

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

**THE
177th NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY
(Tenth Regiment)
IN THE
WAR FOR THE UNION**



1862 - 1863



COMPILED BY
COL Michael J. Stenzel
Bn Cdr 210th Armor March 1992 - September 1993
Historian 210th Armor Association

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

Organized at Albany, N.Y., Organized 29 December 1860 in the New York State Militia from new and existing companies at Albany as the 10th Regiment. The 10th had offered its services three times and had been declined. While waiting to be called more than 200 members were assigned as officers to other Regiments.

21 September 1862 - Colonel Ainsworth received orders to recruit his regiment up to full war strength.

21 November - with its ranks filled, the 10th was mustered into Federal service as the 177th New York Volunteer Infantry. There were ten companies in the regiment and with the exception of a few men who came from Schenectady all were residents of Albany County. All the members of Companies A, D, E and F lived in Albany City. Company B had eleven men from out of town, Company G had 46, Company H had 31 and Company I had 17.

The Company officers were:

Company A-Captain Lionel U. Lennox; Lieutenants Charles H. Raymond and D. L. Miller - 84 men.

Company B - Captain Charles E. Davis; Lieutenants Edward H. Merrihew and William H. Brainard - 84 men.

Company C - Captain Stephen Bronk; Lieutenants W. H. H. Lintner and A. H. Bronson - 106 men.

Company D - Captain James Dodd; Lieutenants James Williamson and Summerland T. Bantham - 84 men.

Company E - Captain James McFarland; Lieutenants George C. Vance and David Hunter - 80 men.

Company F - Captain James R. Harris; Lieutenants James P. Phillips and W. T. Burn - 80 men.

Company G - Captain Morgan I. Filkins; Lieutenants Frank White and William W. Bennett - 87 men.

Company H - Captain H. N. Merriman; Lieutenants John M. Bailey (afterward adjutant) and William H. McCullough -85 men

Company I - Captain E. H. Tomilson; Lieutenants William Mix, Jr.; and A. B. Sager - 88 men.

Company K - Captain William H. Brandenburgh; Lieutenants F. Rosche and Jacob Damm - 72 men.



Company C - Captain Stephen Bronk



Co H - Captain Harmon H. Merriman
WIA 27 May Hudson, LA, died of his wounds,
July 14, at sea while en route home.



Company F - Lt James P. Phillips

Regimental Officers were;

Regimental Commander, Colonel Ira W. Ainsworth

Regimental Deputy, Lieut. Col. Frank Chamberlain discharged 11 Feb 1863

Major David Woodhall promoted to Lieut. Col of the Regiment 12 Feb

Adjutant 1LT Richard M. Strong, died of typhoid at Bonne Carré hospital 12 May

Lieutenant John M. Bailey

Quartermaster Charles D. Rathbone QM Sergeant, Edward K. Rogers

Commissary Sgt, Charles W. Henry

Chaplain Sherman M. Merrill

Surgeon William H. Craig

Assistant Surgeons, Dr. Jephtha Richard Boulware, Dr O. H. Young
Hospital Steward, George Bender

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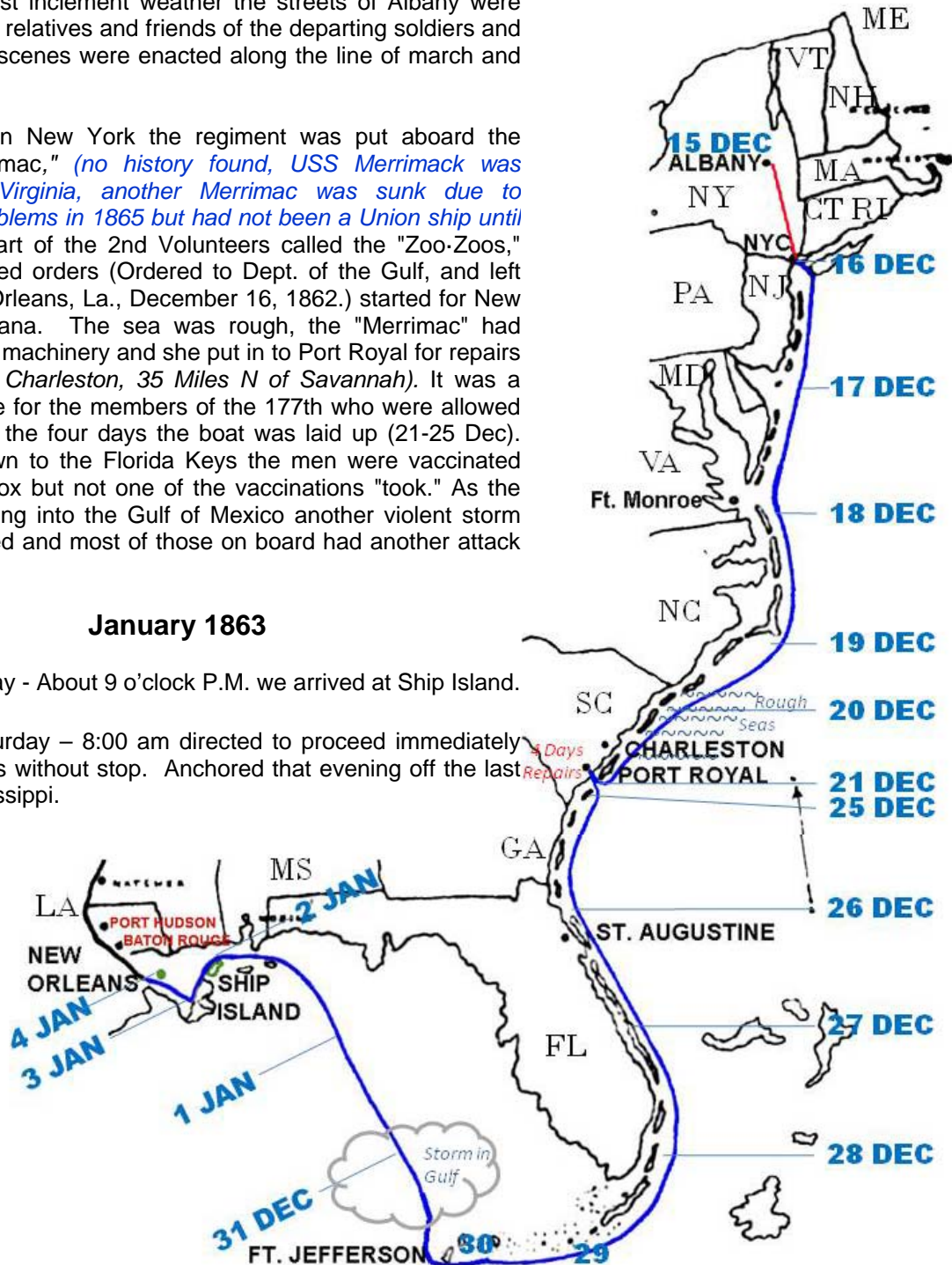
15 December - the regiment, in a drenching rain, marched to the railroad station in Albany where it entrained for New York City. Despite the most inclement weather the streets of Albany were packed with the relatives and friends of the departing soldiers and many touching scenes were enacted along the line of march and at the station.

Upon arriving in New York the regiment was put aboard the steamer "Merrimac," *(no history found, USS Merrimack was already CSS Virginia, another Merrimac was sunk due to mechanical problems in 1865 but had not been a Union ship until 1863)* with a part of the 2nd Volunteers called the "Zoo-Zoos," and under sealed orders (Ordered to Dept. of the Gulf, and left State for New Orleans, La., December 16, 1862.) started for New Orleans, Louisiana. The sea was rough, the "Merrimac" had trouble with her machinery and she put in to Port Royal for repairs (60 miles S of Charleston, 35 Miles N of Savannah). It was a welcome respite for the members of the 177th who were allowed shore leave for the four days the boat was laid up (21-25 Dec). On the trip down to the Florida Keys the men were vaccinated against small pox but not one of the vaccinations "took." As the "Merrimac" swung into the Gulf of Mexico another violent storm was encountered and most of those on board had another attack of seasickness.

January 1863

2 January, Friday - About 9 o'clock P.M. we arrived at Ship Island.

3 January, Saturday - 8:00 am directed to proceed immediately for New Orleans without stop. Anchored that evening off the last bar of the Mississippi.



Map is approximate based on start and end dates.

4 January, Sunday - Started up the Mississippi in the morning, arrived at New Orleans at 9:00 pm. On January 4th the 177th reached its destination and reported to General N. F. Banks, in command of the Department of the Gulf, and was assigned to the 2d Brigade of the 2d Division, 19th Army Corps, with the 165th New York and the 50th Massachusetts.

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Typical view of ships awaiting orders at Ship Island, Civil War Harper's Weekly newspapers

The Corps Badge of the 19th Corps was a fan shaped cross with an octagonal center, of cloth two inches square, and worn on the side of the hat or the top of the cap. This was the insignia worn by the 177th, the color being white to show that it belonged to the Second Division.

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The first station to which the 177th was sent was Carrollton, ten miles from the city of New Orleans, where the regiment was fully armed with the British Enfield rifles.

Monday, January 5 - Colonel Ira W. Ainsworth and some of the officers went ashore in the morning and got orders from General Banks to proceed up the river to a place about 9 miles from the city and encamp. We hoisted anchor about 1 o'clock and steamed up the river to a place called Carrollton.

6 January, Tuesday - About 11 o'clock the 177th left the ship and formed a line on the levee. After much delay they started for their camp, a distance of about 22 miles to Bonne Carré, parish of St. Jean Baptist, a plantation owned by Judge Rost, a millionaire rebel who was shipped to Europe by the United States along with the arch plotters Mason and Sidell. *There is a discrepancy between records of the 6th or the 9th. It appears they stayed in Carrollton until the 9th.*

9 January, Friday - This morning the men packed their knapsacks, rolled their blankets, and got ready for the march. Each man had 2 days rations and 40 rounds of cartridges. After much delay they started and marched up to the boat that was to take their stores and knapsacks. All hands went to work and loaded up the boat. They then marched to a place called Kenner, a major settlement about 8 miles from Carrollton with a station on the Railroad, and stopped for the night.

10 January, Saturday - About 8 o'clock they started on and encamped for the night on a large sugar plantation in St. Charles parish. Eight miles from Kenner was the plantation Destrehan owned by Judge Rost adjacent to Red Church which was a known Union post.



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11 January, Sunday – After breakfast they again fell in line and started on a final 6 miles arriving at camp in the evening at Hermitage Plantation in St. Charles Parish, La., belonging to Pierre Adolphe Rost (1797-1868), French immigrant, Louisiana judge, and Confederate diplomat. During the Civil War occupation of the area, the plantation was operated by Captain Horace B. Fitch, a United States army officer. Called Bonne Carré, it was actually about 5 miles south of Bonne Carré bend in the Mississippi River. Bonne Carré Church and Court House are in St John Baptist Parish on the south side of the river on the point of the bend. This became the permanent headquarters of the regiment while it was in the South.

NOTE: The Bonne Carré US Army Camp is now the location of a U.S.Army Corps of Engineers Spillway that diverts Mississippi flood waters from above new Orleans into Lake Pontchatrain.

There were four plantations originally in the Bonnet Carré Spillway area known as the Delhommer, Hermitage, Roseland, and Myrtle Land plantations.

The Hermitage plantation was originally founded by Pierre Foucher in 1803. Foucher was the husband of Louise Destrehan, the daughter of the famous plantation owner. After his death, Louise inherited the plantation and shared it with her second husband, Pierre Rost. The plantation focused on raising rice and sugar cane. The property passed through many hands of ownership until it ended with the Kugler family.

According to the 1850 census, there were four large plantation owners in the area—these each owned 50 or more slaves. Judge Rost was the largest slaveholder in the area with 213 slaves. He owned Hermitage and Destrehan Plantations.

Hermitage Plantation in St. Charles Parish, La., belonged to Pierre Adolphe Rost (1797-1868), French immigrant, Louisiana judge, and Confederate diplomat. During the Civil War occupation of the area, the plantation was operated by Captain Horace B. Fitch, a United States army officer. The collection contains bills for shoes, clothing, and other supplies sold by Weed, Wilters, and Co., a New Orleans merchant firm, to Hermitage Plantation.

ROST, P. A. (Destrehan Plantation), 194 slaves, 25 miles from New Orleans, adjacent to Red Church.

ROST, P. A. (Hermitage Plantation), 129 slaves, 30 miles from New Orleans.

Per Special Orders, Headquarters Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, 13 January 1873, "Third Brigade to be commanded by the Senior Colonel. Fourteenth Maine, Colonel Nickerson, Bonnet Carré: **One hundred and seventy-seventh, Colonel Ainsworth, Bonnet Carré**; One hundred and sixty-fifth New York, Lieut. Col. Abel Smith, Carrollton, and one regiment to be hereafter designated."



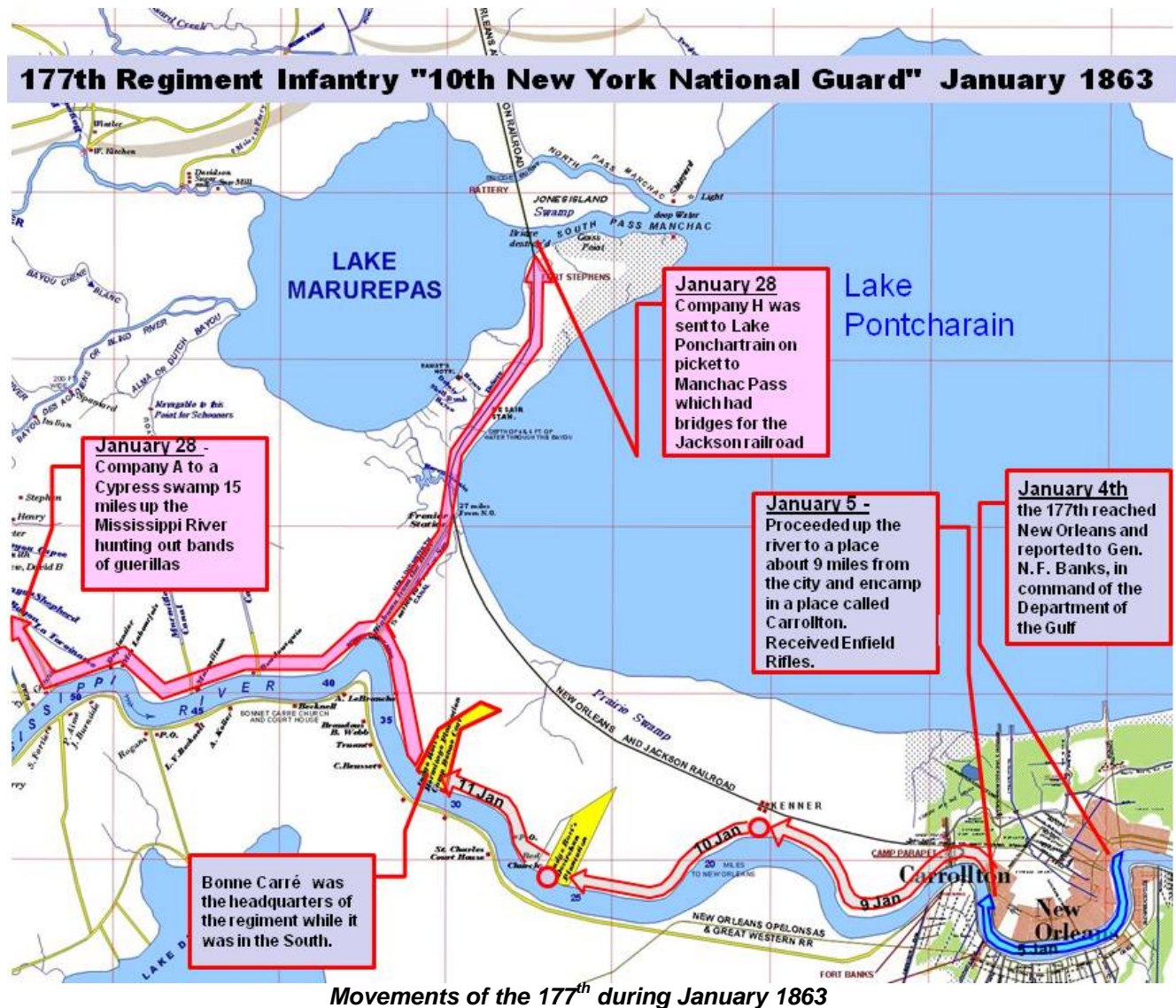
Colonel Ira W. Ainsworth



Lithograph of a soldier in the Cypress Swamps of Louisiana
Civil War Harper's Weekly newspapers

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28 January, Wednesday - Companies A & H went out on picket in the morning about 15 miles. Company A to a Cypress swamp 15 miles up the Mississippi River hunting out bands of guerillas. Company H of the 177th was sent to Lake Pontchartrain. This was a picket to Manchac Pass which had bridges for the Jackson railroad. The bridges had been destroyed by previous actions and strong picket posts drawn from the Third Brigade in Bonnet Carré.



177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" February 1863

6 February, Friday - George Warner (G), Went up to the river on a foraging expedition with 4 Co. C men, Joel Willson, David Gathan, Hempstreet and Folka. They went up 5 miles to a large plantation after chickens. The Negroes broke open the hen roost and were getting the chickens out when the overseer came to the door and fired at them. He hit David Gathan in the face and wounded him bad. They carried him about a mile to a Negro House and sent for the doctor, but none came. Lieutenants Bronson and Lintener from Co. C came up with a wagon, and Gathan was taken to the camp hospital. *David Gathan of Rensselaerville was a 22 year old Private of Company C when he was shot in the face and blinded in both eyes at Bonnet Carré. He mustered out with the company on September 10, 1863 at Albany, NY.*

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

Scout to Pass Manchac, February 8-11 (Detachment).

FRENIER STATION, February 11, 1863.

Lieut. J. H. METCALF, A.A.A.G., *Third Brigade*

I received an order through your office (Sunday evening, the 8th instant) to send out a scouting party to ascertain the position of the enemy's pickets, their actual force, &c. I detailed First Lieut. George W. Worster and 10 men to start the next morning with ten days rations.

While this work was going on I had sent Second Lieutenant McCulloch, of Company H, One Hundred and Seventy-Seventh New York Regiment, with 15 men, by way of railroad to Pass Manchac, to see if the South Pass had been frequented by the rebel pickets, and gave him orders to cross the Pass and connect with Lieutenant Worster if he found no signs of the enemy nearer. He started on the morning of the 10th arrived at the Pass about noon; saw no signs of the enemy; succeeded in making a raft that would hold two men, and crossed the Pass with one of his men. The ground showed the appearance of being frequented, and they soon saw two armed men with bayonets fixed. He re-crossed the Pass, and as there were no facilities for crossing with his men he came home. It appears from all the information that I have gained that this force at Ponchatoula comes down to the South Pass and all about the country.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. W. TRASK,
*Captain, Company E, Fourteenth Maine Regiment,
Commanding Picket Station at Frenier, La.*



Typical Camp Routine

Drummers' call at daybreak.
Reveille, 15 minutes later.
Police call immediately after reveille.
Surgeon's call, 7.30 A. M.
Breakfast, 8 A. M.
First call for parade and company inspection, 9:15
Regimental dress parade, 9.30 A. M.
Drill call, 10 A. M.
Recall from drill, 12 P. M.
Dinner call, 12:30 P. M.
Fatigue call, 1 P. M.
First call for guard mount, 3 P. M.
Second call for guard mount, 3:15 P. M.
Recall from fatigue one half hour before retreat.
Drummers' call, 15 minutes before retreat.
Retreat parade, sundown.
Drummers' call, 8:15 P. M.
Tattoo, 8:30 P. M.
Taps. 15 minutes after tattoo.

Typical Camp Routine (continued)

Sunday inspection, first call, 9 A. M.
Sunday inspection, second call, 9:15 A. M.
Sunday church call, 11 A. M.

All other necessary calls will be sounded under brigade or regimental commanders.



177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

This order was issued by Brig. Gen. T. W. Sherman, Wickham Hoffman, A. A. G. It shows what the general routine of duty was during the month. It does not show, however, the menial drudgery of camp life - the cooking, the hewing of wood and drawing of water, the endless scouring of guns and buttons and brasses with emery paper and other polishes, and the blackening of boots, etc., which occupied nearly every spare moment of time.

February shows a typical month of drills, parades and inspections with no combat missions.

8 February, Sunday - The regiment is on Inspection by companies.

10 February, Tuesday - A boat arrived in the night with Quartermaster stores for the Regiment from New Orleans.

11 February, Wednesday – Lieut. Col. Frank Chamberlain discharged from the Regiment.

12 February, Thursday – Major David Woodhall promoted to Lieut. Col of the Regiment. **Christopher Sickles and William Archer, both Company I, died today in hospital.**

15 February, Sunday - Regiment was out on Inspection this morning. About 4 o'clock a heavy shower came up. It thundered and lightened awful.

16 February, Monday - **Seargt. Bridgman, Co. B died today from Typhoid.**

17 February, Tuesday – Regimental dress parade. No Battalion drill today. It commenced raining about 9 o'clock and rained all day.

18 February, Wednesday - Regimental dress parade as usual. No Battalion drill today. The Iberville came up from New Orleans with the paymaster and quartermaster.

19 February, Thursday - Paymaster was busy paying off the Regiment. 1 o'clock fell in line by company to be paid off. Marched over to Col. Ainsworth's quarters. The roll was called and as each man's name was called he stepped up and received his Green Backs as the boys call them.

21 February, Saturday - Regimental dress parade as usual. Had no Battalion drills this week. A shower came up towards night. Regiment had to call everyone to fall out to fix the levee. The water was rising very fast and would soon overflow the camp if a better levee was not built.

22 February, Sunday - Arose earlier than usual and got ready for Inspection. It was very muddy. Companies got in line about 9 o'clock and were inspected by their Lieutenants.

23 February, Monday - Regimental dress parade 9 o'clock. Capt Harris was in command of the Regt. as he was the senior captain on parade. Had short Battalion drills after parade.

24 February, Tuesday - Drill and Regimental dress parade. The companies formed in their own streets and marched out at the tap of the drum, formed in line of Battle. The Colonel was waiting for them and marched them over the levee.

26 February, Thursday - A boat arrived from New Orleans with part of the 24th Maine on board and some commissary stores. The Major and Chaplain came up this morning with the mail. It commenced raining just dark, a heavy thunder shower.

27 February, Friday - Preparing for Inspection, cleaning guns and plates, etc. A heavy shower came up towards night. It thundered and lightened awful to behold.

28 February, Saturday - Inspection this morning and muster for 2 months pay. The men of the different companies all formed in line and were mustered in by the Colonel.

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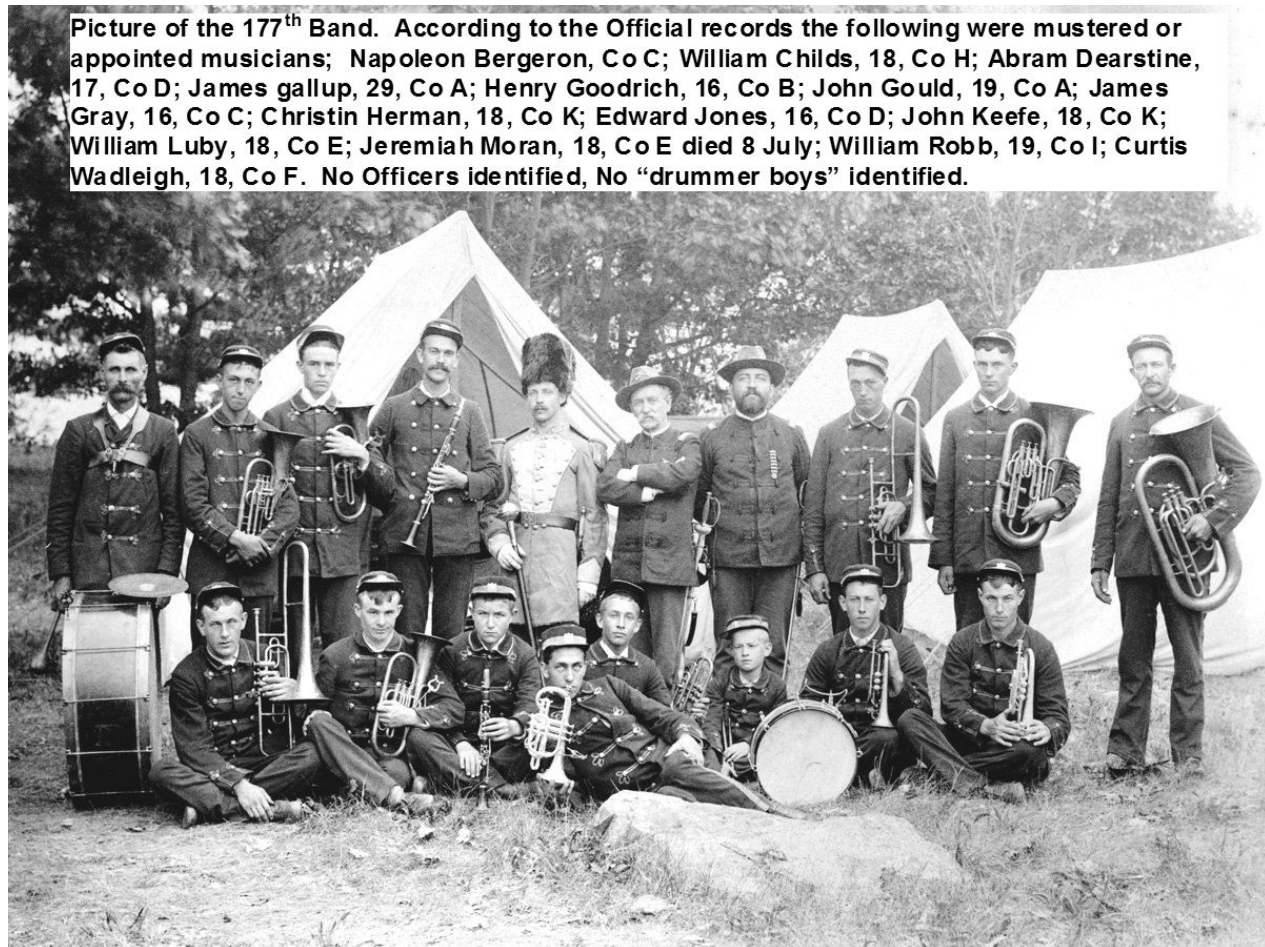
EXTRACT FROM SANITARY ORDER.

"Officers are directed to see

- (1st) That soldiers wash the whole person at least once a week;
 - (2d) Keep their clothes as clean as possible, and air their blankets every day in fair weather;
 - (3d) That the grounds about the tents are not broken, and company streets and grounds are kept scrupulously clean and neat.
 - (4th) Officers are forbidden to drink any but cistern or river water, and are advised to drink as little as they can do with.
 - (5th) All are advised to eat but one orange daily and at most not over two.
 - (6th) All night air is to be avoided as much as possible.
 - (7th) Abstain from eating except at meals.
 - (8th) None will be allowed to wear his hair or beard long, and must wash the head thoroughly every day.
 - (9th) Abstain from cider and whiskey, especially the latter.
 - (10th) Not to be out of the tent after nightfall without the overcoat on."
-

February's losses - 3

Co B. **Bridgman** Co I. **Sickles, Archer**



This picture is in the State Military Museum as being the 177th's Band

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

The first 20 days of March were routine followed by two separate 10 day expeditions, a main effort to Ponchatoula and a diversionary expedition to the lower Amite River.

1 March, Sunday – Regimental dress parade, then Inspection and to Church Services.

2 March, Monday – Regimental dress parade and Battalion drills. Major Bickmore, of the Fourteenth Maine, was sent up to take command at Humphrey's Station, as there were three companies, and a major was needed for the command. One of the infantry companies was changed for one of the **177th New York. (Company A)** Pvt Andrew Carkner, Co I died today.

3 March, Tuesday - Battalion drills.

4 March, Wednesday – Regimental dress parade and Battalion drills. Skirmish drills after dinner and bayonet exercises.

5 March, Thursday – Fixing street and tents. No Regimental or Battalion drills. Pvt Thomas Ray, Co H died today from swamp fever. (Buried St. Angus Cemetery, Menands)

6 March, Friday - Commenced raining about 8 o'clock and rained all day.

7 March, Saturday – No Battalion drill or dress parade today. 12 o'clock P.M. awakened by the long drum and fell in line as fast as possible. Counted off and then started on the double quick for the parade ground and formed in line of battle. The Major gave the order to load and fire.

8 March, Sunday – Prepared for Inspection about 8 o'clock. Went to 11 o'clock Church Services. Sameul Ferguson, Co F died today.

9 March, Monday – Regimental dress parade. Marched out in the field. Formed a line of Battle. Each Company put up a target and fired 4 rounds each. The **21st New York Battery** arrived here this morning. It looked like a good one. William Vroman from Schenectady, Enlisted October, 1862; discharged for disability March 9, 1863.

10 March, Tuesday – Charles Fredenrich, Co B, died today from typhoid.

14 March, Saturday – It is rumored that Co. H was attacked by the rebels (no information on where H was posted)). Co. D went over to reinforce them. William Baker, Co F died today.

15 March, Sunday – Preparations for Inspection and General Review. Inspections were held in company streets by company Lieutenants. The Regiment got in line about 10 o'clock and marched over to the parade ground. Reviewed by Brigadier General Nickerson and staff. The **14th and 24 Maine and the 21st New York Battery** were also on the field. General Nickerson gave the 177th N.Y.S.V. the praise of marching the best on Review.

16 March, Monday –No Battalion drills today on account of the rain. It was very hot this afternoon. Had company drills after dinner.

17 March, Tuesday – Regimental dress parade as usual. No Battalion drills today. The Colonel excused companies to fix their streets.

18 March, Wednesday – Regimental dress parade. No Battalion drills today. Co. B. was grading their streets.

19 March, Thursday – No Battalion drill today. Parts of our companies struck their tents. The Contraband were grading streets and ditching them. The mail arrived here this noon on the Louisiana Bell.

20 March, Friday – Order came out to take down all tents.

21 March, Saturday 21 – Regimental dress parade with dress coats and blue pants on. Orders given to pack knapsacks and be ready to march at 4 o'clock. The remainder of the **21st Battery** and a squadron of Cavalry (**14th NY Cav**) arrived here about 3 o'clock. George Bailey, Co I died today.

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The Plan

Intentions of Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Sherman, U. S. Army. Commanding Defenses of New Orleans. From his report of March, 27, 1863.

"Directed Colonel Clark, on the 21st instant, to make a reconnaissance of the country north of Manchac Pass with the view of ascertaining the force of the enemy on the Jackson Railroad, driving them out of Ponchatoula if possible, and breaking up the railroad bridges across the Ponchatoula River above that village, the troops at his disposal were placed in position at Manchac Pass, in order too that the operation could be performed." "Not knowing what force would be found at Ponchatoula, and determined to have the pest-hole cleared out at all events, I ordered Colonel Nickerson, commanding at Bonnet Carré, to make a demonstration on the Lower Amite River at the same time with three companies of Cavalry and one regiment of infantry, thus threatening the road leading to Springfield and Ponchatoula from the Mississippi River."

March 24-30 Expedition to Amite River.

Expedition Commander Colonel Nickerson of the 14th Maine

14th Maine (Cos. "A," "B," "C," "D," "G," "H" and "I") 700 or 462 at 66% typical

177th New York (Cos. "A," "B," "C," "E," "F" and "G") 600 or 396 at 66% typical

Read's Troop 3rd MA Cav 100

Sqdn of 14th NY Cavalry (2 troops) 200

21st NY Sep Battery 137

Total about 1,295 typ to 1,737 at full strength.

Confederate Lieut Col Miller estimated less than 2,000 at Amite River.

22 March, Sunday - Regimental dress parade at 9 o'clock. After dress parade stacked arms and went to quarters. In about an hour the regiment got in line and marched on Board the Louisiana Bell and steamed up the river. Stopped at Co. A's camp (Humphrey w/3MA Cav and Co B of 14th) and took them aboard. Got off the boat just dark and marched about a mile to a large Sugar House where the 177th stayed the night. (Believe this to be the Gov. Manning Plantation)

***Louisiana Bell (Louisiana Belle).** Confederate. Sternwheel steamer, 89 tons. Built in 1859 at Cincinnati. Burned on June 1, 1862, in the Red River. Was repaired and burned in a wharf fire in New Orleans on May 28, 1864, along with eight steamers. (MSV, 131; EAS, 178; WPD, 296; Pearson, History of New Orleans District, 162.)*

23 March, Monday -- Commenced raining 8 o'clock and it kept it up all day. The Advance started ahead and the 177th Regiment next marched bout 9 ½ miles in mud from 4 to 6 inches deep. Stopped for the day at a large plantation. Company H quartered in an old cooper shop. (Believe this to be the cut-off road from Manning to Doyal plantation)

24 March, Tuesday --The regiment was in line a 6 o'clock. This would be another 10 mile march from Doyle to Dutch Stores

The 14th Maine was deployed to the left on Bayou Manchac and 177th NY to the right along the Amite River. Action at McGill's Ferry 24 March and Civiques Ferry 26 March, Prairie 27 March and Amite Ferry 28 March. 14th NY Cav had 1 troop on McGill's and 1 troop on open ground along Bayou Manchac, Read's Troop of 3rd MA Cav was on Amite River. The 21st NY Artillery Battery was in general support.

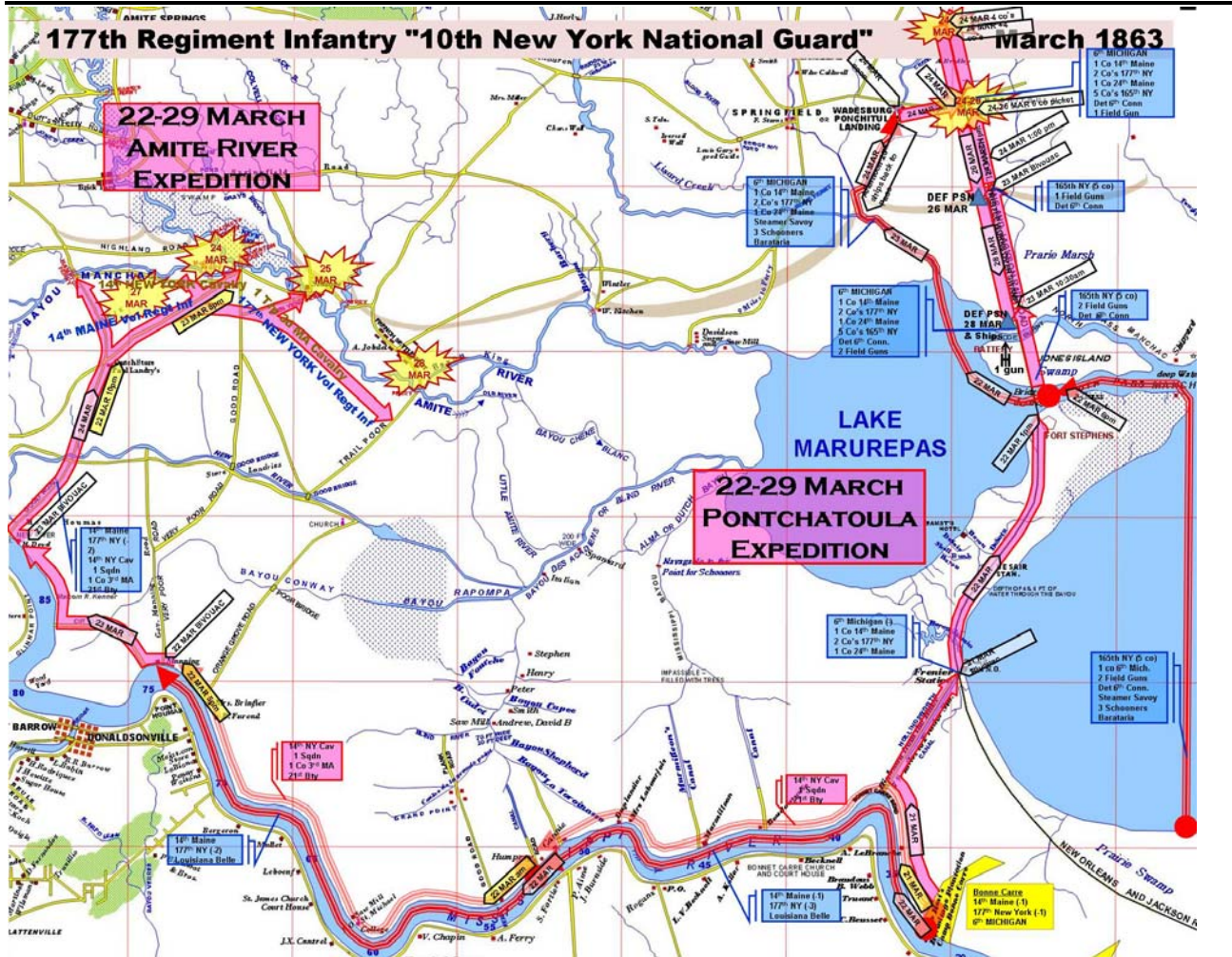
The expedition was distributed down Bayou Manchac and Amite River. The 14th Maine was sent to Hampton's Ferry (Bayou Manchac), to bring down the flat boats, to use on the Amite, as the boats were all gone. A company of the 14th New York Cavalry, with an experienced officer in charge, was placed at McGill's Ferry, and another company put in the open ground near the Amite, and parts of the rest at the other ferries on the Bayou Manchac. Men of the 3rd MA Company were posted in an unoccupied building, near the Amite, and two men detailed as guides to the New Yorkers at McGill's, and Hamptons Ferry.

There had been some firing during the afternoon at the Amite by the Confederate pickets, and men were posted to reply. All seemed fairly quiet: guards were posted, troops started to get some sleep, about 9 or 10 o'clock, when the post at McGill's came tumbling in, and more to follow. The Ferry is located about two miles back, and 300 or 400 yards from the road.

It seems, when a flat boat was coming past McGill's, a party of Confederates came to the Bayou, heard the picket hail the boat, and began firing on the men in it, in the darkness,-wounding several men, and keeping up a brisk fire, which was duly replied to. The boat drifted to the bank; and what men could get out cut and run. This was the 24 March action at McGill's Ferry.

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29 March, Sunday - The Regiment returned to Bonne Carré about midnight. The 177th s had a skirmish near Amite River with the rebels. The rebels killed one of the 14 Maine, and wounded 1 and **Richard Wood, Co G** of the 177th. **Official record indicates two 177th soldiers wounded on 25 March at Civiques Ferry.** One of the scouts went out afterward and said we had killed 10 and wounded 20 rebels.



March 21-30, 1863 – Expedition from New Orleans to Ponchatoula, LA., and skirmishes.

Expedition Commander Colonel Clark of the 6th Michigan

6th Michigan 1,000 or 660 typical, left 100 at Frenier

14th Maine (Cos. "E") 100 or 66 at 66% typical

24th Maine (1 company) 100 or 66 at 66%

177th New York (Cos. "D" and "I") 200 or 132 at 66% typical

165th New York (5 companies) 500 or 330

6th Conn., 2 gun section 68

Total 1,222 typ to 1,868 full strength.

Confederate 24 March report estimated 1,000

Confederate Lieut Col Miller estimated 1,200 to 1,500 at Ponchatoula. On the 27th he estimated it was two Regiments and two Battalions totaling 2,000.

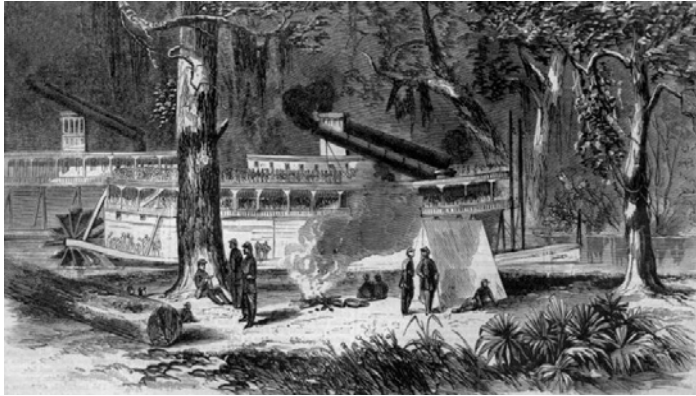
(2) Report of Col. Thomas S. Clark, Sixth Michigan Infantry, commanding expedition. Manchac Pass, LA., March 29, 1863.

Col. Clark proceeded with command to Frenier Station on the 21st and bivouacked for the night. On Sunday, the 22^d, at 7 a. m., proceeded with the command to Manchac Pass, leaving about 100 men to guard the bayou and road in the rear. Arrived at South Manchac Pass at 1 p. m. same day. At 6 p.m. five schooners and one small steamer the "Savoy", containing five companies of Lieut. Col. Abel Smith, Jr's regiment, 165th NY Vols; one company 6th Mich. Inf.; a detachment of the 9th Conn. Vols. with two rifled field pieces and the ironclad launch "Barataria" mounting two guns arrived at the pass.

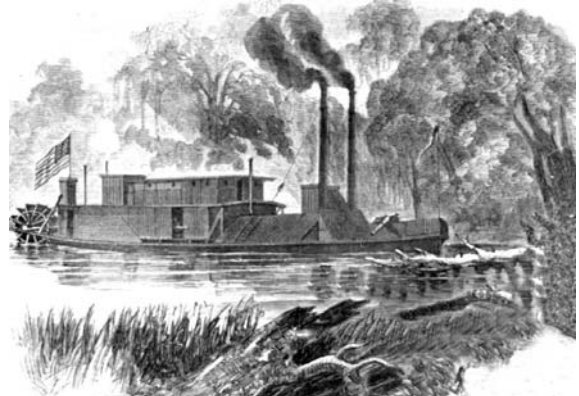
177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

Col. Clark disembarked the 165th NY Vols., placed one field piece on the North side of Jones Island where the railroad bridge crossed the North Pass, and embarked the troops he brought up from Bonne Carré consisting of the 6th Michigan Volunteers, two companies (D and I?) of the 177th NY Volunteers, one company of the 14th Maine Volunteers, and one company of the 24th Maine Volunteers. The embarkation was made in the midst of a terrible storm of wind and rain, which caused much delay.

Lieut. Col. Abel Smith, Jr. of the 165th was directed to proceed with his units up the railroad to within 3 miles of Ponchatoula, take position, and hold the Pass until he heard the signal of attack from Col. Clark at Wadesborough Landing at which time he was to advance and form a junction with the main body at Ponchatoula. Col. Clark then proceeded with the main body of the troops up the Tickfaw River and Pouchatoula Creek to Wadesborough Landing, being 3 miles from Ponchatoula.



*Depiction of navigating in rivers and bayou's
Civil War Harper's Weekly newspapers*



*Gunboat Barataria on the Amite River
Civil War Harper's Weekly newspapers*

Owing to the great difficulty of navigation in the creek, from its extremely tortuous course, that force did not arrive at Wadesborough until about noon the 24th. On arrival at Wadesborough Landing we found the schooner L. H. Davis in flames. We also found two schooners loaded with cotton and captured some 12 prisoners, who have been sent on to New Orleans. Col. Clark immediately disembarked the troops, threw out skirmishers and advanced toward Ponchatoula. About half a mile from the landing we found the enemy's skirmishers in strong force, and, believing from the number of skirmishers that the enemy were in stronger force than we had supposed, immediately formed line of battle and advanced three companies ahead, skirmishing. We drove them steadily before us, the main body never coming within range of their fire, into and through Ponchatoula. Col. Clark immediately sent four companies, under command of Captain Trask, Fourteenth Maine Volunteers, to the bridge across the Ponchatoula Creek, 2 miles above Ponchatoula, and dispatched a messenger to Colonel Smith to inform him that we occupied the town. **Summerland Bantham, 2LT, Co D WIA; and James Dodds Co. D WIA at Ponchatoula 24 March.**

Lieut. Col. Abel Smith, Jr. had disembarked his battalion on the morning of the 23rd at about 8.30 a. m. and took up the march about 10.30 a. m. along the railroad, across Jones' Island, to the North Pass, which was crossed immediately and halted on the north side in obedience to orders. Sending out an advance guard, they discovered a rebel picket about 1 mile beyond guarding two schooners loaded with cotton. They drove the pickets before them and seized the schooners. The captain of one of the schooners was killed while coming toward the command to notify Lieut. Col. Abel Smith, Jr (as was alleged by his companion) that the Cotton belonged to the subjects of a foreign power. Not hearing further from the colonel commanding, Lieut. Col. Abel Smith, Jr. pushed on across the trestle work and bivouacked for the night on the railroad, the rebel picket keeping up a continuous firing during the night. At daybreak Lieut. Col. Abel Smith, Jr. moved forward and halted at the opening in the pine wood. This was a very strong position, and could have been successfully held against a large force by a very few men, and, as Lieut. Col. Abel Smith, Jr. had been ordered to remain at this place until hearing the signal from Colonel Clark, there was no attempt to move farther on, but only to hold his position. About 1 p. m. Lieut. Col. Abel Smith, Jr. heard the signal and advanced and drove the enemy into the wood. About 2 miles from Ponchatoula they were met by the party sent by the colonel commanding to inform us that he was in the town. Moved rapidly forward and arrived in Ponchatoula about 3 p. m. The enemy made a slight stand at the bridge 2 miles above Ponchatoula, and four companies were sent up under Colonel Bacon, to make the work sure. They destroyed that bridge, and also one smaller one a mile this side. Forces fortified at the bridge site, Lieut. Col. Miller of the Confederates remained at Cate's Shoe Factory 4 miles North of Ponchatoula.

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

Having accomplished the object of the expedition thus far, and believing the village of Ponchatoula could not be held against forces greater than his own, Col. Clark ordered the schooners and gunboats in Ponchatoula Creek back to the North Pass, and fell back, on the afternoon of the 25th, to a point 3 miles South of Ponchatoula, on the railroad, with the main body of my command, leaving six companies at Ponchatoula, under command of Major Clarke, Sixth Regiment Michigan Volunteers, as picket and provost guard, with orders to fall back on the main body in case of attack. I here erected a small battery of railroad iron and mounted one of the field pieces, in charge of the detachment of the Ninth Connecticut Volunteers.

On the evening of the 26th the enemy appeared in strong force and attacked our pickets at Ponchatoula. **Possibly Anthony Hathaway, Co I WIA on picket, no date or location.** The pickets immediately retired to the main body at the point spoken of. No firing took place after the skirmishers retreated. As far as we can learn they have a force consisting of 2,000 infantry, 300 cavalry, and two 12-pounder field pieces.

The point occupied could have been easily held against this force, but, owing to the difficulty of getting rations for the troops up from the Pass, Col. Clark determined to fall back to the bend in the railroad about 8 miles this side of Ponchatoula, and did so the night of the 28th burning the Depot at Ponchatoula filled with commissary stores. Col. Clark erected a small battery at this point on the 29th.

Owing to the very bad weather the march over the trestle work from Ponchatoula was not only difficult but dangerous, and many of our men were compelled to fall out by reason of hurts received by falling through the trestle work.

Total loss is 9 wounded, none seriously, while that of the enemy is reported at 3 killed and 11 wounded, 1 mortally. **Official Record indicates the 177th had 2 enlisted that died of wounds and one officer wounded on 24 March at Ponchatoula.** **Summerland Bantham, 2LT, Co D WIA survived; and James Dodds Co. D WIA (survived) at Ponchatoula, Possibly Anthony Hathaway, Co I WIA on picket (survived), no date or location.** Official roster does not support that any enlisted died of wounds from this action.

30 March, Monday – **William Whyte, Co F died today.**

31 March, Tuesday – **John Bryce, Co D died today at New Orleans.**



Sgt. John Pester, Company A

Notes of the 15th Regt NH at Camp Parapet dated 9 April: "The Zouaves have returned, and Colonel Clark, of the Sixth Michigan, sent a dispatch to General Sherman that the rebels had destroyed our gunboats at Manchac pass by a masked battery, and that his situation was rather critical."

NOTE: The steamer Barataria (291) 125 feet long and plated with 1 inch iron, was lost on 7 April when it got stuck 50 to 75 feet off the East bank of the Amite River near its mouth on Lake Maurepas. Coming under fire from a Confederate Cavalry Squadron, the boat was burned and abandoned by its crew.

March's losses 7

Co A	0
Co B	Fredenrich.
Co C	0
Co D	Bryce.
Co E	0
Co F	Ferguson, Whyte.
Co G	0
Co H	Ray.
Co I	Carkner, Bailey.
Co K	0

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

There were no large scale expeditions for the 177th in April, just the routine of camp life, and the constant loss of personnel to disease.

1 April, Wednesday - Battalion drills. No Company drills this afternoon. General Nickerson and Colonel Ainsworth went to New Orleans on business.

2 April, Thursday - Battalion drills as usual. Company drills after dinner. Was very cold and chilly.

3 April, Friday – Troops signed the pay roll this morning. It had been a very beautiful day. Clear as a bell.

4 April, Saturday – Paymaster arrived from Baton Rouge.

5 April, Sunday – Preparations for Inspection. Regimental dress parade, then Inspection, and then to Church Services.

7 April, Tuesday – William Shaver, Co C died today of typhoid at Bonne Carré.

9 April, Thursday - Regimental dress parade. Mrs. Edward Merrihew, wife of Captain Merrihew of Company B, presented the Regiment with a handsome silk flag which was graciously received by Colonel Ira W. Ainsworth. A Presentation speech was made by the Colonel. This flag was to play an important part in the history of the 177th



Drawing of Regimental Flag



Remains of Flag in State Museum

10 April, Friday - Battalion drills. Fresh meat was served for dinner. Company drills were at 2 o'clock.

11 April, Saturday - Regimental dress parade with light blue pants. No Battalion drills or Company drills today. Preparing for Inspection. John Blackman, a member of G Company, died this morning. Buried him in the soldiers burying ground, also George Kilbourn, Co D died at Bonne Carré.

12 April, Sunday - Regimental Inspection by Colonel Ainsworth and his staff. A large mail arrived this morning. Allanson Hoffman, Co I, died today at Bonne Carré.

13 April, Monday - Louisiana Bell arrived here with Quartermaster stores about 3 o'clock. George Smith, Co C died today of typhoid at Bonne Carré.

14 April, Tuesday - Regiment formed in line about 9 o'clock and marched over in the large field. The General and his staff were out and ready to give a good long Brigade drill which lasted until noon. Franklin Comstock, Co C, died today at Bonne Carré of typhoid and Stephen McCulloch, Co I also died.

15 April, Wednesday - The mail arrived during the night and was distributed after breakfast. Company drills at 4 o'clock.

16 April, Thursday - Coffee and hardtack for breakfast, Brigade drills, and beef soup for dinner. Company B lost another man today, William Ingraham from typhoid at Bonne Carré.

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

17 April, Friday - Regimental dress parade 9 o'clock, and then the Brigade drilled until about 11:30. Buried 4 men of 177th Regiment today, one of Co. B (Ingraham), one of Co. D (Peter Legg), one of Co. K (Henry Jager), and one of Co. E (Hugh Chipman from typhoid) at Bonne Carré.

18 April, Saturday - Regimental dress parade at 9 o'clock with light blue pants. Two boats stopped at Bonne Carré about 9 o'clock. The Louisiana Belle and the Iberville. A squadron of Cavalry came up on the latter (possibly the 14th NY Cav). The Louisiana Belle brought Quartermaster stores. Homer Snyder, Co C died today of typhoid; Edward McGoldrick, Co A; Alonzo Porter, Co C died of fever; George Russell, Co C died of diphtheria all at Bonne Carré.

19 April, Sunday - Commenced raining about 6 o'clock.

20 April, Monday - The paymaster arrived during the night on the Louisiana Belle. He paid the 24th Maine first then the 21st New York battery and got through paying the 14th Maine just at night. He will pay 177th off in the morning. Attended the funeral of Robert Douglas, a member of G company.

21 April, Tuesday - Regimental dress parade, with short Battalion drills after parade. The paymaster went up the river to pay Co. A. and Captain Read's cavalry (3rd MA) at Humprey's. Company drills at 4 o'clock. Arthur Haswell of Co. B was buried this afternoon. He was formerly a resident of Knox.

22 April, Wednesday - Regimental dress parade with dress coats and light blue pants. No Battalion drills or company drills. Regiment was paid off about 12 o'clock.

23 April, Thursday - Battalion drills about 9 o'clock, also the 24th and 14th Maine and the 21st Battery New York were out drilling. It was a very hot day. Another of Company B men was buried today, Charles Heermance died of diarrhea on the 22nd. Peter Clute, Co C died today of diarrhea at Bonne Carré.

24 April, Friday - Battalion drills as usual. Maurice Wood, Co C died of typhoid at Bonne Carré.

26 April, Sunday - Company Inspections 9 o'clock

27 April, Monday - It has rained about all afternoon. Datus J. Cole is not expected to live. He has got the fever.

28 April, Tuesday - Battalion drills 9 o'clock. Funeral of Datus J. Cole 3 o'clock. He was a member of G company aged about 26 years. He was sick only about 4 days before he was taken Sick. He was as healthy a man as we had in the ranks, also Henry Strain, Co H of heart disease at Bonne Carré.

29 April, Wednesday - Battalion drills. Funeral of one of Co. K men 4 o'clock, Michael Werner.

30 April, Thursday - Regimental dress parade. No Battalion Drills today. The mail arrived here in the morning. Today was set apart by the president as a day of Thanksgiving and prayer, and is to be strictly observed by all the armies in the United States. Edward Farnham, Co H died today at Bonne Carré. Also this month with no date of death, Conrad Heisler, Co K at Bonne Carré.

April's losses 24

Co A	McGoldrick
Co B	Heermance, Haswell, Ingraham.
Co C	Porter, Russell, Shaver, Wood, Clute, Comstock, Smith, Snyder.
Co D	Legg, Kilbourn.
Co E	Chipman.
Co F	0
Co G	Blackman, Douglas, Cole.
Co H	Farnham, Strain.
Co I	Hoffman.
Co K	Heisler, Werner, Jager.

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

1 May, Friday - About 8 o'clock all companies slung knapsacks and marched over in the field. The Regiment was inspected by Colonel Ainsworth and Lieut. Colonel. Companies returned to camp about noon. Company officers inspected the troop's knapsacks, after which they broke ranks. No Battalion or Company drills today. 5 o'clock P.M. the regiment formed in line and were mustered in for 2 months pay.

2 May, Saturday - No drills today.

3 May, Sunday - About 12 o'clock P.M. the long roll was beat. The regiment was in line in about 5 minutes and ready for action. Brigadier General Nickerson rode along the line and spoke a few words. He said 900 of General Grant's Cavalry had cut their way through the enemy and were in Baton Rouge. **William Coons, Co B, died of debility at Bonne Carré hospital.**

4 May, Monday - Battalion drills were at 5 o'clock P.M. instead of in the morning.

5 May, Tuesday - Regimental dress parade. A Brigade Hospital was in process of being erected at the cost of the United States Government. **George Barringer, Co H died at Bonne Carré hospital.**

7 May, Thursday - About 3 o'clock orders came for the Regiment to pack their knapsacks and be ready to march at a moment's notice. The Regiment formed in line at 6 o'clock and started out. The Regiment went on board the Morning Light, a river steamer, and steamed up the river. The entire Third Brigade was embarked, each Regiment left some companies at Bonne Carré for local guard posts and pickets. The Morning Light stopped at the Humphrey's camp and picked up Company A, 177th and Company B, 14th Maine. Read's Co, 3rd MA Cavalry also departed Humphrey's by the river road, leaving a rear detachment.

8 May, Friday - Some troops remained at Bonne Carré cleaning the company streets, standing inspections and posted as guards. The Rear detachment of Read's Co, 3rd MA Cavalry left Humphrey's at 8 A.M. with the Twenty First New York Battery, and one trooper was left at Manning's to guide Colonel Davis and his Texan Cavalry through the Cut-off. The 21st NY Battery caught up with the 3rd MA as they were starting out from Doyal's.

9 May, Saturday - When Read's Co, 3rd MA and the 21st NY got to the Amite some of the Infantry was already there, and the artillery unlimbered and began firing. Colonel Davis and the Texan Cavalry didn't arrive until May 11.

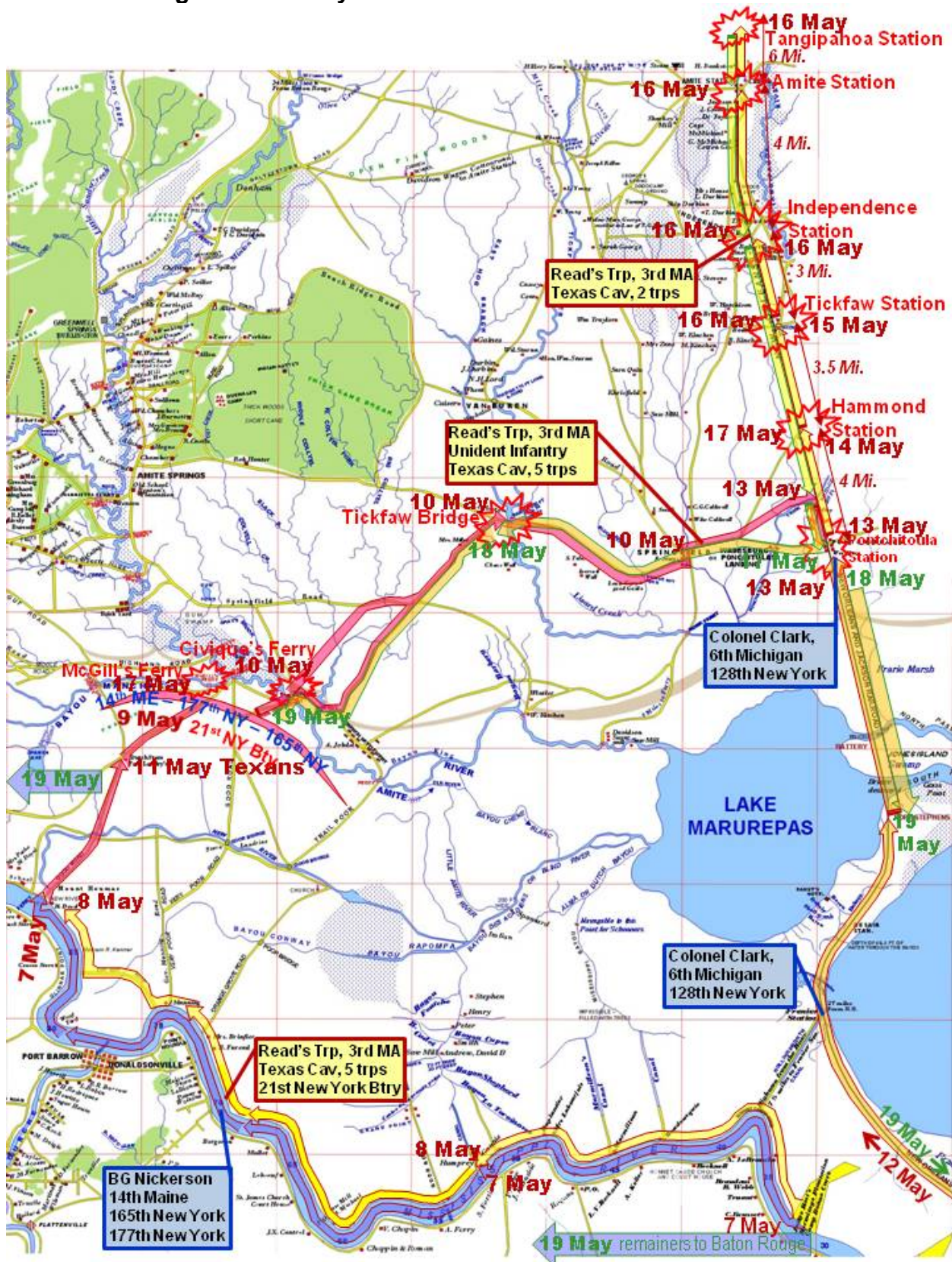
9-18 May 1863.--Operations on the Amite River and Jackson Railroad with skirmishes at Ponchatoula, Independence Station, and Tickfaw Bridge, La.

10 May, Sunday - Read's Co, 3rd MA Crossed the ferry point (believed to be Civique's) on a raft at 6 A. M. A picket post of the enemy was at the edge of the woods, and fell back as the cavalry advanced after them. This is in the official record as "**Action at Civique's Ferry May 10.**" They continued to keep just ahead, and damaged all the bridges. These were repaired and the advance continued. The Cavalry was delayed about half an hour at the Tickfaw River Bridge. At Springfield, the enemy was still in the front. Springfield was only four houses. The advance had slowed down. The advance guard was in doubt about the road, as there was a turn at the edge of the town to the left, at right angles. A woman crossed the road, under the heads of Captain Read's and Lieutenant Pope's horses never apparently noticing them on her way; but said in a low, distinct voice: "Turn to the left-be quick! They're tearing up the bridge." Confederate Reports of May 11, 1863, indicated a regiment of infantry and about 500 cavalry (as Read's Troop was only 100 this must now include the Texas Cavalry) have left the Amite in the direction of the railroad, doing much damage to the citizens. A scout returning from east of the Amite reported that they went as low as Gains' Ferry, and that there was no enemy to be found in that vicinity and heard nothing nearer than Civique's Ferry, where they reported them to be in force on the South bank and having a large raft erected in the river.

11 May, Monday - **Richard Pease, Co I died at Bonne Carré hospital.**

12 May, Tuesday - Report of Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Sherman, U. S. Army, New Orleans, dated 18 May 1863. On the 12th instant I threw out General Nickerson with two regiments upon the Amite River, together with five companies of Texas cavalry under Colonel Davis. General Nickerson, remaining on and in the vicinity of the Amite, was directed to throw Davis' cavalry upon the Jackson Railroad and meet the two regiments of infantry under Colonel Clark, Sixth Michigan (6th Michigan and 128th New York), which had in the mean time been thrown across Manchac Pass.

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Sun very hot, but good breeze; alternate cloud and sunshine. The One Hundred and Twenty-eighth New York left Camp Parapet and took cars for Manchac Pass by way of the Jackson Railroad. This would be part of the force under Colonel Clark, 6th Michigan, along with the 6th Michigan Regiment. **Our Adjutant, 1LT Richard M. Strong, died today of typhoid at Bonne Carré hospital.**

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

13 May, Wednesday - The Morning Light brought down 4 wounded, **3 of our Regiment** and one of the 14th Maine. It also brought down two Rebel prisoners. **Leonard Lane, Co H, died fever at Bonne Carré hospital.** Meanwhile, back at the Amite to Ponchatoula expedition our men cut the telegraph wires, and burned the railroad bridge over the Ponchatoula Creek about 4 miles North of Ponchatoula. Advanced toward Ponchatoula, and bivouacked in the woods at 2 A.M. The advance gone about a mile toward Ponchatoula when it began to tire, skirmishers were deployed parallel to the railroad, and to our line of march. A few men jumped on the railroad and the left dashed down the track, a few bringing back prisoners; and some went on after more, and did not hear the recall. The troops went to burning Rebel camps, log houses and tents, but recently emptied, when a volley came; but no one was hit. It was fired by 128th New York Infantry, who had come from New Orleans, via Pass Manchac. There was a brigade, all told (the Two Regiments under Colonel Clark). The round-up of our prisoners was 17 Choctaws and 1 lieutenant. Two camps of Mississippi Cavalry and that of the Choctaws were burned.

14 May, Thursday - The Cavalry went to the Hammond Station, where a large steam saw and grist mill and tannery were burned, but the Confederate shoe factory was left standing. The leather and shoes were taken out, and the lasts burned. The Cavalry returned to Ponchatoula for the evening. **William Kelderhouse, Co D died at Bonne Carré hospital.**

15 May, Friday - The mail arrived about 6 o'clock on the steamer at Bonne Carré. The Cavalry left Ponchatoula at 5 P.M. via Hammond and Tickfaw stations.

16 May, Saturday - Some troops remained at Bonne Carré cleaning the company streets, standing inspections and posted as guards. The cavalry started North out of Ponchatoula at 5 A.M., and found the enemy at Independence. There were parts of Five Companies of Mississippi and two Companies Louisiana Cavalry, being about 150 to 200 men in line. The 3rd MA was about 40 men, and Texans under Lieut. Temple came up to reinforce. When the Texan company came up the Confederates got uneasy, and when the other Texan company came up, they fled; only a few waited to give a parting shot. The Cavalry chased them 25 miles. Loss of enemy: 25 prisoners; and 10 or 12 killed, including a captain. Read's company had two wounded, and some prisoners were taken by the Texans. The cavalry did all the damage they could to Camp Moore and as they came back down the railroad they burned the stations at Tangiphoa, Amite, Independence, and Tickfaw. Also a saw mill, and car factory, with some artillery carriages were burned in Independence. **Two men were buried of our Regiment this afternoon., Kelderhouse Co. D, the other Charles Haskell, Co F at Bonne Carré.; Francis Courtney, Co G died this afternoon and was sick only a short time. George Van Vleit, Co H died of fever at Bonne Carré.**

17 May, Sunday - **Funeral of Frank Cortney, and George Van Vleit.** Elias Nashold came down to Bonne Carré from the Regiment this morning and reported they were at McGill's Ferry. **Thomas Davidson, Co D, accidentally shot on Picket duty on the Amite; Isaac Morrison, Co C died of phthisis at Bonne Carré.** The Cavalry stopped in the woods near Hammond at 2 A.M. and arrived back at Ponchatoula at 10 A.M. Back at the Amite River there had been an action at McGill's Ferry May 17, 1863 Co A, B, C, D others? Not G? The 177th was credited in this action.

18 May, Monday - Back at Bonne Carré there was some picket firing about 12. Our regiment or what was left here of it, formed in line on the levee and stayed all morning. Back on the expedition, the Cavalry and unidentified Infantry elements left Ponchatoula and withdrew to Springfield bivouacking a mile from Tickfaw bridge towards the Amite river.

Report of Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Sherman, U.S.Army, New Orleans, dated 18 May 1863. The Jackson road has been effectually broken up as high as Camp Moore; all depots and railroad stations destroyed up to that point; the large car manufactory near Independence, with its contents, consisting of eight cars, a number of unfinished gun-carriages, etc., destroyed; the Confederate shoe factory and tannery at Cates near Tickfaw destroyed.

General Nickerson has captured in the Amite a large quantity of lumber and some cotton, and a large number of Confederate soldiers deserted and furloughed, whom he informs me he has paroled. The people are rapidly taking the oath of allegiance and admit that the game is all up with them. The cavalry returns to the Amite to-day, and Colonel Clark will re-cross the Pass to-morrow.

19 May, Tuesday – **Peter Lawson, Co I died at Bonne Carré; Henry Sayre, Co B, died of typhoid at Bonne Carré.**

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The Cavalry with unidentified Infantry elements re-crossed the Amite after dark, and settled near McGill's ferry. All the 3^d Brigade Infantry Regiments left for Port Hudson. The two regiments of infantry under Colonel Clark, Sixth Michigan (6th Michigan and 128th New York) returned to Camp Parapet from Ponchatoula.

20 May, Wednesday - **Funeral of 3 of our Regiment.** At 10 o'clock a dispatch came for the Brigade elements that remained at Bonne Carré to pack up their baggage and get ready to start for Baton Rouge. The men were glad to get away from there, as it was getting so unhealthy. **Isaac Teal, Co I died at Bonne Carré; Jacob Smith, Co C died of typhoid at Bonne Carré**

21 May, Thursday – Regimental elements at Bonne Carré was called up by the long roll or rather Assembly at 1 o'clock A.M. and went on board the Morning Light bound for Baton Rouge. It was reported as a splendid day with scenery along the river described as delightful. Arrived at Baton Rouge by 5 o'clock A.M. Formed in line and marched up to the penitentiary where they were to stop for the night and rejoined the rest of the Regiment and Brigade. **John Pilling, Co F died at Bonne Carré.**

22 May, Friday - The Brigade got in line about 8 o'clock and started for Port Hudson. The 1 Negro Brigade bought up the rear. Marched 16 miles and encamped for the night. It rained some in the night. **Joel Walters, Co I died at Bonne Carré.**

23 May, Saturday - All quiet along the lines this morning. About noon heard some very heavy cannonading was heard in the direction of the Fort. At 5 o'clock P.M. started out and marched about 1 ½ miles where the Regiment formed a line of battle at the double quick. Some of the boys threw away their coats and haversacks, tired of carrying them. Encamped for the night in front of some captured rebel earthworks. **Charles Gomph, Co B, died of debility at Bonne Carré.**

May 23 177th NYV Regiment entered siege lines at Port Hudson. Siege of Port Hudson May 24-July 9.

24 May, Sunday - **John Flinn, Co D died at Bonne Carré; Peter Stalker, Co D, WIA Port Hudson (died July 18th)**

LEFT FLANK:

SECOND DIVISION - Brigadier General Thomas Sherman (Wounded)

1st BRIGADE

DOW'S – *Brigadier General Neal Dow (Wounded)*

26th Connecticut - *Lt. Col. Joseph Selden*

6th Michigan - *Lt. Col. Edward Bacon*

15th New Hampshire - *Col. John W. Kingman*

128th New York - *Colonel David S. Cowles (Killed),
Lt. Col. James Smith*

3^d BRIGADE

NICKERSON'S – *Brig. General Frank S. Nickerson*

14th Maine - *Col. Thomas W. Porter*

24th Maine - *Col. George M. Atwood*

165th New York - *Lt. Col. Abel Smith, Jr.,
Capt. Felix Angus*

177th New York - Col. Ira W. Ainsworth

ARTILLERY

21st Indiana Infantry (one company)

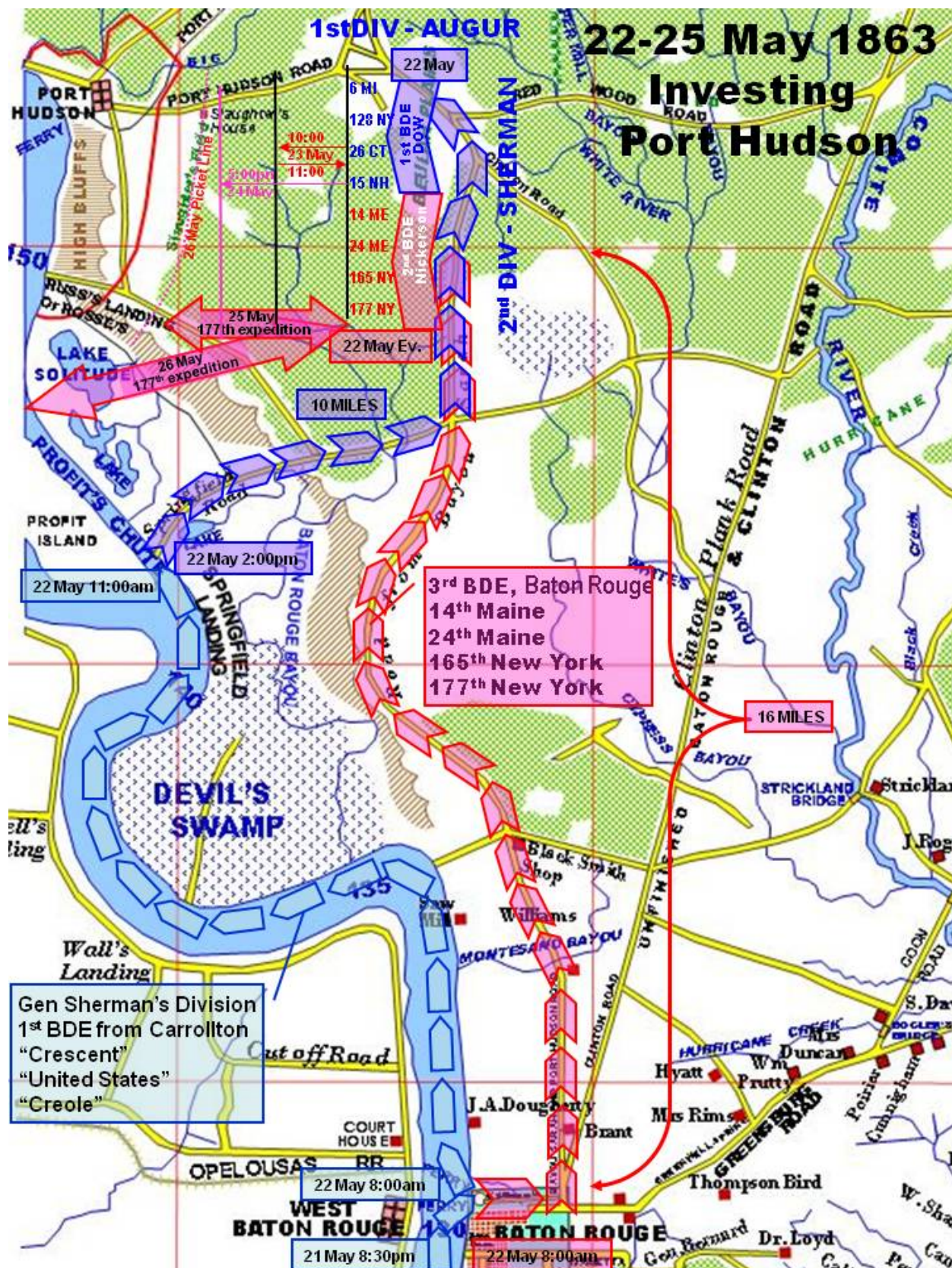
21st New York

1st Vermont

25 May, Monday - Very warm and pleasant. After dinner the Regiment was ordered on an expedition. The Regiment started in quick time through the woods and marched about 1 mile where they were fired upon from a rebel fort. The Regiment passed over without any accident to the river, but on their return in the afternoon the rebels opened fire with their batteries **Jacob Sherman of G Company was killed by the explosion of a shell. Two others mortally wounded.** (No record in official roster of two mortally wounded on this date, unless this counted Peter Stalker)

On May 25th Brigadier General Thomas Sherman ordered 177th to cut its way through to the Mississippi River and it was on this occasion that the first Albany blood was spilled in the South. The Albany regiment went forward with every piece of Confederate artillery in the fort trained on it. The earthworks were manned by southern riflemen who poured a steady fire on the advancing regiment but the advance was made until the regiment reached a position so close to the fort that the fire of the big guns over ranged. The 177th had reached its objective and had opened the way for the terrible engagement which took place two days

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War
 afterward on May 27th. Toward evening there was very heavy cannonading and artillery tiring, both right and left, making one continuous roll of thunder.



At this juncture, General Sherman's division stands as follows, beginning from the right: The Sixth Michigan, One Hundred and Twenty-eighth New York, Twenty-sixth Connecticut, Fifteenth New Hampshire; and for artillery the First Vermont Battery of six rifled 12-pounders, another battery of six guns, and an Indiana battery of two brass 6-pounders, eight 20-pounders, and four 30-pounder Parrots.

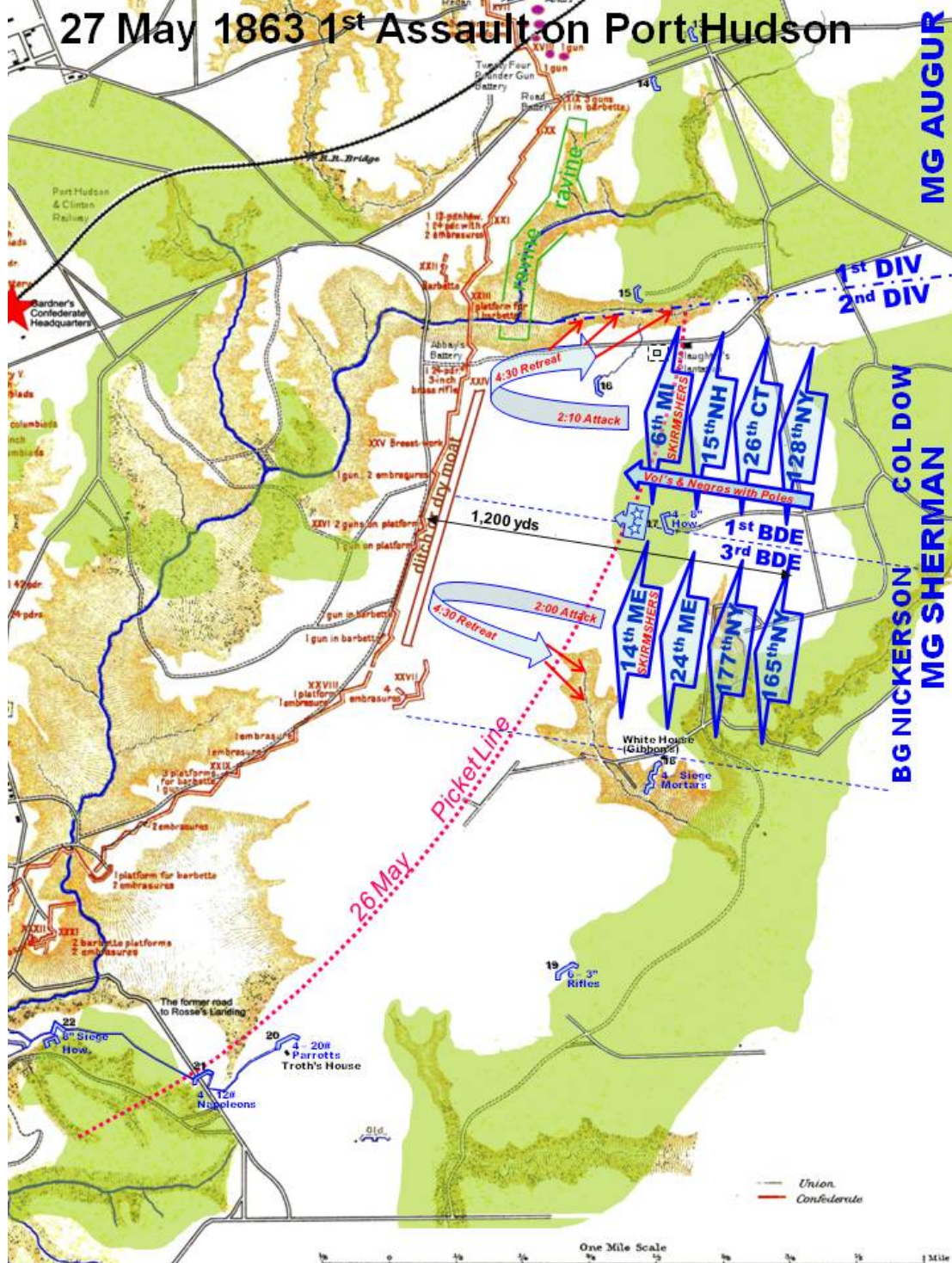
177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

General Nickerson, commanding the third brigade of Sherman's division, is on the left with the Fourteenth Maine, the Twenty-fourth Maine, the One Hundred and Sixty-Fifth New York, and the One Hundred and Seventy-Fifth New York.

26 May, Tuesday - Nothing unusual going on today. The regiment was resting. Some very heavy cannonading towards the right. Company G was detailed for picket about 5 o'clock.

1st Assault on Port Hudson May 27

27 May – **Actions of 3rd Brigade;** Here at 2 o'clock General Nickerson's brigade charged the enemy's works of entrenched Confederate artillery and infantry that exacted an appalling toll as the Federals charged across open ground aptly named Slaughter's Field. "Ripped into shreds by the murderous fire," the 165th NY (2nd Duryea's Zouaves) of Captain Johnson, with Companies D and E, deployed on the left,



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(NOTE: 19th Corps History indicates the 3^d Bde advanced in column and the 165th was the last/4th Regiment, The 177th also recalls being on the extreme left of the line). reached a point within fifty yards of the enemy's parapet, but were then met with such a shower of shot and shell, grape and canister, and shrapnel that it was impossible to go further and the 165th broke, their colors falling on the field. The tempting silk trophy was quickly snatched up by a plucky young 4th Louisiana defender. The rest of Nickerson's brigade drove to within a hundred yards of the Confederate works before wavering under canister fire. The survivors "finally broke and fled to the rear" amidst the "loud cheers" of the Confederates. Nickerson and his officers managed to rally the shattered brigade and, incredibly, "made a second charge with an even smaller measure of success."

27 May, Wednesday – **Recollections of the 177th**; The picket was ordered to advance and to act as skirmishers to the left and in front of the batteries. In this engagement the Albany Regiment was on the extreme left of line where it had been brought on the "double quick" and was thrown into the battle front immediately charging across the field of thick bushes, going through a ravine twenty feet deep, which had been filled with fallen trees over which the men scrambled as best they might, in face of a galling fire from the enemy. It was in this charge that Lieutenant Williamson of Company D, who had mounted a log to jump to the other side of the ravine, was struck by a rifle ball and instantly killed. The 177th reached a point to within 100 yards of the fortification when the charge was stopped and the troops retired. (NOTE: 19th Corps History indicates the 3^d Bde advanced in column and the 177th was the third Regiment, The 165th NY was last and indicates are it also deployed to the left) Commenced firing about 10 o'clock, and fired all day. The Regiment lost a great many men today. Colonel and Lieut. Col. were wounded. Lieut. Williamson was killed, shot through the head.



Assault on Port Hudson – Units and Location not specific, Harper's Weekly 1863

177th KIA/WIA: 1LT James Williamson, Co D, KIA Port Hudson; Edward Davis, Co D, WIA Port Hudson, died Sep 1st; Ruben Gregory, Co D, WIA Port Hudson; CPT Harmon Merriman, Co C, WIA Port Hudson, died July 14th enroute home; James McNar, Co H, died of fever at Bonne Carré.

Absolutely nothing had been accomplished except to test the valor and bravery of these troops from the North. The same story was been told hundreds of times in every war that has taken place since the beginning of the world.

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

1 June, Monday - Very quiet this morning. The enemy threw a few shells occasionally. Our forces are planting Cargo siege guns to bombard the fort. The enemy tried to break through the lines of the 91st, and was repulsed.

2 June, Tuesday – Company G detailed to go on picket to relieve Co. K. The enemy sharpshooters are continuously firing at our men. The 21st New York Battery had planted their guns within 200 yards of the picket post. **Sullivan of Co. F was wounded by a fragment of the enemy's shell.**

3 June, Wednesday - About 3 o'clock 6 companies were ordered to support the 21st N.Y. Battery, and as it afterwards proved, to throw up earthworks. About 7 o'clock the 1st relief went to work. There were 64 men to a relief, each working 2 hours at a time. The works were for a 4 gun mortar Battery.

4 June, Thursday - Worked on the entrenchments part of the day and night. A mail delivery arrived here this noon. Major General Banks rode past the Regiment towards night. The enemy's sharpshooter fired at him pretty sharp. **Karl Heyl, Co K died at Baton Rouge**

5 June, Friday - Still working on the fortifications.

6 June, Saturday - Nothing unusual was going on this date. Some cannonading. Companies worked on the earthworks all day.

7 June, Sunday - The men were hard at work on the earthworks. **Robert Neil, Co E, died of rheumatism and dehydration at Bonne Carré.**

8 June, Monday – Companies called up in the night or about 4 o'clock this morning. The enemy tried to drive in our pickets but did not make out. Barnes' Battery shelled them some. **John Guardenier, Co B died of typhoid at Bonne Carré**

9 June, Tuesday - Some cannonading. The union forces were getting ready for a big battle, planting heavy guns, etc.

10 June, Wednesday - Inspection at 9 o'clock. Our mortars threw several shells into Port Hudson and Batteries. **Charles Bendall, Co G died at Bonne Carré; Robert Ketchum, Co B, died of typhoid; George Thayer, Co E died of dehydration at Bonne Carré.**

11 June, Thursday - About 3 o'clock 6 companies of the Regiment were ordered up on the right about 3 miles to build a 12-gun battery. They had to roll cotton bales about 400 yards. They built it of sand bags and cotton bales. **Herman Hanitsch, Co K died at New Orleans, Aram van Denburgh, Co I died at Bonne Carré**

12 June, Friday - The Regiment got back to their rifle stacks a little before daylight and marched back to Headquarters. Stacked arms and rested a few minutes, then Co G went back to support Barnes' Battery.

13 June, Saturday - About 9 o'clock orders went out for all companies to join the regiment at Headquarters immediately. The Regiment was formed in line of battle and was given the order forward. Guide center. March. Advanced to the edge of the woods and stayed in line during the bombardment which lasted about an hour. Then marched back to camp and stacked arms.



This picture from the State Archives is of an unidentified New York unit resting in the field at stacked arms.

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

14 June, Sunday – The Regiment was formed in line and was marched to the extreme left. The whole of the 2nd Division arrived about daylight. It was then understood what it was, for the entire Division was to make an advance on the fort. A bombardment commenced early. The 1st and 2nd Brigades suffered severely from the enemy's grape and canister.

15 June, Monday - No fighting of importance was going on except skirmishing. Colonel Byran of the 175th N.Y. and Major Bogart, 162nd N.Y., were killed yesterday. The Enemy threw a few shells over the Regiment today. Companies A, B, C, and F went on picket to the front. **Edwin Linsley, Co F died at Bonne Carré**

*GENERAL ORDERS, ~ HDQRS. DEPT. OF THE GULF, 19TH Corps.
No. 49. Before Port Hudson, June 15, 1863.*

The commanding general congratulates the troops before Port Hudson upon the steady advance made upon the enemy's works, and is confident of an immediate and triumphant issue of the contest. We are at all points upon the threshold of his fortifications. One more advance and they are ours!

For the last duty that victory imposes, the commanding general summons the bold men of the corps to the organization of a storming column of 1,000 men, to vindicate the flag of the Union and the memory of its defenders who have fallen! Let them come forward!

Officers who lead the column of victory in this last assault may be assured of the just recognition of their services by promotion, and every officer and soldier who shares its perils and its glory shall receive medal fit to commemorate the first grand success of the campaign of 1863 for the freedom of the Mississippi. His name will be placed in general orders upon the Roll of Honor.

Division commanders will at once report the names of the officers and men who may volunteer for this service, in order that the organization of the column may be completed without delay.

*By command of Major General Banks:
RICHARD B. IRWIN,
Assistant Adjutant- General.*

Officers and men who volunteered for storming party at Port Hudson, La., under General Orders, No. 49, Headquarters Department of the Gulf, June 15, 1863.

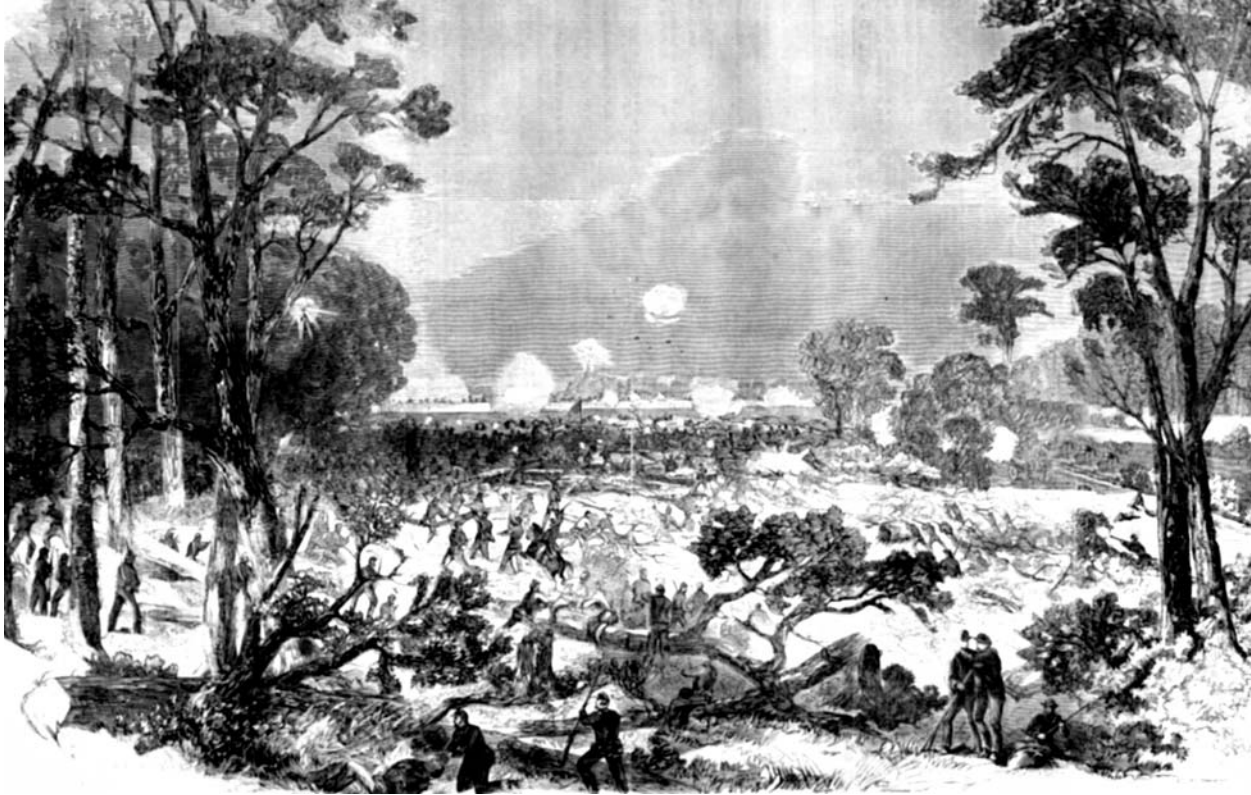
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVENTH NEW YORK.

Sergt. John D. Brooks, Co. A., due to no Officer being in group was assigned as leader of the 177th's troops. ***Sergeant Brooks returned to Albany, remained in the State Militia and rose to become Colonel of the 10th Regiment, MAY 1880 – JAN 1881. In fact he was the last commanding officer of the regiment prior to its disbandment and the re-organization as the 10th Separate Battalion.***

Corpl. Percy B. S. Cole, Co. A.
Private Seymour D. Carpenter, Co. A.
Private John J. Gallup, Co. A.
Private Thomas J. Garvey, Co. A.
Private William Heinstreet, Co. A.
Private John Housen, Co. A.
Private Barney Lavary, Co. A.
Private Richard C. Main, Co. A.
Private Adam Milliman, Co. A.
Private Henry von Lehman, Co. A.
Corpl. George A. McCormick, Co. B.
Private Eben Halley, Co. B.
Private David N. Kirk, Co. B.
Private Charles M. Smith, Co. B.
Private Samuel H. Stevens, jr., Co. B.
Private John Gorruan, Co. C.
Private Moses De Coster, Co. D.
Private Charles W. Lape, Co. E.
Corpl. Alonzo G. Ludden, Co. G.
Private S. W. Meisden, Co. G.
Private Elias Nashold, Co. G.
Private Jeddiah Tompkins, Co. G.
Private Russell W. Cooneys, Co. H.
Private George Merinus, Co. I.

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

As none of the commissioned officers of the regiment had volunteered, the command of the volunteers for the "Stormers" was given to Sergeant Brooks and the next day he reported with his men to General Glover at the right of line where the 'Stormers' were organizing, and took his men to their camp. They would be drilled for two weeks preparatory to the charge.



Attack on Port Hudson – Unit and Location not specific, Civil War Harper's Weekly newspapers

17 June, Wednesday - Very little firing. Received orders to march towards the right. The Brigade marched about 2 miles and stacked arms. The 14th and 24th Maine worked all night. The 177th was held as a reserve. A large shell from a mortar boat exploded a short distance from the Regiment in the night.

18 June, Thursday - Commenced work about 8 o'clock carrying sandbags up the hill. Worked all day. Rolled a large quantity of cotton bales up on the hill. The enemy threw several shells at the Regiment today. **Mortally wounded one soldier from Co. H (John McGaffin, Co H, KIA Port Hudson)**

19 June, Friday – The Regiment was assisting in the building of a Battery for 18 guns about 200 yards from the enemy's works. There was an agreement between forces not to fire until it is finished unless they gave each other notice. The rebels were also strengthening their works.

20 June, Saturday – The Regiment was still hard at work building the battery. There had been some heavy firing on the right during the day. The gunboats threw a few shells in the enemy works. Some of them burst as soon as they were out of the gun, throwing pieces of shell right into our own forces. **Reuben Sherwood, Co E died of typhoid.**

21 June, Sunday – **Charles Sibley, Co G died at Bonne Carré.**

22 June, Monday - A large mail delivery arrived in the afternoon.

25 June, Thursday - No firing of importance so far this week. The troops spent the time resting and digging entrenchments. Several deserters from the rebels came in to the Union lines. The six left companies of the Regiment went out on picket at about 6 o'clock P.M. **Frederick Hurd, Co A died in the field at Port Hudson.**

26 June, Friday - The gunboats and Batteries opened on the fort at about 2 o'clock P.M. and kept up the bombardment with slight intervals until light. An 18 gun battery did good execution on the fort. The 4 right companies of the Regiment were in support of that battery. **William Lade, Co B died of typhoid.**

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

27 June, Saturday – The supporting batteries kept up the firing most all day.

28 June, Sunday - Some firing today. The mortar shells could be seen exploding in the fort. The enemy threw a few shells occasionally. **William Crounse, Co B died of general debility at Bonne Carré.**

29 June, Monday – Monday was a very hot day. The Regiment had to stay in their rifle pits most of the time. As soon as any troops would show themselves the sharpshooters would fire on them. About 6 o'clock orders were received for the Brigade to move to the left. **Frederick Platto, Co B died of typhoid on steamer to New Orleans.**

30 June, Tuesday – The troop again laid in the trenches all night. There was an attempt made to get possession of the enemy's rifle pits, but the troops were not supported as they should have been and were ordered back. There were several killed and wounded, most negroes. It was again a very hot day. Several troops in the Regiment were sunstruck. An attack was ordered towards night. The regiment was moved up quite a distance, but the order was countermanded. **Clark Billings, Co C died of typhoid at Bonne Carré; John Murray, Co E was KIA at Port Hudson.**

Losses in June – 19

Co A Hurd.
Co B Guardenier, Ketchum, Lade, Crounse, Platto.
Co C Billings.
Co D 0
Co E Neil, Thayer, Sherwood, Murray KIA.
Co F Linsley.
Co G Bendall, Sibley.
Co H Van Dusen, McGaffin.
Co I van Denburgh.
Co K Heyl, Hanitsch.

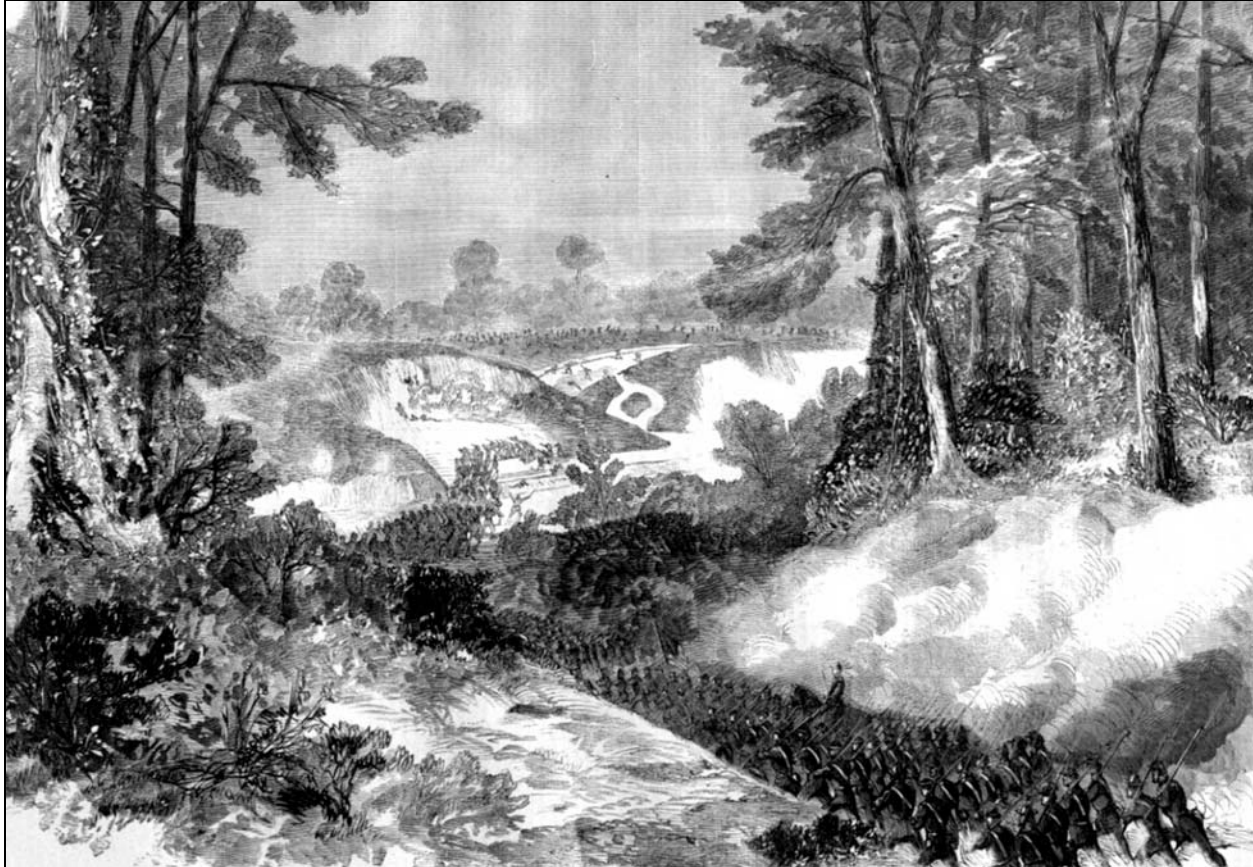


Port Hudson Earthen Works

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

1 July, Wednesday – The Regiment was ordered down in a ravine to rest and spent the entire day in the ravine. "On July 1st General Banks formed the volunteers ("Stormers") in a hollow square and assured the men that if they were faithful to their cause, the Union Army would eat breakfast in Port Hudson on July 4th. **Fred Kilzer, Co K, WIA died of wounds at Baton Rouge.**

2 July, Thursday - About. 6 o'clock P.M. the rebels commenced to shell our Battery and the ravine. The Regiment was forced to seek safety in the rifle pits as the shells burst rather too fast to suit them. Stayed in the pits about 1 ½ hours and then returned to the ravine. The Regiment was not disturbed again that night.



Into the Rifle Pits at Port Hudson – Unit and Location not specific, Civil War Harper's Weekly newspapers

3 July, Friday - Orders came for the Regiment to march for Springfield Landing. On the night of the 3d the "Stormers" were ordered to sleep on their arms in a little grove near the enemy's works, and to make the charge at daylight. About midnight General Banks received a message from General Grant, at Vicksburg, telling him to delay the assault until further orders as General Pemberton, the Confederate commander at Vicksburg, was negotiating the surrender of that stronghold. The "Stormers" would remain inactive for two days until word came of the fall of Vicksburg. **Michael Harrington, Co D died at Baton Rouge.**

4 July, Saturday - Independence Day. There was some very heavy firing on the right today. The National Salute was fired again and again. **Frederick Frayer, Co C died of Heart Disease at Bonne Carré.**

5 July, Sunday - The Regiment was out in the rifle pits on picket. **William Barlow, Co E died at Bonne Carré; John Zeilman, Co D died at Bonne Carre; Howard Mosher, Co D was a suicide at Baton Rouge.**

6 July, Monday - **Joel Carkner, Co I died at Bonne Carré.**

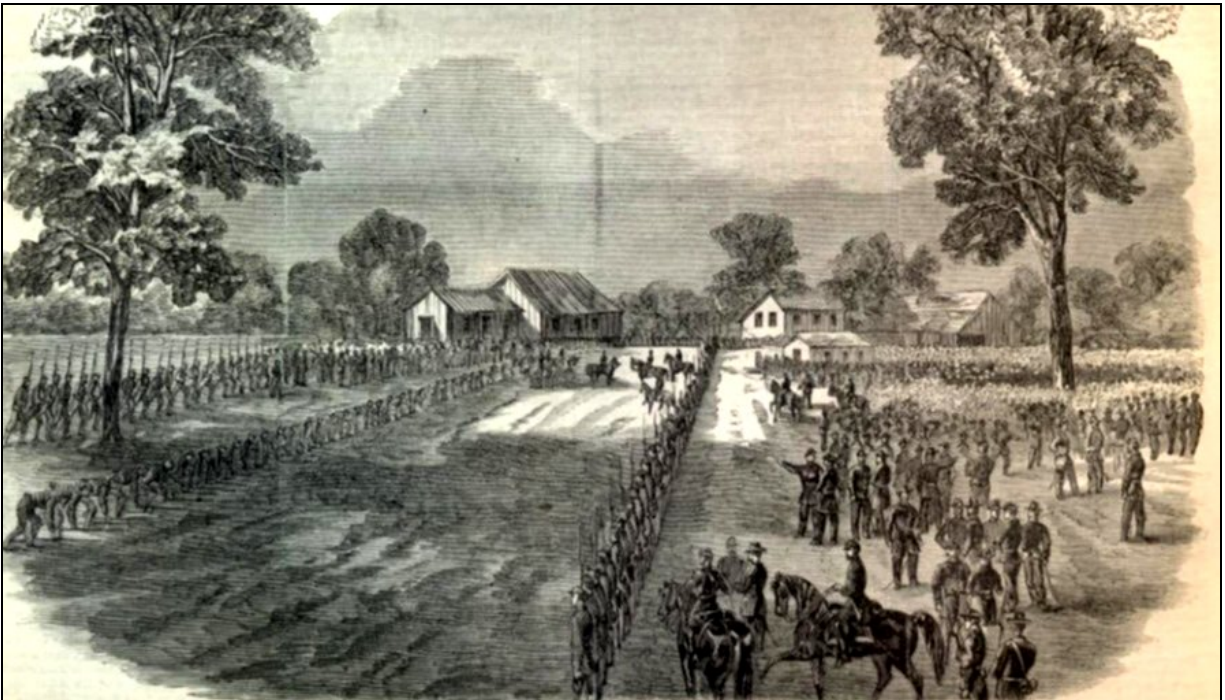
7 July, Tuesday - Glorious news for us! Vicksburg was surrendered to General Grant. 27,000 prisoners, 128 field pieces, 85 siege guns besides small arms, etc. are the results of the Victory. **Abram Carhart, Co C drowned at Port Hudson.**

8 July, Wednesday - There was no firing at all this date. It was rumored that General Banks and Gardiner were consulting together about surrendering the fort. Something was going on, that was certain. General

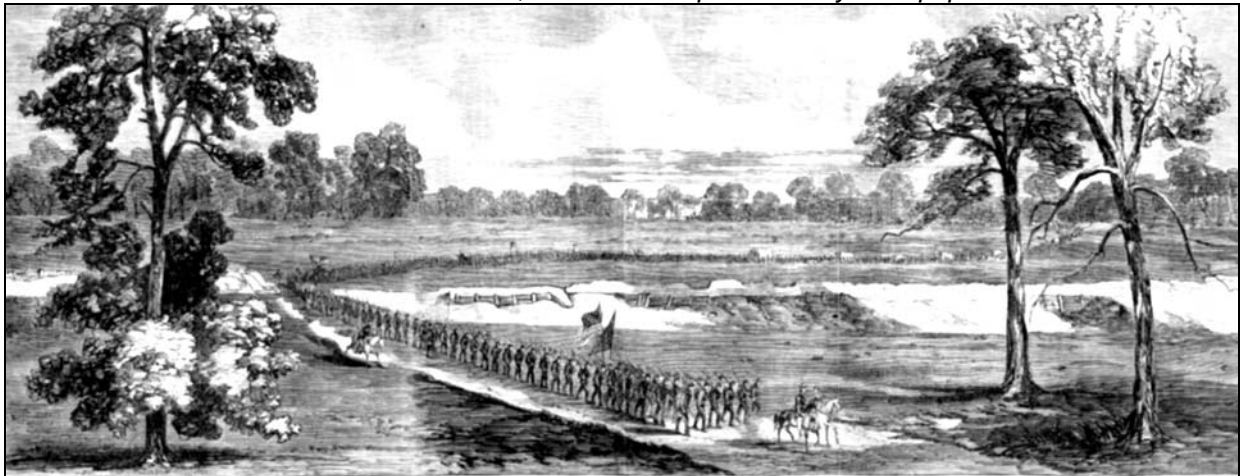
177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

Banks ordered the storming troops to be his escort at the surrender of Port Hudson which would take place July 8, 1863. **John Gorman, Co C POW – paroled 19 July; Charles Stickles, Co B died of typhoid; Jeremiah Moran, Co E died of typhoid at Springfield Landing.**

9 July, Thursday - Fort Hudson surrendered this morning 7 o'clock. General Frank Gardiner surrendered to General Banks. "In taking possession of Port Hudson, the 'Stormers' lowered the Confederate flag, which had been flying over the fortification and ran up the Stars and Stripes in its place, and fired a salute, while the 19th Army Corps, outside the fortifications, sent up a tremendous cheer." At a Memorial Day exercise in 1928 in the City of Yonkers, where Mr. Brooks was living at the time, he told the story of the "Thousand Stormers". Mr. Brooks told his audience of the paroling of the Confederate prisoners and his meeting Sergeant M. K. Andrus of Company A, First Alabama Regiment, with whom he became acquainted. From Sergeant Andrus, Sergeant Brooks learned the besieged Confederates were aware of every move the Union army was making. Escorting Sergeant Brooks about the fort, Sergeant Andrus pointed out the place where the "Thousand Stormers" were to have made their charge and the preparation made to receive them. In fact the Confederates had worked hard to prepare the place where the Union forces were to have entered by driving stakes deep in the ground and stringing barb wire and covering it with leaves and branches, extending inside the fort for about a quarter of a mile, forming a trap. In back of these entanglements, on a ridge among the trees, were twelve cannons loaded with grape and canister and in the rear of the cannons 8,000 troops had been posted with loaded musket so had the charge been made, not one of the "Stormers" would have survived. Had the plans of General Banks for carrying Port Hudson by assault been gone through with it would have resulted in the greatest single slaughter of the entire Civil War.



Port Hudson Surrender, Civil War Harper's Weekly newspapers



177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

10 July, Friday - Troops were moving down the river as fast as the boats arrived and took them on. **James Percy, Co E died of typhoid at Baton Rouge.**

Reorganization of the Third Division, Nineteenth Army Corps, under Paragraph XV, Special Orders, No. 160, Headquarters Department of the Gulf; July 10, 1863, * Brig. Gen. William Dwight. commanding.

First Brigade.

Brig. Gen. Frank. Nickerson
28th Connecticut, Col. Samuel P. Ferris
14th Maine, Col. Thomas W. Porter.
110th New York, Col. Clinton H. Sage.
162d New York, Col. Lewis Benedict.
165th New York, Capt. Felix Agnus.
177th New York, Col. Ira W. Ainsworth.

Second Brigade.

Rgw Senior colonel present.
8th New Hampshire, Col. H. Fearing, jr.
15th New Hampshire, Col. Joha W. Kiugman.
134 New York, Col. L. D. H. Carrie.
173(1 New York, Col. Lewis M. Peek.
4th Wiscorisin,t Lient. Col. Frederick
A. Boardman.

Which, in consequence of the expiration of the term of service of several of the nine-months regiments, transferred the First and Third Brigades, Second Division, to the Third Division, and assigned Brigadier-General Dwight to the command. He assumed command July 12. Col. Hawkes Fearing, jr., appears to have commanded the division June 15 - July 6 Detached for mounted service July 11.

Third and Fourth Brigade.

Col. Oliver P. Gooding.
31st Massachusetts, Lieut~ Col. W. S. B. Hopkins.
38th Massachusetts, Col. Timothy Ingraham.
53d Massachusetts, Col. John W. Kimball.
128th New York, Col. James Smith.
156th New York, Lient. Col. Jacob Sharpe.
175th New York, Col. Michael K. Bryan.

Artillery.

Capt. RICHARD C. DURYEA.
4th Massachusetts Battery, Capt. George G. Trail.
1st United States (Battery F), Capt. Richard C. Duryea.
1st Vermont Battery, Capt. George T. Hebard.

11 July, **Saturday** - Regimental dress parade was held at 9 o'clock, the first in a long time. Nine months ago our Adjutant was mustered in and part of the Regt.

14 July, Tuesday - **CPT Harmon Merriman, Co H died of wounds at Port Hudson while enroute home.**

15 July, Wednesday - **Thomas Hartness, Co C died at Port Hudson of dehydration; Robert Frisbey, Co H died of rheumatism at Springfield Landing.**

18 July, Saturday - With the fall of Port Hudson the nine month service for which the 177th had enlisted expired. General Banks had promised Colonel Ainsworth the Regiment would be sent home by way of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, the idea being to show the strength of the Union army to the people of the border states. However, the General was reluctant to release any of the nine months regiment until he had received other troops to take their place. The 177th was sent to Mount Pleasant (down towards the river near the deserted Rebel earthworks) where the men who had been sick in the hospitals at Baton Rouge and Bonne Carré joined it. Regimental dress parade was held at 9 o'clock AM and Inspections at 6 o'clock PM. **Peter Stalker, Co D died of wounds at Bonne Carré.**

19 July, Sunday – The Regiment had General Inspection by a U.S. Officer. Towards night the troops signed the payroll. Regiment was to be paid tomorrow. **Milton Jones, Co C died of typhoid at Bonne Carré.**

20 July, Monday – Regimental dress parade as usual. The Regiment was formed by companies towards night and were paid off. **Abram Dearstine, Co D died at Baton Rouge.**

21 July, Tuesday - Some of the balance of the Regiment came up from Baton Rouge today. **Peter Simons, Co C died of typhoid.**

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

22 July, Wednesday - A very heavy shower came up overnight. **Abram Billson, Co F died at Mt. Pleasant.**

23 July, Thursday – Co G was relieved from picket about 5 o'clock by Co. A.

24 July, Friday - Knapsacks came up from Baton Rouge Friday night. **William Froning, Co K died at Bonne Carré.**

26 July, Sunday - 14 boats from Vicksburg came down to Mount Pleasant this morning loaded with troops. They got off the boats to have them cleaned. They are a fighting lot of men. Several of the Regiments were from Illinois.

27 July, Monday – Regimental dress parade as usual. Company G is going on picket tonight.

28 July, Tuesday – Company G Came off picket 5 o'clock. It has rained most of the afternoon.

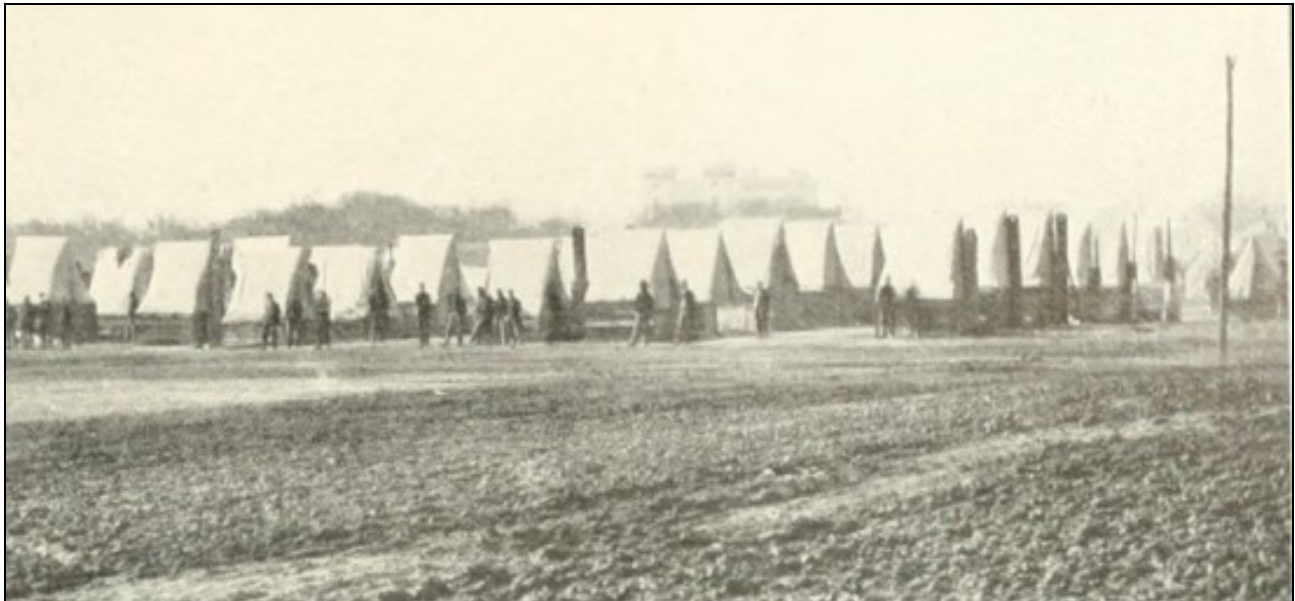
29 July, Wednesday – Regimental dress parade as usual. All quiet today.

30 July, Thursday – **William Enos, Co G died at Baton Rouge; Jeddiah Tompkins, Co G died at New Orleans.**

31 July, Friday – Regimental dress parade as usual. It was a very hot day.

Losses in June – 22

Co A 0
Co B Stickles
Co C Frayer, Carhart, Hartness, Jones, Simons
Co D Harrington, Zeilman, Mosher, Stalker, Dearstine
Co E Barlow, Moran, Percy
Co F Billson
Co G Tompkins, Enos
Co H Merriman, Fr isbey
Co I Carkner,
Co K Kilzer, Froning



Typical Union Camp, this one is at Baton Rouge 1863

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

The 177th had been sent to Mount Pleasant where the men who had been sick in the hospitals at Baton Rouge and Bonne Carré joined it if they were able.

1 August, Saturday – Company G went on picket down to the Division Emissaries. **Charles Pifer, Co. K, died at Baton Rouge.**

3 August, Monday - Regimental dress parade.

5 August, Wednesday – **John King, Co. G, died at Port Hudson. James Scrafferd, Co. H died of bilious fever back in Albany.**

6 August, Thursday - The steamer Continental passed Mount Pleasant with the 37th Mass. & 28th Maine homeward bound (up the river). **William Fields, Co. A died before Port Hudson.**

7 August, Friday – **Eugene Bonk of Co. I died at Mt. Pleasant.**

8 August, Saturday – **James Wood, Co. C died of diarrhea at Port Hudson and Henry Schroder, Co. K died at Mt. Pleasant.**

9 August, Sunday – **Walter Buckley of Co. H died of fever and James Tole, Co. D died at Port Hudson.**

11 August, Tuesday - **George Joice, Co. G, died and was buried today at Port Hudson.** The Regiment was expected to go aboard a boat this evening for home.

12 August, Wednesday - About 9 o'clock the Regiment got in line and delivered arms and accouterments to the ordinance officer. The Regiment marched up to the Fort and went on board the Empire Parrish. The Regiment was then ordered back off the boat. **Thomas Wesson of Co. H died of dehydration at Port Hudson.**

13 August, Thursday - The Regiment was moved back up on the hill at Mount Pleasant again. The quartermaster was moving up the baggage for a long stay to all appearances. A great many sick were being brought to the hospital. **Samuel Loomis, Co. B died of typhoid at Mt. Pleasant.**

14 August, Friday - **Jesse D. Wood of Co G died in the night, George Morris, Co. I died at Mt. Pleasant.**

15 August, Saturday - The western troops are all going down the river from Mount Pleasant. **Martin Brennan of Co. F died at Mt. Pleasant.**

16 August, Sunday - Several boats came up from New Orleans, but none were for the Regiment. A heavy shower came up towards night. Rained very hard. **Richard Vandenberg, Co. C died at Mt. Pleasant.**

17 August, Monday - **Two men died during the night (no 177th in the record other than Lt. Rosche). Also Lieut. Francis Rosche, Co. K., died at Mt Pleasant.**

18 August, Tuesday - **One of Co. A (in records as Co C) died today. Had a very sudden death about 5 o'clock. Joel Wilson stepped off the piazza to wash out his cup and fell down on the ground apparently in a fit (listed as congestive intermediate fever). Leonard Rosekrans, Co. E died of debility back in Albany.**

19 August, Wednesday – **James Beckwith of Company C died at Port Hudson. James Gillet and Andreas Kramer, Co. K died at Mt. Pleasant.**

20 August, Thursday - The steamer Des Arc arrived at the fort this morning. She was to take the Regiment up to Cairo. The Regiment was boarded about 5 o'clock, and left Port Hudson about 8 o'clock PM.

According to STEAMBOATS AND FERRIES ON WHITE RIVER: A HERITAGE REVISITED, by Duane Huddleston, Sammie Rose and Pat Wood (Conway, Ark.: UCA Press; 1995), picture below is the "steamboat DES ARC near De Vall's Bluff during the Civil War. DES ARC was 200' long and 30' wide and one of the superb White River steamboats. Her construction was started in 1860 at Paducah by A. L. Davis, who failed to complete her. Capt. Hicks King finished the job. She arrived at Memphis in late 1862, but the war prevented her entering the White River then, so she ran in the Louisville and Memphis trade.

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War



^ START ^



Steamer DES ARC

21 August, Friday - Passed Natchez about 12 o'clock. It was a very large city. Passed several ironclads during the day.

22 August, Saturday - Arrived at Vicksburg 3 o'clock in the morning. About 5 o'clock AM went across the river after coal. Took aboard 450 boxes which took until nearly night. Went over to the city and took aboard some commissaries stores. Started after sundown up the river. Ran on a snag about 9 o'clock PM. Clark Clow fell overboard. The men picked him up with the boat, all right. **Albert Deyoe, Co. C died on Des Arc near Vicksburg.**

23 August, Sunday - Passed several large boats going down. 10:00 AM reached northern border of Louisiana. **Madison Settle, Co. G died on Des Arc.**

24 August, Monday - 8:00 PM at Helena, Arkansas. Men went ashore and found Taylor's Albany Ale in one of the saloons.

25 August, Tuesday - At 1:25 o'clock AM, when opposite Buck Island, the "Des Arc" collided with the steamer "Courier" carrying the 49th Illinois Regiment. **William Sweeney of Company E** was killed outright and several others were injured. Both steamers were beached. The "Courier" careened, turned over and several aboard were drowned. The "Des Arc" was not badly damaged and proceeded up the river reaching Memphis, Tenn., at 9:00 AM. Several officers went ashore. A few rode and got on some wood and coal. Left Memphis late in the afternoon. Landed at Fort Pillow and buried **Madison Settle of Co. G. Henry Wemple, Co A, and Charles Muller, Co. K died on Des Arc at Memphis.**

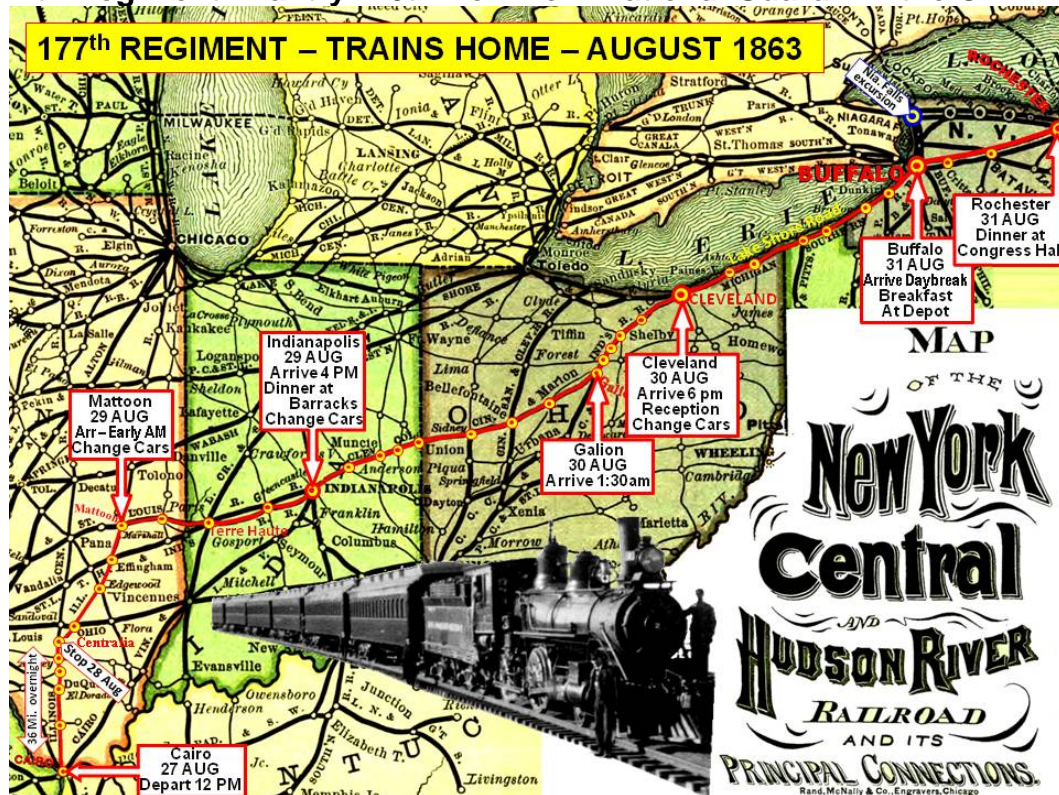
26 August, Wednesday - When passing Island No. 10 a solid shot was fired across the bow of the "Des Arc" which forced her to shore where her papers were examined.. **Jonathan Amey, Co H; Joseph Cowan and Albert Smith, Co D, died on Des Arc.**

27 August, Thursday - At 9 o'clock that morning the 177th steamed into Cairo which was the end of the water trip. Sergeant Cowan and Private Smith were buried there. Packed knapsacks and went ashore. The Quartermaster got the stores and horses in the cars. The Illinois Central was what the Regiment was to go on. Got started about 12 o'clock P.M. **Urias Hallenbeck, Co G; and Tim Ward, Co. F died and buried in Cairo. John Bailey, Co B, died on Des Arc in Cairo.**



^ Continued ^

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War



At Cairo the regiment was placed aboard trains and did not stop until Cleveland, Ohio, was reached. *NOTE: The History of the 10th indicates Columbus but should read Cleveland as train lines with stops as indicated did not go through Columbus.*

28 August, Friday - Made about 36 miles during the night. Progress was very slow during the day, stopping at several places, namely Anna, Centralia, etc.

29 August, Saturday - Arrived at Mattoon, Illinois early in the morning. Changed cars and lines to the Indianapolis & St. Louis RR. The Regiment got good passenger cars on this leg as the companies had freight cars before this. Passed through Terre Haute and several large towns. **Richard Fort, Co. B died on train near Terre Haute.** Arrived at Indianapolis, Indiana about 4 o'clock P.M. Ate supper at the Barracks. Changed cars and Rail Lines to the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Marion RR. The 3 "left" companies got freight cars again.

30 August, Sunday - Arrived at Galion about 1:30 o'clock AM. The citizens brought all kinds of eatables to the cars. Early in the morning stopped at a large village (likely Shelby). Arrived at Cleveland about 6 o'clock PM. At Cleveland, Ohio, a reception awaited the members of the 177th. Left for Buffalo by the Lake Shore road, Michigan Southern RR. **James Steenburgh, Co. H died of typhoid in Cleveland 31 August.**

31 August, Monday - Arrived at Buffalo about daybreak. Formed a line and marched in to breakfast at the depot. At Buffalo a committee met the train and a bountiful breakfast was given the members. While the sick were tenderly cared for those who were able to do so were taken on an excursion to Niagara Falls and other places of interest. Changed cars at Buffalo. At Rochester the regiment was met by another committee and the members were taken to Congress Hall for dinner. Rochester was the last stop of the regiment until it reached Albany on September 2d.

Sergeant Edward C. Platte, Co. D died aboard the train. The body was prepared at (Columbus) so it could be taken to Albany. *Official record list 1 September date of death at Cleveland, and described route did not go through Columbus.*

Losses in August - 35

Co A	Fields, Wilson, Wemple	Co F	Brennan, Ward
Co B	Loomis, Bailey, Fort	Co G	King, Joice, Wood, Settle, Hallenbeck
Co C	Wood, Vandenberg, Beckwith, Deyoe	Co H	Scrafferd, Buckley, Wesson, Amey, Steenburgh
Co D	Tole, Smith, Platte	Co I	Bonk, Morris
Co E	Rosekrans, Sweeney	Co K	Pifer, Schroder, Rosche, Gillet, Kramer, Muller

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

1 Sep, Tuesday –

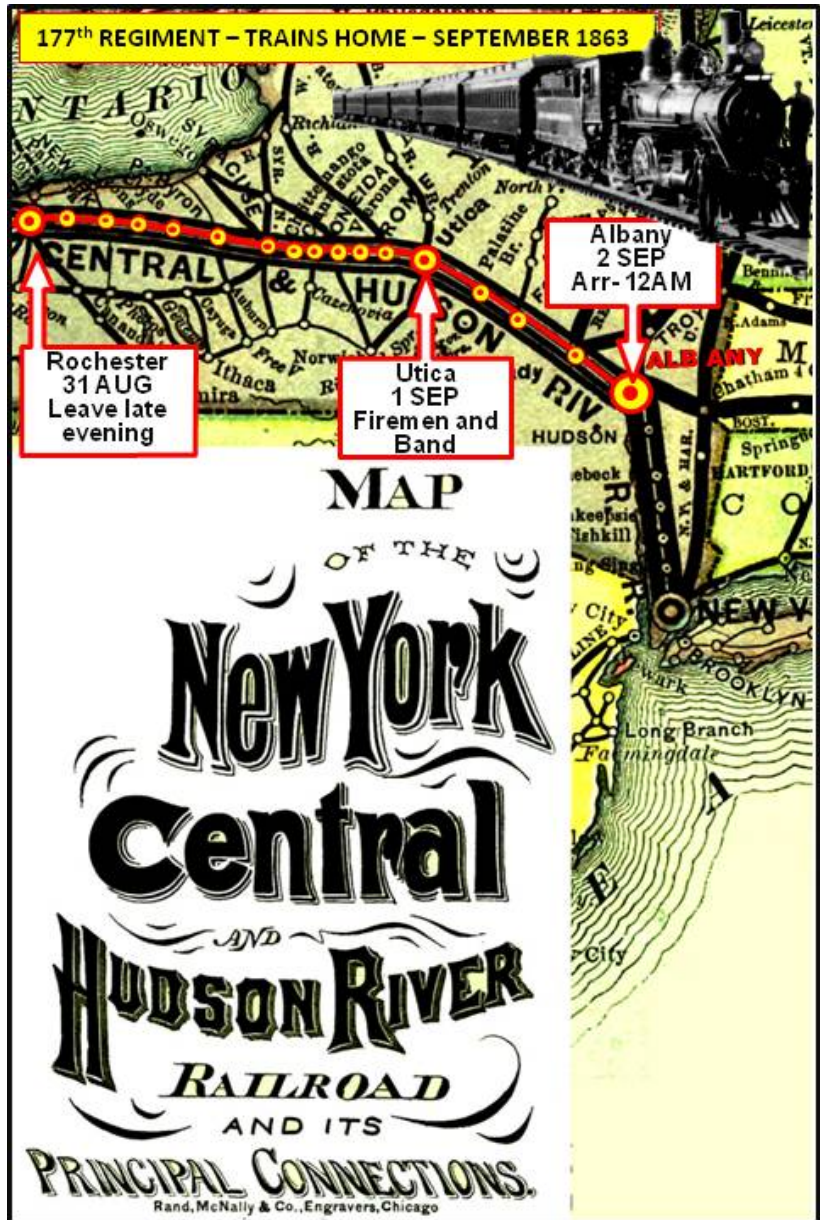
Rochester – left

Utica - A delegation of firemen and a fine Band met us at Utica.

St. Johnsville - At St. Johnsville a piece of wood fell on the track, breaking 3 cars very bad; also tearing up the tracks for quite a distance.

Albany **Arrived at Albany about 12 o'clock A.M.** Thomas Wardrobe, Co F died in Cleveland (no date given); Edward Platte, Co D, in Cleveland; Edward Davis, Co D, from wounds of 27 May died on train near Albany; John Albert, Co K, in Rochester;

2 Sep, Wednesday – The train was made up of twenty-six coaches and when it steamed into the New York Central Railroad station the scenes which followed beggar description. Even the Albany newspapers of that date make but a feeble attempt to tell what took place when the 177th Regiment arrived back home. The railroad station was jammed with the fathers, mothers, wives and sweethearts of the returning soldiers; the streets were filled with people who cheered wildly and from every window of the gaily decorated buildings in the business section of the city, wildly gesticulating people shouted a welcome.



It took some time for the regiment to detrain. More than half the men were weak and spent by disease and sickness. Some of them bore up through sheer excitement of being back in Albany and with their loved ones again. There were but few eyes dry that day. Tears of joy were shed as a mother or wife clasped her loved one in her arms. Other tears were shed because the loved one who went away so proudly hut a few short months before was never to return. Joy and sorrow were mixed together in the crowds about the railroad station.

After a considerable delay the company officers succeeded in getting their men lined up for the parade to the Arsenal at the corner of Hudson Avenue and Eagle Streets. When the 25th Regiment had returned from its three months of service at the outbreak of the war in 1861, it was received and escorted to its armory by the Tenth Regiment. When the 177th returned home the 25th Regiment was lined up and acted as the escort of the returning heroes of Port Hudson. The line of march was a short one. It had to be else the enfeebled soldiers could not have made it. As the marchers passed the State Capitol they were received by Adjutant General Sprague, who was acting in the absence of Governor Seymour. At Congress Hall the regiment was seated to a bountiful repast which they thoroughly enjoyed. The parade was then taken up and the regiment marched into the Arsenal where the men were dismissed and allowed to go home until evening.

177th Regiment Infantry "10th New York National Guard" In the Civil War

In the evening the regiment was assembled in Tweedle Hall which had been most elaborately decorated by the women of Albany for the occasion. Eight tables had been spread, seven running the full length of the large dance hall, the eighth being reserved for the officers and reception committee. The speech of welcome was made by Colonel John C. Cole to which Colonel Ainsworth responded. Other speakers paid a glowing tribute to the work the 177th had done while it was in the south.



Then the banquet was served. It had been prepared by the wives, mothers and sweethearts of the men who were to sit down to eat it and the menu looks as though each had brought the favorite dish of the diners.

These pictures are identified as being the exterior and interior of Tweedle Hall



This is what those men, who for nine months had been living on hardtack, salt pork, corn pone and coffee, which was not so good, were expected to eat:

Cincinnati Ham	Smoked Tongue	Roast Turkey
Roast Chicken	Roast Lamb	Chicken Salad
Boned Turkey	Corn Beef Sandwiches	Beef a la Mode
Celery	Apple Sauce	Pickled Oysters
Maringe a la Cream	Tarts	Wine Jellies
Orange Ice	Lemon Ice Cream	Strawberry Cream
Pineapple Ice	Raspberry Ice	Apples
Lemonade	Figs	Pears
	Peaches	Coffee
	Almonds	
	Cigars	

After the repast there were further speeches and the banqueters' were dismissed and allowed to return to their homes. The 177th was mustered out of Federal service on September 10, 1863.

Soldier continued to die of disease and wounds after return to Albany before mustering out.

2 Sep, Monday - Henry Cowan, Co D, died in Cleveland; Jesse Denison, Co C died in Rochester;

3 Sep, Thursday – William Becker, Co I, in Cleveland; Daniel Campbell, Co D died in Albany; John Brown, Co E, died of typhoid in Albany;

4 Sep, Friday – Jennings McMurray, Co E, of typhoid in Albany; Gilbert Golden, Co F, died at Albany; John Phillips, Co F, died at Albany; Jacob Suydam, Co F, died in Albany.

5 Sep, Saturday – Myron Ham, Co G, died at Rochester.

7 Sep, Monday – Peter Emmerk, Co G, died in Albany.

8 Sep, Tuesday – Sylvester Brooks, Co I, died in Cleveland; Edward Rialy, Co B, died in Rochester; Jacob Taylor, Co H, died in Rochester; John Tompkins, Co I, died in Albany; Russell Coneys, Co H, of died of fever in Albany; John Daley, Co F, died in Albany;

9 Sep, Wednesday – Lorenzo Whitting, Co C, Preston Hollow; Samuel Kelly, Co A, died at Albany; Thomas Shields, Co H, died of fever in Cohoes.

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10 Sep, Thursday - The 177th was mustered out of Federal service on September 10, 1863. **George Elder, Co F; Adam Bradt, Co I; James Clafigg, Co D, all died in Albany, William Norton, Co D, died in Troy**

Losses in September – 29

Co A Kelly, Maher
Co B Rialy
Co C Denison, Whitting
Co D Davis, Cowan, Campbell, Clafigg, Norton
Co E Brown, McMurray
Co F Wardrobe, Golden, Phillips, Suydam, Daley, Elder
Co G Ham, Emmerk
Co H Taylor, Coneys, Shields
Co I Becker, Brooks, Tompkins, Bradt
Co K Albert, Greb

The Regiment when it went forth in 1862 mustered 850 officers and men. During its nine months in Louisiana in 1863 it took part in engagements at McGill's Ferry 24 March and Civique's Ferry 26 March (minus 2 companies); 21-30 March 1863 – Expedition from New Orleans to Ponchatoula, LA., and skirmishes (2 companies); 9-18 May 1863.--Operations on the Amite River and Jackson Railroad with skirmishes at Ponchatoula, Independence Station, and Tickfaw Bridge; 10 May Action at Civique's Ferry; 17 May action at McGills Ferry; Siege of Port Hudson, May 23d to July 8th, including assault of 27 May. One officer and three enlisted men were killed outright or died of wounds in combat; one officer and three enlisted men were wounded and recovered; 3 officers and 149 enlisted men died of disease and from other causes, making the total casualties of the regiment 5 officers and 155 enlisted men.

Awarded January 1923

“OLD” Silver Rings

McGill's Ferry 1863
Ponchatoula 1863
McGill's Ferry 1863
Civique's Ferry 1863
Amite River 1863
Port Hudson 1863

As Citizen Soldiers Again

When mustered out of Federal service the men who had fought in the swamps of Louisiana reverted back to citizen soldiers as members of the 10th Regiment. Colonel Ainsworth continued in command of the regiment and he retained the field and staff officers who had been with him in the South. Practically all the line officers remained with their companies. Only about one hundred men who returned with the 177th Regiment were in good health, seventy-six were so ill they had to be taken from the railroad station to their homes in carriages. Under these conditions little attempt was made toward any activities in the regiment. As they regained their health and strength many of the returned veterans enlisted in other regiments being formed and went back to the war. Those who desired to be discharged from the regiment were allowed to do so. Colonel Ainsworth made requisition for rifles with which to equip the regiment and he received some 400 which would show the strength of the organization shortly after returning from the war. These rifles were mostly used for the purpose of firing salutes over the bodies of dead veterans being returned from the South.

A few soldiers were reported in the final rosters as having died after mustering out.

12 Sep, Saturday – **Joseph Greb, Co K, died at Sand Lake**

13 Sep, Sunday – **Thomas Maher, Co A, died in Albany;**

MISSISSIPPI RIVER 1862 - 1863

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Mar. 11-30, 1863.-Expedition from New Orleans to Ponchatoula, La., and skirmishes.

Apr. 12, 1863.-Affair on the Amite River, La.

Apr. 17, 1863.-Skirmish on the Amite River, La.

May 9-18, 1863.-Operations on the Amite River and Jackson Railroad, and skirmishes at Ponchatoula, Independence Station, and Tickfaw Bridge, La.

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