of far-away Texas coast, the Fifteenth's members so promptly and enthusiastically responded to "Father Abraham's" urgent call, and re-enlisted for an additional three years—or, "during the war, if sooner ended"—one of the alluring inducements was the promise that the regiment should receive a thirty days' leave of absence in the dear old State of Maine, at the earliest moment practicable after re-enlistment. With patriotic ardor and commendable patience the re-enlisted men had endured the rigors of the Southern Texas campaign to its completion, followed closely by the adventurous and laborious Red River campaign; and these, supplemented by the brief campaigns sketched in the preceding chapter, had comprised a period of deferred hope which seemed the extreme limit of human en-

durance. The military authorities were very ready to concede the justice of our claim, when presented, and it was arranged that the Maine boys should receive their long-delayed Veteran Furlough before the opening of the Valley campaign. An order was therefore issued, early in August, directing the Thirteenth and Fifteenth Maine regiments to proceed at once to Augusta, Maine, as organizations, for this purpose; the non-re-enlisted men being first temporarily transferred to the Thirtieth Maine to serve during the regiment's absence. Later a number of these were transferred to the First Maine Battery. About one hundred of our men were thus temporarily transferred; a detachment sufficiently formidable to creditably represent the "Old Fifteenth" in any service that might be required and comprising nearly one-third of our membership present for duty. In addition to these, our Lieut. F. O. S. Howe, A. D. C. on the staff of Gen. McMullan, volunteered to remain in the field, and rendered gallant and arduous service throughout the Valley campaigns. A number of commissioned officers of the regiment remained with the detachment of non-re-enlisted men, including Lieutenants John E. Callaghan, B. F. Brown, and Patrick Neville. Also, of the non-commissioned staff, Q. M. Sgt. B. F. True and Com. Sgt. Fred. W. Elder.

The re-enlisted men, to the number of about two hundred, and accompanied by nearly all the officers of the regiment, took the train at Monocacy, for Maine, Aug. 5th. Owing to numerous vexatious disappointments in the matter of railroad transportation, etc., the trip occupied nearly a week. We tarried at Philadelphia to take dinner at the famous Union restaurant, which was the crowning glory of the "City of Brotherly Love" during the war-period; reached New York on the 7th; Boston the 9th; and Augusta, Maine, on the evening of the 10th—some two and a half years from the date of our first departure for the seat of war.

At Augusta both regiments went into barracks on the State House Grounds and tarried until arrangements for the individual furloughs could be effected. The Acting Adjutant of the Fifteenth—Lieut. Shorey—was detained at Augusta in charge of the regimental property and routine business of the two organizations, during the vacation period; and, all the arrangements being completed, the boys gleefully sallied out of camp and started for their respective homes, by various means of conveyance, on the 11th.

But that must indeed be an inspired pen which should essay to chronicle the exploits of the Fifteenth boys during that happy month, passed with the dear ones up and down the hills and valleys of our goodly State. To those weary, war-worn veterans, the month's "outing" was indeed "a feast of fat things." Suffice it to say, every golden moment was utilized in merry-making and the sweet commingling of kindred spirits.

The restraints of military life were gladly laid aside for the time being, including, in many instances, the "old blue coat;" and the soldiers very keenly enjoyed the privileges and immunities of citizenship—this transition, of itself, being in its way a most agreeable novelty.

While in Maine a goodly number of the Fifteenth boys seized upon the occasion of this brief respite from military restraints and duties to assume the responsible if not irksome relations pertaining to marital life, the festivities of the honeymoon period serving to so happily round out the vacation season, that an immediate renewal of the duties of the soldier's life, with its inevitable hard-tack and salt-beef diet, seemed so harsh and abrupt as to smack very strongly of an unseemly intermingling of the celestial and the terrestrial. Possibly, with this view, it was not so remarkable that some of the "victims" failed to put in an appearance at the time designated for re-assembling, or that the government, proverbially of stony heart, was in this case so benevolently inclined towards the veterans as to be quite willing to grant an extension of the "leave" upon a simple representation of the facts. But even then, we regret to be compelled to add, a number of the re-enlisted men turned up missing, especially from those companies which were recruited along the Canada and New Brunswick border. The list of "dropped by reason of desertion," in 1864-5, in the Appendix, gives all the details necessary as to this very unpleasant reference.

The soldiers of the two regiments, agreeably to orders, re-assembled at Augusta Sept. 26th, and left for the seat of war on the day following. As may well be imagined, there were a number of stragglers belonging to both of the regiments; and these were sent on later. Acting Adjutant Shorey, who had been on duty at the Augusta headquarters during the vacation-period, and who was now granted his leave of absence, was enabled to relieve some of these comrades from a very unpleasant predicament, a week or two later, by volunteering to take to the front a large squad of soldiers, who, delayed from one reason and another, had been incarcerated in the Augusta jail, upon the charge of desertion! In the party were representatives of nearly all of the Maine regiments then in the field, as well as of other New England regiments. Lieut. Lester Dwinal, of Co. G, was appointed Acting Adjutant upon the return of the regiment to the front.

Without incident worthy of record the Fifteenth reached Baltimore, on its return, Sept. 30th; taking up the line of march up the Valley Oct. 5th; and encamping at Martinsburg, West Virginia, the same evening. Affairs in the Valley were then in such a chaotic state as to render it quite impracticable to re-unite with the troops of the old brigade, division and corps—a matter of very keen regret—and both of the Maine regiments were assigned to duty at Martinsburg and vicinity, then the base of supplies of the Army of the Shenandoah.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

## THE FALL AND WINTER OF 1864-5 WITH THE ARMY OF THE SHENANDOAH.

THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.—“WINCHESTER,” “FISHER’S HILL,” “CEDAR CREEK.”—THE FIFTEENTH AT MARTINSBURG LOOKING AFTER MOSBY’S GUERRILLAS.—THE FIFTEENTH ABLY REPRESENTED AT THE FRONT BY ITS DETACHMENT OF NON-RE-ENLISTED MEN SERVING IN FIRST MAINE BATTERY.—A SKETCH OF THE HEROIC SERVICES OF THESE MEN.—THE FIFTEENTH MOVES TO STEVENSON’S DEPOT, VA., AND GOES INTO WINTER QUARTERS.

AT the time of the return of the Fifteenth to the Army of the Shenandoah, Sheridan’s main army, thirty thousand strong, confronted by a rebel force of great strength, was in the vicinity of Winchester, in which region there had been some very severe fighting just prior to our arrival. The army had remained practically inactive during August and the first half of September, at which time Sheridan had commenced manoeuvring for position and had planted a strong line along the Opequan Creek, covering the more important thoroughfares leading down the Valley. The third week in September—about a week prior to our return—the desperately contested battle of the Opequan—“Winchester”—was fought, in which both divisions of the Nineteenth Corps were actively and gallantly engaged. The battle was one of the most terrific of the war, considering the numbers engaged. The brunt of the fight fell upon the old Nineteenth Corps; and in its annals the names of Emory, Grover, Dwight, McMillan, Birge, etc., occupy a conspicuous place. In a total loss of three thousand on the Union side fully two thousand of the killed, wounded and prisoners, were from the Nineteenth Corps. The battle continued through the afternoon, terminating in a glorious but dearly-purchased victory for our troops. The rebels were put upon the run, our soldiers pressing closely upon their rear and flanks, following them through Winchester and beyond, and, with cavalry, artillery and infantry, inflicting most severe punishment upon the enemy while he was yet in full retreat. Nearly three thousand of the enemy’s dead and wounded were left upon the field, and in the streets, courts, stores, and private residences of Winchester, while twenty-two hundred prisoners, five thousand stand of arms, much artillery and other property, fell into our hands. Early gathered up his shattered lines at Fisher’s Hill, eight miles south of Winchester, for another stand, where, two days later, Sheridan again attacked, inflicting great loss, capturing many pris-

oners and guns, and driving the rebels into the mountains. Then, in accordance with Grant's deliberate plan, the work of devastation was inaugurated, with the view of rendering the Valley uninviting as pasturage for the rebel armies. Over two thousand barns filled with hay and wheat, seventy flour mills well-stocked, four thousand head of cattle, etc., were either captured or destroyed. The entire Upper Valley was laid waste. The record of the month is one of long, weary, fatiguing marches, sharp skirmishes, and desperately contested engagements.

All this while the base of supplies of Sheridan's Army was at Martinsburg, the nearest reliable railroad depot; and, by reason of its location and facilities for communication with Baltimore and Washington, it became a very important centre, and its avenues of approach a most attractive scene of operations for Mosby's guerillas. Most of the forage for the horses and all the provisions and other supplies for the army, were transported by wagon trains a distance of from twenty to thirty miles, through a guerilla-infested region. The trains were very long—at times comprising over a thousand wagons, occupying a long extent of road, and drawn by stubborn mules in charge of treacherous drivers. They were, as may well be imagined, a source of constant anxiety. It was to the escort and protection of these trains, that the Fifteenth was assigned upon its return from Maine, serving in this capacity through the months of October, November and December. The duty was arduous, exciting, and often adventurous, involving hard marches in various directions, including frequent trips from Martinsburg to Winchester, and return, with valuable wagon trains, etc., during which contests with Mosby's guerrillas were by no means rare. On the 20th of November the regiment started on an expedition to Cumberland City, Md., where an attack seemed imminent, but after a fatiguing journey, covering a period of nearly two weeks, it returned to Martinsburg (December 3d) without exciting adventure. Among other responsible duties of this period was the escort and safe delivery, from Martinsburg to Winchester, of a poultry dinner for the Army of the Shenandoah, donated by the State of New York as a Thanksgiving offering for the gallant soldiers of Sheridan's command. There were thirty thousand pounds of poultry on the train; and to safely navigate this important cargo through the quick-sands of Mosby's favorite stamping-ground, was no mere holiday recreation—especially as the reckless guerrilla chief was reported to have made adroit plans for the capture of a portion of the coveted Thanksgiving train in the vicinity of Bunker's Hill. At the front, after the battle of Fisher's Hill, little of moment transpired until the memorable battles of Oct. 15th, now familiar to every schoolboy as the scene of Sheridan's famous ride—

—“to save the day,

From Winchester, twenty miles away,”



and which has been immortalized in song and story, as one of the war's most brilliant exploits. This famous battle—"Cedar Creek"—was precipitated in a wonderfully adroit piece of rebel strategy, in which our commanders were most completely surprised. Gen. Early, the Confederate commander, had been supposed to be a considerable distance away, with no thought of further aggressive campaigns in the Valley. Sheridan had started on a hurried trip to Washington, leaving Wright, of the Sixth Corps, in command. Very early in the morning, screened by the darkness and a heavy fog, the rebels stealthily approached our lines. They avoided the usual thoroughfares, creeping through the woods, around the base of the mountains, etc., and succeeded in reaching our camps practically undiscovered. Their first signal of approach was a most galling musketry fire opened upon our pickets and hastily formed lines, which was quickly followed by an impetuous charge, while many of our men were still rolled in their blankets in their tents. In fifteen minutes from the first alarm, Crook's West Virginia troops were overpowered, with a loss of one hundred in killed and seven hundred prisoners. Half a mile further back was the Nineteenth Corps line. Towards this, elated with victory, and without the slightest consideration, the "Johnnies" came with a rush. They swarmed in front, on both flanks, and even in the rear. Gen. Emory hastily dispatched McMillan's brigade to attempt to stem the tide, and in the desperate encounter that ensued one-third of the men of that gallant brigade were swept away, in killed, wounded and prisoners. The Sixth Corps, still half a mile further to the rear, was soon reached, flanked off the turnpike in the twinkling of an eye, and well-nigh surrounded and cut off from any support. Our army had been overpowered and was in full retreat, leaving behind the camps, equipage, artillery, the dead and wounded, and from ten to twelve hundred of their men as prisoners of war. Happily, by this time, the "Johnnies" were a little fatigued, and stopped to plunder the Union camps, giving our retreating forces a little opportunity for leisurely gathering up the fragments and looking over the situation. It was at this juncture of affairs that the gallant Sheridan's arrival was announced, bringing words of cheer and encouragement, and effectually stopping the stampede. The intrepid cavalry leader, idolized by his soldiers, greeted his shattered and demoralized battalions gleefully and without a word of reproach. He eagerly inquired the details and patiently listened to his officers; rode along the lines an hour or more endeavoring to allay the excitement; ordered, "face the other way, boys," followed with the emphatic declaration, "we are going back to our camps," "we'll lick them out of their boots," etc.; and, after carefully superintending the formation of a new line, he was ready to assume the offensive at a little past noon. Emory's line was attacked feebly at that hour and the enemy was

handsomely repulsed; and, at 3 o'clock, a general advance was ordered. The boys went in as if no disaster had occurred; and, amid the rattle of musketry, the clanging of sabres, and the scream of shells, the Sixth and Nineteenth Corps struck out and quickly carried the rebel front line, turning his left flank, and crowding him upon the turnpike for a neck-and-neck race. Then a second charge was made, with cavalry and infantry, before which the rebel line quickly gave way. Our cavalry force judiciously followed up the advantage, quickly putting the rebels upon the run, and driving them pell mell through the village of Strasburg and beyond. Before night we had recovered our camps of the morning and our small arms and artillery, an immense number of prisoners, as well as having retaken most of our soldiers whom the rebels had captured in the morning assault. Early's force became utterly demoralized and crushed. Our loss was about three thousand; that of the enemy much heavier. This was the final and decisive battle of the Valley campaign; and, Early's army being completely broken up, there was nothing further to fear in that direction. "Little Phil," by his timely arrival and gallant conduct at a most critical juncture, had proved more potent and effective in "saving the day" than a twenty thousand reinforcing army could have done.

As has before been intimated, the Fifteenth, though not in either of these engagements as an organization, was ably represented by a considerable detachment of our non-re-enlisted men, who had volunteered for service in the campaign in the First Maine Battery. All the non-re-enlisted men, to the number of one hundred or more, had been assigned to the Thirtieth Maine, as a separate detachment, under the command of Lieut. John E. Callaghan. These served in connection with the Thirtieth at Martinsburg and on the road between Martinsburg and Winchester, for about four months, with the exception of a detachment of thirty-six who were later temporarily attached to the First Maine Battery. Their heroic and arduous services render it proper that a somewhat extended sketch of their movements be given in this volume.

While at Bolivar Heights, soon after the regiment had left for Maine, a rumor spread over the camp to the effect that the Fifteenth detachment was to be permanently consolidated with the Thirtieth, an arrangement not very keenly relished by the Fifteenth boys. They had become too much attached to the talismanic "15th" worn upon their caps during nearly three years of arduous and honorable service, to readily consent to lose their regimental identity on the eve of muster-out; and so some of them started out on a prospecting tour, to see if the calamity might not be averted. Strolling over to the camp of the First Maine Battery they learned that this gallant artillery corps—the pride of Emory's old Division—was about being reduced to a four-gun battery, on account of depleted

ranks. Upon conference with Capt. A. W. Bradbury an arrangement was soon effected for the transfer of a limited number to the Battery. Thirty-six Fifteenth boys volunteered and two from the Thirteenth; and a regular detail was soon issued from headquarters. The names of the detachment serving with the Battery, are here appended. \*

The transfer was effected at Bolivar Heights, (Aug. 8th) where the detachment remained in camp, with the Battery, till Aug. 28th. It then proceeded to Berryville, from which point it moved, early on the morning of Sept. 19th, to take part in the memorable battle of that day—the battle of “Winchester”—in which it bore a conspicuous part. As soon as the battle became general, late in the forenoon, the First Maine went into position in a narrow belt of woods, and, with four pieces, opened fire upon the enemy, eight hundred yards away. Soon our infantry line in front gave way and another section was put in, doing most excellent execution. The Battery was here exposed to a heavy fire from sharpshooters, from a rebel battery in front, and from an enfilading battery upon the right, concealed in the woods. The atmosphere was exceedingly “warm.” One of the lieutenants of the Battery was seriously wounded, many horses disabled, and there were numerous hair-breadth escapes. Later, when the enemy fled, after a most stubborn resistance, the Battery joined in pursuit, springing “into battery” at every accessible point, and shelling the enemy so long as he was within reach, following the retreating army (on the 20th) through Winchester to Strasburg. On the 22d, in the renewed attack upon Early’s forces—“Fisher’s Hill”—the Battery was in position and engaged in desultory firing during the forenoon, and at noon, in the general advance, vigorously shelled the enemy’s lines for half an hour or more—following him in the retreat until the morning of the 23d—resting at Woodstock, and next day pressing on beyond Newmarket and Harrisonburg. The Battery lost two men in killed and seven in wounded. It also had five horses killed and three disabled. The Battery moved from Harrisonburg Oct. 6th, reaching Cedar Creek on the 10th, and remaining quietly in camp until the famous battle of “Cedar Creek,” Oct. 19. Here the gallant First Maine did heroic service. Capt. Bradbury had been promoted to Major and Colonel of Artillery and made chief of artillery of the Nineteenth

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\*Privates Thomas Hollins, Wm. H. Hay and Robert Sherrard, Co. A; Private Robert Breckinridge, Co. B; Corporals Samuel Place and Solomon C. Bolier; Privates Andrew Dugherty, Enoch D. Wessenger, Luther C. Hall, John Madden, Wm. J. Knight, Wm. C. Condon, Sylvester Rideout, Lyman Everett, Nathaniel Brown, Alexander McFayden, Co. C; Sgt. Wm. A. Welch, Co. D; Corporal Malry Kearney and Private J. W. Pickles (Johnson) and Wm. Enbleton, Co. E; Segts. Lorenzo D. Small and Henry W. Hammond and Privates Michael Quigley, John Coffin, and John Lubec, Co. F.; Privates, Alonzo J. Eaton and Patrick McManus, Co. G; Privates Wm. H. Cain, Ansel Harmon, John McPhail, Frank V. Rollins, and John N. White, Co. H; Private Charles Connors, Co. I; Sgt. Frederick S. Barnard and Private Timothy C. Libby and Samuel Cochrane, Co. K.

corps. Capt. Edw. Haley, the commander of the battery, was wounded early in the fight, and the command during the day devolved upon Lieut. John S. SNOW. The battery was in position as early as 4 A. M., on the right of the turnpike, and briskly opened fire the moment the enemy appeared upon the hill in the rear of the original position of Crook's corps. The rebels at once levelled their batteries upon the First Maine, right and front, completely enfilading its position. Several of the shells from the enemy's guns burst immediately between the First Maine's pieces, scattering consternation and death among its horses and men. It is safe to say that no battery was ever subjected to a more galling, withering, destructive cannonade. Soon the enemy secured position on its left and rear, on the crest of the hill, and a section of the First Maine was then posted to the left and rear to contest the enemy's advance, firing directly across the pike at a very short range. This section had no infantry support, and when the enemy charged to get possession of the pike, one piece, with the drivers, was captured. The battery stubbornly resisted the rebel advance, falling back so very moderately that several pieces, with their drivers, fell into the hands of the enemy. In the afternoon, when, under the impetus of the coming of "Little Phil," the tide of battle had turned, the battery joined the infantry in its advance movement, closely pursuing the rebels, though not engaged in action, and resting for the night in the camp from which it was driven in the morning. The battery's casualties included one officer and two enlisted men killed, seventeen wounded, and eight men taken prisoners. Forty-nine horses were killed in harness and eleven disabled. Besides these losses, sustained within a period of thirty minute's time, five guns and four caissons were captured. Decidedly hot was that eventful half hour! In this, and all the engagements, the thirty-six infantry-artillerists of the Fifteenth Maine detachment most creditably acquitted themselves and materially aided in winning additional laurels for the First Maine. Unfortunately, from lack of reliable data, the minute details are not attainable. It is learned, however, that our John Coffin of Co. F was the only driver to stand by the fourth piece in the terrible storm of iron hail poured upon the battery at Cedar Creek. Private Robert Breckinridge of Co. B, Corporal Malry Kearney of Co. E, and Sylvester Rideout of Co. C, are also reported as winning special distinction. The latter was twice wounded and was at one time within the enemy's lines, but was recaptured later in the day. Alexander McFayden was seen to fall in the heat of the contest, but pluckily jumped up and went heroically at work again, his face besmeared with blood. Pickles (Johnson) of Co. E came within an ace of losing his precious head, his saddle-horse receiving a bullet in the neck at a point where, a minute previously, his head had been resting, while affectionately endeavoring to quiet the restiveness of the ex-

asperated steed, by stroking its mane and lovingly patting its neck. Every one of our boys acquitted themselves like heroes in this trying emergency and were warmly commended by the officers of the battery.

The battery remained in the vicinity of Cedar Creek until Nov. 19th; then moved to within a few miles of Winchester. The men of the Fifteenth, with those serving with the Thirtieth Maine, rejoined our regiment Dec. 30th, having been detached nearly five months.

Among the officers serving on detached service for a portion of the fall and winter were Lieut. Col. Murray and Lieut. F. O. S. Howe. Lieut. Howe was A. D. C. on the staff of Gen. McMillan, and was in all the battles of the campaign, winning distinction and the highest commendation for gallant and heroic services. Col. Murray was called from his bed at midnight—while the regiment was at Martinsburg—and, by order of Gen. Seward, assigned to the command of the post of Kearneysville. This was a favorite retreat of Mosby's guerrillas, and they had been perpetrating more or less mischief, including the capture of a U. S. Paymaster's train, upon which was a large supply of greenbacks. The point was midway between Martinsburg and Winchester, on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, then a dividing line between federal and confederate jurisdiction. The troops at the post comprised three regiments of infantry and a detachment of cavalry; the line occupied covering some nine miles of the railroad. Valuable trains were constantly traversing this line, and ceaseless vigilance, by night and day, was required to keep the road open. The service was active and arduous, and the responsibility so great that the commanding officer was required to be constantly on the alert. Many a spirited contest occurred, and frequently our men on picket were brought in, sometimes at dead of night, frightfully maimed, having received their wounds while standing upon their posts. Confederate raiders and scouting parties were constantly hovering about the vicinity, they apparently being familiar with every bridle or foot path traversing the woods. The Colonel slept not upon "downy beds of ease" in those days, or even took the precaution to disrobe when committing himself to the care of the Goddess of Sleep for a brief season. Eternal vigilance was the order of the hour. But our Lieut.-Col. gallantly "held the fort," remaining in command until the regiment was ordered to Stevenson's Depot.

Soon after the battle of Cedar Creek considerable of our cavalry and a corps or more of infantry, were withdrawn from the Valley and dispatched to other localities; and, Jubal Early having received his *quietus*, an era of peace and indolence was again restored to the Valley of the Shenandoah.

The Fifteenth remained in the vicinity of Martinsburg until the Virginia winter had set in; and, unlike the atmosphere of the fall and win-

ter months of the Gulf States, had admonished us to prepare for cold weather. Some huts were constructed at Martinsburg; but early in January the railroad repairs had been pushed nearer to Winchester, and the bulk of the army was ordered into winter quarters at a point known as Stevenson's Depot, some four miles north of Winchester. Sheridan's headquarters were at the latter place, and a portion of his army located two or three miles beyond, encamped upon either side of the turnpike leading up the Valley. The Fifteenth left Martinsburg for its new location Jan. 5th, 1865. Comfortable and in some instances capacious log huts were provided, with open-fire conveniences, and the soldiers were enabled to pass the succeeding three or four months here very pleasantly. The chief duty was to endeavor to "keep comfortable"—to "eat, drink (hot coffee) and be merry;" and it is just to say that in this laudable work the Fifteenth boys, rich with the experience of three full years of campaigning "all along shore," from Maine to Texas and back homeward as far as Virginia, were able very creditably to acquit themselves, making fearful inroads upon the Virginia forests in seeking an adequate supply of fuel, and upon the commissary department for the requisite provender. The camp at Stevenson's was occupied until the opening of the spring, campaign, in April.

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## CHAPTER XXIX.

### THE FIFTEENTH COMPLETES ITS FIRST THREE YEARS' TERM OF ENLISTMENT.

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THE MUSTER-OUT OF THE NON-RE-ENLISTED MEN.—THEIR MEMORABLE EXPEDITION TO MAINE AS A DETACHMENT OF EX-SOLDIERS.—A FEW FACTS AND FIGURES RELATIVE TO OUR REGIMENTAL HISTORY.—WE BARELY ESCAPE CONSOLIDATION.—HOW THE "OLD FIFTEENTH" MANAGED TO "HOLD THE FORT."—LIEUT.-COL. MURRAY'S EFFICIENT RECRUITING SERVICES.—THE FIRST MAINE BATTALION.

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**W**HILE in winter quarters at Stevenson's Depot (Virginia) the Maine Fifteenth was called upon to part company with a large number of its original members—the men who had failed to re-enlist as "Veteran Volunteers," and, having completed their full three years' term, were to be mustered out of the service, "by reason of expiration of term of service." The detachment constituted a goodly pro-

portion of "the cream" of the old organization—dearly beloved old comrades and mess-mates who had followed the fortunes and vicissitudes of the "Old Fifteenth" through its entire history, to the date of their muster-out, and whose departure seemed to those who remained very much like the severing of the most sacred of the ties of family or kindred. But their contract with the government had been faithfully and honorably performed, in all its requirements. Three long years of varied, arduous, and hazardous service, had been given to the government; and these veterans of eventful campaigns had richly earned the right to retire to their several homes to enjoy the fruits of these self-sacrificing labors, in the confident expectation of soon witnessing the termination of the war and an ushering in of an era of peace and of national prosperity in a country for whose preservation and disenthralment they had risked life, health and limb, for a period covering the best years of their lives.

The number of the "mustered-out by reason of expiration of term," aggregated about one hundred and twenty-seven; though as some were absent, as prisoners of war, sick in hospital, on detached service, etc., it is impossible to accurately state the number. The names are given in the Appendix, in the several company subdivisions, under the classification, "Mustered-Out by Reason of Expiration of Term—January, 1865." The date of the muster-out was Jan. 18th, the discharge taking effect Jan. 25th. The men were really mustered out of the service before leaving Stevenson's, but for some reason not apparent it was found impracticable to pay them off in Virginia, and they were compelled to make a weary pilgrimage to Maine as a detachment, where they were finally paid off and discharged. The special order directing them to proceed to Maine as a detachment assigned Capt. Laurens J. Joyce and First Lieutenant John Mead to the escort of the detachment; and also directed the turning over of their arms and equipments to the proper officers at Harper's Ferry.

At about the same time—or within a period of two or three months of the departure of the non-re-enlisted men—a large number of the commissioned officers of the regiment retired for one reason and another; most of them on account of expiration of term of service or commission. Among them were: Major Franklin M. Drew; Surgeon Jotham Donnell; Assistant Surgeon Lorenzo Dodge; Capt. William K. Rich, Co. A; Capt. John H. Hasty and Lieut. Warren C. Plummer, Co. C; Capt. C. S. Illsley and Lieuts. John Mead and Chas. F. Jordan, Co. D; Capt. Laurens J. Joyce and Lieut. Patrick Neville, Co. F; Lieut. Benj. F. Brown, Co. G; Capt. John B. Nickels and Lieut. Thomas H. Wentworth, Co. H; Capt. Michael Boyce and Lieut. W. H. Boyce, Co. I; and Lieut. Geo. W. Capen, Co. H. Of these Capt. Michael Boyce soon after returned as Captain of Co. II, and Lieut. W. H. Boyce was promoted to the Captaincy of Co. I.

The journey of the non-re-enlisted men to Maine was a somewhat eventful and adventurous expedition ; which, properly "written up," would form an interesting chapter of this narrative, especially enjoyable to the participators at least. Unfortunately the minute details are not accessible. It was a veritable "go-as-you-please" expedition, and pleasurable only so far as relates to its terminus—"the dear old home." The boys had but just thrown off the irksome restraints of military life, with its discomforts and its stern and rigid discipline, and were naturally eager to don the garments as well as the manners and customs of full-fledged citizens, and, after their muster-out, were rather reluctant longer to "train as soldiers," or to submit gracefully to the shabby accommodations provided. Nevertheless, though mustered out at Stevenson's, they were doomed to make the trip to Maine after the manner of "a squad of soldiers," with no rights and privileges which "white men are bound to respect;" the final payment and settlement with the government being made in Maine rather than in Virginia.

And so, "getting into two straight lines like the reg'lars," the ex-soldiers formed a detachment, bade adieu to the old comrades, and, under the command of Capt. Joyce, ably assisted by Lieut. Mead, they took the train for Harper's Ferry, to surrender the trusty muskets and accoutrements which had so long been their constant companions. After tedious delay for lack of transportation, and innumerable trials and tribulations, they were packed into dreary box-cars without seats, windows, or any of the accommodations usually pertaining even to a cattle-train, and, only illuminated with a feebly burning "tallow-dip," the train slowly rolled out of the Valley, northward. It was a motley "procession." Some of the field-officers remaining in service had seized upon the opportunity afforded by a special train of *pull-man* cars from the seat of war to Maine, to forward home surplus baggage, horses, forage, etc., and, in one way and another, a train was made up quite as formidable and picturesque as that usually accompanying the rear-guard of an army emerging from a raid in a section where "milk and honey" are easily attainable. There were bags and boxes and barrels ; crates of live stock, including cackling fowl ; and a variety of chattels well-nigh as diversified as those littering the floors and shelves of Dickens' "Old Curiosity Shop." To add to the unpleasant features of the trip, a few members of the party were so unfortunate as to have contracted, during their term of service, a love for the fiery liquid so certain to breed commotion and turbulence among even those otherwise inclined to demean themselves as gentlemen ; and these, having procured a supply, were at times extremely boisterous and pugnacious. From these and other considerations

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—NOTE.

On preceding page, (148) in two last lines, by a typographical blunder, Co. *H* is used where *K* was intended. Lieut. Capen retired from Co. *K* and was succeeded by Capt. Boyce, rather than *H*, as there appears.



the entire trip proved a wretched experience. There were frequent delays all along the route, together with occasional outbreaks requiring the intervention of the officers in charge, and of Capt. Michael Boyce, who had joined the party at Harper's Ferry. The cars containing horses and forage were several times "side-tracked," occasioning delay and affording opportunity for the characteristic diplomacy of the commander of the expedition; though even this did not suffice to ensure the continued orderly moving of the train or preserve the connecting link between the several subdivisions of the "caravan." But finally Baltimore was passed; New York, after a protracted tarry, was cleared; and Boston was reached—at least by all save the "rear-car," in which were the officers, horses, and their attendants! This had been "switched off" during the night. But the soldiers, eager to reach home, could not be persuaded to "wait for the wagon," so they pushed on and reached Maine at last one train ahead of those in the stranded car! But Lieut. Mead, early discovering the situation, energetically pushed on through Boston and reached Augusta only a few hours later than the "advance" of the party, and in season to superintend the procurement of the rolls and all necessary arrangements for the final muster and payment of the detachment. The boys separated, as happy mortals as ever went out from Augusta, the day following the final settlement of scores with their "Uncle Samuel." Lieut. Mead, after a brief yet very pleasant visit with his family, rejoined his regiment at Stevenson's; but soon after resigned, and was mustered out in March, 1865.

The muster-out of the non-re-enlisted men and the ordinary casualties of the service left the "Old Fifteenth" a mere skeleton of its former self. Two months previous to this event its aggregate "present and absent" was but four hundred and sixty-two, with three hundred and twelve present for duty. In fact when the lines were formed preliminary to the separation, it seemed very much as if those to be mustered out were in the majority. Very fortunately a considerable body of recruits had joined us some two weeks before—Jan. 2d, 1865—else our depleted condition must have been so conspicuous as to have necessitated immediate consolidation with some other Maine regiment similarly situated. But as the recruits had but barely reached camp when the non-re-enlisted men left for home, it seems proper to leave them entirely out of the account in briefly reviewing the gradual melting away of the stalwart body of men organized as the Maine Fifteenth Regiment in the winter of 1861–2, and which had now completed its original three-years' term of enlistment.

By a careful analysis of the "Roster," in the Appendix, it will be found that the entire number of names on our original muster-rolls aggregate one thousand and forty-four. Of these, fifty-six are classed as "non-effectives," cutting down the effective regimental membership to nine hundred

and eighty-eight. During the years 1862, 1863 and 1864, small squads of recruits joined us, to the total number, in the three years, of some sixty-eight, more than half of this number coming in the summer of 1864, and serving for less than one year. But as these men must be included in the aggregate, it swells the membership of the old organization to about one thousand and fifty-six.

The casualties for this period, as reported in the Appendix, are as follows:

Died of Disease, killed in action, or died of wounds, etc., 1861-2-3-4.....	240	1056
Discharged for Disability, resignation of officers, etc.,.....	231	
Transferred for promotion and to other branches of service,.....	42	
Discharged by order for various reasons,.....	23	
Dropped by reason of desertion,.....	76	
Mustered-Out by Reason of Expiration of Term,.....	127	
	<hr/>	
Total Casualties.....	739	
Leaving (apparently) still on Rolls,.....	317	1056
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But accuracy of statement in these matters is well-nigh impossible. The rolls and all accessible *data* are incomplete and misleading. Many of the men were held on the rolls long after they were discharged or had in some way ceased to be members of the regiment. As careful analysis as we are able to make reveals the fact that after the departure of the non-veterans—leaving the 1865 recruits entirely out of the account—we had about three hundred and seventeen names on the regimental roll, and that of this number two hundred and sixty-seven were among the original members of the regiment, had served the full three years' term, and had re-enlisted for an additional three years' term, or "during the war, if sooner ended." Very many of these, however, were absent from the regiment, a goodly number of them never again serving with it. In the absence of reliable *data* it is fair to assume that not more than two hundred of the three hundred and seventeen on the rolls were present for duty. For quite a period there was hardly an average of one commissioned officer to a company, and, to increase the difficulties, the army regulations did not permit such officers as had been commissioned to be "mustered," the regiment not containing the requisite number of men to entitle it to enjoy all the privileges and immunities of a full-fledged regimental organization. This condition of affairs continued for nearly five months (from January to May, 1865) most of the companies being commanded by lieutenants and some of them by sergeants; and the outlook for a continuance of the regimental name and organization seemed extremely dubious.

It was in the earnest effort to avert the much-dreaded consolidation and dismemberment of the "Old Fifteenth," which seemed imminent, that persistent plans were inaugurated to secure an assignment to the

regiment of a sufficient number of recruits from Maine recruiting stations to swell our membership to such extent as would warrant the continued preservation of the original regimental organization. Urgent appeals were made to the War Department, to the Governor of Maine, etc., but apparently to no purpose. Col. Dyer visited Maine and personally pressed the matter upon the State authorities, but without substantial results. Upon Col. Dyer's return it was arranged that Lieut.-Col. Murray should make a determined effort to raise the needed reinforcements by a tour of recruiting service in Maine. Some understanding, or agreement, is said to have been entered into between the Colonel and Lieut.-Colonel, involving, in certain contingencies, the retirement of the former and the promotion of the latter to the full grade of Colonel and the command of the regiment. By Col. Dyer and those of his more intimate friends cognizant of the affair, it is claimed that the conditions of this arrangement required that the recruits be assigned to *existing companies* and that the official vacancies in the several companies be filled by the promotion of deserving non-commissioned officers of the regiment; by Lieut.-Colonel Murray and his friends, that the Lieut.-Col. was to endeavor to secure recruits for assignment to existing companies if possible, but, failing in this, new companies were to be raised, officered upon his recommendation, and, by the consolidation of the old company organizations, to make place for the admission of four or five entirely new companies, if recruited. With this general understanding Lieut.-Col. Murray obtained leave of absence, proceeded to Maine, and industriously entered upon the work. Gov. Cony and Provost Marshal Littler gave assurances of co-operation and assistance; but advised the raising of new companies as the more promising plan; which, after carefully looking the matter over, Lieut.-Col. Murray decided to adopt as the only practical solution of the difficulty. Visiting Portland, Lewiston, Bangor, Pembroke, Calais, Eastport, etc., he interested persons in the recruiting service, offering commissions to worthy persons who might engage heartily in the work, and pushing the recruiting service with his characteristic shrewdness and untiring energy. He succeeded in raising four full companies—which were officered and duly mustered into the service as companies of Unassigned Infantry—and the organization of the fifth was well under way when Col. Murray returned to his regiment. The travelling and other necessary expenses of this officer, incurred in this service, and for which he was never reimbursed, are said to have exceeded six hundred dollars.

While this work was in progress in Maine, however, a very decided aversion to consolidation no less than to the retirement of Col. Dyer was being developed among the officers and enlisted men of the Fifteenth, and considerable pressure was made upon the Colonel to reconsider his plans and

to at least remain until the expiration of the three years' term of his commission as Colonel. This sentiment found fitting expression in the presentation of an elegant sword and belt, by the enlisted men, the exercises being especially flattering to "Old Battalion." This episode was supplemented by an appeal to Gen. Emory by the officers of the regiment and brigade, for aid in the matter of obtaining recruits, and it was upon the urgent solicitation of that officer—who had never forgotten the gallant services of the Old Fifteenth and its commander at Pleasant Hill—that the War Department speedily came to the rescue with something like four hundred newly enlisted recruits, drafted men, substitutes, etc., whereat there was very general rejoicing. This assignment filled the regiment to the maximum and entitled the companies to their full complement of officers and the regiment to the prescribed number of field and staff officers. Furthermore it rendered the proposed consolidation of companies unnecessary and impracticable, and ensured the retention of the cherished company and regimental designations which we had been able to preserve for more than three years, and which we were destined to hold until the final muster-out, a year and a half later.

While stationed at Stevenson's the Fifteenth was reinforced by the arrival of the two strong detachments of recruits already referred to above; the first levy coming Jan. 2d, and the second, March 20th. The names of the new-comers will be found in the Roster, in the Appendix. The old regiment, with this formidable acquisition, was rendered unusually strong numerically for that period in the progress of the war, every company being filled to the maximum requirement of the Army Regulations. The large number of vacancies in the list of commissioned officers were promptly filled by promotion in line and from the ranks, and scores of worthy enlisted men were honored with the chevrons of the non-commissioned officer which they had so richly earned. Indeed, so radical a change was made necessary in this respect that the "old guard" had almost entirely disappeared from the ranks of the company officers, giving place to those who had gradually, and by meritorious services, worked their way up from the ranks. These changes are so clearly set forth in the historic record of the several companies in the Appendix, that it seems unnecessary to reproduce the names in this connection. Nevertheless, notwithstanding the fact that more than two-thirds of its membership had but recently donned "the army blue," the Fifteenth was by no means lax in drill or discipline at the opening of the spring campaign.

The companies brought into the service through the industrious and patriotic efforts of Lieut.-Col. Murray were of course never admitted to the Fifteenth. They joined us at Stevenson's in the early spring, and, upon recommendation of Col. Murray, were organized as the "First Maine Bat-

talion," under the command of a Lieut.-Colonel. They remained in service until Apr., 1866, when they were mustered out agreeably to general orders. The fifth unassigned company was well under way at the time of the close of the war in March, but was disbanded by the order to stop all recruiting. It was to have been commanded by Capt. Otis Gilmore, the well-remembered orderly sergeant of Co. I; his First Lieutenant being Sergeant Charles R. Rice. Both of these officers had served three full years as non-commissioned officers in the Fifteenth. Both are now deceased.

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## CHAPTER XXX.

### THE EVENTFUL CAMPAIGNS OF THE SPRING OF 1865.

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THE FIFTEENTH, WITH THE ARMY OF THE SHENANDOAH, IN WINTER QUARTERS.—THE MILITARY SITUATION.—THE OPENING AND GLORIOUS TERMINATION OF THE SPRING CAMPAIGN OF 1865.—THE FIFTEENTH TAKES A HAND BY MOVING UPON LYNCHBURG.—THE SURRENDER OF LEE.—ORDERED TO WASHINGTON.—THE SAD TIDINGS OF THE ASSASSINATION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.—THE FIFTEENTH SADLY AND REVERENTIALLY SALUTES THE REMAINS AS THEY PASS ON THE ROAD.

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**T**HE Maine Fifteenth remained comfortably domicilled in log huts at Stevenson's during the winter. Like the entire army we were in "winter quarters," leisurely "resting upon our oars," and eagerly awaiting the opening of what all well understood to be an eventful spring campaign, to be inaugurated and aggressively pushed at the earliest moment possible after the condition of the roads warranted the movement of artillery, wagons and supplies, on an extended scale. And thus we lingered listlessly through the months of January, February, March, and a portion of April.

The Army of the James and the Potomac, like the Army of the Shenandoah, remained comparatively quiet during the winter, very few important military movements being undertaken. Not so, however, along the lines of our armies farther South. Here the rebels were being severely punished in all directions. Sherman and his gallant soldiers had successfully made that memorable "March to the Sea," cutting through the shell of the confederacy and revealing its hollowness by moving entirely through its centre and emerging on the outer side; while, on land and sea, victory everywhere perched upon our banners, bringing gratifying assurances that

"this cruel war" was very near its end. The spring campaign would surely "wind it up."

About the middle of February Gen. W. S. Hancock relieved Sheridan in command of the troops in the Valley; who, with a cavalry force of ten thousand men, went whirling through the Shenandoah on a destructive raid, towards Lynchburg. Pouncing upon Early at Staunton and Waynesboro, he captured sixteen hundred prisoners and an immense amount of property; destroyed railroads, canals, etc.; burned up everything valuable he could not bring away; and, after working havoc for three weeks in the heart of the enemy's country, he reported "for duty," on the Pamunkey River, March 19th. Five days later he had formed a junction with the Army of the Potomac, near Petersburg, and, as was his habit, was "just in the nick of time" to take a hand in the contemplated "effective twist" upon the neck and tail of the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee was not slow to see the trap being prepared for him, and made a desperate effort to escape, in the general assault upon Fort Steadman, March 25th. The rebels were repulsed, with double the loss they were able to inflict. And, just here, Grant concluded to "open the ball" and keep it "humming." The troops were at once moved upon Dinwiddie Court House, and later, upon historic "Five Forks," a strategic point strongly fortified and regarded by the rebels as of supreme importance. Five Forks, as every student of history well knows, was gallantly carried by Sheridan April 1st. The enemy was completely routed and driven six miles, with a loss of many in killed and wounded, and as many as six thousand prisoners. Immediately the combined and general assault upon the enemy's lines and works was opened and incessantly continued, night and day, until the final end was reached. Soon it became apparent that Lee must abandon Richmond and Petersburg. Just where he would go was not so clear; but Lynchburg was thought to be one of the points he had in view; and this very general impression opened up the way for a very slight participation in the closing campaign by the Army of the Shenandoah, and with it the Fifteenth Maine.

The Fifteenth, with Gen. Hancock's entire command, was put upon the road April 4th, and started upon a lively march through Winchester, in the direction of Lynchburg, some eighty miles away. But only a day's march was accomplished; as, meeting us on the way, came the joyful tidings that Richmond and Petersburg were ours; and a little later that Lee and Grant were in correspondence relative to the terms upon which the surrender of Lee's army would be accepted.

As is now well known, the Union army occupied Richmond April 3d; the very day upon which the Fifteenth received its orders to move upon Lynchburg. Four days later Grant addressed that historic epistle to Lee,

which culminated in the formal surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia April 9th. That Lee had been apprised of the close proximity to his lines of the old Nineteenth Corps is not a matter of record; nevertheless, that, like Zaccheus of old, he "made haste to come down" very soon after we had taken up the line of march in his direction, is now conceded to have been vastly more discreet than stubborn resistance would have been! Though the surrender of Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia was by no means the closing event of the war, it was clearly the "beginning of the end." The "king's row" had been broken at a vital point, and every subsequent movement upon the military checker-board was made with the full assurance that the "game was up" with the confederacy, and the final clearing of the boards was but a question of time. Lee's surrender, found Sherman vigorously pressing the rebel Gen. Joe Johnston, in North Carolina. When the news of the disaster to Lee reached Johnston, (Apr. 14th) Sherman had driven him through Raleigh, and some distance beyond. Correspondence was at once opened which resulted in the immediate cessation of hostilities, though the formal surrender was not made until April 26th. The terms accepted by Sherman were not satisfactory in Washington, and, they being set aside, Sherman, under instructions, exacted and obtained the same terms given by Grant to Lee. At about the same time the movement from New Orleans and Pensacola against Mobile had culminated in the capture of the forts and the occupation of the harbor and city. Other minor expeditions had met with like success, and as early as May 4th our old foe of the Red River country—Gen. Dick Taylor—was left as the senior officer commanding confederate troops east of the Mississippi. He surrendered on that date. A week later Jefferson Davis was captured while attempting to escape from the country. Gen. Kirby Smith, on the Rio Grande and along the Texas coast alone remained with armed troops to defy the national authority; and it was not until May 26th that this haughty Southron was brought into subjection. Indeed, so tardy was Smith in accepting the inevitable, that it was found necessary to organize an expedition comprising fifty-three thousand men, under Sheridan, with Weitzel, Logan, etc., as subordinates, and dispatch them to Texas by the coast, and also to Shreveport and Little Rock, Ark., the fear being that the rebels intended an alliance with Mexican desperadoes, to prolong the war indefinitely. The last actual armed conflict between Confederate and Union troops occurred near Brazos Santiago, on the Texas coast, May 13th, not far from the spot where the Fifteenth landed during the Texas expedition, in the fall of 1863. Texas, very appropriately, proved to be "the last ditch," thus confirming our early prejudices as to that "God-forsaken" section of our common country!

The Fifteenth, with its corps, was speedily halted at the reception



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of the capture of the town of Xalapa, August 20, 1847, and the capture of the city of Mexico, September 13, 1847, to his final departure from the army in 1848. He was never again to see the country he had so bravely defended. A year after his departure from Mexico he was elected to the position of Major-General in the State of North Carolina, and by his efforts the State was saved by the timely arrival of the United States troops at the critical moment of the crisis.

His military career is described in detail in the first volume of this history, and his military and political career in the second. His services in the Seminole War, the Mexican War, and the Civil War, and his efforts in the cause of the Freedmen's Bureau, are all described in detail.

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His worth, with his corps, was specially noted at the



1 Lt. Owen, C.	6 Cop. Bennett, E.	11 Pv. Grass, G.	15 Seg. L. V. Gilmore, I.
2 Cop. Hanson, D.	7 J. W. Pickles, E.	12 Seg. Russell, H.	16 Cop. Harrington, I.
3 Cop. Winslow, D.	8 A. H. W. Long, E.	13 Mel Tibbetts, H.	17 Seg. Sprague, K.
4 Lt. Orcutt, C.	9 Sgt. R. Corbett, F.	14 Seg. J. W. Skillin, H.	18 Hos. Stew. Holmes.
5 Chas. Cunningham, E.	10 Cop. J. S. Marsh, G.		

Group—Bryant Walker, Mead, Nichols, Coan, Capen, Cobb, Shorey, Whitmore, Murray, Dyer, Washburn, Patten, Rolfe



of the glorious news, and, as the reports were confirmed, we returned to Winchester. The wildest enthusiasm everywhere prevailed; and, amidst demonstrations of joy of every description imaginable, we retraced our steps to Winchester, followed hourly by messages and rumors detailing the eventful drama being enacted at Appomattox, only a few miles away.

The Fifteenth, with its corps, tarried about Winchester until April 19th; when, with nearly all the troops in the Valley, we were ordered to Washington. It was while moving in that direction—at Harper's Ferry—that the shocking tidings reached us of the tragic and dastardly murder of our idolized chief magistrate—ABRAHAM LINCOLN—and the atrocious attempt, by the blood-red hand of the assassin, at the overthrow of the government at Washington. We cannot describe—but no surviving comrade will fail to recall—the poignant grief which enshrouded the entire army at the appalling tidings, following so closely upon the jubiliations at the joyful tidings which had reached us but a few days before. It is to the infinite credit of the American soldiery that those angry mutterings, between clenched teeth, on the part of the more thoughtless, was not permitted to assume form in some demonstration calculated to summarily avenge so atrocious a crime. When nearing the Relay House, at Annapolis, it was the mournful privilege of the members of the Fifteenth to alight from the train, and, forming in line, to stand with uncovered head and in reverential awe, while the funeral train bearing the remains of the martyred President slowly rolled by, on the way to the final resting place, at Springfield, Illinois.

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## CHAPTER XXXI.

### SIX WEEKS AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL, WHERE THE FIFTEENTH TAKES IN THE GREAT REVIEW.

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THE MILITARY HOSTS GATHER ABOUT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.—WASHINGTON LITERALLY SWARMING WITH VETERAN SOLDIERS.—THE GRAND REVIEW OF THE UNION ARMIES ON THE EVE OF MUSTER-OUT.—BUT FIFTEENTH "JOHNNIES" DON'T GO "MARCHING HOME" JUST NOW.—DWIGHT'S DIVISION AGAIN ORDERED SOUTH.—MUSTER-OUT OF THE FIFTEENTH'S ONE-YEAR RECRUITS, OF 1864.

**W**HILE the closing scenes of the Great War Drama were being enacted upon remote fields, the military hosts in Virginia and at adjacent stations were concentrated about the national capital; not, happily, for its defence, but to join in celebrating the dawn of Peace. Immediately following the surrender of Lee orders to that effect had been issued to the Army of the Potomac; and to Sherman's Army, in North Carolina, when the terms of surrender of Johnston's Army had

finally been agreed upon. The Army of the Shenandoah, with the Fifteenth and the Division of the Nineteenth Corps with which it was serving, reached Washington April 21st; encamping at Tennallytown, some three miles from the Capitol Building. The troops made several changes of camp-ground while about Washington, by way of variety. Gen. Dwight was the commander, and managed to change our designation to that of "Dwight's Division." Brave old Emory, so long our Division commander, parted company with us in the Valley, much to our regret. By the latter part of April, or the first week in May, Washington was literally swarming with troops, the great armies of Meade, Hancock, Sherman, and other smaller commands, all being encamped about the city.

It was truly a magnificent spectacle—such as has rarely been witnessed in the life-time of the average citizen. Happy the veteran soldier, who, having patiently endured the hardships and privations of three-and-a-half years of war, was now, at its close, spared to be an actor in these exhilarating events, and a partaker of the cordial greetings of the assembled multitudes; who, with cheery words, mottoes, bunting, and floral offerings of exquisite device and expressiveness, had come out to welcome the soldier-boys as they returned from the wars, and to enthrone them, as they justly deserved to be, as "the saviours of the republic." Verily, as was said anciently as to Pisgah's Mount, "it was good to be there."

Arriving early upon the ground and tarrying about six weeks, the Fifteenth boys were thus given a veritable "pic-nic." The military duty was light and varied and for the most part very congenial. The trial of the conspirators implicated in the atrocious crime of the assassination of Lincoln, was in progress while we were in the city, calling for more or less guard, patrol and "salutation" duty; but this was far from irksome, since a "detail for guard" anywhere along the approaches to the building in which the trial of the conspirators was being held, afforded opportunities for catching a glimpse of distinguished no less than disreputable people, which of itself was adequate compensation for any drudgery attaching to the service. It was quite an honor to "salute" the distinguished generals comprising the court, and none the less so to frown upon the wretched vagabonds attending under compulsion as witnesses and prisoners—all of whom, as a rule, were in exceedingly bad odor with the Union soldier and loyal people everywhere. Then the numerous opportunities afforded of visiting the public buildings and grounds and the thousand and one attractions in and about the city, and of meeting with people of note in both military and civil life, were privileges very keenly prized.

But the all-absorbing event of this period was the Grand Review of the Union Armies, on the eve of their disbandment, at the practical close of the war. It was the crowning event of that eventful period; and

thousands, from all sections of the North and West, had flocked to Washington to witness a spectacle at once so grand in itself and so expressive in its import. The Review occupied two full days, and it is estimated that no less than two hundred thousand veteran soldiers participated. The President and Cabinet, Lieut.-Gen. Grant, and all the notable people of every grade of civil and military life, were upon the various platforms, the stand of the reviewing officers being upon the grounds immediately fronting the presidential mansion. The Army of the Potomac held the boards the first day (May 23d) and from early morning to late in the afternoon the veteran troops moved down Pennsylvania Avenue and by the reviewing stand, receiving, on all hands, the enthusiastic plaudits of the people. The broad avenue, and every house-top, door, window, and nook and corner of the adjacent grounds, were literally teeming with humanity clad in its holiday garb, while profuse and appropriate decorations lined the way, all combining to produce a festal picture such as Washington has rarely witnessed, before or since. Gen. Meade, of the Army of the Potomac, commanded on the first day, and Gen. Sherman on the second. The troops were formed with their several distinctive corps of artillery, cavalry, infantry, engineers, signal brigades, etc., presenting thoroughly organized armies, fully equipped for active field service. The troops marched in column by company, very closely massed, thus crowding a very large body of soldiers into a comparatively small area of territory. The Fifteenth, in Dwight's Division, was an annex of the Ninth Corps, marching well up to the right of the infantry line, and at least preceding the Sixth, Fifth and Second Corps. The column was some six hours in passing the reviewing stand; the route being from the Capitol Building to the White House. Every inch of the route presented some pleasing spectacle calculated to divert the attention and subject rigid military discipline to a severe test. Filing around the Capitol Building, at the commencement of the march, those soul-inspiring and expressive mottoes of welcome met the gaze; then the little angelic army of two thousand daintily-clad school-children, on the steps of the Capitol, chanting melodies of cordial greeting; supplemented by the array of silver-haired men and matrons, ingeniously arranged into striking tableaux—these, and innumerable other attractions, rendered very difficult of observance the familiar tactical routine, "*head erect, eyes to the front,*" especially when it was known that President Johnson, Gen. Grant, Gen. Parker, his full-blood Indian chief of staff, and other notables whom the boys were extremely anxious to see, happened to be located in an entirely different direction.

The Fifteenth, of course, "did itself proud" upon this great occasion, and, assuredly, proved no discredit to the Old Nineteenth Corps, of which it was the distinguished representative. Every officer and enlisted man

appeared at his best, and exhibited to good advantage the soldierly bearing and superb marching qualities which had ever characterized the old regiment.

On the following day the veteran army of Sherman was reviewed. It was substantially a continuation of the programme of the preceding day, somewhat diversified by the manners and customs of the Western soldier as contrasted with those from the East. The "free and easy" order of march was a distinguishing characteristic. The "bummer" feature, too, was everywhere conspicuous, the "confiscated" pigs, turkeys, chickens, etc., with the inevitable "contraband" in family groups, being ingeniously sandwiched among the troops in a manner strikingly suggestive of the march of an army through an enemy's country. The battle-scarred veterans, the banners tattered and torn in storms of leaden hail, illustrious generals and corps and detachments which had made a national reputation on account of especially meritorious services, all received special recognition from the multitudes thronging the line of march from morning until evening. The dramatic scene upon the reviewing stand, where Gen. Sherman, in the presence of his army and of the assembled thousands, haughtily withdrew his hand from the proffered courteous greeting of Secretary of War Stanton—his superior officer, and against whom he had a grievance, not wholly without reason—was one of the decided sensations of the occasion, in the vicinity of the reviewing stand.

The Great Review was in all respects a grand success; and the Fifteenth's historian has ever taken great pride in the fact that the dear old regiment "was in it."

But, "After the Great Review, What?" Ah! that was not quite so satisfactory. The Review was typical of "the close of the war," to be sure, and the boys had already been chanting the sweet refrain, "When Johnnie Goes Marching Home;" but, somehow, the Fifteenth "Johnnies" didn't seem to march in that direction. In one sense the war was at an end and our contract with the government had been fully discharged; but in another, and a vital one, "the end was not yet." And while of the nearly one million soldiers borne upon the rolls of the army at the close of actual hostilities, a very large proportion were at once mustered out of service, or dispatched to their several States for that purpose, it was reserved for the Maine Fifteenth and a number of other regiments of the Old Nineteenth Corps, to return to the Far South, and take a hand in the solution of that difficult and intricate problem, "Reconstruction." Yes! there was murmuring, and a deal of it, too; but, all the same, there seemed no other course than to patiently submit to the inevitable, and, like good soldiers, to obey orders as cheerfully as possible, under the circumstances. We had put in three years or so of good service in the Gulf States, and were probably

good for an additional three years if the government really required it.

Towards the latter part of May a general order was issued instructing the immediate muster-out of all enlisted men whose term of service expired prior to October 1st, 1865; and these were the only members of the Fifteenth which seem to have been favorably affected by the much-heralded "close of the war." The men thus discharged were the 1864 one-year's recruits. They had enlisted in August and September for the most part, and, but for the generosity of the government, might have been retained three and four months longer. About one hundred and eleven were mustered out in this detachment, materially decreasing the membership of our regimental family and depriving us of the company of some "right down good fellows" on our Southern expedition.

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## CHAPTER XXXII.

### THE FIFTEENTH SPENDS A YEAR IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE FIFTEENTH TAKES THE NORTH STAR BUT SAILS SOUTHWARD.—AT SAVANNAH, GA.—THENCE TO GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA.—A UNIQUE SITUATION AND VERY PECULIAR SERVICE DEVOLVING UPON THE MILITARY.—VARIOUS EXCITING INCIDENTS.—THE FIFTEENTH MOVES FROM POINT TO POINT AND COVERS A GOODLY PORTION OF THE PALMETTO STATE.—VERY EXCITING INCIDENTS IN WESTERN SOUTH CAROLINA.—THE THRILLING STORY GIVEN ONLY IN OUTLINE.—THE MUSTER-OUT OF THE 1865 ONE-YEAR RECRUITS.—THE FIFTEENTH ORDERED TO CHARLESTON, S. C., FOR FINAL MUSTER-OUT.

**U**NLIKE almost any other volunteer regiment of the Union Army, the Maine Fifteenth boasts an exceedingly rich experience in the Far South during an entire year following the close of the war—so varied, so adventurous, and at times so exciting, that it seems more like a thrilling romance than an unvarnished record of regimental history. We are able only to present a brief sketch of the more salient events of the year's experiences.

The Southern expedition only comprised two brigades, having no connection with each other. The First Separate Brigade was commanded by Gen. Geo. L. Beal, and comprised the 15th and 29th Me., 1st Me. Battalion, and the 30th Mass. In the Second Separate Brigade, moving South at the same time, was the 30th Maine, with which had been merged the re-enlisted men of the 13th Maine. Old corps and division designations had been broken up, and nearly all the old regiments ordered home for final muster-out. The two brigades left Washington June 1st, with



orders to proceed to Savannah, Ga., reporting to Maj. Gen. Q. A. Gilmore, commanding the Department of the South; the Fifteenth embarking on steamer *North Star*. After an uneventful voyage the troops concentrated at Savannah and disembarked. The Second Brigade was distributed about Georgia; while after tarrying a week or ten days, the First Brigade was dispatched to Eastern South Carolina, Georgetown being the point of debarkation—where the Fifteenth arrived, by steamer *Ariel*, June 15th.

The city of Georgetown was a most uninviting and dilapidated appearing place, situated on Sampit Creek, some dozen or fifteen miles inland from the sea. Though a thrifty lumber business centered here, the general surroundings savored of poverty and desolation, and were so suggestive of “the fever and shakes” that even the buildings gave evidence of having partaken of the epidemic—having “shaken” themselves entirely free of paint, clap-boards and shingles.

Gen. Beal had come clothed with authority as commander of the “Military District of Eastern South Carolina,” as well as of his “First Separate Brigade.” His command embraced all the territory of the nine eastern counties of the State, with headquarters at Darlington, over two hundred miles distant from Georgetown. To effectually cover this vast territory with one small brigade of troops, necessitated not only a very “thin spreading” of the soldiers but considerable tact in the assignment of officers. The Fifteenth was given the populous counties of Georgetown and Horry, which comprised a separate Sub-district, with Col. Dyer as commanding officer; headquarters at Georgetown. Gen. Beal, as soon as the assignments had been made, moved on up the Pedee River, with all the other troops; and also taking along with him Lieut.-Col. Murray as Provost Marshal General of the District.

The territory occupied by the Fifteenth was a populous rice-growing region, the negroes outnumbering the whites three to one in Georgetown District; while in the adjoining county of Horry the “poor-whites,” or “Crackers,” largely predominated. The aggregate population was not far from forty thousand—ignorant and vicious as a general rule—the intelligent element of property holders numbering not much over one thousand; and this thickly-settled population was absolutely without the protection of law, save as it was provided by the military authorities. Civil law and all the ordinary machinery of civil government had gone down with the rebellion, and could only be re-established by the organization of state governments, under the supervision of the authorities at Washington. It was a very peculiar situation, and but for the intervention of the military chaos must have held high carnival.

We had hardly arrived at Georgetown—and this was but six weeks after the surrender of Gen. Joe Johnston’s rebel army—when a large dele-

gation of rice-planters came to the commanding officer at Georgetown, in great consternation, to beg for military protection. They represented that property, life, and family-security, were in jeopardy in the interior, on account of an impending up-rising among the negroes on the great plantations along the river. The freed people, they claimed, were thoroughly imbued with the idea that, under the new order of things, "the earth belonged to the saints—and *they* were the saints." The lands and property of the whites were to be taken possession of and equitably divided among the negroes. The head of each negro family was to have a one-hundred-and-sixty-acre farm, a house, a pair of mules, and necessary seed and farming implements. Secret meetings were being held, these doctrines freely discussed, and plans consummated for "dividing the spoils." The matter was investigated, and it was found that there really was some occasion for alarm; so much so that it was deemed necessary to send a special messenger to the scene of the difficulty before the troops took up their stations, with the purpose of dissuading the negroes from any attempt to take the law into their own hands. The writer was detailed upon this delicate mission. Taking with him two trusty non-commissioned officers, he canvassed the entire cluster of great rice-plantations on the river, spending nearly a week upon the tour. It was an exceedingly rich experience! The whites had fled in consternation and the negroes possessed the land, plantation-houses and all. Rich furniture, clothing, books from the library, etc., adorned the negro cabins, with marble-slabs from the centre tables in use as door-steps in front of the quarters of the colored people. It was a picture of desolation—sad yet so flavored with the ridiculous as to excite levity. The "missionaries" were received with very great consideration, given a royal reception, courteously listened to, questioned, and implicitly believed in as the bearers of the genuine message as to the meaning of Emancipation. The negroes had been cruelly deceived and shuddered somewhat at the demolition of their air-castles, but shouted joyously and enthusiastically as they were assured that the relation of master and slave no longer existed in this country. When the speaker went from one plantation to another, the negroes followed in crowds, "cutting across lots," giving the missionaries some very large congregations further down the river. Such shouting, singing, and joyful demonstrations, are rarely listened to. There was, it is needless to say, no "uprising" or "insurrection," the colored people implicitly obeying every order issued by the military authorities. And this could hardly be said of all of their former masters.

Very soon after the incident above recorded Co. B was stationed permanently at Plantersville, covering this vast negro population, its quarters being in a house in the "piney woods" settlement. Co. A was sent to Conwaysboro', in Horry District; Co. E to the Waccamaw sea-shore;

Co. G to McLellansville ; the remaining companies going into camp some four miles out of Georgetown village, under the immediate command of Maj. J. H. Whitmore.

The duty devolving upon both officers and soldiers was unique, adventurous, and oft-times quite exciting, and so diversified that it was difficult to determine whether we were civil or military rulers. We were as absolute in power as Russia's Czar, though always tempering justice with mercy. At first law and equity were administered off-hand, without the aid of judge or jury ; later provost courts, with their judges and marshals, were established, with military commissions to try the higher grade of offences ; when at least the semblance of legal forms was maintained, though justice was meted out with tolerable celerity and certainty all the same. Nearly all of our officers, first and last, became judges, marshals, etc., and so familiar with the legal forms and procedure of the courts that almost any of them might easily have gained admission to the "bar" upon their return home. Included in the scope of our work were the administering of the amnesty-oath-of-allegiance to (un)repentant rebels who were allowed to subscribe to it—and these embraced the entire white populace, with few exceptions ; the supervision of all contracts made between the whites and colored people for working the plantations, generally "on shares ;" the adjudication of all disputes of whatever nature ; the supervision of the laborers and the enforcement of a "fair deal" between employer and employed ; the equitable division of the crops, when harvested ; and, in short, every conceivable duty growing out of this peculiar situation. Among the most amusing and ridiculous of these was the attempt to establish a code of marriage and divorce laws among a people who had hitherto known as little of the existence of such relations as the cattle in the planter's stock-yard. By general order all colored people living together as man and wife at a date specified, were declared to be man and wife as fully and lawfully as if regularly married ; and a system of complicated divorce regulations were prescribed, which the provost marshals were required to administer. This involved the very delicate and intricate problems of classification and gathering into family groups of offspring ; the custody of children in case of separation, etc. Of an entirely different character was the disagreeable task thrust upon one of our officers in his capacity as provost marshal—that of erecting a gallows and publicly hanging two men convicted of conspiracy and murder by a military commission. True Grover Cleveland once had a similar experience, yet it was a revolting duty nevertheless. But to enumerate a tithe of these experiences would require a volume double the size of this ; which has already grown to unseemly proportions.

No material change was made in the location of the several companies until the first of August ; when D, H and I, were moved two hundred

miles up river and located, respectively, at Cheraw and Chesterfield in Chesterfield District and at Bennettsville in Marlboro' District; Asst. Surgeon Holmes accompanying in medical charge. At about this time Col. Dyer succeeded Gen. Beal in command of the Military District of Eastern South Carolina, headquarters at Darlington. With the exception of D, H, and I, all the Fifteenth companies remained in and about Georgetown District until the latter part of October.

While at Georgetown the Fifteenth was compelled to part company with one of its most popular officers of the old line, and more recently promoted to the field—Maj. James H. Whitmore. By reason of impaired health, incident to his long service in malarial sections, he was compelled to tender his resignation, and was discharged in July, (1865.) Maj. Whitmore had been with us as a commissioned officer from the earliest organization, serving faithfully and gallantly for three and a half years, in the various grades of lieutenant, captain and major, and performing considerable staff duty, as acting adjutant, assist. adjutant gen., etc. "Little Whit." was a universal favorite, and his old associates parted with him with very keen regret. Maj. Whitmore was succeeded by Capt. John R. Coates, who was mustered as major Sept. 29th, 1865.

During the earlier period of the Fifteenth's service in Eastern South Carolina the ex-Confederates—more especially the soldier element—were on their good behavior, and, as a rule, cheerfully co-operated with the military in the preservation of order. The rebel soldiers had but just reached home and were very modest in demanding any rights and privileges except those stipulated in their paroles. They freely fraternized with the Union soldiers, and, generally, rendered themselves exceedingly agreeable. The author recalls one noble fellow—a captain of cavalry in the rebel army and a chivalrous gentleman everywhere—who extended many courtesies to our officers in Georgetown District and who even lost his life while generously contributing to our entertainment, by means of a typical South Carolina deer hunt, with trained hounds, drivers, unique hunting calls, etc. The poor fellow—who was master of ceremonies—was thrown from his horse while riding close by the writer's side, and never spoke after he fell. But, as will appear later on, the demeanor of the people was considerably changed upon the gradual development of President Johnson's unfortunate reconstruction policy.

From a sanitary stand-point the Fifteenth's summer sojourn amid the Georgetown marshes was extremely unfortunate. Our soldiers—more especially the unacclimated recruits—wilted under the depressing heat and malaria-impregnated atmosphere, like grain before the sickle. The debilitating effects of the climate, with an unusually pestiferous crop of annoying insects, served to render life a burden; and woe betide he compelled to

make a trip for any purpose after night-fall, during the season of the flowage of the rice-fields. Poison was in the air, and to inhale it was perilous. Quinine, with its inevitable whiskey accompaniment, was prescribed in allopathic doses, even the well regarding it necessary to regularly partake of the vile compound as a precautionary measure. The sick list was exceptionally large. Many deaths occurred and numerous disability discharges were rendered necessary. We had brought South with us (June, 1865) about five hundred and forty-four men—over three hundred of the aggregate “present and absent” on the regimental rolls (849) being absent, sick, prisoners of war, or on detached service. Of the total present there were at one time, at Georgetown alone, over three hundred down with malarial fever of a severe type, while from sixty to seventy-five deaths are reported during the summer months. The Fifteenth’s medical corps at this time comprised Surgeon Higgins and Assistant Surgeon A. A. Holmes; the last mentioned officer having joined us just prior to our departure for South Carolina, at Washington. This medical corps were required to attend the several detached companies, as well as those at Georgetown, and their labors were severe and arduous. At one time, when very much needed, the quinine-supply was exhausted, and, upon urgent personal entreaty, after a trip of two hundred miles for that purpose, Surgeon Higgins was able to procure only two ounces of the precious drug, though a little later his requisitions were more promptly filled, and with decidedly beneficial results. Of about one hundred deaths and seventy disability discharges in 1865-6, a very large proportion are to be attributed to the atmospherical conditions in and about Georgetown District. Rarely, during its entire term of service, was the Fifteenth so unfavorably located. The three companies which left for Chesterfield and Marlboro’, in August, found a decided improvement as to climatic conditions. Co. A, at Conwaysboro, and Co. B, at Plantersville, was somewhat less exposed than other companies.

About the middle of September the Old Fifteenth sustained a sore affliction in the departure of its idolized commander, Col. Isaac Dyer—the “father of the regiment” for nearly the entire period of its history, to the date of discharge. The three years’ term of his commission as Colonel had expired, and, the regiment’s ranks having again become so depleted as not to admit of the re-muster of an officer of so high grade as Colonel, there was no alternative but for him to retire. There is no need to reproduce the Colonel’s record, inasmuch as it runs parallel with the history of the old regiment from the date he assumed command as Lieut.-Colonel in 1861 to his final muster-out, September, 1865. He was universally beloved alike by officers and enlisted men, and ever commanded the respect of his superior officers. Exercising many and responsible commands at various times, including that of brigades in the field, military posts, districts, etc.,

he ever acquitted himself with credit, and with honor to the regiment with which he had been so long identified. Col. Dyer certainly retired with a proud record, absolutely untarnished.

Immediately upon the retirement of Col. Dyer, Lieut.-Col. Murray was relieved from staff-duty and rejoined the regiment (in October.) He was commissioned Colonel, but was unable to be mustered as such, owing to the regiment's depleted ranks. He was assigned the command of a Sub-district, with headquarters at Cheraw, and all the companies within Georgetown District were ordered to concentrate at Darlington, with the idea of again bringing the regiment together within one Sub-district. The companies in the Georgetown District very gladly hailed this order, leaving that malaria-infected region Oct. 23d, by steamer, and reaching Darlington two days later. Col. Murray, with regimental headquarters and Co.'s A, D, G, H, and I, remained in and about Darlington and Cheraw until the latter portion of December; the class of service not being essentially different from that in Georgetown District.

During the entire period of our service in South Carolina a large number of our officers were on detached and special service, performing responsible and in some instances very delicate duties, more properly appertaining to the civil magistrate than the military commander. So far as possible we shall mention the special assignments at the close of this chapter.

Our narrative now seems to lead us to a slight diversion from regimental headquarters, for the purpose of following the fortunes of five companies which—in October—were ordered to another portion of the State.

The detachment which was withdrawn from Georgetown and ordered to Darlington, had hardly arrived at the latter point, when a telegraphic summons was received directing the dispatching of five companies to the Western South Carolina Military District, reporting to Gen. Adelbert Ames, at Columbia. Co.'s B, C, E, F and K, were designated, with Maj. Coates commanding. The detachment left Darlington Oct. 29th. After a weary trip, by train and hard marches over rough roads, it arrived at Columbia Oct. 31st. A few days later the entire detachment proceeded to Chesterville, the headquarters of a Sub-district comprising a group of five counties then garrisoned by an Ohio regiment. Reaching Chesterville November 5th, Maj. Coates assumed command, announced a Sub-district staff, and assigned the several companies to the various districts adjacent, C remaining at Chester. Co.'s B and F were stationed at Unionville; E, Spartansburg; and K, at Yorkville. These posts were remote from Sub-district headquarters, thirty and forty miles distant in most instances, and the country covered was in considerable commotion, requiring the sternest discipline. A few weeks after the companies had reached their several stations Maj. Coates was relieved from the command of the Sub-district by

order of Gen. Ames, and Capt. H. A. Shorey—who had but just rejoined the detachment in Western South Carolina—placed in charge of the Sub-district.

The situation throughout the mountain districts at this period was decidedly turbulent and unsatisfactory—radically dissimilar to that encountered in other portions of the State. The Johnsonian reconstruction policy had been getting in its mischievous work! For months crime and outlawry had been alarmingly prevalent, and the infamous organizations of “night-riders,” later known as the “Ku-Klux,” were holding high carnival. These lawless bands were then known as “Slickers,” were thoroughly organized, armed and mounted, and were perambulating the country by night, terrorizing the negroes, and by threats, brutality, and even murder, endeavoring to impress upon the negro mind the idea that to enter the employment of another than his former master was a misdemeanor, certain to be punished with severity. The *modus operandi* of the “Slickers” was to assemble at some designated place, disguised, ride to the negro quarters where it was deemed desirable to inflict punishment, surround the negro huts, call the victims out, one by one, hustle them off to some secluded spot, and proceed to “discipline.” The favorite mode of punishment was to strip the victim to the waist, tie him up, and inflict upon the bare body such number of lashes as the leader of the gang should direct. In aggravated cases the negro was shot dead; hanging was frequently resorted to; and in a number of instances the dead body was left suspended from the limb of a tree near the roadside, riddled with bullets, where it remained for days and weeks as a spectacular menace to the negroes of the neighborhood! Flogging and the most barbarous treatment were nightly occurrences, and the catalogue of brutal murders was so long as to almost stagger belief. At the first inception of this “chivalrous” plan of local self-government, the entire white population seemed in league with the regulators, to such an extent that evasion, lying, and downright perjury, was unscrupulously practiced to screen the perpetrators; and average public sentiment appeared to sanction the outrages. Only negro testimony was available in any cases brought before military tribunals for investigation, and this was given generally at very great hazard to the witnesses. Somewhat later, when the military force had become strengthened and seemed able to afford adequate protection to well-disposed citizens, there was a slight improvement in this respect, and an attempt was made to establish the theory that the outrages were perpetrated by the lawless classes, without the assent or sympathy of the better portion of society. Nevertheless a reign of terror had long existed, and hundreds of innocent negroes had been cruelly murdered within the few months preceding our coming to Western South Carolina. From a careful and thorough personal investigation, made as a

special commissioner appointed by order of the commander of the Department, the author is enabled to speak intelligently upon this subject. Only small squads of soldiers then occupied the country, and these were comparatively helpless. Now we were a trifle stronger numerically, and were better prepared to enforce due respect for the laws of the land; though, as a matter of fact, with infantry soldiers less than fifty men to a county, and these thirty and forty miles from other military support, we were hardly in sufficient force to warrant us in being especially pugnacious. In Union and Spartansburg Districts the outlaws had become exceedingly bold—even after our occupancy of that section, in one or two instances, having audaciously ridden into the villages and fired upon our soldiers in the streets. In Union District a desperado named James G. Fernandez headed the outlaws; while in Spartansburg, the adjoining district, one Green Brown was the recognized leader of the Slickers. The Fernandez party had assaulted a detachment of Co. B, at Unionville, wounding Private Josiah K. Rollins by a pistol-shot. At such audacity Gen. Ames of course became thoroughly enraged, and he determined upon the most vigorous measures, with the view of effectually asserting the power of the government and its ability to enforce respect and obedience. He summoned Capt. Shorey to Columbia for a personal interview, and in verbal and written instructions emphasized the point that the breaking up of these lawless bands and the arrest and punishment of the leaders, was the chief duty devolving upon us. To that end the commander of the Sub-district was clothed with absolute powers in the premises, including the right to confiscate property, burn buildings, arrest and imprison suspected parties, etc.; much, of course, being left to the discretion of that officer. The campaign was entered upon without delay. A proclamation of outlawry was issued and widely published at once; rewards offered; the residence of Fernandez placed under guard; spies and scouts put upon the trail; and every expedient resorted to calculated to result in the apprehension of the outlaws or any of those aiding and abetting them in their lawless work.

The pursuit of outlaws was relentless and adventurous, extending throughout the entire Sub-District, and vigorously pushed, night and day, for weeks. Many arrests were made of suspected sympathizers, but the outlaws themselves managed to keep out of the reach of our soldiers for a long time, though they were known to be still in the vicinity. Pending the "hunt and chase," Col. Murray arrived at Chester from Cheraw, with regimental headquarters and the other five companies of the Fifteenth. (Dec. 30th.) This relieved Capt. Shorey as commander of the Second Sub-district and enabled him to assume immediate command of the Unionville District, where Fernandez was suspected still to be lurking, secreted



in the mountain districts in the region bordering upon the line between Spartansburg and Union Districts. In due time, happily, our vigilance was rewarded with a happy issue of the campaign. Very late one night a negro came to headquarters and gave information that the desperado we had so long been in search of had stabled his horse for the night at farm-buildings fourteen miles from Unionville. A detachment was speedily put upon the road in that direction under the command of Lieut. J. E. Latham; before daylight the house had been quietly surrounded, with a soldier on guard at every door and window of the main house; the sleepers were aroused at day-break from without, and apprised of the situation, and warned that to attempt to escape would be perilous. Presently Fernandez himself responded to the call by appearing first at a window and then at the back-door, with drawn derringer pistol in hand; he was instantly "covered" by the unerring musket in the hands of Private Wm. C. Allen of Co. B.; the two pulled trigger simultaneously, and when the smoke had cleared away the giant form of the noted outlaw lay prostrate at Allen's feet, lifeless, while the ball from the desperado's revolver had harmlessly entered the earth not far from where the soldier stood when he "drew bead" so effectually upon his antagonist. The desperado had been true to his oft-repeated boast—never to be captured alive—but, nevertheless, his hellish work had been tragically terminated, and a very wholesome lesson taught his associates in crime!

There was, of course, very great commotion when the news of the killing of Fernandez spread through the village and adjacent country. There was a running to and fro; a vinegar-visaged populace; angry mutterings, vague threats, etc. But these were of short duration. The gang mustered with full ranks, armed, and attended the funeral; and that night the cowardly wretches pounced upon the negro quarters of the house where Fernandez had been shot and sought revenge in the cruel murder of a number of negro men, women and children, as a punishment to the negroes for giving information which led to the discovery of the outlaw. A hurried inspection of the garrison when the excitement was at fever heat, revealed the appalling fact that we had at Unionville but thirty men for duty, and on an average less than twenty rounds of ammunition to the man! And supplies nearly forty miles away! Capt. Knight, Provost Judge at the post, with a civilian treasury agent, gallantly volunteered to ride to Chester for the necessary aid; and Lieut.-Col. Murray, ever equal to an emergency, at once returned them to Unionville, *their saddle-bags filled with cartridges*, and at the same time dispatching two companies to reinforce the Unionville garrison. Happily, however, there was no "clash of arms," for the reason, quite likely, that the confederates of the dead desperado imagined the force at Unionville, at the time of the shooting of

Fernandez, much stronger than it really was.

During all this time Capt. Walker, at Spartansburg, had been administering justice, in generous doses, in that district, arresting many of the outlaws, and securing the conviction and sentence of some of the most noted of the Spartansburg night-riders. At all points in the Sub-district most effective work was being done; many "leading citizens" were incarcerated in the jails of the several districts; and the slightest injustice to the freed people was summarily rebuked. As the result of these aggressive measures, a due respect for the military power of the government was soon re-established throughout the entire section, and lawlessness was comparatively unknown throughout the Chester Sub-district.

The transfer of Col. Murray and the five companies with him at Cheraw, to the Chester Sub-district, again brought all the companies of the Fifteenth within one military district; though, it will be understood, this does not imply that the regiment was "closed in mass," upon the color-company. Indeed, we covered a vast area of territory; and, as to the detached companies, the ranking officer must necessarily be a "post commander," since regimental headquarters could only be reached by travelling a distance of from thirty to forty miles, through sparsely settled districts—a journey often rendered necessary, to meet the requirements of the several detachments as to medical and quartermaster supplies. More than one of the commanders of detached posts will recall that they were obliged to provide many of these supplies at their own expense, and for which *they*, at least, have never been reimbursed.

The assignments, after the regiment had become re-united, were as follows :

Lieut.-Col. Murray, with Regimental Headquarters and Co.'s A, D, C and G, at Sub-district headquarters, at Chesterville; Co.'s B and F, at Unionville, Capt. H. A. Shorey commanding; Co. I, at Lancaster, Capt. W. H. Boyce, commanding; Co. E, at Spartansburg, Capt. James E. Walker, commanding; Co. H, at Laurens, Lieut. W. H. Carr, commanding; Co. K, at Yorkville, Capt. Michael Boyce commanding. Surgeon Higgins was at Chester, while Assistant Surgeon Holmes radiated between the various detached posts, making his headquarters with the detachment at Unionville.

The regiment tarried at the stations mentioned above until the middle of April, (1866.) The officers and enlisted men were constantly engaged with the multifarious duties of contract-making, division of crops, litigation, etc., though this service grew gradually lighter and less exciting as the civil governments became rehabilitated. There was, nevertheless, frequent calls upon the military, and the presence of troops seemed an actual necessity for the protection of the freed people and the preservation of order. The health of the command was excellent in the upper counties, the climate being unusually salubrious and the air bracing and invigorating.

While within the Chester District the Fifteenth parted company with that large element of its membership which had joined us as one-year

recruits, in March, 1865; about one hundred and eighty in all. The terms commenced to expire as early as January, though most of them retired in February and March, a few lingering until April. This exodus took nearly fifty per cent. of our membership present for duty, leaving behind, to each company, hardly a respectable platoon. As in other instances already noted, those who remained parted company with the old comrades with very keen regret.

About the middle of April the Fifteenth was again moved still further northward, occupying the eight counties enumerated below, with headquarters at Anderson Court House :

Lieut.-Col. Murray, with Companies A, D and E, at Anderson Court House ; B, detached, at Walhalla, Pickens District ; C, at Newbury Court House ; F, at Greenville ; G, at Orangeburg ; H, at Abbeville ; I, at Camden ; K, at Sumpter.

These locations were chiefly eventful as being extremely pleasant and agreeable, with no duty of any importance, and healthful surroundings; the only drawback being the extreme anxiety of the boys to lay aside "the old blue coat" they had worn so long, and to return to home and the avocations of civil life. The order for muster-out came to be anxiously awaited, with the arrival of every military mail. A full year had now expired since the disbandment of the rebel armies; the work of reconstruction was making fair progress; the "peace proclamation" had been formally issued; and there seemed no valid excuse for longer detaining in service volunteers who had enlisted for a specified term, or "during the war, if sooner ended." These views, very generally entertained, were frequently and forcibly communicated to the military authorities; and finally, after tarrying within the Anderson Sub-district about two months, the long-looked-for and gratifying final muster-out order was issued. It reached us about the middle of June. The boys shouted themselves hoarse, "rallied upon the centre," at Anderson Court House, and on the morning of June 20th, the Fifteenth boys took train for Charleston, S. C., for final muster-out.

During the entire year in South Carolina our officers and soldiers were constantly performing special and delicate duties of every variety and description. Company commanders and subalterns were all pressed into the service, and, at one time and another, nearly all served either as magistrates, post commanders, provost marshals, judges of provost courts, members of military commissions, etc. Officers upon the courts or commissions frequently found themselves, upon very short notice, contending for the mastery with able South Carolina lawyers, and, in their capacity as prosecuting officers for the government, arguing abstruse points of law with attorneys-at-law of high professional standing in the State. Trials for murder, assault with intent to kill, conspiracy, assault and battery, etc., were very frequent, giving our officers very valuable experience in

matters pertaining to criminal law and the forms of procedure in the courts. It is impossible to accurately state all the assignments, but we append a list of those we are able to gather in an examination of the rolls.

- Col. Isaac Dyer.—Commanded the Georgetown Sub-district and afterwards the Military Dist. Eastern South Carolina, until mustered out.
- Lieut. Colonel B. B. Murray.—Served as Provost Marshal Military Dist. of Eastern South Carolina, to August; Provost Marshal General of the Department until October; commanded regiment, and, respectively, the Sub-districts of Darlington, Cheraw, Chester, and Anderson, until order for muster-out.
- Major James H. Whitmore.—Commanded regimental detachment, near Georgetown, June, until his discharge from the service.
- Major John R. Coates.—As captain and later as major, commanded the post at Conwaysboro; regimental detachment at Georgetown; Georgetown Sub-district; Chester Sub-district for a short period; and served considerably on courts martial and military commissions.
- Capt. H. A. Shorey.—Commanded the post at Plantersville; Provost Marshal Georgetown Sub-district, July to October; commanded Fourth Sub-district Western South Carolina and later Union District; special commissioner, by order Gen. Sickles, to investigate charges of brutal treatment of freed people in Northern South Carolina; Judge Advocate Military Commission at Columbia; commander of Pickens District, until final muster out.
- Capt. Joseph A. Clark.—Post Adjutant Georgetown Sub-district; Provost Marshal Chester Sub-district; A. D. C. and A. A. A. Gen., staff Gen. Ames, at Columbia, Dec. '65 to May '66; Provost Judge at Columbia, to date of final muster-out.
- Capt. F. O. S. Howe.—Provost Marshal Darlington, Cheraw, Chester, and Anderson Sub-districts, successively, to date of final muster-out.
- Capt. James Walker.—Commanded Co. E and detached post, near Georgetown; conducted condemned prisoners to Albany (N. Y.) Penitentiary; commanded Spartansburg District, November '65 to May '66; and Co., in Anderson Dist., till mustered out.
- Capt. C. E. Knight.—Commanded Union Dist. for short period; served as Judge Unionville Provost Court; and served on military courts and commissions considerably.
- Capt. Lester Dwinal.—Served as Judge Advocate military commission, June to December; Provost Judge at Chesterville; Judge Advocate general court martial, at Columbia, Jan. to May, '66; commanded Co. G at Orangeburg, till muster-out.
- Capt. Alonzo Coan.—Provost Marshal Georgetown Sub-district to July 5, '65; member Superior Provost Court at Cheraw; A. D. C. staff Gen. Ames, at Columbia; member Military Commission at Columbia, etc.
- Capt. John E. Callaghan.—Commanded Co. I, and detached post of Bennettsville, Marlboro Dist., to January, 1866, when he resigned.
- Capt. W. H. Boyce.—Served on various important assignments and commanded Co. I at Marlboro Dist. and other points, until muster-out.
- Capt. Michael Boyce.—Commanded Co. K and various detached posts, including York Dist., until muster-out.
- Capt. James N. Martin.—Commanded Co. A, and Conway Dist; several detached posts; served on military commissions, etc.
- Lieut. W. H. Carr commanded Laurens Dist. for a considerable period; Lieuts. C. E. Graves, P. F. McCann, M. B. Hanning, B. F. Owen, and others, served with their companies and more or less on military courts; Lieuts. J. H. Lord, Henry S. Rich, James Rideout, James E. Knight, J. E. Latham, and indeed all the officers of that period, were efficient in the management of Freedman's Bureau affairs; while Lieuts. Orcutt, Fitzgerald, Story and Wilson, served as adjutant, assistant adjutant general, officers of commissary and quartermaster's department, etc. Acting Adjutant Low and Acting Quartermaster Elias A. Berry, served considerably as Post Adjutant and Post Quartermaster, at various stations; while Surgeon Higgins and Assistant Surgeon Holmes, officiated as medical directors, surgeons in charge, etc., of Post and Regimental Hospitals, during the entire year.

The service of non-commissioned officers and privates was equally arduous and varied, covering every imaginable class of duty, but, unfortunately, there is no data on record from which these assignments can be accurately ascertained.

It has already been shown in this chapter, that the regiment had become very much depleted during the year's service in South Carolina; but few will be prepared for the statement that in the last weeks of its

eventful history the Old Fifteenth had really shrunk its membership to an aggregate, present and absent, of *two hundred and forty-seven*. That seemed to be the precise situation. With the recruits which had joined us in the spring of 1865 we were able to muster, at about the time of leaving Washington for the South, something like eight hundred names, present and absent. The rolls for July 31st, 1865, show an aggregate membership of 762; 146 absent and 616 present. The depleting effects of that terribly fatal summer in Georgetown is shown by the fact that the next return accessible—Nov. 1, 1865—gives the aggregate present and absent as 620; of whom but 332 were “present,” and one-fifth of these on the sick list. Of the 288 absentees, 183 were marked “absent sick.” In short, the record shows that during the year our death losses averaged about one in every six with us in the after-the-war Southern expedition, while one in seven of the remnant became so broken down in health as to necessitate a discharge, based upon surgeon’s certificate of disability—additional evidence that it was the Deadly Malaria rather than rebel bullets which depleted our armies and filled unnumbered soldiers’ graves, in the far-off South-land! By the commencement of 1866 our membership had shrunk to 531; two months later, to 477. This brought us to the period of the departure of the large body of 1865 recruits—whose retirement, and the clearing of the rolls incident to the approaching muster-out, left us, as stated, with an aggregate, *present and absent*, of two hundred and forty-seven names. As near as we are able to ascertain, the shrinkage in membership since the period of balancing the books, shown on page 151, (Jan., 1865) were from the causes following:

Died in the Service,.....	98
Discharged for Disability,.....	74
Transferred, for various reasons, .....	47
Discharged by reason Expiration of Term,.....	188
Dropped from Rolls as Deserters, .....	126 *
Total Shrinkage, .....	533

\* It is proper to say, in explanation of the unusually large number of names dropped from our rolls as “Deserters,” that in many instances the charge is grossly unjust. There were with us no such desertions as by military law are made punishable by death; yet the odium attaches all the same, upon the rolls, to an unintentional absence beyond the time-limit of the furlough as to actual desertion in the face of the enemy. Very many of the Fifteenth “Deserters” are those who enlisted, either in 1861 or as recruits, and never reported for other duty than that of “muster;” while a considerable number are those who re-enlisted as Veterans, received their Veteran Furloughs much later than they had anticipated, and, living contiguous to the New Brunswick line, never re-joined the regiment. Then, after the war, when most of the volunteer regiments were being mustered-out, many of our men conceived the very pernicious idea that the government no longer had lawful claims upon them, and, thus pleading, they “skipped by the light of the moon.” All these causes combined to give us an unenviable Deserter Roll; which, though disreputable, is really rather apparent than real. In many instances the War Department has amended the record and removed the odious charge of Deserter. Of these the following have been brought to our attention:

Jonathan Randall, Jr., Co. A; Alexander Graves, James Roax, James H. Shaw, John T. Walker, and Samuel W. Stratton, Co. C; Asa B. Tuttle, Co. D; Joseph Cyr, Co. G; and Gustavus V. Wilson and Frank E. Stickney, Co. K.

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

## THE FINAL MUSTER-OUT—AND “THE END” OF “THE STORY OF THE MAINE FIFTEENTH!”

AT CHARLESTON, S. C., PREPARING ROLLS.—MUSTERED-OUT, TO DATE JULY 6, 1866.—WE LEAVE FOR NEW YORK; MAKE A CHOLERA ESCAPADE AT HARTS ISLAND; FINALLY SETTLE WITH UNCLE SAM; AND START FOR HOME JULY 14, 1866.—SOME CLOSING OBSERVATIONS, AND “THE END” OF OUR LONG-DRAWN-OUT “STORY.”

UPON reaching Charleston and interviewing the Department Commissary of Musters, it was discovered that the preparation of the muster-out-rolls was a task of considerable magnitude, and likely to consume anywhere from two to three weeks. The fact that our regiment had maintained a continuous regimental history for four and a half years, and borne upon its rolls somewhere in the neighborhood of seventeen hundred names, somewhat complicated the work; as name, description, and military history, of every member of the regiment, past and present, must be given; and five copies of the original roll was to be prepared. As a July recreation in a latitude as far south as Charleston, this was by no means refreshing to contemplate! Nevertheless, inspired by blissful anticipations of a long vacation just beyond, we industriously addressed ourselves to the task in hand. All available clerical material in the ranks was brought into requisition, and for a couple of weeks pen and pencil were our constant companions. The regiment, meanwhile, had been moved over the harbor, to a beautiful spot known as Mount Pleasant, just across from the city, and in full view of objects of historic interest in Charleston Harbor.

Upon careful scrutiny of the rolls, when completed, the following figures were found to represent the regiment's numerical fluctuations, during the entire period of its history, as nearly as can be ascertained:

Whole No. Names on Roll,.....	1682
Died of Disease, killed in action, died of wounds, etc.,.....	339*
Discharged upon Surgeon's Certificate of Disability,.....	296
Discharged by Order, . . . . .	31
Transferred to other regiments or corps, . . . . .	60
Dropped from the Rolls as “Non-Effectives,”.....	57
Dropped from the Rolls as Deserters, . . . . .	192
Absent and unaccounted for at Final Muster-Out,.....	7
Mustered-Out by reason of Expiration of Term, . . . . .	449
Mustered-Out with Regiment at its Final Muster-Out,.....	247
To balance account. . . . .	4

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 1682

\*—— The War Department Statistics give our total death loss, 348.

In the foregoing analysis care is taken to avoid "doubling-up" on account of re-enlistments, the intention being to credit each man with but one term of service, regardless of the number of enlistments or transfers.

The aggregate number of death-losses credited to the Fifteenth in a carefully prepared paper compiled from War Department records, amended to a recent date, is three hundred and forty-eight, including five killed in action or died of wounds. This is nine in excess of our figures; yet, undoubtedly, it is correct. The same paper gives the average aggregate death-loss in twenty-two Maine three-years' regiments, as a little less than three hundred. This average is considerably exceeded by the Fifteenth; while only nine of the twenty-two Maine regiments referred to left more of their brave comrades under the Southern sod, than we! If our nearly three hundred disability discharges be considered in this connection, the extent of the sacrifice made in the country's behalf by the dear old Maine Fifteenth, in its exceptionally prolonged and arduous service in the malarial districts of the South, will be more keenly appreciated.

The Fifteenth was detained in Charleston Harbor just two weeks in the preparation of its final muster-out rolls; being formally mustered-out by Lieut.-Col. Leslie Smith, Commissary of Musters of the Department, July 5th; as of date July 6th, 1866. We immediately took steamer for New York; saluted the stars and stripes proudly floating over Sumpter's shattered walls at about noon of the 5th, and dropped anchor off Castle Garden, New York Harbor, Sunday morning, July 8th. The first boat to board us brought papers containing complete details of that memorable Fourth of July (1866) bon-fire in Portland, (Me.,) and later in the day came the very unpalatable order for the steamer to run up to Hart's Island and there disembark its troops.

But before disembarking an interesting little episode occurred worthy of special mention, and exceedingly creditable to the pluck and executive ability of Col. Murray, our regimental commander. There were in the air vague rumors of the prevalence of cholera upon the island upon which we had been ordered to land; and, coming from a Gulf port, there dawned upon us the terrible suspicion that we were to be *quarantined!* Col. Murray and the medical officers at once instituted an investigation, and, the suspicions appearing well-founded, a little rebellion was at once precipitated! Col. Murray waited upon Gen. Doubleday—the regiment meanwhile being upon the steamer at the wharf—and courteously yet firmly announced his determination to *disobey orders*; he was at once to return to New York city, upon the same steamer which had brought the regiment to Hart's Island! Gen. Doubleday was of course very indignant; dramatically inquired, "How dare you, sir?" etc.; but Col. Murray, heroically assuming the entire responsibility, in an emergency which he considered as fully

warranting such extraordinary conduct, bade the General and his wife adieu, and returned to the steamer. On the way he released Sgt. Hosea Smith (Co. A) from quarantine restraints; and, all being in readiness, ordered the captain to get up steam and return to New York with all possible dispatch. The captain of course refused and was summarily relieved; Col. Murray assumed the functions of skipper and Capt. Frank Howe those of engineer; the lines were loosened; the steamer headed for New York; and the wheels put briskly in motion! The captain then relented and agreed to obey his directions if the Colonel would relieve him of all responsibility as to the matter, which he gladly did. We reached New York at about dark, went ashore, and next day, with the other "immigrants," were assigned quarters at Castle Garden Barracks. Upon reporting the interesting little incident to Gen. Joe. Hooker, and frankly explaining that men who had served the government faithfully nearly five years, had just been mustered-out, and were extremely anxious to reach their homes, could illy afford to take the risks of a cholera-camp-quarantine—the Colonel was assured by "Fighting Joe" that he had *done exactly right!* Just what might have happened had our commanding officer been less courageous, no one is able to predict. At all events, that the Colonel dared disobey a written order to save the men under his command from even possible danger, is infinitely to his credit; and, indeed, quite characteristic of the man.

For some reason, wholly inexplicable to the writer, the regiment was detained in New York seven days, before the arrangements for final payment and discharge could be effected. Payment was, however, made up to July 14th, and transportation furnished to Maine; most of the boys leaving by the trains of that day. On the 18th of July a few of us accompanied Col. Murray to Augusta, and, in a pleasant interview with Gov. Cony, at the Council Chamber, formally returned to the custody of the State the regimental banners, which—entrusted to our keeping in a critical period just *four years, seven months, and eleven days before*—had been faithfully and honorably borne through all these perilous years.

The organization, complete, as finally mustered-out, will be found in full on pages 23-4-5 of the Appendix.

It is somewhat noteworthy that of all the nearly seventeen hundred names appearing upon our roster, earlier or later in our regimental history, the number of those who joined at the organization, and steadfastly endured unto the end, was but *one hundred and seventy-eight*. Of thirty-eight commissioned officers—excluding Capt. Michael Boyce, who had been out of the service for a few months—only Col. Murray and Capt. Shorey remained of "the old guard," nearly all the other officers having entered the service as non-commissioned officers or privates, and been promoted from the ranks. The following is a complete list of "the gallant one-hundred-



and-seventy-eight" referred to, and who, on account of the *enduring qualities* mentioned seem to be entitled to a special grouping :

FIELD AND STAFF.—Lieut.-Col. B. B. Murray, Maj. John R. Coates, Adjutant E. A. Low, Seg. Maj. John D. Blake, Quartermaster Serg. Henry A. Whitney, Com. Serg. George L. Marson, Hos. Stewart Charles P. Storer, Principal Musicians Charles O. Dodge and Joshua Gatchell.

Co. A.—Capt. James N. Martin; Lieut. James E. Knight; Sergeants Andrew J. Hankins, Edwin P. Bridges, Andrew J. Bulmer, John A. Wheeler, Albert H. Hallett; Corporals Wm. H. McLaughlin, Stephen H. Case, Edw. P. Hodges, Lyman Rumery, Ralph L. Teed; Privates Aug. Cogswell, Aug. F. Chambers, Wm. H. Chambers, Wm. A. Caswell, Patrick Connors, Wm. H. Johnson, Nelson Leary, Alonzo V. Moore, Asbury F. Pottle, Wm. F. Walker.

Co. B.—Capt. H. A. Shorey; Lt. Charles E. Graves; Lieut. Joseph E. Latham; Sergeants Carlton Lancaster, John B. Tarr, Wm. H. Bosworth, Geo. H. Douglass, Frazier T. Shorey; Corporals B. Franklin Higgins, Bradford H. Pushard, Orrin A. True, David C. Merryman, James McGrath, Geo. M. Green, Loring O. Pushard, Isaac F. Swan; Privates Wm. C. Allen, Andrew Bubier, Augustus R. Oliver, James R. Oliver, Adam O. Trufant.

Co. C.—Capt. Joseph A. Clark; Lieut. Whitman L. Orcutt; Lieut. Benj. F. Owen; Segts. James Johnston, Hezekiah S. Owen, Harrison H. Robinson, Wm. H. Sutter, Sanford B. Preble; Corporals Daniel Everett, Charles C. Pomeroy, Jeremiah Snow, Lyman R. Seigers, Jonathan I. Snow; Privates Wm. P. Barker, Jeremiah Perrowe, Samuel W. Stratton.

Co. D.—Capt. F. O. S. Howe; Lieut. Henry S. Rich; Segts. Clark Lewis, Robert B. Welch, Simeon Small, Warren T. DeCraney, Charles E. Emery; Corporals Isaac W. Welch, Joseph P. Martin, Lyman W. Hanson, Orlando J. Winslow; Privates Lewis Bidard, James E. Jordan, John Meara, Edward Pearsons.

Co. E.—Capt. James Walker; Segts. Daniel W. Garey, Shepherd R. Hoyt, John H. Bennett, Orville L. Sawyer, Michael Tasnane; Copls. Edw. M. Bennett, Cornelius J. Desmond; Mus. Samuel Brown; Privates James H. Belton, Samuel Marshall, Gordon Perkins, Robert S. Palmer.

Co. F.—Capt. Cyrus E. Knight; Lieut. John Fitzgerald; Segts. James Saunders, Enoch Coburn, Robert R. Corbett, Abizer York, Charles H. Shaw; Copls. Joseph F. Harmon, Thomas F. Coffin; Privates Oswald McBrien, Patrick Murray, Patrick Sweeney, Seth Toothaker.

Co. G.—Capt. Lester Dwinall; Lt. James Rideout; Segts. Charles F. Blackington, Albert Marshall, Lorenzo D. Hatch, Thomas Violette, George O. Fields; Copls. Phillip Bolier, Geo. F. Emerson; Mus. Fernando C. Bolster; Privates Charles A. Brawn, Bradford W. Laiten.

Co. H.—Capt. Alonzo Coan; Lt. Wm. H. Carr; Lt. Peter F. McCann; Segts. Geo. Smith, Joseph W. Skillin, Henry W. Gay, Wm. Mansfield, John L. Russell; Copls. Jasper I. Fisher, Byron Libby, Chesley Shaw; Privates Oliver S. Barker, Jedediah Cole, Samuel W. Goodwin, Frederick A. Haskell, Benjamin C. Hatch, Jeremiah R. Leathers, James Noble, Daniel Pinkham, John C. Swett.

Co. I.—Capt. Wm. H. Boyce; Lt. James M. Story; Segts. Reuben R. McFarland, Luther V. Gilmore, Charles H. Edgecomb; Copls. Wm. Chaplin, Albert O. Hall, Joshua L. Tibbetts, Freeman Peaslee, Stephen H. Davis; Privates Calvin G. Burkett, Edw. Cunningham, Patrick Summers, Patrick Jordan, Thomas Tobin.

Co. K.—Capt. Michael Boyce, (less four months intermission;) Lieut. Samuel Wilson; Lieut. Elias A. Berry; Segts. Ether W. Sprague, John W. Boynton, Thomas Myers, Isaac C. Bourness; Copls. Alonzo Morang, Joseph Hinton, Jr., Benjamin Blyther, Josiah Page, Daniel McNutt, Peter Matherson; Mus. Otis Ludwig; Privates Wm. A. Dyer, Wm. Ellison, Abner Gay, Daniel Hurley, Charles N. Joslin, Frederick Leighton, Geo. H. Lingley, Wm. Murphy, Henry Ramsdell.

And thus endeth "THE STORY OF THE MAINE FIFTEENTH;" not, in any sense, a "history," but rather, as promised in the "Introductory," a simple sketch of "the more salient events" in the career of the "Old Regiment," from which posterity may confidently be relied upon to correctly make up its unbiased judgment as to whether, on the whole, our services were meritorious or otherwise; and especially as to the justice of the claim of the "Introductory," that "in every emergency in which the 'Old Fifteenth' was placed in its continuous and arduous service of more than four-and-a-half years, IT NEVER FAILED TO CREDITABLY ACQUIT ITSELF."



## APPENDIX.

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### REVISED ROSTER

OF THE

# FIFTEENTH MAINE REGIMENT;

EMBRACING THE NAME OF EVERY OFFICER AND ENLISTED MAN WHO SERVED WITH THE REGIMENT; TOGETHER WITH A LIST OF THOSE WHO DIED IN THE SERVICE; WERE DISCHARGED FOR DISABILITY; MUSTERED-OUT BY REASON OF EXPIRATION OF TERM, ETC.; AND ALSO A ROSTER OF THE REGIMENT AS FINALLY MUSTERED OUT, JULY 6th, 1866.



## FIELD AND STAFF OFFICERS.

## AT ORIGINAL ORGANIZATION IN THE WINTER OF 1861-2

NAME.	RANK.	REMARKS.
JOHN McCLUSKEY, .....	<i>Colonel.</i>	App. Jan. 25, 1862; resigned Aug. 15, '62.
ISAAC DYER, .....	<i>Lieut. Col.</i>	App. Dec. 17, '61; pro. Colonel Aug. 26, '62.
BENJAMIN HAWES, .....	<i>Major.</i>	App. Dec. 25, '61; resigned Sept. 9, '62.
JAMES NOWLAND, .....	<i>Adjutant.</i>	Appointed Nov. 20, 1861.
WORTHING'N S. LOCKE, .....	<i>Quartermast'r.</i>	" Nov. 29, "
JOTHAM DONNELL, .....	<i>Surgeon.</i>	" Dec. 17, "
JOHN H. KIMBALL, .....	<i>Ass't Surgeon.</i>	" Dec. 18, "
JOSIAH I. BROWN, .....	<i>Chaplain.</i>	" Jan. 23, 1862.
EDWIN A. LOW, .....	<i>Sergt. Major.</i>	" Dec. 14, 1861.
JAMES F. TILTON, .....	<i>Q. M. Sgt.</i>	" Dec. 14, "
THOMAS L. LYNCH, .....	<i>Com. Sgt.</i>	" Dec. 14, " Ret. to ranks Co. K.
LORENZO DODGE, .....	<i>Hos. Steward.</i>	Appointed at organization.
JOHN GOULD, .....	<i>Drum Major.</i>	App. at organization; deserted in Feb. '62.
HENRY B. PIERCE, .....	<i>Fife Major.</i>	Appointed Jan. 22, 1862.

## AS RE-ORGANIZED IN THE SUMMER OF 1862.

ISAAC DYER, .....	<i>Colonel.</i>	Pro. from Lt. Col. Aug. '62; mustered out by reason ex. term of commission, Sept. 9, '65.
BENJAMIN B. MURRAY, jr., .....	<i>Lieut. Colonel.</i>	Pro. from Capt. Co. A Oct. 17, '62; mus. out July 5, '66, in command of regiment.
FRANKLIN M. DREW, .....	<i>Major.</i>	Pro. from Capt. Co. G, Oct. 10, '62; muster'd out Jan. 26, 1865.
JAMES NOWLAND, .....	<i>Adjutant.</i>	Resigned at Camp Parapet, Sept. 11, 1863.
WORTHING'N S. LOCKE, .....	<i>Quartermaster.</i>	Resigned June 4, 1863.
JOTHAM DONNELL, .....	<i>Surgeon.</i>	Mustered out at ex. term of com., Jan. 19, '65.
JOHN H. KIMBALL, .....	<i>Ass't Surgeon.</i>	Resigned at Barrancas, Fla., June 5, '63.
SUMNER G. HOLT, .....	<i>Ass't Surgeon.</i>	App. Aug. 29, '62. Died March 25, '63.
JOSIAH I. BROWN, .....	<i>Chaplain.</i>	Resigned May 30, 1863.
EDWIN A. LOW, .....	<i>Sgt. Major.</i>	Pro. 1st Lieut. Co. E Apl. 30, '65; app. Act. Adj. and served as such to July 6, '66.
JAMES F. TILTON, .....	<i>Q. M. Sgt.</i>	Pro. Quartermaster.
FRED. W. ELDER, .....	<i>Com. Sgt.</i>	Pro. from Sgt. Co. H, Oct. 6, '62; returned to Co. H March 21, '64.
LORENZO DODGE, .....	<i>Hos. Steward.</i>	Pro. Assistant Surgeon, May, '63.
CHARLES O. DODGE, .....	<i>Drum Major.</i>	Served until Final Muster-out of Regiment.
HENRY B. PIERCE, .....	<i>Fife Major.</i>	Mustered out by reas ex. term, Jan. 25, '65.

FIELD AND STAFF—CONTINUED.

OFFICERS SERVING ON FIELD AND STAFF SUBSEQUENTLY  
AND NOT APPEARING ON THE PRECEDING PAGE.

MAJORS.	REMARKS.
JAMES H. WHITMORE.	Pro. from Capt. Co. B, Feb. 27, '65; resigned July 5, '65.
JOHN R. COATES.	Pro. from Capt. Co. A, Sep. 29, '65; mustered out July 6, '66.
SURGEON.	
GEORGE Z. HIGGINS.	Pro. from Asst. Surg. July 11, '64; must. out with Regt.
ASSISTANT SURGEONS.	
LORENZO DODGE.	Pro. from Hos. Stew. May 9, '63; must. out Feb., '65.
GEORGE Z. HIGGINS.	App. from civil life Oct. 19, '63. Promoted Surgeon.
ARTHUR A. HOLMES.	App. from civil life Apl. 20, '65; mus. out with Regt.
ADJUTANT.	
JOSEPH A. CLARK.	Pro. from Seg. Co. H Oct., '63; pro. Capt. Co. C, May, '65.
QUARTERMASTER.	
JAMES F. TILTON.	Pro. from Q. M. Segt. Sept., '63; resigned July, '65.
CHAPLAIN.	
SEBA F. WETHERBEE.	App. from civil life, Sept., '63; resigned March 11, '64.
SERGEANT MAJORS.	
CHARLES H. SHAW.	Pro. from Co. C, May, 65; res. and ret. to Co. C, Jan., 66.
JAMES H. BELTON.	Pro. from Co. E, Jan., 66; ret. to Co. E, April, '66.
JOHN D. BLAKE.	Pro. from Segt. Co. E, Apl., '66; must. out with Regt.
QUARTERMASTER SERGEANTS.	
JOHN LOCKE.	App. from Co. C, Oct., '63; ret. to same Co., March, '64.
BENJAMIN F. TRUE.	App. from Segt. Co. H, March, '64; must. out Jan. 19, '65.
ALONZO COAN.	App. from Segt. Co. H, Feb., '65; pro. 1st Lt. K, Mar, '65.
JOSEPH E. LEWIS.	App. from Co. B, April, '65; mustered out May 30, '65.
JAMES M. STORY.	Pro. from Com. Segt. June, '65; pro. 1st Lt. Co. I, Feb., '66.
HENRY A. WHITNEY.	App. from Co. A, April, '66. Mustered out with Regt.
COMMISSARY SERGEANTS.	
JAMES M. STORY.	App. from Segt. Co. C, Jan., 65; pro. to Q. M. Segt.
GEORGE L. MARSON.	App. from Segt. Co. H, July, '65; must. out with Regt.
HOSPITAL STEWARDS.	
LEVI E. HOLMES.	App. from Co. I, March, 63; pro. Lt. and Ac. Asst. Surgeon [96th Regt. U. S. C. T., Sept., '63.
CHARLES P. STORER.	Appointed from Co. H, Nov., '63; must. out with Regt.
PRINCIPAL MUSICIANS.	
JAMES H. LORD.	App. from Co. H, Feb., '65; res. and ret. to Co. H, Mar., '65.
JOSHUA GATCHELL.	App. from Co. F, March, '65; mustered out with Regiment.

FIELD AND STAFF AT FINAL MUSTER OUT, JULY, '66.

COMMISSIONED.	NON-COMMISSIONED.
B. B. MURRAY, JR.....Lt. Col., Com'd'g.	HENRY A. WHITNEY...Q. M. Segt.
JOHN R. COATES.....Major.	GEO. L. MARSON.....Com. "
GEO. Z. HIGGINS.....Surgeon.	CHARLES P. STORER...Hos. Steward.
ARTHUR A. HOLMES...Asst. Surgeon.	CHARLES O. DODGE...Drum Major.
JOHN D. BLAKE.....Segt. Maj.	JOSHUA GATCHELL....Fife Major.

[Note.—Lt. EDWIN A. LOW, of Co. E, was Acting Adjutant at date of Final Muster Out and Lt. ELIAS A. BERRY, of Co. K, Acting Quartermaster.]

## COMPANY A.

CAPTAIN.		SERGEANTS.		CORPORALS.	
BENJAMIN B. MURRAY, Jr., <i>Pembroke.</i>		John R Coates		James L Pierce	
FIRST LIEUTENANT.		Francis O S Howe		Simson Spofford	
SAMUEL D. LEAVITT, ..... <i>Eastport.</i>		Elisha Sherman		Ira A Hughes	
SECOND LIEUTENANT.		Hosea Smith,		Ira W Cushing	
WILLIAM K. RICH, ..... <i>Pembroke.</i>		Freeman W Varney		John Sherman	
		MUSICIAN.		Andrew J Hankins.	
		Ralph L Teed		Edwin P Bridges	
				Stephen H Case	
PRIVATES.		PRIVATES.		PRIVATES.	
Allen, Albert J	Davis, Sylvester	Keef, Benjamin	Ryan, Richard	Rumery, Uriah C	
Achorn, Weston	Davis, Hammond	Knight, James E	Rumery, Lyman	Randall, Jonathan jr	
Bulmer, Andrew J	Decoster, Peter	Lee, John	Reynolds, David	Swan, Charles	
Bulmer, Ephraim T	Dodge, Alfred	Lee, Joseph	Swan, Elijah	Swan, Andrew J	
Bassett, John H	Dodge, Charles O	Lyons, Daniel	Swan, Lewis E	Sylvay, Lewis E	
Chambers, Augus. F	Fisher, Alfred	Leary, Nelson	Smith, Horatio M	Touse, Thaddeus	
Connors, Patrick	Gardner, Henry	Lewis, Hazen	Wilder, Theophilus L	Walker, William F	
Campbell, William E	Gardner, Loring	Leighton, John F	Wheeler, John A	Wright, Hilton B	
Cousins, Jacob	Gardner, George W	Moore, Alonzo V	Whitney, Henry A	Waldron, George H	
Colson, George	Greenlow, James H	McGlaughlin, Wm H			
Colsen, Aaron	Hay, William H	McMiller, Alexander			
Caswell, William A	Healey, Terrence	McGilvery, Angus			
Chambers, William H	Hallett, Albert H	Martin, James N			
Campbell, John	Hodges, Edward P	Nutt, James E			
Cogswell, Augustus	Jordan, William H	Pottle, Asbury			
Cameron, Dougald	Jordan, Daniel	Peabody, Sylvanus H			
Davis, Hiram	Keef, Thomas	Richardson, Henry			

\*NON-EFFECTIVES.—Stephen S. Leighton, Washington Bowman, Bartlett S. Caswell, James H. Matthews, Thomas Ryan, Joel F. Robinson, Charles S. Williams.

\*Names on Original Roll, but did not leave Maine with Regiment and never served with it.

## JOINED AS RECRUITS IN 1863 4-5.

1863	1864.	1865.	1865.
Freeman, W J	Thordike, John E	Bridges, Mathias	McAllister, Daniel H
Gaylard, Virgin A	White, George S S	Currier, Albert C	McKenzie, George
Givens, Elkin	Wilson, James	Crowley, John	Maloon, Horace G
Hays, Welbern	Brickett, Henry F	Coggins, George L	Patterson, Henry
Hays, Seburn	Cogswell, Augustus	Clapp, Nathaniel B	Pennell, Charles J
Jones, Robert P	Campbell, Jehiel	Curtis, John	Rose, Benjamin B
Kirklin, Edmund M	1865.	Cushing, Davenport P	Reynolds, Jotham G
	Anderson, George	Cushing, James D	Swan, Andrew J
	Allen, William H	Crane, Aleberton	Sherman, Thomas
	Ackley, William H	Dow, Samuel L	Smith, Robert K
	Andrews, Ephraim A	Foster, Ambrose	Smith, Hiram F
	Belleau, Ferdinand	Grant, Gilbert	Stewart, Alonzo J
	Brown, Peter	Gove, Alphonso M	Trask, Johnson G
	Blase, Barney	Hussey, Otis S	Vose, George F
	Byrne, Howard J	Howard, Alonzo B	Worden, Isaac
	Bartlett, Kufus	Kellum, Robert	Witham, James

## THE COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SERVED AS FOLLOWS :

BENJAMIN B. MURRAY, Jr., Captain. From Dec. 6, 1861, to September, 1862.	JOHN R. COATTS, 2d and 1st Lt. and Capt. Second Lieut., May 20, 1862, to Nov. 1, 1863. First Lieut., Nov. 1, 1862, to Feb. 27, 1865. Captain, Feb. 27, 1865, to Sept. 29, 1866.
SAMUEL D. LEAVITT, First Lieutenant. From Dec. 6, 1861, to June 21, 1862.	JAMES N. MARTIN, 2d and 1st Lt. and Capt. Second Lieut., May 4, 1863, to Oct. 17, 1865. First Lieut., Oct. 17, 1865, to Jan. 17, 1866. Captain, Jan. 17, 1866, to July 5, 1866.
WILLIAM K. RICH, 2d and 1st Lt. and Capt. Second Lieut., Dec. 6, 1861, to May 20, 1862. First Lieut., May 20, 1862, to Dec. 10, 1862. Captain, Dec. 10, 1862, to Feb. 18, 1865.	JAMES E. KNIGHT, Second and First Lieut. Second Lieut., Oct. 17, 1865, to Jan. 17, 1866. First Lieut., Jan. 17, 1866, to July 5, 1866.
FRANK O. S. HOWE, Second Lieut. From Nov. 1, 1862, to May 4, 1865.	

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## COMPANY A.

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### DIED IN THE SERVICE.

- 1861.—John Campbell.  
 1862.—Weston Achorn, Albert J. Allen, John H. Bassett, Ira W. Cushing, Jacob Cousins, Aaron Colson, Daniel Jordan, Benjamin Keef, Horatio M. Smith.  
 1863.—Alfred Dodge, John Lee, Daniel Lyons, W. J. Freeman, Virgin A. Gaylard, Alfred Fisher.  
 1864.—Seburn Hayes, Peter DeCoster, Wm E. Campbell, Richard Ryan, Elkin Givens, John E. Thorndike.  
 1865.—Thomas Gibson, Aleberton Crane, Robert Kellum, Wm. H. Ackley.  
*Missing in Action.*—Welbern Hayes, (Oct., '64) Angus McGilvery (April, '64.)
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### DISCHARGED FOR DISABILITY.

- 1862.—Lieut. S. D. Leavitt; Simson Spofford, Bartlett S. Caswell, Thomas Keef, Alexander McMiller, Uriah C. Rumery, Andrew J. Swan, George H. Waldron.  
 1863.—Edmund M. Kirklín, Augustus Cogswell, George Colson, Loring Gardner, James H. Greenlow, Lewis E. Sylvay, Theophilus L. Wilder, Sylvanus H. Peabody, Robert P. Jones.  
 1864.—James E. Nutt, Ephraim T. Bulmer, Wm. H. Hay.  
 1865.—Geo. S. S. White, Barney Blase, Andrew J. Swan, Jehiel Campbell, Hosea Smith.  
 1866.—Sylvester Davis,
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### MUSTERED OUT BY REASON EXPIRATION OF TERM.

- IN JAN., '65.—(*The Non-Re-Enlisted Men.*)—Capt. Wm. K. Rich, First Sgt. Freeman W. Varney, Ira A. Hughes, Geo. W. Gardner, Henry Gardner, Elijah Swan.  
 IN MAY, '65.—(Per General Order, Term to Expire in October.)—George W. Quinn, Peter Brown, John Curtis, Zemro S. Hall, Robert K. Smith, Daniel H. McAllister, (Oct.) Alonzo B. Howard, (Sept.) John F. Leighton, (Aug.) Henry Patterson, (Nov.)  
 IN THE SPRING OF '66.—(One Year Men.)—Wm. H. Allen, Ephraim A. Andrews, Howard J. Byrne, Ferdinand Belleau, Rufus Bartlett, Matthias Bridges, Geo. L. Coggins, Davenport P. Cushing, Nathaniel B. Clapp, Samuel L. Dow, Ambrose Foster, Gilbert Grant, Otis S. Hussey, Chas. J. Pennell, Jotham G. Reynolds, Benj. B. Rose, Hiram F. Smith, Jonathan G. Trask, Geo. F. Vose, Isaac Worden, James Witham, James D. Cushing.
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TRANSFERRED BY PROMOTION.—Capt. B. B. Murray, to Field and Staff, as Lieut. Col.; Capt. John R. Coates, to F. & S., as Major; Lieut. F. O. S. Howe, to Co. D, as Capt.; Serg. Henry A. Whitney, to N. C. Staff, as Q. M. Sgt.; Charles O. Dodge, to N. C. Staff, as Principal Musician; Private Thomas Sherman, to Military Telegraph Corps.

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ABSENT AND NOT ACCOUNTED FOR AT DATE OF FINAL MUSTER-OUT.—Thaddeus Touse, Alphonso M. Gove, and Hilton B. Wright. The latter (at least) received honorable discharge from War Department subsequently.

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DROPPED FROM THE ROLLS AS DESERTERS.—In 1864: John Sherman, Dougald Cameron, Hammond Davis, Hiram Davis, Terrance Healey, David Reynolds, Henry Richardson, Charles B. Swan, Elisha Sherman, James L. Pierce, Joseph Lee, Jonathan Randall, Jr. In 1865: Geo. Anderson, Albert C. Currier, George McKenzie.

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### THE FOLLOWING HELD WARRANTS AS NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

- FIRST SERGEANTS.—John R. Coates, F. O. S. Howe, Freeman W. Varney, James E. Knight, Andrew J. Hankins.  
 SERGEANTS.—F. O. S. Howe, Elisha Sherman, Hosea Smith, Freeman W. Varney, James E. Knight, James E. Nutt, Peter DeCoster, Edwin P. Bridges, Henry A. Whitney, Andrew J. Bulmer, John W. Wheeler, Albert H. Hallett.  
 CORPORALS.—Stephen S. Leighton, Simson Spofford, Ira A. Hughes, Ira W. Cushing, John Sherman, Andrew J. Hankins, Edwin P. Bridges, Stephen H. Case, Andrew J. Bulmer, Wm. E. Campbell, Henry A. Whitney, John W. Wheeler, James N. Martin, Wm. A. Caswell, Albert H. Hallett, Edward P. Hodges, Wm. H. McGlaughlin, Lyman Rumney, Ralph L. Teed, James L. Pierce.
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SUMMARY.—Whole No. Names on Roll, 153. Died, 28; Discharged for Disability, 26; Non-Effectives, 7; Mustered-Out at Ex. Term, 37; Transferred, 6; Absent and not accounted for, 3; Deserted, 15; Discharged with Regiment at Final Muster-Out, 31.

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[The Roster of the Companies as Finally Mustered-Out will be found elsewhere.]

## COMPANY B.

CAPTAIN.		SERGEANTS.		CORPORALS.	
SETH H. LEONARD..... <i>Bowdoin.</i>		J Edwin Libby William H Totman George E Doyle William C Allen Charles Dennett		William Maxwell Silas S Holbrook George F Sally Wm H Bosworth B Franklin Higgins	
FIRST LIEUTENANT.		MUSICIANS.		Andrew Bubier Charles E Graves Wm B Trufant	
JAMES H. WHITMORE..... <i>Bowdoinham.</i>		Alonzo Rogers Melvin S Leonard James E Reed			
SECOND LIEUTENANT.					
HENRY A. SHOREY..... <i>Bath.</i>					
PRIVATES.		PRIVATES.		PRIVATES.	
Alexander, James E Adams, William Adams, George W Baker, William G jr Bard, Leemon H Beal, Benjamin A Bliss, George A W Brimigoin, Joseph Coombs, James 2d Cromwell, James A Chase, R Franklin Christopher, John E Campbell, Abiel Colby, Otis R Cook, James W Douglass, George H Douglass, Edwin C Douglass, Otis H Deojay, Frank	Fuller, Seth Getchell, Dennis Gilpatrick, Isaac J Gilpatrick, George Gould, Harvey M Green, Abram T Green, Mariner T Green, William Green, George M Greenlow, Jacob Grover, John C Grover, Page F Hatch, Colin C Hayden, John H Holbrook, William H Howard, George A Jack, William H Jones, Lewis Latham, Joseph E	Lancaster, Carlton Montfort, William Murch, Harlow Z Merryman, David C Malloon, Samuel McDevitt, Peter Metcalf, James S Marr, Gilmore P Marr, James McGrath, James Niles, William Oliver, Augustus R Oliver, James R Perry, John Perry, Joseph J Pushard, Bradford H Pushard, Loring O Powers, Jacob Penny, William	Penny, Ira T Rook, John Rook, George W Rollins, James E Rollins, Josiah K Ross, Actor Shorey, Frazier T Small, Zacheus jr Shea, Charles E Swan, Isaac F True, Orrin A Tarr, John B Trufant, Adam O Tibbets, William jr Williams, Stephen Whitney, James Williams, Orrington J Whitney, Eben B Walter, Moses		

\*NON-EFFECTIVES.—John Douglass, Wheeler Danforth, John Houston, Chandler M. Jewett, Wm. H. Metcalf, Geo. W. Pullen, Wm. H. Scott, Jonathan Williams, John Lewis, Melvin W. Douglass, Joshua Gray, John L. Higgins, Franklin S. Trufant, Hutchinson E. Williams, Isaac Murch, Geo. W. Light, Charles B. Coombs, Moses C. Hanscomb.

\*Names on Original Roll, but did not leave Maine with Regiment and never served with it.

## JOINED AS RECRUITS IN 1862-3-4-5.

1862.	1864.	1865.	1865.
Breckenridge, Robert 1863. Gage, Simon McFadden, John W 1864. Cleaveland, Aaron P Cleaveland, Eleazer C Lewis, Joseph E Wentworth, William Wentworth, Enoch Allen, Henry R Carter, Edwin Denham, Thomas jr Erving, George T Emerson, Wm J Harrington, Charles B Hines, Richard	Johnson, Levi D Johnson, Charles R Lewis, Daniel W Morse, William Oliver, Alden S Oliver, Cleaveland M Powers, William D Sedgely, Benjamin Trufant, Franklin S 1865. Anderson, Wm Z Allen, Ira O Austin, Jesse B Beal, Nathaniel A Bates, Edwin B Brown, Charles Burrill, Wm W	Benson, James D Bond, Frederick A Bedelle, Elisha Carter, Wm S Colburn, Seth A Cooper, Calvin Clark, Almon Dyer, Elbridge Dexter, Wm H Doyle, Charles H Emery, Thomas L Gilmore, Myron T Harrington, George Handy, Robert C Haynes, Winfield S Haley, Franklin S Morse, George A	McGuire, Wm H McCorrison, George P Newton, William A Nelson, Peter Parker, Walter L Pero, Benjamin Pepper, George Prescott, Samuel A Quimby, Luther F Rollins, Josiah K Ross, Walter C Ridley, Thomas R Small, Joshua Small, Joel Vallie, Adolph Wilson, James W Wagner, John G

## THE COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SERVED AS FOLLOWS:

SETH H. LEONARD, From Org. to Jan. 21, 1863. Captain.	CHARLES E. GRAVES, Second Lieut., March 29, 1865, to May 1, 1865. First Lieut., May 1, 1865, to July 6, 1865. 2d and 1st Lieut.
JAMES H. WHITMORE, First Lt., Dec. 7, 1861, to July 28, 1863. Capt., July 21, 1862, to Feb. 27, 1865. 1st Lt. and Capt.	J. EDWIN LIBBY, From July 1, 1863, to Sept. 6, 1863. Second Lieutenant.
HENRY A. SHOREY, Second Lieut., Dec. 7, 1861, to July 21, 1865. First Lieut., July 21, 1863, to March 21, 1865. Captain, Mar. 21, 1865, to July 6, 1865. 2d & 1st Lt. and Capt.	JOSEPH E. LATHAM, From May 1, 1865, to July 6, 1865. Second Lieutenant.

## COMPANY B.

*DIED IN THE SERVICE.*

- 1862.—Colin C. Hatch, Melvin S. Leonard, James Marr, Peter McDevitt, Samuel Malloon, Orrington J. Williams, Otis H. Douglass.  
 1863.—Lt. J. Edwin Libby, Mariner T. Green, John C. Grover, Wm. H. Holbrook, John W. McFadden, William Niles.  
 1864.—Wm. Adams, Abial Campbell, James Coombs, 2d, James S. Metcalf, John Perry, Wm. Penny, Charles E. Shea, Enoch Wentworth, Richard Hines, Simon Gage.  
 1865.—Elezzer C. Cleaveland, George A. Morse.

*DISCHARGED FOR DISABILITY.*

- 1862.—Capt. Seth H. Leonard, George E. Doyle, George F. Sally, Wm. B. Trufant, R. Franklin Chase, James W. Cook, James A. Cromwell, Edwin C. Douglass, George Gilpatrick, Isaac J. Gilpatrick, Harvey M. Gould, Wm. Green, Geo. A. Howard, Wm. Mountfort, Joseph J. Perry, Geo. W. Rook, John Rook, Actor Ross, Zach-eus Small, jr., Stephen Williams, Harlow Z. Murch, Wm. Tibbets, jr., Seth Fuller.  
 1863.—Charles Dennett, Alonzo Rogers, Geo. W. Adams, Geo. A. W. Bliss, Jacob Greenlow, Gilmore P. Marr, Ira T. Penny, Moses Walter.  
 1864.—Wm. Maxwell, Wm. Buker, jr., Jacob Powers, James Whitney, James E. Reed.  
 1865.—Eben B. Whitney, Nathaniel A. Beal, Myron T. Gilmore, Wm. H. McGuire, Walter L. Parker, Leemon H. Bard, (pris. of war, exchg'd) Thomas R. Ridley, Dennis Getchell, Joel Small, Abram T. Green, Peter Nelson.  
 1866.—James E. Alexander, John E. Christopher, Frank Deojay.

*MUSTERED OUT BY REASON EXPIRATION OF TERM.*

IN JAN. '65.—(*The Non-Re-Enlisted Men.*)—Benjamin Beal, John H. Hayden, Silas S. Holbrook, Page F. Grover.

IN MAY, '65.—[By General Order, Term to Expire in October.]—Daniel W. Lewis, Wm. J. Emerson, Jesse B. Austin, Franklin S. Trufant, Aaron P. Cleveland, George T. Erving, Edwin Carter, and Robert Breckinridge—(the latter a three years' man enlisting in 1862.) In the fall of 1865:—Wm. D. Powers, Levi D. Johnson, Charles R. Johnson, Thomas Denham, Benjamin Sedgely, Wm. Morse, Charles B. Harrington, Cleveland M. Oliver, and Alden S. Oliver. In 1864:—Wm. Wentworth.

IN THE SPRING OF '66.—(One Year Men.)—Ira O. Allen, Wm. Z. Anderson, Edwin B. Bates, Wm. W. Burrill, Elisha Bedelle, Frederick A. Bond, James D. Benson, Calvin Cooper, Seth A. Colburn, Almon Clark, Wm. S. Carter, Elbridge Dyer, Charles H. Doyle, Thomas L. Emery, Geo. Harrington, Franklin Haley, Winfield S. Haynes, Robert C. Handy, George A. Morse, Wm. A. Newton, George Pepper, Benj. Pero, Samuel A. Prescott, Luther F. Quimby, Josiah K. Rollins, Joshua Small, Adolph Vallie, Wm. Wentworth, James W. Wilson, Walter C. Ross, and George P. McCarrison.

TRANSFERRED BY PROMOTION, &c.—Capt. J. H. Whitmore, to Field and Staff, as Major; Sgt. W. H. Totman, as Capt. 1st Louisiana Regt.; Sgt. Otis R. Colby, as Lieut. C. D'A.; Private Wm. H. Jack, do.; Joseph E. Lewis, to N. C. S. as Q. M. Sgt. To Veteran Reserve Corps: Joseph Brimigion, Lewis Jones, Josiah K. Rollins, Wm. G. Buker.

BY SPECIAL ORDER.—Joel Small and James E. Rollins.

DROPPED FROM THE ROLLS AS DESERTERS.—George Harrington, John G. Wagner, and Charles Brown.

## THE FOLLOWING HELD WARRANTS AS NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

FIRST SERGEANT.—J. Edwin Libby, Charles E. Graves, Carlton Lancaster.

SERGEANT.—Wm. H. Totman, George E. Doyle, William C. Allen, Charles Dennett, Andrew Bubier, Charles E. Graves, Joseph E. Latham, Otis R. Colby, Wm. H. Bosworth, John B. Tarr, Carlton Lancaster, George H. Douglass, Frazier T. Shorey.

CORPORALS.—Wm. Maxwell, Silas S. Holbrook, Geo. F. Sally, Wm. H. Bosworth, B. Franklin Higgins, Andrew Bubier, Wm. B. Trufant, Charles E. Graves, Benjamin Beal, Geo. H. Douglass, David C. Merryman, John B. Tarr, Bradford H. Pushard, Orrin A. True, James E. Alexander, Frazier T. Shorey, John E. Christopher, James McGrath, James E. Rollins, George M. Green, Loring O. Pushard, Isaac F. Swan.

SUMMARY.—Whole No. Names on Roll, 178—18 non-effective. Died in the service, 25; discharged for disability, 50; mustered out by reason ex. term, 53; deserted, 3; transferred for promotion, etc., 9; discharged per special order, 2; discharged at final muster-out, 18.



## COMPANY C.

CAPTAIN.		SERGEANTS.	CORPORALS.
CHARLES W. CLAYTON..... <i>Masardis.</i>		Robert W Mauley	Aaron H Story
FIRST LIEUTENANT.		Orren Whitney	Samuel Wilson
DANIEL M. PRESCOTT..... <i>Presque Isle.</i>		John H Hasty	Chris C O'Brien
SECOND LIEUTENANT.		Whitman L Orcutt	Samuel Place
ZEBULON ROWE..... <i>Presque Isle.</i>		James Moore	Benjamin F Owen
		MUSICIAN.	George E Pyle
		Oscar P Hughes	Daniel Everett
			William E Clark
PRIVATES.	PRIVATES.	PRIVATES.	PRIVATES.
Brown, John W	Condon, William C	Locke, John	Robinson, Harrison H
Bell, James	Dougherty, Andrew	Lawrence, Elihu A	Roy, George
Bryant, George P	Everett, Lyman	McGloin, John	Roax, James
Boyce, Charles H	Furge, Isaac	McFayden, Alexander	Sutherland, George
Barker, William P	Furge, William	Madden, John	Shaw, Charles H
Bean, Augustus A C	Fudge, William	Munson, Robert	Story, James M
Bean, Charles C	Ford, George	Morris, William P	Snow, Jeremiah
Boulter, Solomon C	Foster, Theodore B	McGuire, Warren	Smith, William
Bugbee, Charles H	Frost, Horace H	Mulholland, James	Snow, Jonathan D
Brown, Nathaniel	Gilker, Charles	Owen, Hezekiah	Suter, William H
Carter, Charles R	Goddrige, Samuel	O'Keef, Patrick	Stratton, Samuel W
Chisholm, Alexander	Graves, Alexander	Pearce, Thomas	Seigers, Lyman R
Chase, William	Gallagher, Michael	Plummer, Warren C	Walker, John P
Carter, Josiah H	Hawes, George	Perrowe, Jeremiah	Whitney, Charles S
Carter, William W	Hall, Luther C	Preble, Melvin S	Wilcox, George
Chase, George	Johnston, James	Preble, Sanford B	Wessenger, Enoch D
Christopher, George W	Kelly, Walter	Pomroy, Charles C	Wyman, Leander M
Cushing, Alonzo D	Keef, William	Randall, Alonzo	
Clough, Levi	Knight, Patrick	Rideout, Sylvester	
Crowell, Allen	Knight, William J	Roberts, Alfred W	

NON-EFFECTIVES.—Joseph Baker, Wm. Duncan, Leonard Heath.

## JOINED AS RECRUITS IN 1863-4-5.

1863.	1865.	1865.	1865.
Hutchinson, Albert	Belmont, Charles	Ellis, Hiram W	Riley, John
1864.	Cook, Albion B	Fitzgerald, Edward	Randall, George R
Banks, John	Clark, James	Freeman, Wayland	Richards, Wm L
Brown, Francis G	Clark, Joseph A*	Hughey, Owen	Smith, Charles
Hill, John H	Collins, Ebenezer	Howe, Henry H	Shaw, James H
Locke, John	Cunningham, Thomas	Howe, Frank	Sullivan, James
Shaw, James H	Chase, Thomas C	Harris, Chase M	Stevens, James
Wing, Frederick	Carlson, Charles	Jordan, Abraham	St Clare, William
1865.	Coburn, Isaiah	Joselyn, Eugene S	Stone, William
Atwood, Benjamin	Clement, Daniel	Knights, Wm J	Sutter, John
Allen, John H	Croxford, James G	Lane, Henry	Sutter, James A
Brackett, Charles C	Cotter, Patrick	McCarty, George P	Smith, James
Bolier, Solomon	Downing, John	McNiff, Martin	Thayer, Byron S
Brown, William	Deehan, Patrick	Nepting, Charles	Welch, John S
Brown, Albert	Davis, Alexander S	Nutt, Alonzo	Warren, Matthew
Bekker, John	Deering, William	Patterson, Daniel	Walker, John P
Baker, William	Delano, Daniel S	Patterson, Charles W	Wilson, Frederick
Booby, Shepard	Deary, Ambrose	Porre, Vitore	

## THE COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SERVED AS FOLLOWS:

CHARLES W. CLAYTON, Captain. From Dec. 10, 1861, to May 23, 1862.	WARREN C. PLUMMER, 2d and 1st Lieut. Second Lieut., July 29, 1862, to Jan. 23, 1864. First Lieut., Jan. 26, 1864, to Jan. 21, 1866.
DANIEL M. PRESCOTT, 1st Lt. and Capt. First Lieut., Dec. 9, 1861, to July 5, 1863. Captain, May 23, 1863, to July 5, 1863.	WHITMAN L. ORCUTT, 2d and 1st Lieut. Second Lieut., Jan. 23, 1864, to Feb. 21, 1865. First Lieut., Feb. 21, 1865, to July 5, 1866.
JOHN H. HASTY, 2d & 1st Lt. and Capt. Second Lieut., May 10, 1862, to May 23, 1862. First Lieut., May 23, 1862, to Jan. 25, 1864. Captain, Jan. 25, 1864, to Feb. 17, 1865.	BENJAMIN F. OWEN, Second Lieutenant. From May 4, 1865, to July 5, 1866.
JOSEPH A. CLARK, Captain. From May 4, 1865, to July 5, 1866.	ZEBULON ROWE, Second Lieutenant. From Dec. 10, 1861, to April 10, 1862.

\*By promotion, from Adjutant.

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**COMPANY C.**


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**DIED IN THE SERVICE.**

- 1862.—Aaron H. Story, George E. Pyle, Wm. E. Clark, Chas. H. Boyce, Geo. P. Bryant, John W. Brown, Charles R. Carter, Wm. Chase, Alexander Chisholm, Levi Clough, Wm. Furge, Elisha A. Lawrence, John McGloin, Warren McGuire.
- 1863.—Augustus H. C. Bean, Isaac Furge, Charles Gilker, Wm. Keef.
- 1864.—James Moore, James Bell, Alfred W. Roberts, Patrick O'Keef, Leander M. Wyman, Wm. P. Morris.
- 1865.—Alexander S. Davis, Benj. Atwood, Isaiah Coburn, Frank Howe, Henry H. Howe, Orrin Whitney, Daniel Clement.

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**DISCHARGED FOR DISABILITY.**

- 1862.—Capt. C. W. Clayton, Lt. Zebulon Rowe, Chas. C. Bean, Josiah H. Carter, Samuel Goddrige, George Wilcox, George Hawes, Walter Kelly, Wm. W. Carter, Geo. Chase, Wm. Fudge.
- 1863.—Capt. D. M. Prescott, Allen Crowell, George Ford, Robert Munson.
- 1864.—C. C. O'Brien, Oscar P. Hughes.
- 1865.—Michael Gallagher, Wm. Baker, Owen Hughes, John Sutter, Shepard Booby, Solomon C. Bolier.
- 1866.—Melvin S. Preble.

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**MUSTERED OUT BY REASON EXPIRATION OF TERM.**

In JAN., '65.—(*The Non-Re-Enlisted Men.*)—Capt. John H. Hasty, Lieut. Warren C. Plummer, Samuel Place, Solomon C. Boulier, Alonzo Randall, Nathaniel Brown, Wm. C. Condon, Alonzo D. Cushing, Andrew W. Dougherty, Lyman Everett, John Locke, Alex. McFadden, Luther C. Hall, Wm. I. Knight, John Madden, James Mulholland, Thomas Pearce, Sylvester Rideout, George Sutherland, Enoch D. Wessenger.

In MAY, '65.—(Term to Expire in October.)—John H. Hill, Frederick Wing, Francis G. Brown, Wm. L. Richards.

In THE SPRING OF '66.—(One Year Men.)—John H. Allen, Albert Brown, Charles C. Brackett, James G. Croxford, Patrick Cotter, Albion B. Cook, Thomas Cunningham, Thomas C. Chase, Patrick Dechan, Wm. Deering, Daniel S. Delano, Wayland Freeman, Eugene S. Joselyn, Abraham Jordan, Wm. J. Knights, Vitore Porre, James Smith, James H. Sutter, John S. Welch.

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TRANSFERRED BY PROMOTION.—Lieut. Sam C. Wilson to Co. K.; Sergt. Charles H. Shaw to Non-Commissioned Staff; Sergt. James M. Story to N. C. Staff.

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DISCHARGED BY ORDER.—Robert W. Manley, Charles H. Bugbee, Theodore B. Foster, Horace H. Frost, Patrick Knight.

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WOUNDED AND PRISONER, 1864.—Albert Hutchinson. ABSENT SICK.—Ebenezer Collins.

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DROPPED FROM THE ROLLS AS DESERTERS. In 1864: George W. Christopher, Chas. S. Whitney, Wm. P. Morris, James Roax, George Roy, Wm. Smith. In 1865: John P. Walker, Alexander Graves, Charles Carlson, James Clark, Ambrose Deary, John Downing, Edward Fitzgerald, Chas. M. Harris, Henry Lane, George P. McCarty, Alonzo Nutt, Daniel Patterson, Charles W. Patterson, George R. Randall, James H. Shaw, James Stevens, Charles Smith, Wm. St. Clare, Wm. Stone, Byron S. Thayer, Matthew Warren, Frederick Wilson. In 1866: Charles Belmont, James Sullivan, Samuel W. Stratton.

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**THE FOLLOWING HELD WARRANTS AS NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.**

FIRST SERGEANT. John H. Hasty, Robert W. Manley, Whitman L. Orcutt, James Johnston.

SERGEANT. Orren Whitney, John H. Hasty, Whitman L. Orcutt, James Moore, Samuel Wilson, Charles H. Shaw, Benj. F. Owen, Sanford B. Preble, Hezekiah S. Owen, Harrison H. Robinson, Wm. H. Sutter.

CORPORAL. Aaron H. Story, Samuel Wilson, Christopher C. O'Brien, Samuel Place, Benj. F. Owen, George E. Pyle, Daniel Everett, Wm. E. Clark, George P. Bryant, Sanford B. Preble, Charles H. Shaw, Andrew Dougherty, Solomon C. Boulier, Leander M. Wyman, James M. Story, Hezekiah S. Owen, Daniel Everett, Charles C. Pomeroy, Melvin S. Preble, Harrison H. Robinson, Jeremiah Snow, Jonathan D. Snow, Lyman R. Seigers, John P. Walker, John H. Allen.

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SUMMARY. Whole No. on Rolls, 166; Died, 31; Discharged for Disability, 24; Discharged by Order, 5; Transferred, 3; Ex. Term, 44; Non-Effectives, 3; Deserted, 31; Absent Sick, 2; Discharged with Regiment at Final Muster-Out, 22.

## COMPANY D.

CAPTAIN.		SERGEANT.	CORPORALS.
CHARLES S. ILLSLEY..... <i>Portland.</i>		Charles F Jordan George H Cummings Elvin J Maxwell Daniel P Rolfe William A Welch	Nathaniel H Seavey Henry S Rich Alonzo Edwards Edward K Gilky Levi M Patch Alonzo T Kellock
FIRST LIEUTENANT.		MUSICIANS.	
JOHN C. COBB..... <i>Portland.</i>		Horace C Davis Aug W Plummer Lyman W Hanson	
SECOND LIEUTENANT.			
ENOCH M. DEERING..... <i>Harrison.</i>			
PRIVATES.		PRIVATES.	PRIVATES.
Amour, James H Archibald, Amos C Berry, William Brown, Alexander Bragdon, Josiah Burns, Charles N Barrows, William Boyd, Francis Carsley, George F Crowley, John Dennison, Caleb Davis, Adoniram C Davis, Eben Davis, Thomas J DeCraney, Warren T Duran, James W Edwards, Humphrey S Edwards, Joshua Edwards, Richard	Emery, Charles E Falkner, Duncan Fitzgerald, Owen Googin, Rufus B Gillson, Luke Grant, Martin N Gilky, Edward J Gallaghan, Owen Haggett, Frank E Hanson, Jason Huston, John Jordan, James Jones, Ira S Joqueine, Henry T Keene, Moses M Keinstead, Samuel Kneeland, Charles C Legrow, Ephraim L Lovewell, Henry K	Lovell, Lowell Lewis, Clark Lewis, Hazen Mabury, James L Marrow, John Martin, Joseph P McErgal, Neal McNear, Alexander Meserve, Alonzo Meara, John Mead, John Norton, Charles P Noble, Alexander Orr, Daniel Osburne, Charles W Pearsons, Edward Pennell, Benj J Patterson, Henry E Rideout, Ezra	Rogers, Aaron C Rowe, Stephen Ray, George R Rich, Aritas Small, Simeon Smeledge, Augustus Stowers, Charles W St Peter, Octave Smith, John M Taggett, David Thomas, Joshua A Thurston, Jacob Tuttle, Asa B Verrill, Sidney Vickolby, Nicholas Warren, Edward Welch, Isaac C Welch, Robert B Winslow, Orlando Winslow, Paris R

NON-EFFECTIVES.—Henry Ellsworth, John Glass, Benj. F. Holbrook, Nathaniel Johnson, John Lewis, James Scott, Nelson W. Edwards.

## JOINED AS RECRUITS IN 1865.

Archibald, Ira A Batchelder, James Bidard, Lewis Bidard, Joseph Bunnell, William Boobar, Sherman Bussell, James E Buswell, James G Cyr, Joseph Cyr, Edward Davis, William H Derough, Mitchell Dame, Tristram Dasey, Timothy Davis, John M Dubois, Narcisse Doyle, James	Ellingwood, Miles H Englehardt, George Eldridge, Jacob Foster, Willard C Farwell, Wm E Fleming, Michael Furbish, Horace A Foss, David Filieau, Pierre Gilson, Edward H Gray, Chas V Griffin, Dennis Green, Stillman Goodwin, Josiah M Hanlon, John Holmes, Geo B Hallowell, Geo W	Huse, Geo F Henley, Alexander Hibbard, Chas W Hoey, Richard Hanson, Oliver *Howe, Francis O S Impy, Alonzo Knight, Lendall Kneeland, Edw R Kneeland, Alonzo *Lord, James H Mansell, Chester S Marshall, Alfred Hemstead, Samuel Hazen, Lewis *By Promotion from A. & H.	Managhan, John O'Conner, William Page, Benjamin Powers, Patrick Reed, Charles Rowan, Daniel Richardson, John H Russell, James St Pierre, Isam Smith, Charles Smith, James G Smith, Stephen E Sanfacon, Kemi Sousi, John Wood, William Wentworth, Daniel Webster, George
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## THE COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SERVED AS FOLLOWS:

CHARLES S. ILLSLEY, From Dec. 31, 1861, to March, 1865.	Captain.	HENRY S. RICH, From April 26, 1865, to July 5, 1866.	First Lieutenant.
FRANK O. S. HOWE, Joined as Capt. from Co. A, May 4, 1865; served to July, 1866.	Captain.	ENOCH M. DEERING, Commissioned Jan. 9, 1862, and Died in Maine, July, 1862.	Second Lieutenant.
JOHN C. COBB, From Dec. 11, 1861, to Aug. 17, 1863; then promoted Colonel U. S. C. T.	First Lieutenant.	CHARLES F. JORDAN, From Sept. 16, 1863, to Feb. 19, 1865.	Second Lieutenant.
JOHN MEAD, Second Lieutenant, June 11, 1863 to Sept. 16, '63. First Lieutenant, Sept. 16, 1863, to Mar. 18, '65.	2d and 1st Lieut.	JAMES H. LORD, From April 26, 1865, to July 5, 1866.	Second Lieutenant.

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**COMPANY D.**


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**DIED IN THE SERVICE.**

- 1861.—James W. Duran.  
 1862.—Enoch M. Deering, Edw. J. Gilky, Josiah Bragdon, Joshua Edwards, Owen Gallaghan, Rufus B. Googin, Henry K. Lovewell, Lowell Lovell, Alonzo Meserve, Henry T. Joquaine, Henry E. Patterson, Aritas Rich, John Crowley.  
 1863.—Wm. Barrows, Wm. Berry, Thomas J. Davis, Luke Gillson, Neal McErgal, Chas. W. Stowers, Edward Warren.  
 1864.—Owen Fitzgerald, Augustus Smeledge.  
 1865.—Joseph Cyr, Wm. H. Davis, Mitchell Derough, Miles H. Ellingwood, Wm. E. Farwell, Edward H. Gilson, John Hanlon, Chester S. Mansell, Charles Reed, James G. Smith, George Webster, Nicholas Vickelby, Ira A. Archibald, James G. Buswell, Josiah M. Goodwin, Stephen E. Smith.
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**DISCHARGED FOR DISABILITY.**

- 1862.—Geo. H. Cummings, N. H. Seavey (not mustered), Charles N. Burns, A. C. Davis, Eben Davis, Humphrey S. Edwards, Martin N. Grant, Josiah Bragdon, Ira S. Jones, Moses M. Keene, Alexander Brown, Chas. C. Kneeland, John Marrow, Jason Hanson, Caleb Dennison, Alonzo Edwards.  
 1863.—Alexander McNear.  
 1865.—Geo. W. Hallowell, John Huston, John Souci, Octave St Peter.  
 1866.—Augustus W. Plummer.
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**MUSTERED OUT BY REASON EXPIRATION OF TERM.**

- JAN., '65.—(*The Non-Re-Enlisted Men.*)—Captain Charles S. Illsley. First Lieut. John Mead, Second Lieut. Charles F. Jordan, Daniel Orr, Ezra Rideout, William A. Welch, Stephen Rowe, David Taggett, Joshua A. Thomas.  
 MAY, '65.—(Per General Order,—Term to Expire in October.)—James Batchelder, John M. Davis, Remi Sanfacon, Jason Hanson, Levi M. Patch, Geo. F. Carsley, James L. Maybury, Jacob Thurston, Lendall Knight, Nicholas Yickolby, James Doyle, Geo. W. Hallowell.  
 IN THE SPRING OF '66.—(One Year Men.)—Alfred Marshall, Sherman Boobar, Edward Cyr, Tristram Dame, Jacob Eldridge, George Englehardt, Michael Fleming, David Foss, Willard C. Foster, Horace A. Furbish, Stillman Green, Oliver Hanson, Richard Hoey, George F. Huse, George B. Holmes, Alonzo Kneeland, Edward R. Kneeland, Wm. O'Connor, Patrick Powers, John H. Richardson, Charles Smith, Daniel Wentworth.
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TRANSFERRED BY PROMOTION, &c.—To U. S. C. T., Lieut. John C. Cobb, as Colonel; Elvin J. Maxwell, Daniel P. Rolfe, Frank E. Haggett. To V. R. C., Alonzo T. Kallack, Aaron C. Rogers, Amos C. Archibald; to U. S. A., Charles C. Legrow, Samuel Kenstead.

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DROPPED FROM THE ROLLS AS DESERTERS.—In 1862: Chas. W. Osborne, Benj. J. Pennell, Francis Boyd, John M. Smith, Chas. P. Norton, James H. Armour, Richard Edwards, James Jordan. In 1863: Samuel Hemstead, Lewis Hazen; In 1864: Duncan Falkner, Alexander Noble, Sidney Verrill. In '64-'65: George R. Ray, Paris R. Winslow. In 1865: Joseph Bidard, James E. Buswell, John Managhan, Charles V. Gray, Alexander Henley, Chas. W. Hibbard, Daniel Rowan, James Russel, Pierre Filieau, Asa B. Tuttle, Wm. Wood. In 1866: Timothy Dasey.

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**THE FOLLOWING HELD WARRANTS AS NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.**

FIRST SERGEANTS.—Charles F. Jordan, Henry S. Rich, Clark Lewis.  
 SERGEANTS.—Geo. H. Cummings, Elvin J. Maxwell, Daniel P. Rolfe, Wm. A. Welch, Henry S. Rich, Wm. Barrows, Alonzo T. Kellock, Clark Lewis, Robert B. Welch, Warren T. DeCraney, Charles E. Emery, Simeon Small.  
 CORPORALS.—Nathaniel H. Seavey, Henry S. Rich, Alonzo Edwards, Edward H. Gilkey, Levi M. Patch, Alonzo T. Kellock, Warren T. DeCraney, Frank E. Haggett, Clark Lewis, Aaron C. Rogers, Stephen Rowe, Simeon Small, Robert B. Welch, Joseph P. Martin, Isaac C. Welch, Alfred Marshall, Orlando Winslow, Lyman W. Hanson.

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SUMMARY.—Whole No. Names on Roll, 167; Died, 39; Discharged for Disability, 22; Non-Effectives, 7; Mustered out at Ex. Term, 43; Transferred, 9; Deserted, 27; Discharged with Regiment at Final Muster-Out, 21.

COMPANY E.

<p>CAPTAIN.  <b>CHARLES B. SMITH</b>.....<i>Houlton.</i></p>		<p>SERGEANTS.                  James H Belton                  Robert Seaborn                  Samuel P Delaite                  John B Lake                  James Walker</p>		<p>CORPORALS.                  Daniel W Garey                  Aaron P Bennett                  Sears S Ulmer                  John Robinson                  Lyman S Goodhue                  Merrill B Hanning                  Charles L Hoyt                  Shepherd Hoyt</p>			
<p>FIRST LIEUTENANT.  <b>JOHN Z. SWANTON</b>.....<i>Houlton.</i></p>		<p>MUSICIAN.                  Samuel Brown                  Keaton, Marcellus E F</p>					
<p>SECOND LIEUTENANT.  <b>ALBERT W. HOYT</b>.....<i>Fort Fairfield.</i></p>							
<p>PRIVATES.                  Allen, Henry                  Ames, Orchard                  Armstrong, Wm                  Bennett, Edward M                  Bennett, John H                  Byron, Josiah                  Bartlett, George                  Belden, Wilbert                  Bennett, George A                  Blake, John D                  Collins, Patrick                  Carson, George                  Clarke, John                  Casey, Joseph                  Craig, James W                  Crocker, James M                  Christy, Aaron H                  Cunningham, Chas                  Curtis, Greenleaf P                  Desinond, Cornelius J</p>		<p>PRIVATES.                  DeCourcey, Richard                  Duff, Robert                  Embleton, William                  Furlong, James                  Fish, Cornelius                  Gallagher, Edmond T                  Gordon, Samuel E                  Gallagher, Patrick                  Goss, George W                  Hitchings, Charles F                  Hanning, Amos                  Hanning, Obediah                  Hasty, Daniel C                  Hopkins, Orrick H                  Haskins, Alfred                  Kennedy, Daniel                  Kearney, Malry                  Keaton, Miles                  Lake, Charles W                  Lees, John</p>		<p>PRIVATES.                  Lindsay, David                  Laskey, Nathaniel                  Laskey, Theodore                  Lavois, John                  Myshrral, Lewis                  McGarey, Daniel S                  McGinnis, James                  McCarty, Daniel                  Murphy, William                  Merchant, Wm H                  McKinney, David                  Martin, Bernard                  McCormick, John H                  McKee, Thomas                  Morrill, Dana B                  Murray, John B                  Noble, John                  Neal, Daniel C                  Pike, Augustus H                  Powers, Abel</p>		<p>PRIVATES.                  Pickles, John W                  Pomroy, John T                  Palmer, Robert S                  Perkins, Gordon                  Perkins, Alfred F                  Ross, James                  Sylvester, Abiel N                  Sawyer, Orville L                  Sawyer, David T                  Stetson, Charles                  Snow, Isaiah                  Tozier, Anthony R                  Toland, Michael                  Tasnane, Michael                  Webber, George B                  Witham, James P                  Ward, Benjamin                  Wiltshire, Nelson                  Wilson, William E                  Young, John</p>	

JOINED AS RECRUITS IN 1862-3-4.

<p>1862-3.                  Adams, Thomas                  Boyd, Robert                  McDonald, John                  White, James</p>	<p>1864.                  Crawford, Melville                  Candage, George B                  Dupont, Jeremy                  Dean, George W                  Fifield, Warren                  Getchell, Aaron                  Gilbert, Lucius W                  Garland, James A                  Hurd, William A                  Hill, Henry L                  Hutchinson, Samuel                  Hopkins, Charles W                  Hermann, John                  Joseph, Francis                  Johnson, Francis                  Johnson, Joseph B                  Kearney, John</p>	<p>1864.                  Kearney, James                  Low, Edwin A*                  Long, Ambrose H W                  Lane, William R                  Lamphier, John                  Lowell, Joshua L                  Lenahan, John                  Langley, Henry                  McKibbon, Edward                  McKenzie, Orrin W                  Mountfort, Albert                  Marshall, Samuel                  Niven, Alexander                  Pierce, George G                  Phelps, James M                  Patterson, Fitz                  Runnels, Percy</p>	<p>1864.                  Roberts, Simcon R                  Rand, George H                  Rand, Warren S                  Silvie, Antoine                  Silvia, Frank                  Smith, Michael                  Smith, William I                  Small, Daniel                  Salter, Seth T                  Tapley, Henry                  Twombly, George H                  Wichman, Fred<sup>k</sup> W                  White, William<sup>s</sup>                  Webber, George B                  Willard, William                  Young, Henry                  Young, Benjamin G</p>
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\*As 1st Lieut. from N. C. Staff.

THE COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SERVED AS FOLLOWS :

<p><b>CHARLES B. SMITH</b>, Captain.                  App. Jan. 8, 1862; Mustered Out Aug. 13, 1864.</p>	<p><b>ALBERT W. HOYT</b>, 2nd and 1st Lieut.                  Second Lieut., Jan. 9, 1862, to Sept. 16, 1863.                  First Lieut., Sept. 16, 1863, to March 13, 1865.</p>
<p><b>JAMES WALKER</b>, Capt and 2nd Lieut.                  Second Lieut. Sept. 16, 1863, to April 26, 1865.                  Captain. April 26, 1865, to July 6, 1866.</p>	<p><b>EDWIN A. LOW</b>, 1st Lieut.                  App. from N. C. Staff, April 26, 1865, and detailed as Acting Adjutant. Mustered Out with Regiment, July 5, 1866.</p>
<p><b>JOHN Z. SWANTON</b>, 1st Lieutenant.                  Appointed Dec. 18, 1861; Dis. Aug. 11, 1863.</p>	<p><b>MERRILL B. HANNING</b>, 2nd Lieut.                  App. April 26, 1865, and served to June 18, 1866</p>

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## COMPANY E.

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### DIED IN THE SERVICE.

- 1862.—John Robinson, Henry Allen, George Bartlett, Michael Toland, Benjamin Ward, John Clarke, Samuel E. Gordon, Amos Hanning, Charles F. Hitchings, Nathaniel Laskey, Wm. H. Merchant, Abel Powers, Abiel N. Sylvester, George H. Bennett, Aaron H. Christy.
- 1863.—David McKenney, Robert Seaborn, Wilbert Belden, George W. Goss, Augustus H. Pike, Wm. E. Wilson, Jas. W. Craig, Orrick H. Hopkins, Bernard Martin, Jas. White.
- 1864.—Cornelius Fish (of wounds in action), Alfred F. Perkins, James P. Witham (killed in action April 8), Richard Decourcey.
- 1865.—Daniel McCarty, Stephen Burtzell, George B. Condage, Fitz Patterson, Daniel Small, Thomas Adams, Joseph Carey, Patrick Gallagher, James A. Ballard, Benjamin F. Ballard (accidentally shot), Henry L. Hill, Samuel Hutchinson, Joseph Francis, Joseph B. Johnson, John Lamphier, Henry Langley, Edward McKibbin, George H. Twombly.
- 1866.—Benjamin G. Young.

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### DISCHARGED FOR DISABILITY.

- 1862.—Almon L. Brown, George Carson, Edmond F. Gallagher, Daniel C. Has'y, Theodore Laskey, Daniel S. McGarey, Nelson Wiltshire, Greenlief P. Curtis.
- 1863.—Lt. John Z. Swanton, Samuel P. Delaite, John B. Lake, Aaron H. Bennett, William Armstrong, James M. Crocker, Alfred Haskins, Daniel Kennedy, Miles Keaton, John B. Murray, Charles Stetson, Anthony R. Tozier, John Young, James Ross.
- 1864.—Capt. Charles B. Smith. (Resigned on account of disability.)
- 1865.—Jeremy Dupont, Orrin W. McKenzie, Robert Boyd, Charles Cunningham Ambrose H. W. Long, Wm. R. Lane, John Lenahan, Runnels Perley, Warren S. Rand, Henry Young.
- 1866.—Merrill B. Hanning, Michael Smith.

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### MUSTERED OUT BY REASON EXPIRATION OF TERM.

IN JAN., '65.—(*The Non-Re-Enlisted Men.*)—Lieut. Albert W. Hoyt, Sergt. Charles L. Hoyt, Cor. Lyman P. Goodhue, Cor. Malry Kearney, Orchard Ames, Robert Duff, Wm. Embleton, Daniel D. Neal, John W. Pickles, Isaiah Snow.

IN MAY, '65.—(Per General Order, Term to Expire in October.)—Francis F. Bouchard, James A. Garland, Wm. A. Hurd, James McGinnis, Albert Mountfort, Wm. I. Smith, Wm. White.

IN THE SPRING OF '66.—(One Year Men, etc.)—Seth T. Salter, Barney Aggin, Alexander Belanger, John Boutole, Melville Crawford, George W. Dean, Warren Fifield, Aaron Getchell, Lucius W. Glibert, Charles W. Hopkins, John Kearney, James Kearney, Alexander Niven, George G. Pierce, James M. Phelps, Simeon R. Roberts, George H. Rand, Geo. B. Webber, Henry Tapley.

BY ORDER.—Josiah Byron ('62); Sears S. Ulmer and Almen L. Brown ('63); and David Lindsay, ('65).

TRANSFERRED.—John Lavois ('63) to U.S. Battery; Marcellus E. F. Keaton ('64) to U.S. C. T.; John McDonald ('64), Obadiah Hanning, and George B. Webber, ('65) to the V. R. C.

DROPPED FROM THE ROLLS AS DESERTERS.—John T. Pomeroy, in 1863; Patrick Collins, James Furlong, Charles W. Lake, Wm. Murphy, Lewis Myshral, John H. McCormick, Thomas McKee, Dana B. Morrill, John Noble, David T. Sawyer, in 1864; Manuel Coney, Francis Johnson, Joshua L. Lowell, Antoine Silvie, Frederick W. Wichman, Wm. Ward, William Willard. in 1865; Albert Authenrieth, John Corcoran, John Hermann, Frank Silvia, in 1866.

### THE FOLLOWING HELD WARRANTS AS NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

FIRST SERGEANTS.—Jas. H. Belton, James Walker, Merrill B. Hanning, David Lindsay.

SERGEANTS.—Robert Seaborn, Samuel P. Delaite, James H. Belton, John B. Lake, James Walker, Daniel W. Garey, Merrill B. Hanning, David Lindsay, Charles L. Hoyt, Shepherd Hoyt, John H. Bennett, Orville L. Sawyer, Michael Tasnane.

CORPORALS.—Sears S. Ulmer, Daniel W. Garey, Aaron P. Bennett, John Robinson, Lyman S. Goodhue, Merrill B. Hanning, Charles L. Hoyt, Shepherd Hoyt, David Lindsay, John D. Blake, Malry Kearney, Dana B. Morrill, Orville L. Sawyer, Edw. M. Bennett, John H. Bennett, Cornelius J. Desmond, Melville Crawford, Daniel McCarty, Michael Tasnane, Seth T. Salter.

SUMMARY.—Whole No. on Rolls, 164. Died in the Service, 48; Discharged for Disability, 35; Mustered-Out by reason of Expiration of Term, 36; by Order, 4; Transferred, 5; Dropped for Desertion, 22; Discharged with Regiment at Final Muster-Out, 13.

## COMPANY F.

CAPTAIN.		SERGEANTS.		CORPORALS.	
LAURENS J. JOYCE..... <i>Brunswick.</i>		Patrick H Sweeney		James Saunders	
FIRST LIEUTENANT.		John Darlington		Lewis B Briggs	
JAMES H. HACKETT..... <i>Houlton.</i>		James Robinson		James H Bailey	
SECOND LIEUTENANT.		Henry Lunning		Charles Sweeney	
PATRICK NEVILLE..... <i>Littleton.</i>		James F Doyle		John E M Lyons	
		MUSICIANS.		John Fitzgerald	
		Joshua Gatchell		Alfred Corbett	
		Benj F Coombs		Stephen J Bailey	
PRIVATES.		PRIVATES.		PRIVATES.	
Allen, William	Griffin, Timothy	McDonald, Michael	Quigley, Michael	Ryan, Michael	
Abbott, Wm A	Growse, Geo T	Maynor, Patrick	Ryan, Michael	Ryan, William	
Coffin, John	Glen, John	Murphy, James	Renahan, Thomas	Renahan, Michael	
Cooper, Richard	Gatchell, John E	Murphy, Robert R	Rankin, John	Sloat, Benjamin	
Cooper, Calvin	Hammond, David N	Murray, Patrick	Strout, Robert P	Smith, Jeremiah	
Coursen, John I.	Hammond, Henry W	McBrian, Oswald	Smith, Thomas	Small, Lorenzo D	
Coburn, Enoch	Harmon, Joseph	McCarty, Eugene	Sweeney, Patrick	Tarr, John	
Curtis, Robert J	Harmon, Albert	Murphy, Morris	Thompson, Simeon B	Toothaker, Seth	
Crowley, William	Hatch, Eugene	Murphy, Laurence	Ward, George C	Ward, Albion	
Corbett, Robert R	Higney, Michael	Mitchell, Charles R	Ward, Joel	York, Abizer	
Corbett, James R	Kelley, Patrick	Mitchell, William			
Coffin, Simeon C	Kelley, John	Martin, Frank			
Coffin, Thomas F	Knight, Cyrus E	McGinnis, Angus			
Dillon, John	Lindsay, James	McCartny, William			
Dixon, William	Leary, Thomas	Mahoney, Thomas			
Deering, John	Lee, Charles	Mitchell, Charles B			
Dolly, Stephen	Lake, Osborne	Magee, Joseph			
Dolan, John	Lawson, Hiram	Miller, Samuel			
Durgin, James T	Lubeck, John	McDonald, Michael			
Freely, Archibald	Maladay, James	McLaughlin, Thomas			
Gatchell, Roswell	Muckler, Michael	Parks, William			
Gillon, James	Mehegan, John	Quinn, James			

## JOINED AS RECRUITS IN 1864-5.

1864.	1865.	1865	1865.
Jordan, Dennis R	Cunningham, Wm M	Ingersoll, William	Pettengill, Henry
Murphy, James	Chase, William W	Jones, Michael	Palmer, William F
1865.	Clark, Robert	Jones, Winfield S	Russell, Henry
Shaw, Charles H*	Curtis, William F	Lenihan, Daniel	Sullivan, John
Adams, John	Donworth, Henry P	Lucas, Allen	Shea, John
Adams, Erastus jr	Dyer, Jacob	Larkey, Eugene	Silver, Manuel
Adley, George	Edwards, Bela	Matthews, John	Sickles, Lewis
Butler, Michael	Elwood, Walter	Mason, Ralph	Stack, William
Butler, William	Fitzgerald, William	Merrill, Samuel	Turner, George E
Birchby, Alfred	Finn, James	Merrill, James	Taylor, Joshua R
Bonney, John I.	Gray, Edward	Moore, Thomas	Ward, Albion
Brown, James L	Giddes, Charles	Miller, Hubert	Ward, Joel
Barnes, Michael	Hilton, Ivory	McCarthy, Dennis	Ward, Hugh H
Barney, Jestus	Hartford, Samuel V	McColley, James	Widger, Charles
Barney, Redman P	Harrison, Charles	Otis, Hezekiah	White, Edward K
Bowden, Jefferson	Hutchinson, Robert	Parker, Sanford G	
Crawford, Edward	Howard, William G	Peavy, Daniel	

\*From N. C. Staff.

## THE COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SERVED AS FOLLOWS:

LAURENS J. JOYCE, From Dec. 19, 1861, to March 13, 1865.	Captain.	JOHN FITZGERALD, Second Lieut., April 26, 1865, to Jan. 2, 1866, First Lieut., Jan. 2, 1866, to July 6, 1866.	2d and 1st Lieut.
CYRUS E. KNIGHT, First Lieut., Nov. 1, 1862, to April 28, 1865. Captain, April 28, 1865, to July 5, 1866	1st Lieut. and Capt.	PATRICK NEVILLE, From Dec. 19, 1861, to Jan. 18, 1865.	2d Lieutenant.
JAMES H. HACKETT, From Dec. 19, 1861, to Aug. 19, 1862.	1st Lieutenant.		

## COMPANY F.

*DIED IN THE SERVICE.*

- 1862.—Richard Cooper, Archibald Freely, Roswell Gatchell, Eugene Hatch, Charles B. Mitchell.
- 1863.—John L. Courson, Wm. Allen, Lewis H. Briggs, Osborne Lusk, Patrick Maynor, Michael McDonald, Thomas McLaughlin, James Murphy, Thomas Renahan, Michael Ryan, John Tarr, Benjamin F. Coombs.
- 1864.—Samuel Miller, Robert R. Murphy, Simeon B. Thompson, George C. Ward.
- 1865.—James R. Corbett, Jefferson Bowden, Robert Clark, Bela Edwards, Eugene Larkey, John Matthews, Wm. Dixon, Erastus Adams, jr., Redman P. Barney, George E. Turner.
- 1866.—Wm. Stack.

*DISCHARGED FOR DISABILITY.*

- 1862.—James H. Bailey, John E. M. Lyons, Wm. A. Abbott, John Glen, Charles Lee, Lawrence Murphy, Robert P. Strout, Lt. James H. Hackett.
- 1863.—Simeon C. Coffin, John Dillon, Thomas Learey, James Lindsay, James Quinn, and John Dolan. (wounded.)
- 1864.—Calvin Cooper, Robert J. Curtis, James T. Durgin, Albert Harmon, Patrick Kelley, Michael McDonald, Charles R. Mitchell, Benj. Sloat, Charles Sweeney, Jeremiah Smith, (who subsequently died at New Orleans) and James Murphy.
- 1865.—Stephen J. Bailey, John Kelly, Wm. F. Curtis, Joshua R. Taylor, Eugene McCarthy, Wm. Ingersoll.

*MUSTERED OUT BY REASON EXPIRATION OF TERM.*

- IN JAN. '65.—(*The Non-Re-Enlisted Men.*)—Capt. Laurens J. Joyce, Lt. Patrick Neville, Lorenzo D. Small, Henry W. Hammond, James Gillson, Geo. T. Growse, John Coffin, Henry P. Dunning, Timothy Griffin, David N. Hammond, John Lubec, Joseph Magee, Michael Quigley, John Rankin, Albion Ward, Joel Ward, and James F. Doyle.
- SPRING OF '65.—(Per Gen. Ord.)—Alfred Corbett, John E. Gatchell, Thos. Moore, Geo. Aelley, Michael Butler, Justus Barney, Edward Crawford, Jacob Dyer, Edward Gray, Ivory Hilton, Samuel V. Hartford, Charles Harrison, Robert Hutchinson, Wm. G. Howard, Dennis K. Jordan, Hezekiah Otis, Daniel Peavey, William F. Palmer, John Sullivan, John L. Bonney. In 1866.—Thomas Smith.
- IN THE SPRING OF '66.—[One Year Men.]—Samuel Merrill, James L. Brown, Wm. M. Cunningham, Wm. W. Chase, Henry P. Donworth, Jas. Finn, Winfield S. Jones, Ralph Mason, James McColley, Sanford G. Parker, Henry Pettingill, Albion Ward, Hugh H. Ward, Edward K. White, Lewis Sickles.

TRANSFERRED BY PROMOTION, &c.—Sgt. Patrick H. Sweeney, as 1st. Lieut. 1st La.; James Robinson, to N. C. Staff as Hospital Steward; Joshua Gatchell to Drum Corps, in 1862; Wm. Crowley, John Deering, Thomas Mahoney, Angus McGinnis, William M. Parks, Michael Renahan, to U. S. Artillery, in 1863; Hiram Lawson, to 2d La. Vols., '63; and John Darlington and Wm. McCartney, to V. R. C., in 1864.

DROPPED AS DESERTERS.—In 1862: Michael Muckler. In 1864: William Mitchell, Michael Higney, James Maladay Frank Martin, John Mehegan, Morris Murphy, Wm. Ryan. In 1865: John Adams, Alfred Birchby, Michael Barnes, Walter Elwood, William Fitzgerald, Charles Giddes, Daniel Lenihan, Allen Lucas, James Merrill, John Shea, Joel Ward, Charles Widger, Wm. Butler.

## THE FOLLOWING HELD WARRANTS AS NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

FIRST SERGEANTS.—Patrick H. Sweeney, James F. Doyle, James Saunders.

SERGEANTS.—John Darlington, James Robinson, Henry Dunning, James F. Doyle, James Saunders, Alfred Corbett, Lorenzo D. Small, Henry W. Hammond, Enoch Coburn, Eugene McCarthy, Robert R. Corbett, James McColley, Abizer York, Charles H. Shaw.

CORPORALS.—James Saunders Joshua W. Gatchell, Lewis B. Briggs, James H. Bailey, Charles Sweeney, J. E. M. Lyons, John Fitzgerald, Alfred Corbett, Stephen J. Bailey, Richard Cooper, John L. Courson, Henry W. Hammond, Eugene Hatch, Samuel Miller, Wm. Mitchell, Simeon C. Coffin, John E. Gatchell, Enoch Coburn, James Gillon, Wm. Dixon, Samuel Merrill, Wm. Stack, Joseph Harmon, Thomas Moore, Thos. F. Coffin, Henry P. Donworth.

SUMMARY. Whole No. on Rolls, 168. Died in Service, 32; Discharged for Disability, 31; on account of Expiration of Term, 32; By Order, 21; Transferred, 12; Dropped as Deserters, 21; Discharged with Regiment at Final Muster-Out, 19.



## COMPANY G.

CAPTAIN.		SERGEANTS.		CORPORALS.			
FRANKLIN M. DREW,..... <i>Presque Isle.</i>		Lester Dwinal Benj. F. Brown Algernon S. Smith Jesse H. Crowell David W. Thompson		Alexander Cook Nathaniel Lufkin John W. Whitten Nelson W. Burgess William B. Cobb Joseph Cyr Reuben N. Delaite John P. Farrington			
FIRST LIEUTENANT.		MUSICIANS.					
RANSOM N. PIERCE,..... <i>Fort Fairfield.</i>		Oscar L. Billings Fernando C. Bolster					
SECOND LIEUTENANT.							
ELBRIDGE J. PATTEE,..... <i>Fort Fairfield.</i>							
PRIVATES.		PRIVATES.		PRIVATES.			
Brown, Francis M Brown, Dana M Bragdon, Stephen S Brawn, Charles A Bickford, Rodney K Bolier, Joseph Bragdon, George T Bolster, Charles H Brown, John Bessee, Enoch A Blackington, Chas T Bolier, Amos Boller, Philip Cyr, Francis Cormair, Raymond Crock, Thomas Crock, Fabyan Carpenter, Chas W Davis, Granville W Dow, Joseph E Drew, George E Dunton, Ozias		Duke, William Dubay, Maguire Dorr, Newell J Denico, George Donnell, Thomas Doren, James Ellis, Mark Eaton, Alonzo J Edgecomb, Daniel O Emerson, George F Emerson, Charles F Erskine, Lemuel Erskine, Wesley C Erskine, Lorenzo D Farrell, Andrew Farrell, Charles Fields, George O Finn, Daniel Ford, Eugene H Farwell, Jeremiah Goven, Francis Grass, George A		Grass, Enoch B Grass, Charles A Hatch, Lorenzo D Hall, Enoch, Hatch, Andrew Hilton, George W Hodsdon, Henry Irish, Obediah F Laiten, Bradford W Laughton, Samuel Y Lawton, Alonzo Lundy, William Morse, Roscoe Murphy, Edward McManus, Patrick Morin, William Marshall, Albert Martin George McKinney, Michael Marsh, William R Marsh, John S Odlam, Joseph		O'Hara, Patrick F Pettingill, Benj W Record, Albert B Ragan, James Ran, James Rideout, James Rackliffe, Josiah K Rockwell, Alfred II Taylor, Thomas Thomas, Benj F Vioette, Thomas Vance, Joseph Washburn, Charles E Webster, William Weeks, Abner D Ward, William H Wight, Addison Waite, Almon C Wentworth, Merrill	

NON-EFFECTIVES.—Charles Allen, Briggs G. Bessee, John Corliss, Asbury E. Fastman,

## JOINED AS RECRUITS IN 1864-5.

Averill, Miles W ('64)	Colbert, John	Lawry, John M	Sweet, George H
Bates, William B	Chadwick, Thomas	Lopez, Antonio	Staples, Prince H
Bolstridge, George N	Crowell, Hiram	Lunday, John	Smith William
Fitzherbert, Samuel	Dupece, John	Langlais, Philip	Smith, William H
Lannigan, John	Emerson, Eugene	McIntosh, David	Spooner, Anson C
Leighton, George A	Finn, John	McKeen, Harper C	Tuttle, John H
Murphy, Sanborn C	Footard, Joseph	Maloney, Walter	Trask, Charles A
Parks, George F	Forney, Oliver	McDougal, Stephen S	Tyler, Ambrose F
Aiken, Henry P ('65)	Fisher, Thomas	Page, Lorenzo D	Thurston, Alvah H
Bryant, George A P*	Gabriel, Frank J	Powers, John	Thibodeau, Thomas
Brophy, William	Grass, Charles A	Patterson, Thomas	Vaughn, James
Bruyet, John	Hamilton, Thomas	Rodericks, Antonio	Webber, Joseph
Babb, William H	Hunter, James	Reed, Ambrose	Wilson, Geo W
Bartram, William	Harvey, Franklin	Ray, Charles A	Watson Willard
Burke, William	Hussey, Henry J	Rutlege, John	White, Bartlett C
Cimon, Charles	Iveson, John	Rutledge, Hugh	Worster John P
Copperthwait, James	Jaekins, Kendall S	Regan, John P	Worster, Algernon A
Cary, Charles E	Kelly, Patrick	Shirley, Charles E	
*As 2d Lieut. from I	Leighton, Charles H	Severance, William D	

## THE COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SERVED AS FOLLOWS :

FRANKLIN M. DREW, From Jan. 28, 1862, to Sept. 18, 1862.	Captain.	RANSOM N. PIERCE, From Dec. 31, 1861, to May 11, 1863.	First Lieut.
ELBRIDGE J. PATTEE, 2d & 1st Lt. and Capt. Second Lieut., Jan. 9, 1862, to Nov. 1, 1862. First Lieut., Nov. 1, 1862, to Aug. 16, 1863. Captain, Aug. 15, 1863, to Sept. 23, 1864.		JAMES RIDEOUT, From May 4, 1865, to July 7, 1866.	First Lieut.
LESTER DWINAL, 2d & 1st Lt. and Capt. Second Lieut., Aug. 12, 1862, to Aug. 15, 1863. First Lieut., Aug. 15, 1863, to Feb. 27, 1865. Captain, Feb. 27, 1865, to July 4, 1866.		BENJAMIN F. BROWN, From Aug. 16, 1863, to Jan. 21, 1865.	Second Lieut.
		GEO. A. P. BRYANT, From April 26, 1865, to Dec. 4, 1865.	Second Lieut.

## COMPANY G.

*DIED IN THE SERVICE.*

- 1862.—Newell J. Dorr, James Ran, Joseph Vance, Merrill Wentworth, George Denico, George W. Hilton.
- 1863.—Reuben N. Delaite, William B. Cobb, Charles W. Carpenter, Lemuel Erskine, Enoch B. Grass, Joseph Odiam, James Ragan, Addison Wight, Thomas Crock, Benj. W. Pettengill, Ozias Dunton.
- 1864.—John P. Farrington, Enoch A. Besse, Miles W. Averill, Wm. B. Bates, Samuel Fitzherbert, George A. Leighton, George F. Parks, Edward Murphy.
- 1865.—Wm. H. Babb, Thomas Hamilton, Antonio Rodericks, John P. Regan, Charles A. Trask, John M. Lawry, Stephen S. McDougal, James Vaughn.
1866. Charles F. Emerson.

*DISCHARGED FOR DISABILITY.*

- 1862.—Algernon S. Smith, Rodney K. Bickford, Francis M. Brown, George E. Drew, Charles Farrell, (not mustered) Michael McKinney, Roscoe Morse, Benjamin F. Thomas, Almon C. Waite, Abner D. Weeks, Wesley C. Erskine, Lorenzo D. Erskine, Andrew Hatch, Samuel Y. Laughton, David W. Thompson, George T. Bragdon.
- 1863.—Capt. Ransom N. Pierce, (resigned) Nelson W. Burgess, Dana M. Brown, Francis Cyr, Jeremiah Farrell, Josiah K. Rackliffe, William Webster.
- 1864.—Capt. Elbridge J. Pattee, (resigned) Daniel Finn.
- 1865.—Lieut. Geo. A. P. Bryant, Charles Cimon.
- 1866.—Alonzo Lawton, Wm. H. Ward, Wm. Brophy.
- PRISONER OF WAR and not afterwards heard from, Mark Ellis.

*MUSTERED OUT BY REASON EXPIRATION OF TERM.*

- [JAN., '65.—[The Non-Re-enlisted Men.]—Lieut. Benj. F. Brown, Nathaniel Lufkin, John W. Whitten, Alexander Cook, John S. Marsh, James Doran, Oscar L. Billings, Charles E. Washburn, Stephen S. Bragdon, Amos Bolier, Joseph E. Dow, Alonzo J. Eaton, Andrew Farrell, George A. Grass, William Lundy, Patrick McManus, William R. Marsh, Albert B. Record.
- MAY, '65.—[By Order, term soon to expire.]—James Hunter, Franklin Harvey, John H. Tuttle, Joseph Bolier, John Dupee, Joseph Footard, Prince H. Staples, William Smith, Bartlett C. White, Oliver Forney, George Martin, Thomas Chadwick.
- IN THE SPRING OF 1866.—[One Year Men.]—Charles H. Leighton, Algernon A. Worster, Eugene Emerson, Charles A. Grass, Lorenzo D. Page, Henry P. Aiken, William Bartram, Hiram Crowell, Henry J. Hussey, Kendall S. Jackins, John Lunday, John Rutledge, Hugh Rutledge, Anson C. Spooner, Ambrose F. Tyler, John P. Worster.

BY ORDER, for various reasons.—In 1862: Enoch Hall, Eugene H. Ford, Alfred H. Rockwell. In 1864: Daniel O. Edgcomb. By sentence G. C. M., Frank J. Gabriel.

TRANSFERRED, BY PROMOTION, etc.—In 1862: Capt. F. M. Drew, to Field and Staff, as Major. In 1864: Jesse H. Crowell, Granville W. Davis, Charles A. Grass, (afterwards returned to company) Henry Hodsdon, Thomas Taylor, and Obadiah F. Irish, to V. R. C.

[FOR LIST OF DESERTERS SEE ANOTHER PAGE.]

THE FOLLOWING HELD WARRANTS AS NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

FIRST SERGEANTS.—Lester Dwinal, Jesse H. Crowell, James Rideout, Albert Marshall, Charles F. Blackington.

SERGEANTS.—Jesse H. Crowell, Benjamin F. Brown, Algernon S. Smith, John W. Whitten, Nathaniel Lufkin, David W. Thompson, Reuben N. Delaite, Alexander Cook, James Rideout, Albert Marshall, Charles F. Blackington, George O. Fields, Lorenzo D. Hatch, Thomas Violette.

CORPORALS.—Alexander Cook, Nathaniel Lufkin, John W. Whitten, Reuben N. Delaite, Alexander Cook, James Rideout, Wm. B. Cobb, Nelson W. Burgess, John S. Marsh, Joseph Cyr, John P. Farrington, Daniel Finn, Charles K. Bolster, Enoch A. Besse, James Doren, Albert Marshall, Daniel O. Edgcomb, Charles F. Blackington, George O. Fields, Charles A. Grass, Lorenzo D. Hatch, Alonzo Lawton, Wm. H. Ward, Eugene Emerson, John Iveson, Charles H. Leighton, Lorenzo D. Page, Algernon A. Worster, Phillip Bolier, George F. Emerson, Thomas Fisher, Sanborn C. Murphy.

SUMMARY.—Whole NO. NAMES on Roll, 180. Died, 34; Discharged for Disability, 30; Non-Effectives, 4; Mustered-Out by Reason Expiration of Term, 46; Transferred by Promotion, etc., 7; By Order, 6; Dropped from Rolls as Deserters, 25; Mustered-Out with Regiment, at its Final Muster-Out, 28.

## COMPANY H.

CAPTAIN.		SERGEANTS.		CORPORALS.	
JOHN B. WILSON..... <i>Exeter.</i>		Giles Straw		Evander C Curtis	
FIRST LIEUTENANT.		Thos. II Wentworth		Alonzo Coan	
JOHN B. NICKELS..... <i>Corinth.</i>		Charles S Thurston		Benjamin True	
SECOND LIEUTENANT.		Rinaldo Butters		Joseph W Skillin	
HARRISON G. PRESCOTT..... <i>Exeter.</i>		Joseph A Clark		William II Carr	
		MUSICIANS.		Frank Trickey	
		George H Ferguson		Frank Rollins	
				Joshua Gammon	
PRIVATES.		PRIVATES.		PRIVATES.	
Ballard, James A		Fall, Isaac R		Pierce, Henry B	
Barker, Oliver S		Fisher, Jasper I		Pinkham, Daniel	
Beal, Gardiner		Fogg, Peleg		Ramsdell, Henry	
Bradley, Newell I		French, John II		Robbins, Warren	
Brown, Henry J		Gammon, George W		Robshaw, Samuel	
Butler, Daniel B		Girrell, Stephen W		Roundy, Frank P	
Butler, Gershom L		Goodwin, Samuel W		Russell, John I.	
Campbell, Charles		Greeley, Charles W		Sawyer, Asa II	
Carne, Stephen R		Gay, Henry W		Shaw, Chesley	
Chamberlain, James jr		Hubbard, Benj. T		Skillin, Francis M	
Collbath, Samuel S		Harmon, Ansel		Skillin, William E	
Cole, Jedediah		Haskell, Frederick A		Smith, George	
Coombs, Oscar A		Hatch, Benjamin C		Stevens, Asa M	
Carpenter, Chas. H		Herbert, Darius N		Storer, Charles P	
Chamberlain, James		Herbert, Nelson L		Storer, George	
Daniels, Charles C		Hunting, Allen R		Sweet, John C	
Davis, Joseph		Hunting, John D		Tibbetts, Leander M	
Dearborn, Charles F		Hatch, Sylvester L		Tibbetts, Melvan	
Daniels, Richard H		Hathaway, Asa H		Walker, John	
Elder, Fred W		Hoffses, Emerson W			

NON-EFFECTIVES.—John P. Abbott, James H. Glidden, Leonard Jefferson, James W. Keyes, Geo. H. Buck.

## JOINED AS RECRUITS IN 1862-4-5.

1862.	1865.	1865.	1865.
Robbins, Eben	Chapman, Eben	Miller, Hugh	Shortee, John
r863-4.	Chase, Orrin O	Miller, Moses	Strout, Almon
Ballard, Chester B	Cutter, John C	Mansfield, Hollis	Seppel, Setiano
Cain, William II	Dawley, Albert	Morrin, Lewis	Smith, Charles
Hill, Ira P	Door, Seth R	McCann, Peter F*	Tobin, Owen
Lord, James H	Edwards, Marcus M	Means, Luther S	Thompson, Harlow II
McPhail, John	Evans, Jonn H	Moore, Albion K P	Turner, Charles O
Noble, William C	French, Robert T	Ober, Alphonso L	Wilcox, Willard G
Rollins, Frank V	Forrest, George	Parker, Patrick	Wilson, Edward
White, John N	Hunton, Wellington D	Paul, Elec	Wallace, Thomas C
Elder, Fred. W. *	Hanson, Orrin	Preston, Bela D	Williams, Joseph W
(*Ret. to Co. F'm N. C.S.)	Higgins, Sabin P	Page, Frank	Williams, John
1865.	Johnson, Royat	Ramsdell, Austin	Williams, John, 2d
Baker, John T	Knowlton, Henry	Richardson, James E	Williams, William
Brown, Moses E	Laferty, Isaac	Russell, Henry W	Williams, William, 2d
Brookings, Benj. F	Littlefield, Isaac	Shaw, Charles	
Buzzell, George A	Magrath, Charles H	—*Joined as Lt. from K.	

## THE COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SERVED AS FOLLOWS :

JOHN B. WILSON,	Captain.	THOMAS H. WENTWORTH,	2d and 1st Lt.
From Jan. 15, 1862, to Oct. 20, 1863.		Second Lieut., June 23, 1863, to Oct. 19, 1864.	
ALONZO COAN,	2d and 1st Lt. and Capt.	First Lieut. Oct. 18, 1863, to Mar. 13, 1865.	
Second Lieut., Dec. 1, 1863, to Feb. 21, 1865.		WM. H. CARR,	First Lieut.
First Lieut., Feb. 21, 1865, to May 4, 1865.		From May 13, 1865, to July 5, 1866.	
Captain, May 4, 1865, to July 6, 1866.		HARRISON G. PRESCOTT,	Second Lieut.
JOHN B. NICKELS,	First Lieut.	From Jan. 15, 1862, to May 11, 1863.	
From Jan. 15, 1862, to Oct. 19, 1863.		PETER F. MCCANN,	Second Lieut.
		From May 12, 1865, to July 5, 1866.	

## COMPANY H.

*DIED IN THE SERVICE.*

- 1862.—Evander C. Curtis, Charles Campbell, Charles C. Daniels, Richard H. Daniels, Isaac R. Fall, Stephen W. Girrell, Darius N. Herbert, (discharged before death) Nelson L. Herbert, Allen R. Hunting, John D. Hunting, Henry C. Lyford, John H. Maines, Horace S. Neal, Wilson Perkins, George Storer, Leander M. Tibbetts, John Walker, Daniel B. Butler.
- 1863.—Giles Straw, Joshua Gammon, Newell J. Bradley, (accidentally killed) Henry Ramsdell, Asa H. Sawyer. Drowned in Escambia River (Fla.)—Samuel S. Colbath, Charles W. Greeley, Wm. B. Marson, Frank P. Roundy.
- 1864.—John C. Libby, (of wounds in action) Melmouth M. Marson, Chester B. Ballard, Ira P. Hill.
- 1865.—Sylvester L. Hatch, Albion K. P. Moore, William Williams, John H. Evans, George Forrest.

*DISCHARGED FOR DISABILITY.*

- 1862.—Gardiner Beal, Henry J. Brown, James Chamberlain, Peleg Fogg, Geo. W. Gammon, Asa H. Hathaway, Emerson W. Hoffs, Elisha H. Meguire, Asa M. Stevens.
- 1863.—Licut. H. G. Prescott, (resigned) David A. Page, Nathan Pera, Franklin B. Trickey, (wounded accidentally,) Charles S. Thurston.
- 1864.—Samuel Robshaw, Francis M. Skillin, Eben Robbins, Wm. C. Noble.
- 1865.—Wm. E. Skillin, George A. Buzzell, Wm. H. Cain, Charles F. Dearborn.
- 1866.—Wm. E. Pullen, John McPhail.

*MUSTERED OUT BY REASON EXPIRATION OF TERM.*

- JAN. '65.—[The Non-Enlisted Men.]—Capt. John B. Nickels, Lt. Thos. H. Wentworth, Frank Rollins, Gershom L. Butler, (prisoner of war, exchanged) James Chamberlain, jr, Fred. W. Elder, Ansel Harmon, Benj. T. Hubbard, George T. Marsh, Horace Mayo, Melvan Tibbetts, Charles H. Carpenter.
- MAY '65.—(By Order, in anticipation of term soon to expire.)—John T. Baker, Robert T. French, Wellington D. Hunton, Frank V. Rollins, Isaac Littlefield, Charles H. Magrath— In October and November, '65, Joseph Davis, John McKinney, Austin Ramsdell. In '66, Frank Page.
- IN THE SPRING OF '66.—Moses E. Brown, Benj. F. Brookings, Seth R. Door, Orrin Hanson, Sabin P. Higgins, Henry Knowlton, Hugh Miller, Moses Miller, Hollis Mansfield, Bela D. Preston, James E. Richardson, Henry W. Russell, Almon Strout, Owen Tobin, Harlow H. Thompson, Charles O. Turner, Thomas C. Wallace, William Williams, zd.

TRANSFERRED BY PROMOTION, &c.—In 1862: Henry B. Pierce, to Non-commissioned Staff, as Principal Musician. 1863: Capt. John B. Wilson, to accept position as Surgeon U. S. C. T.; Joseph A. Clark, to Non. Com. Staff, as Sergeant Major; Rinaldo Butters, George H. Ferguson, Stephen R. Carne, U.S.C.T.; Charles P. Storer, to N. C. S, as Hospital Steward. 1864: Benj. True, to N.C.S. as Q. M. Sergt.; James A. Ballard, to V.R.C.; Fred. W. Elder, to Non-commissioned Staff as Commissary Sergeant, (returned to company.) Eben Chapman, ret. to 11th N. H. 1865: Geo. L. Marson, to N. C. S. as Com. Sgt.; James H. Lord, to Co. D. as 2d Lt.

DROPPED FROM THE ROLLS AS DESERTERS.—In 1864: Oscar A. Coombs, Warren Robins. In 1865: Orrin O. Chase, John C. Cutter, Royal Johnson, Luther S. Means, Patrick Parker, Edward Willson, John Williams, zd. In 1866: Isaae Laferty, Setiano Seppel, Chas. Smith, Willard G. Wilcox. John Williams.

*THE FOLLOWING HELD WARRANTS AS NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.*

FIRST SERGEANTS.—Giles Straw, Thomas H. Wentworth, Alonzo Coan, Geo. Smith.

SERGEANTS.—Thomas H. Wentworth, Rinaldo Butters, Evander C. Curtis, Joseph A. Clark, Charles S. Thurston, Alonzo Coan, Benj. True, Joseph W. Skillin, Horace Mayo, Wm. H. Carr, Geo. Smith, Henry W. Gay, Wm. Mansfield, Geo. L. Marson, John L. Russell.

CORPORALS.—Evander C. Curtis, Joseph A. Clark, Alonzo Coan, Wm. H. Carr, Fred. W. Elder, Joshua Gammon, Frank P. Rollins, Joseph W. Skillin, Franklin B. Trickey, Benjamin True, Chas. H. Carpenter, Henry W. Gay, Wm. Mansfield, Geo. L. Marson, Horace Mayo, Geo. Smith, John L. Russell, Joseph Davis, Jasper I. Fisher, Byron Libby, Wm. E. Pullen, Chesley Shaw, John N. White.

SUMMARY—Whole No. NAMES on Roll, 162. Died, 36; Discharged for Disability, 24; Non-Effectives, 5; Mustered Out by Reason Expiration of Term, 40; Transferred, by Promotion, etc., 13; Dropped from Rolls as Deserters, 14; Mustered Out with Regiment at its Final Muster-Out, 30.

COMPANY I.

<p>CAPTAIN. MICHAEL BOYCE..... <i>Bangor.</i></p>		<p>SERGEANTS. Otis Gilmore Robert Wilson Charles R Rice Geo. A P Bryant Charles F Jordan</p>		<p>CORPORALS. Martin Sweeney Stephen R Cole Andrew Cavanah Luther V Gilmore James Garrity Roderick McNeal Albert P Tolman Miles P Brawn</p>			
<p>FIRST LIEUTENANT. THOMAS A. E. McCLUSKEY,.... <i>Houlton.</i></p>		<p>MUSICIANS. John Devlin Josiah B Turner</p>					
<p>SECOND LIEUTENANT. JOHN E. CALLAGHAN ..... <i>Fort Kent.</i></p>							
<p>PRIVATES. Brannan, James Bump, Darius W Babbidge, Erastus Battles, Michael Burnham, James Balcom, David Bolton, Gilman Boyce, William H Burkett, Calvin G Callaghan, John E Campbell, James Connors, Charles Chaplin, William Cunningham, Augus. Cunningham, Edward Daley, Joseph Donroe, John Davis, Stephen H Doyle, John Dyer, Benjamin</p>		<p>PRIVATES. Edgecomb, Chas H Garvin, Patrick Gaul, Orrin J Higgins, Martin, Harrington, Michael Harrington, James Hall, Albert O Howes, Thomas H Howes, Elijah N Holmes, Edwin L Huxford, Hiram Ingalls, Josiah Jordan, Patrick Kelly, John Kelly, Edward Kelly, William J Leonard, John Logan, James Mahoney, Cornelius Murray, Charles</p>		<p>PRIVATES. McKenney, John McFarland, Reuben R McFarland, Wm R McLaughlin, Nath'l L Noyce, Enoch Nash, James R O'Conner, John I O'Sullivan, Michael Peaslee, Freeman Perry, William F Pullen, Alfred Pease, Emerson Richardson, Tyler Richardson, Stephen Richards, Enoch O Robbins, Samuel B Rundlett, Lyman S Rundlett, Jeremiah Russell, Bailey I. Russell, Frank</p>		<p>PRIVATES. Russell, Wallace Shaughneys, Michael Smith, William S Sweeney, James Summers, Patrick Stewart, William Stone, Patrick Strout, Hiram T Tobin, Thomas Tobin, Michael Thayer, Elias Tibbetts, Joshua L Trask, Melvin C Trask, John W Vancour, William Wilson, Richard B Wood, Charles Wentworth, Sewall</p>	

NON-EFFECTIVES. Martin Boyle, John Campbell, Geo. A. Estes, Andrew J. Waltz, Richard Donald, Charles Greeley, Evermount O. Wilson, ('63) William Brennan, Reuben W. Brawn, Richard Donahoe, and Almon Tobey.

JOINED AS RECRUITS IN 1862-3-4-5-6.

<p>1862 Boyle, Patrick C Lavin, Patrick Nolen, Peter Trainor, Owen Walch, Michael</p>	<p>1865 Friend, Joel A Garnett, John T Grote, Theodore Harriman, Warren N Hutchinson, Benj. R Jackson, James Johnson, Elbridge Johnson, George H Logan, John B Mishoe, James Miller, Samuel Muller, August Newhall, Ira J Newman, David C Partridge, George H</p>	<p>1865 Patterson, Wilson Payson, Hollis Pendleton, Emery O Putnam, Jeremiah M Raynes, Calvin Ryan, Charles P Roberts, Calvin G Roberts, Ezra J Robinson, Henry H Rollerson, Samuel S Smart, George A St. Pierre, Joseph Staples, Justin I Staples, George D Severance, Frank E</p>	<p>1865 Shepherd, Fred G Sheldon, Abner F Sylvester, George W Smith, Roscoe B Tarrio, William Thompson, George L Vassure, John Williams, Albert J Wentworth, James H Wilson, George A Williams, John C 1866 Story, James M*</p>
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\*As 1st Lt. from N.C.S.

THE COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SERVED AS FOLLOWS :

<p>MICHAEL BOYCE, Captain. From Jan. 22, 1862, to Jan. 19, 1865. (Re-appointed Capt. Co. K., May 1866, and served until the Final Muster-Out, July 6, 1866.)</p>	<p>WILLIAM HENRY BOYCE, 1st Lieut. &amp; Capt. First Lieutenant, Sept. 19, 1862, to Feb. 12, '66. Captain, Feb. 12, 1866, to July 6, 1868.</p>
<p>JOHN E. CALLAGHAN, 2d &amp; 1st Lt. &amp; Capt. Second Lieutenant, Feb. 4, 1862, to Apr. 21, '64. First Lieutenant, Apr. 21, 1864, to Apr. 26, '66. Captain, Apr. 26, 1866, to Jan. 11, 1868.</p>	<p>THOMAS A. E. McCLUSKEY, 1st. Lieutenant. From Dec. 31, 1861, to Aug. 26, 1862.</p>
	<p>JAMES M. STORY, 1st Lieutenant. From Feb. 12, 1868, to July 6, 1868.</p>

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**COMPANY I.**


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**DIED IN THE SERVICE.**

- 1862.—Erastus Babbidge, James R. Nash, Stephen Richardson, Michael Shaughneys, David Balcom, Benjamin Dyer, Wm. R. McFarland, Enoch Noyce, Sewall Wentworth, Josiah B. Turner.
- 1863.—Andrew Cavanah, Augustus Cunningham, Michael O'Sullivan, Melville C. Trask, James Harrington.
- 1864.—Enoch O. Richards, Albert P. Tolman, Charles Connors (prisoner of war, supposed dead.)
- 1865.—Paschal B. Allen, Samuel Miller, Ira J. Newhall, Jeremiah M. Putnam, Calvin Raynes, George A. Wilson, Elijah N. Howes, George D. Staples.
- 1866.—Orrin J. Gaul, Samuel S. Rollerson.
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**DISCHARGED FOR DISABILITY.**

- 1862.—Lt. T. A. E. McCluskey, Charles F. Jordan, Michael Battles, Tyler Richardson, William S. Smith, James Sweeney, Hiram Huxford, Jeremiah Rundlett, Hiram T. Strout, James Logan, John I. O'Connors.
- 1863.—Lyman S. Rundlett, Elias Thayer, Michael Tobin, John W. Trask, Miles P. Brawn.
- 1864.—John Leonard.
- 1865.—Charles Wood, Geo. O. Eaton, Warren N. Harriman, Geo. A. Smart, August Muller.
- 1866.—Capt. John E. Callaghan (resigned), Robert Wilson.
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**MUSTERED OUT BY REASON EXPIRATION OF TERM.**

IN JAN. '65.—(The Non-Re-Enlisted Men.)—Capt. Michael Boyce, Thomas H. Howes, Stephen R. Cole, Michael Harrington, Wm. J. Kelley, James Brennan, James Burnham, Joseph Daley, John Donroe, James Garity, Patrick Garvin, Martin Higgins, Edward Kelley, Roderick McNeal, Cornelius Mahoney, Charles Murray, Samuel B. Robbins, Bailey L. Russell, Patrick Stone, Richard B. Wilson.

SPRING AND FALL OF '65.—[Per Gen. Or., most of them by reason near approach expiration of term.]—Frank Russell, Patrick C. Boyle, Patrick Lavin, Edward McFadden, Peter Nolen, Owen Trainor, Wm. Vancour, Michael Waleh, James H. Duffy, James Jackson, Geo. H. Partridge, Martin Sweeney, John Devlin, Benj. R. Hutchinson, Elbridge Johnson, Geo. H. Johnson, David C. Newman, Henry H. Robinson, Justin L. Staples, Roscoe B. Smith, Albert J. Williams, James H. Wentworth.

SPRING OF '66.—Abner F. Clement, Henry Dickenson, Joel A. Friend, John T. Garnett, Theodore Grote, Wilson Patterson, Hollis Payson, Emery O. Pendleton, Calvin G. Roberts, Ezra J. Roberts, Frank E. Severance, Abner F. Sheldon, Geo. W. Sylvester, Wm. Tarrion, Geo. L. Thompson, John C. Williams. [The One-Year Men.]

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BY ORDER.—Gilman Bolton ('62); Nathaniel L. McLaughlin, Alfred Pullen.

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TRANSFERRED.—James Campbell, John Kelley, John McKenney, and Wm. Stewart, to U.S. Artillery, in '63; Edwin L. Holmes, to N.C.S., as Hospital Steward; Darius W. Bump, to V.R.C., in '65; Sgt. Otis Gilmore, to 19th Co. Me. Infy., as Capt., ('65); Sgt. Charles R. Rice, to do., as Licut.; Geo. A. P. Bryant, to Co. G., as 2d Licut.

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DROPPED FROM THE ROLLS AS DESERTERS.—John Doyle, in 1863; Emerson Pease, in 1864; Josiah Ingalls, Wm. F. Perry, Alexander Fraser, John B. Logan, Charles P. Ryan, Frederick G. Shepherd, in 1865; John Vassure, '66.

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**THE FOLLOWING HELD WARRANTS AS NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.**

FIRST SERGEANTS.—Otis Gilmore, Robert Wilson.

SERGEANTS.—Robert Wilson, Charles F. Jordan, Charles R. Rice, Martin Sweeney, Edwin L. Holmes, Geo. A. P. Bryant, Luther R. McFarland, Charles H. Edgecomb.

CORPORALS.—Geo. A. P. Bryant, Andrew Cavanah, Stephen R. Cole, Joseph Daly, James Garity, Luther V. Gilmore, Roderick McNeil, Martin Sweeney, Albert P. Tolman, Miles P. Brawn, Thomas H. Howes, John Devlin, Michael Harrington, Wm. I. Kelsey, Reuben R. McFarland, Emerson Pease, Wm. Chaplin, Stephen H. Davis, Charles H. Edgecomb, Orrin I. Gaul, Albert O. Hall, Elijah N. Howes, Freeman Peaslee, Joshua L. Tibbetts.

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SUMMARY.—Whole No. Names on Rolls, 160. Died in Service, 28; Discharged for Disability, 24; Mustered-Out by reason Expiration of Term, 58; By Order, 3; Transferred, 9; Non-Effectives, 11; Deserted, 9; Discharged with Regiment at Final Muster-Out, 18.

## COMPANY K.

CAPTAIN.		SERGEANTS.		CORPORALS.	
CHANDLER R. MERRILL..... <i>Calais.</i>		George W Capen		Henry H Archer	
FIRST LIEUTENANT.		Elias A Berry		John A Fenerty	
WILLIAM MOREY, JR. .... <i>Machias.</i>		Frederick S Barnard		Henry C Peasley	
SECOND LIEUTENANT.		Aaron Wakefield		Cyrus S Crocker	
ZADOC WASHBURN ..... <i>Calais.</i>		Arthur Burns		Peter F McCann	
		MUSICIANS.		Samuel Morse	
		Asa Piper		Nathaniel Wakefield	
		Jason Spear		Josiah B Foss	
PRIVATES.		PRIVATES.		PRIVATES.	
Andrews, William jr	Fairfield, Payson E	Libby, Timothy C	Rumery, Melvin	Ramsdell, Henry	Ring, James W
Bailey, Clarence	Garnett, George H	Ludwig, Otis	Murphy, William	Rogers, William H	Reynolds, Ephraim W
Bourness, Isaac C	Gildart, James H	Manix, Michael	McGinn, Patrick	Rice, Thomas H	Stickney, Frank E
Blyther, Benjamin	Guptill, Sandford	McFadden, James	McDonald, John	Shaw, John L	Seeley, Aaron
Boggs, William H	Gay, Abner,	McDonald, Thos. H	Morse, Augustus H	Sprague, Ether W	Sherman, Charles H
Boynton, John W	Gardner, William E	McNutt, John	McNutt, Daniel	Smith, John	Spear, Jason
Brown, Theophilus	Greenlow, John A	Myers, Thomas	Matherson, Peter	Timmemans, Jos. A	Wallace, James
Byers, William	Greenlow, Charles W	Morrison, George	Morang, Alonzo	Walker, James	Willy, James
Baldwin, Robert	Hagan, Thomas	Norton, Abram T	Osborne, Thomas	Wakefield, James F	Watson, William
Crane, Benjamin F	Hinton, Joseph jr	Pearsons, Robert	Page, Josiah	Watson, James	Watson, David
Cunningham, James F	Hasnipp, Henry	Powers, Charles	Pearsons, Robert	White, George W	
Cartland, Alonzo P	Hanson, John E	Piper, Asa	Quinn, Jeremiah		
Clayburn, Richard	Hurley, Daniel	Quinn, John			
Dyer, Charles H	Joslin, Charles N				
Davis, William	Joy, Andrew J				
Davis, Ezekiel	Keive, Daniel				
Davis, Scribner H	King, Thomas G				
Donovon, Jeremiah	Learner, John				
Donovon, Richard	Lynch, Thomas L				
Ellison, William	Leighton, Frederick				
Foss, Jacob	Leighton, John O				
Fitzgerald, John	Lingley, George H				
Flemming, John	Lamson, Thomas F				
Forby, Charles	Labarge, Joseph				

## JOINED AS RECRUITS IN 1863-5-6.

1863.	1865	1865	1865
Cochrane, Samuel	Gammon, Lafayette	McDermot, John	Whelan, Patrick
1865.	Graham, William N	Noble, Thomas	Wilson, Gustavus V
Ayer, Rodney R	Graves, Cyrus S	Nichols, James	Warboys, Aaron
Ayer, Edwin N	Hilburg, Gustavus	Nickerson, James E	Wilson, Samuel *
Boyee, Michael*	Holmes, Charles	Olston, Frank	Young, John
Buckley, John	Hall, George W	Perry, Reuben R	Young, Lewis
Barrett, Riley W	Howard, John H	Purrington, Leonard F	1866.
Cran, Alonzo†	Janson, Magnus	Roberts, Charles F	Brown, Charles
Crocker, Mark W	King, Charles W	Reed, Winfield S	Harvey, James H
Callaghan, Dennis	King, Hezekiah	Ratcliff, Thomas	Lemeax, John
Dyer, William A	Lewis, Charles E	Smith, Peter	Stevens, Frank M
Fogg, George L	Lane, John	Smith, James	Stevens, Francis
Guilford, Ira	Maxfield, Stephen C	Sweeney, George E	*Joined as First Lieut.
—*Joined as Captain.	Munson, Duncan H	Tabbutt, George G	
—†Joined as First Lieut.	McGrail, Hugh	Tabbutt, William J	

## THE COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SERVED AS FOLLOWS:

CHANDLER R. MERRILL, Captain.	WILLIAM MOREY, JR., First Lieut.
From Jan. 8, 1862, to August 22, 1863.	From Jan. 6, 1862, to March 15, 1863.
ZADOC WASHBURN, 2d and 1st Lt. & Capt.	GEO. W. CAPEN, 2d and 1st Lieut.
Second Lieut. Jan. 6, 1862, to July 17, 1862.	Second Lieut., July 17, 1862, to June 23, 1863.
First Lieutenant. July 17, 1862, to Nov. 21, 1862.	First Lieut., June 23, 1863, to Feb. 14, 1865.
Captain. Nov. 21, 1862, to March 9, 1864.	SAMUEL WILSON, First Lieut.
MICHAEL BOYCE, Captain.	From April 26, 1865, to July 6, 1866.
From May 2, 1865, to July 5, 1866.	ELIAS A. BERRY, Second Lieut.
	From June 23, 1863, to July 5, 1866.

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**COMPANY K.**


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**DIED IN THE SERVICE.**

- 1862.—Benjamin F. Crane, William Davis, James W. Ring, Melvin Rumery, Joseph A. Timmermans, Theophilus Brown, Jeremiah Donovan, William H. Rogers.  
 1863.—James H. Gildart, Thomas Hagan, Andrew J. Joy, Thomas G. King, John O. Leighton, Charles H. Sherman, James Watson, James Walker, Daniel Keive.  
 1864.—Richard Donovan, John Fitzgerald, Thomas F. Lamson, Charles Forby.  
 1865.—Cyrus S. Crocker, Payson E. Fairfield, Jeremiah Quinn, John Quinn, Rodney R. Ayer, Ira Guilford, Duncan H. Munson, Reuben R. Perry, Leonard F. Purrington, Charles F. Roberts, Peter Smith, Aaron Warboys, George L. Fogg, Cyrus S. Graves, George W. Hall. 1866.—Jacob Foss, John Young.
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**DISCHARGED FOR DISABILITY.**

- 1862.—Robert Baldwin, Ezekiel Davis, George H. Garnett, Sandford Guptill, Samuel Morse, Abram T. Norton, Charles Powers, William Watson, Scribner H. Davis, John Flemming, Josiah B. Foss, Wm. E. Gardner, Charles W. Greenlow, Ephraim W. Reynolds, John Smith, George W. White, John L. Shaw.  
 1863.—Lieut. Wm. Morey, (resigned) Arthur Burns, Asa Piper, Richard Clayburn, John A. Greenlow, Thomas H. Rice. 1864.—Clarence Bailey.  
 1865.—Samuel Cochrane, Wm. Andrews, jr, Thomas H. McDonald, John McNutt.  
 1866.—Henry H. Archer, Augustus H. Morse.
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**MUSTERED OUT BY REASON EXPIRATION OF TERM.**

- IN JANUARY, 1865.—(The Non-*Re* Enlisted Men.)—Lieut. George W. Capen, Frederick S. Barnard, Jason Spear, Timothy C. Libby, Thomas L. Lynch, Patrick McGinn, Aaron Seeley.  
 IN THE SPRING OF 1865.—(Term soon to expire.)—Riley W. Barrett, John E. Hanson, John H. Howard, Charles W. King, Charles E. Lewis, George Morrison, Stephen C. Maxfield, John McDermott, James E. Nickerson, Frank Olston, Winfield S. Reed, James Smith, Wm. J. Tabbutt, James F. Wakefield, John Lemeax, Frances Stevens.  
 IN THE SPRING OF 1866.—(One Year Men.)—Dennis Callaghan, Edwin N. Ayer, John Buckley, Lafayette Gammon, James Nichols, George E. Sweeney, Patrick Wheelan, Lewis Young, James H. Harvey, Frank M. Stevens.
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DISCHARGED BY ORDER.—Capt. Chandler R. Merrill, (Aug. '62) Michael Manix, ('62) Alonzo P. Cartland, ('62) James F. Cunningham, ('63) and Capt. Zadoc Washburn, ('64)—the latter transferred by special order to the command of Co. C. Seventh (afterwards Eleventh) U. S. H. A., (C. D'A.) and the command of Fort Livingston, La.; he was discharged for disability on or about Oct. 22, 1864.

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TRANSFERRED.—By promotion: 1st Lt. Alonzo Coan, as Capt. Co. H, in '65; Sergeant Peter F. McCann, as 2d Lt. Co. H, in '65; Joseph Labarge, to V. R. C., in '65; and William Byers, William H. Boggs, John Learner, James McFadden, John McDonald, and George N. Peasley, to the U. S. Artillery, in 1863.

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DROPPED FROM THE ROLL AS DESERTERS.—Nathaniel Wakefield, James Wilby, and Charles H. Dyer, in 1862; David Watson, in 1863; Aaron Wakefield, Robert Pearsons, Thomas Osborne, John A. Fennerty, Henry C. Peasley, and Henry Hasnipp, in 1864; James Wallace, Frank E. Stickney, Mark W. Crocker, Gustavus Hilburg, Charles Holmes, Mangus Janson, Hugh McGrail, Thomas Ratcliff, George G. Tabbutt, Gustavus W. Wilson, Hezekiah King, John Lane, and Charles Brown, in 1865.

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**THE FOLLOWING HELD WARRANTS AS NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.**

FIRST SERGEANTS.—George W. Capen, Elias A. Berry, Arthur Burns, John A. Fenerty and Ether W. Sprague.

SERGEANTS.—Elias A. Berry, Arthur Burns, Aaron Wakefield, Frederick S. Barnard, Charles Powers, Cyrus S. Crocker, John A. Fenerty, James F. Wakefield, Peter F. McCann, Charles Forby, Henry H. Archer, Isaac C. Bourness, John W. Boynton, and Thomas Myers.

CORPORALS.—Henry C. Peasley, Cyrus S. Crocker, John A. Fenerty, Peter F. McCann, Henry H. Archer, Elias A. Berry, Samuel Morse, Nathaniel Wakefield, Josiah B. Foss, John A. Greenlow, James F. Wakefield, James Wallace, Charles Forby, Ether W. Sprague, Benjamin Blyther, Samuel Cochran, Joseph Hinton, jr., Daniel McNutt, Alonzo Morang, Augustus H. Morse, Thomas Page, Dennis Callaghan, Josiah Page, and Peter Matherson.

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SUMMARY.—Whole Number Names on Roll, 164. Died in Service, 38; Discharged for Disability, 29; Mustered-Out by Reason Ex. Term, 33; Discharged by Order, 5; Transferred, 10; Dropped as Deserters, 25; Discharged with Regiment at Final Muster-Out, 24.



## ADDENDUM.

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[CONTINUATION OF CO. G, FROM PAGE XV.]

[This Paragraph was crowded from its proper position on page 15 by reason of the large number of names on the Company Roll.]

DROPPED FROM THE ROLLS AS DESERTERS.—In 1862: Patrick F. O'Hara. In 1864: Joseph Cyr, Charles K. Bolster, Raymond Cormair, Fabyan Crock, Maguire Dubay, William Duke, Thomas Donnell, Francis Goven, Wm. Morrin. In 1865: James Copperthwait, Chas E. Carey, John Colbert, Antonio Lopez, John Powers, Thomas Patterson, Ambrose Reed, Charles A. Ray, Wm. D. Severance, Wm. H. Smith, Joseph Webber, Willard Watson, John Brown, David McIntosh, Harper C. McKeen.

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## ERRATA.

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- PAGE 10. In Record of Service of the Officers of Co. D, read: "JOHN MEAD, Second Lieutenant, served as such from June 11, 1862, to Sept. 16, 1863," rather than as now.
- PAGE 15. In List of those Mustered-Out in Spring of '65, read: "George Adley," instead of "George Aelly."
- PAGE 15. Read "Dennis R. Jordan," instead of "Dennis K. Jordan."
- PAGE 15. In "Summary, at foot of page, read: "Discharged by Order, 2; Mustered-Out by Reason of Expiration of Term, (or in anticipation thereof) 19." Those discharged by order are Alfred Corbett and John E. Gatchell.
- PAGE 16. In Roster of Original Organization of Co. G, read "Violette, Thomas," instead of "Vioette, Tnomas."
- PAGE 18. In Record of Service of Officers, Co. I, it should appear that Capt. John E. Callaghan's resignation took effect Jan. 23, 1866," rather than "Jan., '65," as stated.

## BREVET APPOINTMENTS.

Soon after the muster-out of the regiment a considerable number of the Fifteenth officers were honored with Brevet Appointments, intended, no doubt, as "rewards of merit." The justice of these appointments—their significance, if any is to be attached—or the standard of "merit" governing the awards—must necessarily be a subject as to which there is likely to be some diversity of opinion. The appointments, as a general rule, take effect March 13, 1865. They are signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary of War, and are confirmed by the United States Senate. As a rule the appointments are conferred "for meritorious services during the war," the exceptions to this rule being that Col. Drew's brevet appointments were for "faithful and meritorious services," Col. Joyce's for "gallant and meritorious services," and Maj. Martin's "for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Pleasant Hill, La." The following are the appointments:

TO BE BRIGADIER GENERALS BY BREVET.—Col. Isaac Dyer and Brevet Colonel Benjamin B. Murray, Jr.

TO BE COLONELS BY BREVET.—Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin B. Murray, Jr.; Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Franklin M. Drew; Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Laurens J. Joyce.

TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONELS BY BREVET.—Major Franklin M. Drew, Brevet Maj. Laurens J. Joyce.

TO BE MAJORS BY BREVET.—Capt H. A. Shorey; Capt. Lester Dwinal; Captain Laurens J. Joyce; Capt. James N. Martin; Brevet Captain Elias A. Berry.

TO BE CAPTAINS BY BREVET.—First Lieutenant Elias A. Berry.

# THE MAINE FIFTEENTH REGIMENT AS FINALLY MUSTERED OUT OF SERVICE.

## FIELD AND STAFF OFFICERS.

### COMMISSIONED.

B. B. MURRAY, Jr., Lt. Col., Com'd'g.  
JOHN R. COATES, Major.  
EDWIN A. LOW, Adjutant.\*  
GEO. Z. HIGGINS, Surgeon.  
ARTHUR A. HOLMES, Asst. Surgeon.

[\*The record of Adjutant Low has been so amended as to give him rank of Adjutant from date of commission as such.]

### NON-COMMISSIONED.

JOHN D. BLAKE, Sgt. Maj.  
HENRY A. WHITNEY, Q. M. Sgt.  
GEO. L. MARSON, Com. Sgt.  
CHARLES P. STORER, Hos. Steward.  
CHARLES O. DODGE, Drum Major.  
JOSHUA GATCHELL, Fife Major.

**CO. A.**  
 CAPTAIN.  
 JAMES N. MARTIN  
 LIEUTENANTS.  
 JAMES E. KNIGHT, 1st  
 SERGEANTS.  
 Andrew J Hankins, 1st  
 Edwin P Bridges  
 Andrew J Bulmer  
 John A Wheeler  
 Albert H Hallett  
 CORPORALS.  
 William H McLaughlin  
 Stephen H Case  
 Edward P Hodges  
 Lyman Rumery  
 Ralph L. Teed  
 Brickett, Henry F  
 Cogswell, Augustus  
 Chambers, Augustus F  
 Chambers, William H  
 Caswell, William A  
 Conners, Patriek  
 Crowley, John  
 Gibson, James  
 Johnson, William H  
 Knight, George J  
 Leary, Nelson  
 Moore, Alonzo V  
 Mulcachy, Patrick  
 Maloon, Horace G  
 Pottle, Asbury F  
 Stewart, Alonzo J  
 Sherrard, Robert  
 Wilson, James  
 Walker, William F

**CO. D.**  
 CAPTAIN.  
 FRANCIS O. S. HOWE  
 LIEUTENANTS.  
 HENRY S. RICH, 1st  
 JAMES H. LORD, 2d  
 SERGEANTS.  
 Clark Lewis, 1st  
 Robert B Welch  
 Simeon Small  
 Warren T DeCraney  
 Charles E Emery  
 CORPORALS.  
 Isaac C Welch  
 Joseph P Martin  
 Lyman W Hanson  
 Orlando Winslow  
 Bunnell, William  
 Bidard, Lewis  
 Dubois, Narcisse  
 Griffin, Dennis  
 Impey, Alonzo  
 Jordan, James E  
 Meara, John  
 Page, Benjamin  
 Pearsons, Edward  
 St. Pierre, Isam

**CO. B.**  
 CAPTAIN.  
 HENRY A. SHOREY  
 LIEUTENANTS.  
 CHARLES E. GRAVES, 1st  
 JOSEPH E. LATHAM, 2d  
 SERGEANTS.  
 Carlton Lancaster, 1st  
 John B Tarr  
 William H Bosworth  
 George H Douglass  
 Frazier T Shorey  
 CORPORALS.  
 B Franklin Higgins  
 Bradford H Pushard  
 Orrin A True  
 David C Merryman  
 James McGrath  
 George M Green  
 Loring O Pushard  
 Isaac F Swan  
 Allen, Henry R  
 Allen, Wm C  
 Bubier, Andrew  
 Dexter, Wm. H  
 Oliver, Augustus R  
 Oliver, James R  
 Trufant, Adam O  
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**CO. E.**  
 CAPTAIN.  
 JAMES WALKER  
 LIEUTENANT.  
 EDWARD A. LOW  
 SERGEANTS.  
 Daniel W. Garey, 1st  
 Shepherd R Hoyt  
 John H Bennett  
 Orville L Sawyer  
 Michael Tasnane  
 CORPORALS.  
 Edward M Bennett  
 Cornelius J Desmond  
 MUSICIAN.  
 Samuel Brown  
 Belton, James H  
 Marshall, Samuel  
 Perkins, Gordon  
 Palmer, Robert S  
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**CO. C.**  
 CAPTAIN.  
 JOSEPH A. CLARK  
 LIEUTENANTS.  
 WHITMAN L. ORCUTT, 1st  
 BENJAMIN F. OWEN, 2d  
 SERGEANTS.  
 James Johnston, 1st  
 Hezekiah S Owen  
 Harrison H Robinson  
 Wm. H Sutter  
 Sanford B Preble  
 CORPORALS.  
 Daniel Everett  
 Charles C Pomeroy  
 Jeremiah Snow  
 Lyman R Seigers  
 Jonathan D Snow  
 Banks, John  
 Brown, William  
 Bekker, John  
 Barker, William P  
 Collins, Ebenezer \*  
 Ellis, Hiram W  
 Hutchinson, Albert C†  
 McNiff, Martin  
 Nepting, Charles  
 Perrowe, Jeremiah  
 Riley, John  
 Stevens, James‡  
 Stratton, Samuel W‡  
 \*Absent sick.  
 †Absent wounded and prisoner.  
 ‡Erroneously reported 'Dropped.'  
 Page 9.

**CO. F.**  
 CAPTAIN.  
 CYRUS E. KNIGHT  
 LIEUTENANT.  
 John Fitzgerald, 1st  
 SERGEANTS.  
 James Saunders, 1st  
 Enoch Coburn  
 Robert R Corbett  
 Abizer York,  
 Charles H Shaw  
 CORPORALS.  
 Joseph F Harmon  
 Thomas F Coffin  
 MUSICIAN.  
 Lewis Sickles  
 Hutchinson, Robert  
 Jones, Michael  
 Miller, Hubert  
 McCarthy, Dennis  
 McBrien, Oswald  
 Murray, Patrick  
 Russell, Henry  
 Sweeney, Patrick  
 Silver, Manuel  
 Toothaker, Seth

**CO. G.**

CAPTAIN.  
LESTER DWINAL

LIEUTENANT.  
JAMES RIDEOUT, 1st

SERGEANTS.  
Charles F Blackington, 1st  
Albert Marshall  
Lorenzo D Hatch  
Thomas Violette  
George O Fields

CORPORALS.  
Phillip Bolier  
George F Emerson  
Thomas Fisher  
Sanborn C Murphy

MUSICIAN.  
Fernando C Bolster

Bruyet, John  
Burke, William  
Brawn, Charles A  
Bolstridge, George N  
Finn, John  
Iveson, John  
Kelley, Patrick  
Langlais, Phillip  
Laiten, Bradford W  
Lannigan, John  
Maloney, Walter  
Shirley, Charles E  
Sweet, George H  
Thurston, Alvah H  
Thibodeau, Thomas  
Wilson, George W  
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**CO. H.**

CAPTAIN.  
ALONZO COAN

LIEUTENANTS.  
WM. H. CARR, 1st  
PETER F. McCANN, 2d

SERGEANTS.  
George Smith, 1st  
Joseph W Skillin  
Henry W Gay  
Wm. Mansfield  
John L Russell

CORPORALS.  
Jasper I Fisher  
Byron Libby  
Chesley Shaw  
John N White

Barker, Oliver S  
Cole, Jedediah  
Dawley, Albert  
Edwards, Marcus M  
French, John H  
Goodwin, Samuel W  
Haskell, Frederick A  
Hatch, Benjamin C  
Leathers, Jeremiah R  
Morrin, Lewis  
Noble, James  
Ober, Alphonzo L  
Paul, Elec  
Pinkham, Daniel  
Shaw Charles  
Shortee, John  
Swett, John C  
Williams, Joseph W

**CO. I.**

CAPTAIN.  
WILLIAM H. BOYCE

LIEUTENANT.  
JAMES M. STORY, 1st

SERGEANTS.  
Reuben R McFarland, 1st  
Luther V Gilmore  
Charles H Edgecomb

CORPORALS.  
William Chaplin  
Albert O. Hall  
Joshua L Tibbetts  
Freeman Peasley  
Stephen H Davis

Burkett, Calvin G  
Cunningham, Edward  
Jordan, Patrick  
Mishoe, James  
Russell, Wallace  
St. Pierre, Joseph  
Summers, Patrick  
Tobin, Thomas  
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**CO. K.**

CAPTAIN.  
MICHAEL BOYCE.

LIEUTENANTS.  
SAMUEL WILSON, 1st.  
ELIAS A. BERRY, 2d.

SERGEANTS.  
Ether W. Sprague, 1st  
John W. Boynton  
Thomas Myers  
Isaac C. Bourness

CORPORALS.  
Alonzo Morang  
Joseph Hinton, jr  
Benjamin Blyther  
Josiah Page  
Daniel McNutt  
Peter Matherson

MUSICIAN.  
Otis Ludwig  
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Dyer, William A  
Ellison, William  
Graham, William N  
Gay, Abner  
Hurley, Daniel  
Joslin, Charles N  
Leighton, Frederick  
Lingley, George H  
Murphy, William  
Noble, Thomas  
Ramsdell, Henry

## BRIEF RECORD OF FIFTEENTH MAINE OFFICERS TRANSFERRED AND SERVING WITH OTHER REGIMENTS OR CORPS.

- ASSISTANT SURGEON JOHN H. KIMBALL.**—This officer re-entered the service as Assistant Surgeon Thirty-Second Maine, Feb. 27, 1864; was promoted Surgeon Sept. 23d of same year; was transferred, as Surgeon, to Thirty-First Maine, upon consolidation of the two regiments, and mustered-out with that regiment at the close of the war. Surgeon Kimball actively participated in Grant's closing campaigns in front of Petersburg and Richmond, rendering conspicuous service in the medical department to the final close of the war.
- CAPT. JOHN B. WILSON.**—Capt. Wilson was transferred for promotion as Surgeon of the 96th U. S. Colored Infy, Oct., 1863. He served with distinction as Surgeon in charge Post Hospital, Fort Esperanza, Texas; Acting Medical Purveyor of U. S. Forces in Texas; Surgeon in charge U. S. A. Gen. Hospital, Fort Gaines, Ala., and was honorably discharged, on surgeon's certificate of disability, Jan., '65.
- LIEUT. JOHN C. COBB.**—In the summer of 1863, while A. A. General at Camp Parapet, Lieut. Cobb was appointed Colonel of the 2d Regt. Engineers, C. D. A., afterwards the 95th U. S. Colored Infy. In the winter of '63-4 he commanded the Post of Matagorda (Texas;) was Chief Engineer of the Texas coast; commanded a provisional brigade comprising his own and several regiments of western troops, until the coast was evacuated. In the summer of '64 Col. Cobb reconstructed the fortifications about Port Hudson; commanded his regiment at the siege of Forts Gaines and Morgan, Mobile Bay; served on military commission at New Orleans five months, at same time commanding a brigade of five regiments, with headquarters at New Orleans. In spring of '65 he accompanied Gen. Canby to Mobile Point to prepare for siege of Mobile; placed in command of Engineer Brigade of Army & Divis. of West Miss., and retained that command until June, 1865, when he resigned, and was honorably discharged in July of same year.
- CAPT. ZADOC WASHBURN.**—In October, 1863, Capt. Washburn, with Co. K, was detached from the Fifteenth, to garrison Fort Livingstone, La., Capt. Washburn commanding: the regiment, meanwhile, proceeding to Texas. While in command of Fort Livingstone, Capt. W. was commissioned Captain and mustered into Co. C, Seventh, and afterwards Eleventh, U. S. Heavy Artillery, C. D. A., with the understanding that the regiment should be mustered into the Regular Army. Capt. Washburn commanded at Fort Livingstone a little more than a year, and was discharged for disability, Oct., 1864. Co. K, Lieut. Capen commanding, re-joined the regiment at the opening of the Red River Expedition.
- HOSPITAL STEWARD LEVI E. HOLMES.**—In May, '63, transferred for promotion as Lieutenant in 96th U. S. C. Infy., and detailed as Actg. Asst. Surg., and in charge Regimental Hospital. Resigned Feb. 1865, to complete his medical studies. After graduating he was appointed Actg. Asst. Surg. in the U. S. A., ("Regulars") serving in that capacity two years in Oregon.
- CAPT. JOHN E. CALLAGHAN.**—This officer had some appointment in connection with the recruiting of colored troops with reference to taking command of a regiment, but there is no record as to this service, attainable.
- CAPT. C. S. ILLSLEY.**—This officer was appointed to the Regular Army soon after leaving the Fifteenth and is now a Staff Captain, serving with conspicuous ability on the staff of some general officer in the West.
- Quite a number of our regimental family were transferred for promotion, as will appear by the Appendix, but their several records are inaccessible. They include: Segt. W. H. Totman of Co. B, as Capt. First La.; Segt. Otis R. Colby and Private Wm. H. Jack, of same company, Lieutenants 96th U. S. C. T.; Elvin J. Maxwell, Daniel P. Rolfe, and Frank E. Haggert, Co. D, officers 96th U. S. C. T.; Segt. Patrick H. Sweeney, Co. F., 1st Lieut. First La.; Hiram Lawson, Co. F, to Second La.; Segts. Otis R. Gilmore and Charles R. Rice, Co. I, Captain and Lieutenant, respectively, 19th Co. Maine Unattached. A large number of non-commissioned officers and privates were also transferred to regular army batteries, military telegraph corps, veteran reserve corps, etc.

## ERRATA.

- Page 16, Appendix. Capt. John B. Nickels, in the record of service of officers, should be credited with service as Captain of Co. H, from Oct. 19, 1863, to March 13th, 1865.
- Page 15, Appendix. Stephen Dolly was transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps in 1866.
- Page 4, Appendix. Private James Gibson, Co. A, is inadvertently omitted from roll. He joined as a recruit Sept. 26, 1864, and was mustered-out with the regiment at final muster-out. He has been in some way intermixed with Thomas Gibson, of same company.