

A
History of the 76th
Ohio Volunteer
Infantry in the War
of the Rebellion.

A HISTORY OF THE 76TH REGIMENT, OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, IN THE CIVIL WAR.

On the 7th day of October, 1861, William Dennison, Governor of Ohio, appointed and commissioned Charles R. Woods as Colonel of Volunteers, with authority to recruit a regiment to be known as the 76th Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

In October and November, Commissions as Second Lieutenant were issued by the Governor to:

Thaddeus Lemert,
Joseph M. Scott,
Charles H. Kibler,
Strew M. Emmons,
Joseph C. Wehrle,
James Stewart,
Lucian H. Wright,
William S. Wright
Edward Briggs,
Levi P. Conan,
James M. Jay.

The expectation was that these men would begin at once, and at their own expense, to recruit companies, to be assigned to the 76th or some regiment, and that upon completion of the companies the commission of Captain would issue to each of them. These Companies were to take the

names A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and K, in the order they were reported full, or were assigned to the 76th Regiment.

The rendezvous was Camp Sherman at the Old Fort Fair Grounds, Near Newark, Ohio. Several of the Companies, namely, A, B, C, D, E, G, and H, were recruited mainly from Licking County, Ohio. F was recruited from Columbiana County; I in Stark County, Ohio and part of K from Stark County, Ohio.

As these Companies were assembled at Camp Sherman, they were industriously drilled and initiated into their duties as soldiers.

At length, on the 6th day of February, 1862, the Companies, organized with the proper commissioned and non-commissioned officers, uniformed, provided with the proper accoutrements, and armed and furnished with the regulation supplies, were mustered into the service of the United States for three years, or during the war, by Colonel Charles R. Woods, as mustering officer.

The Regiment then numbered 962 officers and men .

At his appointment, the Colonel was a Captain in the 9th Infantry in the Regular Army. He had had experience in that army in California and the west. He led the

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At his appointment, the Colonel was a Captain in the 9th Infantry in the Regular Army. He had had experience in that army in California and the west. He led the

troops in an effort to reinforce Fort Sumter, and conducted a regiment to what is now West Virginia. He was a West Pointer, well versed in technique in his profession. He was of good judgment, cool, collected and reliable.

William B. Woods, the Lieutenant Colonel, was a gentleman of culture and a lawyer of prominence. He had been Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives. Though without military experience, he was quick to prepare himself for his duties.

Willard Warner, the Major, was a man of affairs, with an aptitude for the military life.

Charles R. Pierce, the Surgeon, and Thomas B. Hood, the Assistant Surgeon, were distinguished in their profession, energetic and competent.

John W. ^{Carty} ~~McCarthy~~, the Chaplain, left the rectorship of the Episcopal Church, at Newark, to perform the duties of his office.

Henry D. Wright, the Quartermaster, was a successful business man, able and efficient.

The Company officers, a captain and two lieutenants for each company, were all from civil life.

The regimental staff and company officers, with a rank

and file of intelligent and stalwart men, were a body which promised to emerge into an organization of which the State might be proud.

On the 9th day of February, 1862, the regiment left Camp Sherman and marched into Newark. A beautiful silk flag, the present of the patriotic ladies of Newark, floated over the men as they proceeded to Newark. A great crowd of the relatives and friends of the officers and men assembled to witness their departure; and amid acclamations and some tears, they boarded the train and were "off to the war."

The first stop was at Cincinnati. After a little delay, the regiment embarked on a steamboat, which carried them to Smithland, Kentucky, at the mouth of the Cumberland River. Proceeding up that river, it disembarked a few miles below Fort Donelson. From there it ^{marched} ~~marched~~, mostly by double-quick, to a position in the rear of the enemy's works. Here, in the wintry weather, wet with perspiration, without tents and fires, with little protection from the weather, it bivouacked on the cold, wet ground, and "bitterly thought of the morrow." To add to the discomfort, two inches of snow fell on them during the night.

This, five days after leaving the home camp, was their introduction to war.

Early on the morning of the 15th day of February, the Regiment moved forward to a position near and in view of the enemy's works, and formed in line of battle. Really, it made a fine appearance. The uniforms were new, the scales on the shoulders were bright, the other accoutrements were clean, the guns were shining, the black hats with feathers were striking; the Regiment, nine hundred strong, looked like regulars.

The position was one where it was expected that the enemy might try to break through our lines and escape from the Fort. The regiment was under fire, but firing on its part was unnecessary. The enemy made a movement to break through our lines, but seeing the preparation to resist them, withdrew. That night, but early in the morning of the 16th, the Fort and works were surrendered.

The regiment was a part of the 3rd brigade of Gen. Lew Wallace's Division.

After lying in camp in Dover and vicinity, the regiment marched from the Cumberland river to the Tennessee river, a distance of about 11 miles, where it went into

camp on the west side of the latter river, near Metal Landing, a short distance above Fort Henry. At that camp, the regiment experienced its first night alarm. A picket out in the woods, in front of the regiment, saw indistinctly, in the dark and rain, some object moving. He ordered it to halt. It did not halt. Again he challenged, but it kept moving, and he fired. The alarm reached the regiment. The long roll was beaten. Soon the order "fall in" came from the mouths of ten captains. By the time the regiment was in line, it was found that it was a false alarm. The object the picket indistinctly saw and heard was a calf.

The regiment remained at Metal Landing, engaged in daily drills, until the _____ day of March, 1862, when it moved up the Tennessee River to Crump's Landing, on its west bank, about five miles below Pittsburg Landing.

At Crump's Landing the regiment was engaged in daily drills until the 31st day of March, 1862, when the brigade, including the regiment, with Thurber's Missouri Battery of four guns, under the command of Col. Charles R.

Woods, moved out from the river, a little beyond Adamsville. There, on favorable ground, it entrenched by the

clearing of trees in its front and flanks, and using them as protection, with abatis and other means, against an attack from the enemy.

By April 4, it was ready for such attack. The ~~xx~~ enemy was active in that vicinity, and there was evidence that an attack upon the position was contemplated. Indeed, Gen. Grant and Gen. Wallace expected that, if an attack was made, it would be by way of Crump's Landing.

Therefore, on Friday night, April 4th, the other two brigades of Wallace's division, in anticipation of such attack, came out to the position of Woods' brigade. In the morning, it being obvious that the ~~summit~~ ~~summit~~ enemy were moving past the position, these two brigades returned to their camps nearer the river, but under orders to be ready to move at once. This was the condition on the 5th day of April.

On the morning of the 6th of April, the sounds of battle in the vicinity of Pittsburg Landing filled the air. Woods' brigade was ready to move. The other brigades of the division were also ready to move, and the whole division, before noon, was concentrated on the road leading

to Pittsburg Landing, and were prepared to move as might be ordered by Gen. Grant. At length, Capt. Baxter, aid to Gen. Grant, came with a verbal order to move. The misunderstanding commonly attending such verbal orders resulted in General Wallace and his staff understanding it as an order to reach the field of battle at the point on Owl Creek where Gen. Sherman's right rested on the 5th of April. This was near the bridge on the road to Purdy. Accordingly, Gen. Wallace advanced in that direction until a second order came to move to the river at Pittsburg Landing. The division counter-marched and reached the battle field just before dark. On the night of the 6th the division was stationed at the right of Gen. Sherman's line, as it then was.

That night again the rain fell in torrents. Every one was drenched. There was no protection except by blankets. No fires were allowed. The gunboats every fifteen minutes fired their shots over the heads of the men. Sleep was almost impossible.

At daylight, on the 7th, the whole division moved in the direction of the enemy. The regiment, during the fore-

noon, moved forward and halted at least twelve times. At each halt, it lay down, under orders, to save the men from the enemy's fire. At length, it reached the extreme ~~point~~ front. "The First Nebraska fired away in the heat of the action its last cartridge. At a word, the 76th Ohio rushed in and took its place. Just then the enemy retreated and the battle ended. One man of the regiment, William A. Glass, of Co. F, was killed; four were wounded. Lieut. Simson B. Wallis was rendered unconscious and fell from concussion of the air produced by a minnie ball which just missed his head.

After the battle, the regiment encamped near the field.

9
Gen. W. H. Halleck, after the battle, assumed command in the field. Gen. Grant was relegated to the condition of second in command, - an office without authority, and he was not consulted as to the movement upon Corinth. It commenced in a perfunctory manner. It covered less than 22 miles in 20 days, and when the advance reached Corinth, it found it evacuated with nothing left there of any value to an army. As Gen. Grant said, it was a red herring from the start.

Before reaching Corinth, the 76th regiment took part in a reconnoissance to a point called Pea Ridge, held by the enemy. It was dislodged, the enemy retreating to Corinth.

After the evacuation of Corinth, the regiment, by rail and by march, proceeded to Memphis, Tennessee, reaching that point on the 17th day of June, 1862. After occupying two several camps in the vicinity, it embarked for Helena, Arkansas, where it arrived on the 24th day of July. It was then a part of the 2nd Brigade of the 5rd Division, of the 15th Army Corps, and in the command of Gen. Frederick Steele.

On the 24th day of August, 1862, the regiment, forming a part of an expeditionary force of observation, moved by boat down the Mississippi river to Milliken's Bend, a few miles above Vicksburg. The expedition ~~then~~ there surprised the 31st Louisiana Regiment, capturing its camp and garrison equipage, and took possession of a transport called the Fair Play, with 7000 stand of small arms, a quantity of fixed ammunition and other army supplies. The troops pursued the Louisiana regiment 9 miles, taking 40 prisoners, and destroying a depot of army provisions at

_____ on the Vicksburg and Texas Railroad.

The fleet dropped down the river to the mouth of the Yazoo river. A detachment from the regiment, with other troops, under convoy of gunboats, proceeded by boat up that river to ~~Emax~~ Haines' Bluff, which it surprised, capturing four seige guns, two field pieces and a large quantity of fixed ammunition. The enemy were driven away.

On the 27th day of August, the expedition returned to Helena.

Early in October, 1862, the division embarked for St. Genevieve, Missouri. After remaining a week there, it marched to Pilot Knob, Missouri, a distance of about fifty miles from the river.

The object of the expedition was to oppose Gen. Price, of the enemy, who was threatening the Union force at Pilot Knob. No enemy appeared. Until the 12th day of November, the weather being good, the regiment enjoyed the fine country, with its pure water, and the vegetables, fruits and wine, which the friendly German people freely and cheerfully furnished. The surviving members of the regiment still recall how happy they were in this

garden spot of Missouri.

Starting on that date for Helena, the regiment, on reaching it, encamped on the east bank of the Mississippi river, at Camp Steele. The men of the regiment, by permission, engaged in cutting cord-wood. This they sold ~~to~~ steamboats. The proceeds made a regimental fund, which was expended in the purchase of a machine for baking bread.

On the 21st day of December, 1862, the regiment left Camp Steele and proceeded down the river as a part of Gen. Sherman's ^{first} ~~the~~ expedition against Vicksburg. Reaching Johnson's Landing on the Yazoo on the 26th day of December, it disembarked. The 2nd Brigade, of the First Division, of the Fifteenth Army Corps, of which Brigade the regiment was a part, made a ^{feint} ~~feint~~ attack upon Haines' Bluff. It then took position on the extreme right of the Union forces. In the subsequent attack, it was in the reserve.

The attack at Chickasaw Bayou having been abandoned, the regiment, which was quartered on a steamboat, proceeded with the whole command under Gen. McClernand to the vicinity of Arkansas Post on the north bank of the

Arkansas river.

That night, which was very dark, the regiment marched by a circuitous route about six miles, through mud and water, and over fallen ~~logs~~ ^{logs}, around the enemy's works, and encamped near their center, occupying some cantonments. At daylight, under artillery and rifle fire, it moved towards the fortifications. At about 1 o'clock p.m. it charged towards the works, within one hundred yards from the rifle-pits. It halted there and remained on that line until the Post was surrendered. The fighting was continuous and severe. A battery in their front was silenced by their rifle fire. The regiment in this engagement lost forty men ⁱⁿ killed and wounded. Among the killed was Thaddeus Lemert, as gallant a man and as capable an officer as was ever commissioned. He was struck by a solid shot. John S. Anderson, a lieutenant in Co. C. died the next day of a wound. As near as can be ascertained, the following named of the rank and file were killed:

John Howard, Co. A.

Sidney Wood, Co. B.

William Beddoes, Co. C.

William Taylor, Co. D.

James F. Brown, Co. D.

James Boyle, Co.H.
William Twaddle, Co.F.
Elias Camp, Co.F.
John A. Booth, Co.G.
Levi White, Co.I.
Peter Yener, Co.I.

Among the wounded were Capt. Joseph C. Wehrle, Co.H. and Capt. James M. Jay, Co.K. The names of the others who were wounded cannot now be learned.

After the surrender of Arkansas Post, the regiment embarked, and on the 23rd day of January, 1863, reached Young's Point, Louisiana.

On the night of Feb. 14th, while in their tents at night, two non-commissioned officers, viz: Rufus B. Buxton and Henry D. Rose, Co.B. were killed, and four men were disabled, by lightning.

4
Heavy details were made upon the Regiment for work on the canal projects across the neck of land opposite Vicksburg.

On the 2nd day of April, 1863, the regiment, with the division, started in transports for Greenville, Mississippi, to dislodge a battery erected there. Disembarking there, and dislodging the battery, it marched to Deer Creek, in the interior, pursuing a force of the enemy under the command of Col. Ferguson. On the 7th day of April, this

force was met and routed. In the fertile valley of Deer Creek were found, in abundance, vegetables, fowls, bacon and other meat, which were enjoyed by all.

The command returned to Greenville, after having destroyed large quantities of corn and other army supplies of great value, and bringing away cattle, horses and mules in great numbers.

At Greenville, on the return of the expedition, the command found there great numbers of negroes, men, women and children. It was a picturesque and pitiable picture.

They thought their year of jubilee had come. After selecting one hundred or more of the young negroes for enlistment in a colored regiment, the poor residue were necessarily left to the tender mercies of their masters.

15
On the 24th day of April, the regiment returned to Young's Point. On the 26th, it went into camp at Milliken's Bend.

Just preceding the first passage of the transports past the batteries at Vicksburg, the regiment moved to the vicinity of Warrenton, Louisiana. The object of this movement was to protect any of the transports that might be disabled from falling into the hands of the enemy.

After two days, the regiment returned to Young's Point.

THE VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN:

At Milliken's Bend preparations were made for the movement over the river and around Vicksburg. On the 5th day of May, the Corps started for Hard Times Landing, where it arrived the next day, and crossed the river to Grand Gulf. From there, it marched to Fourteen Mile, where the division was attacked by a mounted force of the enemy. The first brigade, under the command of Col. Charles R. Woods, moved forward under a hot fire against this force and drove it away. The division marched through Raymond, and arrived at Jackson, the capital. The regiment charged the enemy's works on its left. The works were evacuated, and the Union Army entered the city.

16
On the 16th day of May, after the destruction of the enemy's depots of provisions and army supplies, and the crippling of railroad tracks the regiment marched hurriedly for Vicksburg, and, on the 18th, with little opposition, took position next to the Mississippi River above Vicksburg. On the 19th, the second brigade occupied the high

ground next to the river. This ground was separated from the enemy's works opposite by a deep valley six hundred yards wide. The regiment remained in this position during the whole siege of forty days. Our works in front were continually strengthened and great guns were mounted. Companies from the regiment were detailed daily for firing at the opposite batteries, and these were, after a while, seldom fired.

The gunboat Cincinnati, descending the river in full sight from our position, was disabled by a shot from the enemy's battery. It managed to turn and proceed up the river, but sank near its east bank in reach of the Vicksburg water battery. Details from the regiment worked under fire in removing the heavy guns from the gunboat, and succeeded in removing eight of them. These guns were mounted in a redoubt to play upon the enemy's water battery.

At length, on the 4th day of July, 1863, the stronghold was surrendered, amidst great rejoicings on our side.

On the night of July 3rd, while an armistice was in force, and everything was as quiet as a Sunday in peace, an incident occurred which will be seen from the following

report:

"Headquarters 2nd Brigade, 1st Div. 15 A.C.
Walnut Hills, Miss.

July 3, 1863.
10:10 p.m.

"Major: Since ten minutes before ten o'clock tonight, the
enemy have fired twice at my redoubt on the flat near the
river.

"I am, respectfully Y'r Ob't Servant,
C.R.Wood,
Col. 78 Regt. O.V.I.
Commanding Brigade.

"Major J.W.Paddock,
A.A.Genl.
1st Division, 15 A.C."

This paper has the following endorsements:

"Headquarters 1st Div.
15 A.Corps, July 3, 1863.

"Respectfully referred to Headquarters of the Dep't
of the Tenn.

"Fred'k Steele,
Major Genl. Commanding."

"Return every shot fired.

"U.S. Grant,
Major Genl. Genl."

This report and endorsements were returned within an
hour. No other shots were fired. There never has been an

explanation why the two were fired.

During the seizure, the regiment suffered lightly. One officer, Charles Luther, Co.E, was killed and four men were wounded.

19
On the 5th day of July, 1863, the 15th Army Corps moved again towards Jackson, to engage the enemy under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. It reached there on July 10th. The city was again evacuated. While the Corps was there, the brigade, under Col. Charles R. Woods, was sent north towards Canton, Miss., to destroy the railroad bridge over the Big Black River. A force of cavalry, with a battery, opposed the brigade, but gave way when encountered. The bridge was destroyed. The brigade occupied Canton, where buildings used as depots for army supplies and contents were destroyed.

On the 23rd day of July, the regiment marched for the Big Black river, and went into camp near the highway bridge on that river. It remained there free from danger and alarm for "rest and reorganization", and pay, until the 23rd day of September, 1863. The reorganization resulted in making the regiment a part of First Brigade, First Di-

vision, of the Fifteenth Army Corps, under the command for the division of Gen. P.J.Osterhaus. Gen.Sherman still commanded the corps. During this period many of the men received furloughs for visits home, and officers had leave of absence.

On the 22nd of September, 1863, Col.Charles R.Woods was promoted to be Brigadier General of Volunteers. Col. William B.Woods, soon after, was promoted to be Colonel of the Regiment. He served as such Colonel until he was promoted to Brigadier General of Volunteers.

20
On the 10th day of September, Major Warner was promoted to be Lieut.Colonel of the Regiment. On the 12th day of October, 1864, he was commissioned Colonel of the 180th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. On the 10th day of March, 1864, Edward Briggs, Captain of Co.I, was promoted to be Major, and on the 12th day of October, 1864, was promoted to be Lieut.Colonel. After the promotion of Col.William B. Woods to be Brevet Brigadier Genl.of Volunteers, and Brigadier General of Volunteers, Edward Briggs, Major and Lieutenant Colonel, was in command of the Regiment until its muster-out, in July 1865. Reason C.Strong, from Captain of Co.D., was, on the 16th of June, 1865, promoted to be

Major. On the 13th day of July, 1865, he was appointed Colonel, but was not mustered as such officer. Captain Jehiel T. Wintrobe, then Captain of Co.G., was appointed Major, but was not mustered as such officer.

On the 23rd of September, 1863, the division, with the regiment, embarked from Vicksburg, for Memphis. On the 30th day of September, it moved thence by rail to Corinth, Mississippi. During the month of October and a part of November it marched through the northern part of Alabama, and through Tennessee, sometimes skirmishing with the enemy.

A march in good weather, through a well-watered country, is no hardship. If the region has not before been traversed by a hostile army, and the resources exhausted, so much the better. The sick get well, and the well become stronger. The complaint and dissatisfaction, inseparable from the permanent camp, are no longer heard, and instead there is cheerfulness. This cheerfulness and good health prepare the marching army for the rougher and more perilous work ahead.

When the division, on its way to Chattanooga, reached

Brown's Ferry, over the Tennessee River, on the _____ day of November, the bridge across the river had been swept away, so that it could not join the other two divisions of the Corps which had crossed the river there. This accident resulted in attaching the 1st Division of the Corps to the army of Gen. Joseph Hooker, then encamped on that side of the river.

On the 24th day of November, the division, then on the left of Gen. Hooker's army, advanced over Lookout Creek, in the ascent of Lookout Mountain. It was a difficult march up. There was little opposition, and that was driven off, the brigade and regiment following fast. The regiment ascended to the point on the mountain in which was highest, between the Lookout Valley, on the west, and the Chattanooga Valley on the east, skirmishing with and driving away the enemy. It there was halted for the rest of the day and the night.

The battle of Lookout Mountain was of the spectacular sort, and is exploited in history and romance in brilliant colors. Except for the forces of Gen. Geary, which were on the right and next to the rocky face or palisades of the mountain, which forces drove away the enemy with a

23

whirl, the contest was in nowise severe. The first brigade of the first division of the 15th Corps went up rapidly, and the enemy fell back before it just as rapidly. There was ~~in~~ generalship indicated. The anxiety was to keep the men from going too fast. The brigade, early in the day, was halted at some barricades, which had been built by the enemy on the point above mentioned. The mountain from the east and west valleys, and up to the rocky face was obscured from view by a thick mist; while the upper part of the mountain was unobscured. When he had driven away the enemy, stationed under the rocky face, Gen. Geary planted, in full view of Chattanooga and the Chattanooga Valley, the American Flag. Such was the "battle above the clouds." Rather, the battle, what there was of it, was a battle under the clouds. The flag streamed above the mist.

The next morning, Nov. 25th, the army, under Gen. Hooker, started from Lookout Mountain, across the Chattanooga Valley, to take part in the assault upon Missionary Ridge. The enemy, on the night of 24th, evacuated the mountain, and in their retreat destroyed a bridge over Chattanooga

Creek, on the road to ~~Rob~~ville Gap, in the Missionary Ridge.

This delayed the march of Hooker's Army about four

hours. At length, waiting no longer for the completion

of the new bridge, the regiments waded the stream, leaving

the artillery behind and moved towards the ~~Rob~~ville Gap.

Driving off the enemy which opposed the advance with in-

fantry and artillery, Gen. Hooker's army passed through

the Gap, and wheeled to the left, towards the north part of

Missionary Ridge. In the mean time, the enemy had re-

treated from their work, and the business of the first bri-

gade of the first division of the 15th Army Corps was to

surround and capture prisoners. This they did by the hun-

dreds.

That evening, a detachment from the Regiment was detailed to conduct prisoners to Chattanooga. It returned during the night.

The regiment that night bivouacked on the field of battle. Soon the camp fires died down, and the tired men slept.

There was no sound for a while save the intermittent murmurs from the camps. Even these murmurs soon subsided.

A stranger coming there then would not suspect ^{have ed} that on and about that Ridge a few hours before there had been

the continuous din of small arms, the roar of the artillery, the shouts of the combatants, the groans of the wounded, the shrieks of the dying, and other clamors and horrors of a great battlefield.

On the next day, the 26th, Hooker's Army moved south on the highway towards Ringgold, Georgia, in pursuit of the retreating enemy. The Regiment, on the way, bivouacked, as was supposed, for the night; but it was aroused during the night and moved southward. After daylight, the 1st Brigade being in the advance, reached the vicinity of Ringgold, which is a station on the Georgia Railroad.

25
A bridge on the highway, over a stream, had been destroyed by the enemy. This circumstance necessitated a detour on the west bank of the stream to reach another bridge to the west of the station.

Other regiments of the first brigade had preceded the 76th Regiment, and had been posted near a gap in the mountain or high ridge. This gap is narrow at the south, and through it runs a little rivulet, and the highway and the railroad track. On the east is Taylor's Ridge, which parallels the highway and railway track, and within rifle-shot distance therefrom. The ridge on the west gradually

widens north from Gap. Both ridges were densely wooded. The enemy had filled these ridges on both sides with sharpshooters, while a battery, or batteries, held the gap itself. Into this cul de sac the other regiments of the 1st Brigade had been hurried. They were at the mercy of the sharpshooters on the wooded sides of the ridge. The men and officers were shot down, and, unfortunately, could do no execution against their concealed foes.

26
The 76th Regiment marched on the road from the west to where it crossed the railway track. There they were met by Gen. Osterhaus, in person, who ordered Major Willard Warner, in command of the Regiment, to advance up Taylor's Ridge, at a point nearest the crossing, to turn the enemy's flank.

This order was a grave error; following the graver error of an attack in front upon the enemy posted in this natural stronghold. This front attack, it is understood, was contrary to the positive order of Gen. Grant. No criticism is made upon Gen. Osterhaus for ordering the 76th up the ridge, for the reason that the other regiments of the brigade, being then stationed nearer the gap, and sorely pressed, his purpose was to relieve these regiments by

an attack upon the enemy's flank.

The proper military movement, it is suggested, would have been to withdraw these regiments near the gap out of range of the enemy's fire. The retreating enemy, whose only object was to protect and save his wagon trains, would not have followed them; or, if he did, the other brigades of the 1st division, 15th Army Corps, were near at hand to meet him. The order such withdrawal was the part of Gen. Hooker.

27
THE BATTLE AT TAYLOR'S RIDGE, AT RINGGOLD:

In obedience to the order to ascend the ridge, the 76th Ohio at once moved. It was then small, with not more than 200 officers and men.

** (Here come extracts from the printed history of the 76th Reg. at Ringgold, or Taylor's Ridge.)*

In the whole engagement at the Gap, seven or eight hundred men and officers were killed and wounded. The enemy retired on account of flank movement against them.

The operations at Ringgold ended the campaign. The regiment, with the brigade, returned to Chattanooga, and thence

*This follows:
See Battle
of Ringgold
in Taylor's
History
of the
War. & then
proceed with
the whole
of the
to the end.*

marched to Point Rock, Alabama, for winter quarters. It arrived there, January 1, 1864.

On the 4th day of January, 1864, about two-thirds of the Regiment re-enlisted as veterans. The officers and men had thirty days' leave of absence, or furlough. On the 30th of January, the regiment moved by way of Nashville, Louisville and Cincinnati, to Columbus, Ohio, reaching Newark, Ohio. It left the train one mile from Newark, and marched into the city in column, by companies. It was welcomed by a large body of citizens. Oratory exploited their services. A bountiful feast was enjoyed. Every man was a hero to his friends and relatives. Joy was unconfined. The members left for their homes.

On or about the 15th day of March, 1864, the Regiment reached Cincinnati, on its return to the front. It went thence to Louisville, Ky., and from there by rail to Nashville, Tenn, whence it marched to its old camp at Point Rock, Ala. It remained there, engaged in company, regimental and brigade drill until the first day of May, 1864. The location was healthful. The region had not been overrun by an army. Alarms ^{were} ~~were~~ infrequent and unimportant.

At the last named date, it marched, with the division,

for Chattanooga. At Bridgeport, on the way, it received a gift of a new silk flag, from the ladies of Newark and vicinity. The regiment reached Chattanooga. After marching south twelve miles, on the 9th day of May, with that part of the army in the command of Gen. J. B. McPherson, it passed through Snake Creek Gap and towards Resaca, Georgia; with the brigade under a hot fire, it charged across the fields, and gained a footing on the line of hills west of Resaca. In this engagement, it lost ~~xxx~~ killed, and in the assault on the line of hills the next day, Omer Hatch, Co. B; Michael Griffin, Co. E, ~~xxx~~ John G. Patten, Co. H, and twenty three officers and men wounded.

29
The purpose of the movement was to occupy the railroad in the rear of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's army. When the success of the movement seemed certain, the troops were recalled to the Snake Creek Gap. No sufficient reason has been urged ~~xx~~ in defense of this retrograde movement. It was a great disappointment to Gen. Sherman. Such contratemps are not unusual in wars.

The enemy having fallen back from Gen. Sherman's front, and having occupied Resaca in force, ~~the~~ policy required that it be attacked and driven out. Accordingly, just before

dark, on the 14th, the regiment, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Edward Briggs, along with the brigade and division, made a charge, under fire, across a little valley, and assisted in carrying a line of hills on the enemy's left. Every man there that night will recall with returning thrills the terrific cannonading from all the batteries of the enemy upon our position on that line of hills. Solid shot, shells of every description, including rockets, grape and other missiles, for full one-half hour were concentrated upon the position. The agonized air was alive with the hissing of the solid shot, and with streaming, zigzag illuminations from the shells and rockets, and the ear was burdened with the terrifying *explosions* ~~explosions~~, and the crash of the falling limbs of trees. Our troops were shielded by the line of hills and the only casualty to the regiment from the cannonading was a broken leg of one of the men, occasioned by the falling of a limb of a tree, broken off by a solid shot.

This was perhaps the ~~worst~~ most spectacular and inefficient expenditure of ammunition ever witnessed. Following the cannonading, an assault was made upon our posi-

30

tion. The attack failed.

On the _____ the regiment moved through Resaca, and Adamsville, to the vicinity of Dallas, Georgia.

On the 16th, Hardie's Corps of the enemy assaulted the lines of the 15th Corps. The enemy was repulsed, leaving many dead upon the field, some of them lying within fifty yards of the front of the Regiment. The men killed in this engagement of the regiment were:

Thomas Young, Co. B.

George Krumpf, Co. G.

Cyrus W. ^{Craw}~~Craw~~, Co. K.

Many were wounded.

31 As the command lay in front of Dallas, Georgia, in the rifle-pits, ^{an} ~~one of those~~ unaccountable incidents occurred.

One night, a mile or two to our left, heavy firing was heard. It gradually extended in the direction of the 1st Brigade, and finally reached it, a battery to the left joining in the firing, followed by a regiment of the brigade, which delivered a furious ~~burst~~ discharge of their rifles. It was soon discovered that there was no enemy in front, and no attack; but our pickets were out.

in our front, and in danger, not from an enemy, but their friends. The effort was to stop the firing, and this, with difficulty, was accomplished. Capt J.C. Wehrle, a very capable and sensible officer, with two companies of the 76th Regiment, occupied the rifle-pits in our immediate front. While the firing continued, a staff officer was sent to him to ascertain if his men were firing, and, if so, to stop it. Reaching his position and summoning him, he was asked if his men were firing. The answer was: "No, sir; there is no enemy in my front." It was a panic of firing. The enemy was near and there might be a night attack. Therefore, without consideration, the men joined in the fusillade.

On the first day of June, the 15th Corps moved to the left near New Hope Church, thence South, each day advancing and fortifying, and sometimes skirmishing with the enemy. It occupied a position near the railroad at the foot of Kenesaw Mountain. The division had been selected to assist in the assault upon that mountain, which occurred on the _____ day of May, 1864. But the order was countermanded. The Regiment witnessed the assault as it was made in their front.

The enemy having evacuated Kenesaw Mountain, the Regi-

ment moved to Rossville, thence to Marietta, and across the Chattahoochee River, and through Decatur to within four miles of Atlanta. On the 22nd day of July, the enemy furiously attacked the 15th Corps. In that attack, four Parrott guns, the batteries of DeGrosse, were captured. But the enemy were repulsed. On the afternoon of the same day the division moved against the enemy and recaptured two of the guns. Other commands make claim to the recapture of all the four guns. But justice ^{with} should be ~~done~~ done to the 76th Regiment and to the 81 O.V.I., which claims the capture of the four guns, by reference to the fact that the enemy had not kept the four guns together, but had placed them two in one place and two in another, a considerable distance apart, and that each of two regiments had recaptured two guns. In these two affairs that day the regiment lost a number in killed and wounded. First Lieut. Miles Arnold, of Co. C. ^{was} ~~was~~ twice wounded. He fell on his face towards the enemy; when another ball entered his shoulder and ploughed a furrow down his back. He realized the fancied plight of the Psalmist.

On the 23th day of July, the enemy again attacked the 15th Army Corps, making three successive charges, in each of which they failed.

Soon after the affair of the 28th of July, the position of the 15th Army Corps was changed from the extreme left of the line to the extreme right.

In the engagements while on the extreme left, the following men and officers were killed:

Lieutenant Norman H. Steffin, Co. K.

John Bolinger, Co. I.

Joseph Bengold, Co. I.

George Mast, Co. F.

Jacob Shack, Co. E.

John T. Moore, Co. A.

Nathan Atwood, Co. A.

William Clieken, Co. A.

George Butterstine, Co. K.

In the march to Atlanta, the following men of the regiment were killed in skirmishing, or met death by accident.

John W. McKnight, Co. A., place unknown.

Silas A. Drake, Co. A., Big Shanty, Geo.

William J. Willey, Co. A., Big Shanty, Geo.

William Rhill, Co. K., Kenesaw Mt.

Eli Stutt, Co. K., Kenesaw Mt.

William Lytle, Co. A., Kenesaw Mt.

James McGraw, Co. A. Kennesaw Mt.

Samuel B. Wiseman, Co. I, Place Unknown.

Thomas Cheeks, Co. A., Place Unknown.

The names of men who met death by accident during the war are:

James Buchanan, Co. B., explosion of shell.

Thomas Thomas, Co. H., Steamer Sultana.

Frank Streep, Co. A., explosion of gunpowder.

35
On the 26th day of August, 1864, the regiment moved out of the works to the West Point and Montgomery Railroad. After destroying a part of railroad tracks, and bridges, it moved south to Jonesboro, Georgia.

On the 30th it formed a line across the Flint River. On the 31st the enemy attacked the regiment and were repulsed. The regiment here, without the protection of rifle-pits, took an active part in the engagement.

The killed in this engagement were:

William H. H. Kreer, Co. I.

Rufus W. Henthorn, Co. G.

Sylvester Redman, Co. A.

Thomas Dunn, Co. A.

Philip Batte, Co.B.

Watkins
James ~~Watkins~~, Co.B.

Many were wounded.

Atlanta was won on the 2nd day of September, 1864.

On the 8th day of September, the regiment moved to East Point, Georgia, and encamped there for "rest and reorganization."

36
On account of activity of Gen. Hood, of the enemy, the Regiment, on the 4th day of October, marched north, crossing the Chattahoochee River, and proceeded through Marietta, and to the north of Kennesaw Mountain, and on through Resaca to Snake Creek Gap. On the 17th it engaged in a skirmish with the enemy at Ship's Gap. On the 17th, it marched south, through Summerville, where it went into camp. Here the men and officers who had enlisted for three years, whose term of service had expired, and who had not re-enlisted as veterans, were honorably mustered out of the service. The men so discharged numbered more than one hundred.

THE MARCH TO THE SEA.

On the 15th day of November, the regiment, with the rest

of Gen. Sherman's army, bade good-bye to Atlanta, and commenced the memorable march to the sea.

During the twenty-six days of the march the whole army was like an army at play. The *live* opposition was contemptuously brushed aside, and the march went on.

The route of the 15th Army Corps was through McDonough, Indian Springs, and Irwintown, crossing the Macon and Augusta Railroad twenty miles east of Macon. From there, it turned eastward, across the Oconee River to the Ogeechee river, and moved down on its west bank to the mouth of the Oconee River, and thence across the Ogeechee River to the vicinity of Savannah, Georgia, reaching that point on the 19th day of December, 1864.

37
This statement gives one ^{an} outline of this unparalleled expedition. It was boldly planned, and successfully executed. It is a distinction to any regiment to have taken part in it.

After Savannah was abandoned by the enemy, the regiment performed provost guard duty there. It was in this manner occupied until the 9th day of January, 1865, when it embarked on the gunboat, Winona, for Beaufort, South Carolina. It moved thence to Gardner's Corner, where it pre-

pared for the northwesterly march, and

The Campaign of the Carolinas.

38

It began, so far as the Regiment is concerned, on the 31st day of January, 1865. It is not thought instructive to name the towns and counties through which it marched. But, on the 16th day of February, the command reached the vicinity of the City of Columbia, the capital of South Carolina. It was engaged in skirmishes with the enemy until the city was occupied by our forces. ~~It~~ For four days the Regiment performed provost guard duty there.

At the first occupation it found great fires raging which had been started in warehouses by the departing enemy.

A high wind prevailed and carried the flying cinders and burning fragments to other parts of the city.

The 76th Regiment, under the direction of ^{General} Charles R. Woods, Division Commander, was industriously engaged in ~~extinguishing~~ extinguishing the flames, or confining them within all possible bounds. Neither the Regiment nor the Union troops started the conflagration. Our troops acted the part of a great fire company.

Marching from Columbia, the Regiment, on the 12th day of

March, reached Fayetteville, North Carolina. It crossed the Cape Fear and Black rivers and moved to Bentonville. There the enemy were met, and the battle of Bentonville was fought. The killed of the Regiment in that battle were:
David Evans, Co. G.

James Wilkins, Co. H.

39
After the affair at Bentonville, the regiment marched by way of Goldsborough to Raleigh, North Carolina. It remained in camp there until the surrender of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's army to Gen. Sherman.

Following the surrender, the whole army of Gen. Sherman was concentrated in camps at or near Manchester, Virginia, on the James river, opposite Richmond.

Thence the Regiment marched to the vicinity of the City of Washington, where it encamped, awaiting its muster-out.

It took part in the GRAND REVIEW of the Armies of the Potomac and of the Tennessee.

No more notable spectacle ever appeared on the American continent, if any where in the world. The two days' march along Pennsylvania Avenue was impressive, not only as a suggestion of military strength, and of how "wars are won,"

but also as a suggestion of how willingly in this country the thousands of volunteer warriors could take their armor off. It was a picture of War Celebrating and Approving the Advent of Peace.

From Washington, the regiment proceeded to Louisville, Kentucky, for muster-out. This ceremony occurred on the 15th day of July, 1865. Thereafter, it ceased to be a military organization. On the 24th day of July, the men and officers reached Newark and home.

40
It left that city with 962 officers and men. It returned with about 400. After the muster-in, it received about 500 recruits, partly of three-years'-men, partly of nine-months'-men, and a few volunteers for one year. It suffered, in killed in battle and death from wounds, accidents and disease, about 500 men; from discharges upon surgeons' certificates of disability, upon orders from the War Department and civil authority, and from discharges for expiration of terms of service, about 450 officers and men.

A very few members of the Regiment, possibly not to exceed twelve, were captured by the enemy. About fifty officers and men were transferred to other branches of the service,

About ten officers resigned. The regiment was transported by river and sea, and marched, about 10,000 miles.

It participated in all the skirmishes battles and sieges that came in its way. It was its fortune never to retreat in a battle.

It is not claimed that the Regiment was composed of better material, was braver or stauncher, more thorough, or more patriotic, than other regiments in the service, but it is claimed, and as is believed with entire justice, that it did its full duty wherever placed, and thereby contributed its full share in the conservation and preservation of the Union. All survivors of the regiment are aware, and recall with thankfulness, that it was very often fortunate in the perils it escaped. For instance: In reaching the extreme front at Shiloh, just as the enemy retreated; in that it did not reach the field at Shiloh in the rear of the enemy, as was intended; in that at Chickasaw Bayou, Steele's division was not called in to charge over the narrow levee and causeway; in that at the siege of Vicksburg it was not ordered to take part in the general assault of the 22nd day of May; and in that, though ordered to take part in the assault upon

Kenesaw Mountain, the order was countermanded.

42
Upon reaching Newark, after the muster-out, the members, quickly and imperceptibly, were absorbed in the general citizenship. It is believed that, almost without exception, they became as good citizens as they had been good soldiers. It is a saying that good citizens are sure to make good volunteer soldiers. It is equally true that good volunteer soldiers, when the war ~~is~~ ^{is over}, retained and practiced the elements of good citizenship.

Some of the members of the Regiment afterwards occupied distinguished positions in the army of civil life.

The Colonel was promoted to be Brigadier General in the Regular Army; the Lieutenant Colonel attained the exalted office of Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; the Major became United States Senator from Alabama; Lyman M. Humphrey, who enlisted as a private in Co. I, became Governor of the State of Kansas. Other members attained to Honorable civil stations.

The battles and sieges (exclusive of skirmishes or minor affairs) in which the Regiment was engaged, are:

Fort Donelson, Tennessee.

Shiloh, Tennessee.

Corinth, Mississippi.

Milliken's Bend, Louisiana.

Chickasaw Bayou, Mississippi.

Arkansas Post,
Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Jackson, Mississippi.

Canton, Mississippi.

Lookout Mountain, Tennessee.

Missionary Ridge, Tennessee.

Ringgold, Georgia.

Dallas, Georgia.

Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia.

Atlanta, July 22, 1864, } Georgia.
July 28, 1864, }

Atlanta, (Saige) Georgia.

Jonesboro, Georgia.

Lovejoy Station, Georgia.

Shap's Gap, Georgia.

Columbia, South Carolina.

Bentonville, North Carolina.

The writer and compiler of this history will be suffi-

ciently rewarded for the not inconsiderable labor and research bestowed upon it, if it shall serve as a reminder of the main operations of the Regiment in the Civil War.

44
It would have been a pleasure to the writer to narrate instances of conspicuous valor of members of the Regiment, of which there were many; but, after the lapse of many years, they could not all be recalled, and it would have been invidious to mention a part and not all. It would have been a pleasure to give the names of those members who suffered honorable wounds in action, but the same considerations applied.

In the papers attached in the Appendix to the Text, the writer has aimed to give the names and companies of every man and officer who was killed, or died of wounds received, in battle, and who was killed in accidents. The list may not be complete, but is as complete as the writer can make it. Other papers in the Appendix give the names of every officer and man who was named in the original muster-in-roll of the Regiment, and who joined or was assigned to it subsequently to the original muster-in.

45

Another part of the Appendix aims to give the several promotions of regimental and company commissioned officers, and also all promotions to the office of First Sergeant in the several companies. It did not seem possible, from the data at hand, to give concisely, or at all, the many changes and promotions to the offices of sergeant and corporal. Nor was it possible to give fully the names of those who died of disease in camp, or in hospitals, or of those who were discharged upon surgeons' certificates of disability, or by order of the War Department, or by Civil authority.