

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 H. Emmons,
- Joseph C. Wehrle,
- James Stewart,
- Lucian H. Wright,
- William S. Wright
- Edward Briggs,
- Levi P. Coman,
- 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

troops in an effort to reinforce Fort Sumner, 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} ~~McCarty~~, 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 acclama-
tions 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 "bit-
terly 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. Distance above Fort Henry. At that camp.

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, with Barber's Missouri Bat-

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 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 enemy
were moving past the position, these two brigades return-
ed 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 bat-
tle 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 divis-
ion, 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 misun-
derstanding commonly attending such verbal orders result-
ed 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-

8

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

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 re-

treated and the battle ended. One man of the regiment, William A. Glass, of Co. F, was killed; four were wounded.

Lieut. Simeon B. Wall was rendered unconscious and fell

from concussion of the air produced by a minnie ball of the 18th Army Corps, and in the command of Gen. Frederick

After the battle, the regiment encamped near the field.

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

snipe from the start.

...the 76th regiment took part
...Pea Ridge, held by
...the enemy. It was dislodged, the enemy retreating to
...Corinth.
...troops, under convoy of gunboats, proceeded by boat up that
...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 3rd 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 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 quan-
...tity of fixed ammunition and other army supplies. The troops
...pursued the Louisiana regiment 9 miles, taking 40 pris-
...oners, and destroying a depot of army provisions at

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 3rd 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 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 quan-
tity of fixed ammunition and other army supplies. The troops
pursued the Louisiana regiment 9 miles, taking 40 pris-
oners, and destroying a depot of army provisions at

10

in a reconnaissance to the point called Lee's Bluff on

before reaching the point the day's march took place

_____ 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 ~~Hark~~ Haines' Bluff, which it surprised, capturing four siege 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

On the 21st day of December, 1862, the regiment left 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

December, it disembarked. The 2nd Brigade, of the First

Division, of the Fifteenth Army Corps, of which Brigade the

The object of the expedition was to oppose Gen. Price,

of the enemy, who was threatening the Union force at

Bluff. It then took position on the extreme right of the

Union force. In the subsequent attack, it was in the rear

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} ~~2nd~~ 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 faint 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 Port on the north bank of the

Respectfully to the members of the committee

of the committee on the subject of the

Arkansas river.

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 timber, 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.

THESE NOTES, APPROXIMATELY TAKEN FROM THE LOGS, WERE PREPARED BY
WILKINSON LYAGLE

- James Boyle, Co.E.
- 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.E. 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 em-
 barked, 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 dis-
 abled, by lightning.

14

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 marched 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 marked to Fourteen Mile, where the division was attacked by a mounted force of enemy's battery. It managed to turn and proceed up the river, but near its east bank in reach of the Vicksburg water battery. Detail from the regiment worked 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

REPORT OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN

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 seige 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

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.

Major: Charles Luther, Col. 3, 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, The city was again evacuated. While the Corps was there, the brigade, under Col. Charles H. Woods, Commanding Brigade, was sent on."

"I am, respectfully Y'r Ob't Servant, The city was again evacuated. While the Corps was there, the brigade, under Col. Charles H. Woods, Commanding Brigade, was sent on."

C.R. Wood,
Col. 76 Regt. O.V.I.

"Major J.W. Paddock, railroad bridge over the Big Black River. A force of cavalry, with a battery, opposed the 1st Division, 15 A.C."

A.A. Genl.

brigade, but gave way when encountered. The bridge was destroyed. The brigade occupied Centon, where buildings used as a 15 A. Corps, July 3, 1863. and contents were de-

This paper has the following endorsements:

"Headquarters 1st Div.

used as a 15 A. Corps, July 3, 1863. and contents were de-

"Respectfully referred to Headquarters of the Dep't

of the Tenn. 3rd day of July, the regiment marched for the

"Fred'k Steele,

Big Black river, and went into camp near the highway bridge on that river. It remained there free from danger and

Major Genl. Commanding."

"Return every shot fired.

alarm for "rest and recovery." U.S. Grant, and pay, until the

Major Genl.

3rd day of September, 1863. The Virginia Genl. resulted

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

hour. No other shots were fired. There never has been an

18

RECEIVED: JUN 20 1863
JULY 2 1863
"RECEIVED: JUN 20 1863"
RECEIVED:

explanation why the two were fired.

During the seize, the regiment suffered lightly. One officer, Charles Luther, Co. E, was killed and four men received furloughs for visits home, and officers had leave were wounded.

On the 5th day of July, 1863, the 15th Army Corps moved

On the 22nd of September, 1863, Col. Charles R. Woods was again towards Jackson, to engage the enemy under Gen. Joseph promoted to be Brigadier General of Volunteers, Col. E. Johnston. It reached there on July 10th. The city was William B. Woods, soon after, was promoted to be Colonel again evacuated. While the Corps was there, the brigade, of the Regiment. He served as such Colonel until he was under Col. Charles R. Woods, was sent north towards Canton, promoted to Brigadier General of Volunteers, Miss., to destroy the railroad bridge over the Big Black

19

On the 10th day of September, Major Warner was promoted River. A force of cavalry, with a battery, opposed the to be Lieut. Colonel of the Regiment. On the 12th day of brigade, but gave way when encountered. The bridge was destroyed. The brigade occupied Canton, where buildings Ohio Volunteer Infantry. On the 10th day of March, 1864, used as depots for army supplies and contents were destroyed. Edward Briggs, Captain of Co. I, was promoted to be Major,

and on the 12th day of October, 1864, was promoted to be

On the 23rd day of July, the regiment marched for the Lieut. Colonel. After the promotion of Col. William B. Big Black river, and went into camp near the highway bridge Woods to be Brevet Brigadier Genl. of Volunteers, and on that river. It remained there free from danger and Brigadier General of Volunteers, Edward Briggs, Major and alarm for "rest and reorganization", and pay, until the Lieutenant Colonel was in command of the Regiment until 23rd day of September, 1863. The reorganization resulted its muster-out in July 1865. Reason S. Strong, 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.

30

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, 1863, he was appointed
Colonel, but was not mustered as such officer. Captain
Jehiel T. Wintrobe, then Captain of Co. G., was ap-
pointed 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,

On the 24th day of November, the division, then on the
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.

21

A march in good weather, through a well-watered country,
is no hardship. If the region has not before been tra-
versed by a hostile army, and the resources exhausted,
so much the better. The sick get well, and the well become
stronger. The complaints 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 peril-
ous 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 which was highest,
between the Lookout Valley, on the west, 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
the enemy. It there was halted for the rest of the day
and the night.

22

The next morning, Nov. 25th, the army, under Gen. Hooker,
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

of Hooker's army the bridge across the river was soon made

By the 23rd the bridge across the river was on the way

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 no 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
Missionary Ridge. In the mean time, the enemy had
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 Robville 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 Robville 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. enemy. This circumstance necessitated a detour.

That evening, a detachment from the Regiment was detailed

to conduct prisoners to Chattanooga. It returned during the

night. regiments of the first brigade had preceded the

The regiment that night bivouacked on the field of bat-

tle. Soon the camp fires died down, and the tired men slept.

There was no sound for a while save the intermittent mur-

murs from the camps. Even these murmurs soon subsided.

A stranger coming there then would not suspect ^{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

the enemy had retreated upon their flank after a
march of several days. The proper military movement, it is suggested, would

marched to Point Rock, Alabama, for winter quarters. It
an attack upon the enemy's flank.

arrived there, January 1, 1864.

The proper military movement, it is suggested, would

On the 4th day of January, 1864, about two-thirds of
have been to withdraw these regiments near the gap out
the Regiment re-enlisted as veterans. The officers and men
of range of the enemy's fire. The retreating enemy, whose
had thirty days' leave of absence, or furlough. On the 30th
only object was to protect and save his wagon trains, would
of January, the regiment moved by way of Nashville,
not have followed them; or, if he did; the other brigades
Louisville and Cincinnati, to Columbus, Ohio, reaching
of the 1st division, 15th Army Corps, were near at hand
Newark, Ohio. It left the train one mile from Newark, and
to meet him. To order such withdrawal was the part of
marched into the city in column, by companies. It was well
Gen. Hooker.

came by a large body of citizens. Gratuity exploited their
services. A beautiful feat was exhibited. Every man was a

THE BATTLE AT TAYLOR'S RIDGE, AT RINGGOLD:

In obedience to the order to ascend the ridge, the 76th

The members left for their homes.
Ohio at once moved. It was then small, with not more than

On or about the 15th day of March, 1864, the Regiment
200 officers and men.

marched Cincinnati, on its return to the front. It went
(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 hun-

Rock, Ala. It remained there, engaged in company, regiment-

and brigade drill until the first day of May, 1864.
retired on account of flank movement against them.

The operations at Ringgold ended the campaign. The regi-

ment, with the brigade, returned to Chattanooga, and thence

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

27

*

This follows:
See "Battle
of Ringgold
a Taylor's
Ridge"
part. & then
proceed with
the whole
in engagement
to the end.

marched to Point Rock, Alabama, for winter quarters. It arrived there, January 1, 1864. the ladies of Newark and

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} infrequent and unimportant.

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

attached to Gen. Hook's division, for several miles. If

for Chattanooga. At Bridgeport, on the way, it received a
 gift of a new silk flag, from the ladies of Newark and
 Lieutenant Colonel Edward Briggs, along with the brigade
 vicinity. The regiment reached Chattanooga. After marching
 and division, made a charge, under fire, across a little
 south twelve miles, on the 9th day of May, with that part
 valley, and assisted in carrying a line of hills on the
 of the army in the command of Gen. J. B. McPherson, it passed
 enemy's left. Every man there that night will recall
 through Snake Creek Gap and towards Resaca, Georgia; with
 with returning thrills the terrific sound coming from all
 the brigade under a hot fire, it charged across the
 the batteries of the enemy upon our position on that line
 fields, and gained a footing on the line of hills
 of hills. Solid shot, shells of every description, including
 west of Resaca. In this engagement, it lost ~~xxx~~ killed,
 ing rockets, grape and other missiles, ~~so~~ full one-half
 and in the assault on the line of hills the next day,
 hour were concentrated upon the point. The agonized
 Omer Hatch, Co. B; Michael Griffin, Co. E, ~~and~~ John G.
 air was alive with the hissing of the ~~shot~~ shot, and
 Patten, Co. H, and twenty three officers and men wounded.
 with streaming, zigzag illuminations from the shells and

29

The purpose of the movement was to occupy the railroad
 rockets, and the ear was purchased with the verifying ~~...~~
 in the rear of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's army. When the
 provisions, and the crash of the falling tops of trees,
 success of the movement seemed certain, the troops were
 Our troops were shielded by the line of hills and the
 recalled to the Snake Creek Gap. No sufficient reason
 only casualty to the regiment from the retreating war a
 has been urged ~~xx~~ in defense of this retrograde movement.
 broken leg of one of the men, occasioned by the falling of
 It was a great disappointment to Gen. Sherman. Such
 a limb of a tree, broken off by a solid shot,
contratemps are not unusual in wars.

The enemy having fallen back from Gen. Sherman's front,
 silent expenditure of ammunition ever witnessed. ~~...~~
 and having occupied Resaca in force, ~~the~~ policy required
 by the commanding, ~~an~~ ~~...~~ ~~...~~ ~~...~~ ~~...~~
 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, 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 most spectacular and inefficient expenditure of ammunition ever witnessed. Following the cannonading, an assault was made upon our posi-

30