UP THE RED RIVER.

More Than Two Months of Hard Marching and Fighting, With Victories Thrown Away.

By ROBERT WELCH, Co. D, 165th N. Y.

The capture of Vicksburg and Port Hudson isolated the Trans-Mississippi Department of the Confederacy, and the Federal Government then determined "to plant the flag in Texas." In September, 1863, Gen. Franklin, with a part of the Nineteenth Corps, convoyed by the navy, unsuccessfully attempted to capture Galveston and Houston. Franklin then returned to New Orleans. In October Gen. Banks, with the Thirteenth Corps, sailed from New Orleans and took possession of Brownsville, Brazos Island and Point Isabel, on the Rio Grande. Leaving troops at those points, Gen. Banks, in March, 1864, assembled a fine army and the "most powerful naval armament ever employed on a river," to operate along the line of Red River, that being the most practicable route by which to penetrate the "lone Confederacy" west of the Mississippi. Gen. Steele was to march from Little Rock, through southern Arkansas, toward the Red River, to cooperate with Banks, Shreveport being the main objective point of the two columns.

A FINE ARMY.

At Franklin, where the troops concentrated, there was a thorough inspection and some hard drilling. New clothing was issued, and we received two months' pay. On Sunday, March 13, when our Colonel had made a final inspection, our knapsacks were not plethoric, one change of clothing being the allowance.

The army was composed of two divisions of the Nineteenth Corps, about 10,600 men, commanded by Gen. W. B. Franklin; two divisions of the Thirteenth Corps, 4,750 men, under command of Gen. Ransom, and a division of cavalry and mounted infantry, commanded by Gen. Albert E. Lee; in all about 20,000 men, thoroughly equipped, and in a high state of discipline and efficency.

CAPTURE OF FORT DE RUSSY.

March 12, before we moved from Franklin, a column composed of portions of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Corps, commanded by Gen. A. J. Smith, moved down from Vicksburg to Simsport. Marching with characteristic celerity, Gen. Smith captured Fort De Russy, taking it in reverse, anticipating Gen. Dick Taylor, who was endeavoring to concentrate and cover that important work, which was the Confederate's only means of barring the progress of Porter's fleet. The fall of Fort De Russy, and the immediate movement of our troops, by means of the transports, to Alexandria, placed Gen. Dick Taylor in a seriously embarrassing position. To extricate himself he was forced to march 70 miles through the pine woods.

BANKS'S MARCH DELAYED.

On the 14th and 15th Banks's army was marching through Franklin, there having been some delay, owing to the non-arrival of the pontoon train from New Orleans, and, in fact, the pontoons had not arrived when the army moved. The 165th N. Y., only six companies, about 400 strong, was left at Franklin to await the coming of the pontoon train. On the 16th the regiment went on board a steamer and proceeded up the Bayou Teche to New Iberia. On the 18th, the pontoons having arrived, six days' rations, crackers, coffee, and sugar, were issued. For additional supplies we were to depend on foraging. On the 19th the regiment began its march, two days behind the army, and we soon realized that guarding a pontoon train, 24 wagons, through a hostile country, was a somewhat hazardous undertaking. One company marched in advance of the train, one in the rear, and two on each flank. A number of officers and camp attaches, on their way to the front, accompanied us. Reaching Vermilion River, we halted for the night, our encampment being similar to one on the plains expecting to be attacked by Indians. The wagons, horses, and mules formed a hollow square, the regiment being on the inside. As an additional precaution pickets were stationed around the encampment, some distance from it. The country being infested with bushwhackers and roving bands of guerrillas, we were liable to be attacked at any time, day or night.

On the second day's march we reached Carrion Crow Bayou, and on the third day we passed through Opelousas, and arrived at Washington after dark. On the afternoon of the fourth day one of the camp followers was shot and several of them were captured by bushwhackers. We went into camp on the plantation belonging to the leader of the band. One large room of the "mansion" was assigned to the women and children, we reserving the others for our own comfort and convenience. On the following morning we burned the outbuildings and all the cotton found on the plantation. The spectacular conflagration so intimidated the bushwhackers that they molested us no more.

OTHER INCIDENTS OF THE MARCH.

We were in a fine country that devastating war had touched with a gentle hand. The plantations were large and productive, and the residences, or "mansions," were very fine. Generally the men were absent from their homes. Occasionally we found a "square and compass" upon a gate-post. The boys seldom returned from foraging expeditions empty handed. The poultry was of good quality and in quantity to satisfy. To citizens who protested against summary seizure of edible chattels vouchers were given, with the assurance that due compensation would be made when they should produce unimpeachable evidence of their loyalty to "Uncle Sam." Torrents of rain fell much of the time, making the roads muddy and marching arduous. We were frequently called upon to assist the wagons out of ruts made by the wagon train of the army in advance. The foraging army ahead of us had taught the people to hide things away. Not infrequently we found chickens in unexpected places in the houses—upstairs or in the cellar. At one house an old "contraband" exclaimed: "O, Lord! Massa, take what you want and get out of here."

MUSIC BY THE BAND.

When passing through towns, and on other occasions, the drum corps would play "We'll Hang Jeff Davis to a Sour Apple Tree," "John Brown," and other war-time melodies, the men at the same time lifting their voices in song. Our former Colonel, Abel Smith, killed at Port Hudson, had encouraged the men to cheer their weary marches by music and song, and we kept up the practice as long as the regiment was in service.

On the ninth day's march we were about eight miles from Alexandria, having gained a day's march on the army. We had marched 175 miles in less than nine days.

ALEXANDRIA.

We delivered the pontoons all right at Alexandria, where Porter's fleet and Gen. A. J. Smith's troops had arrived in advance of us. Gen. Smith's army consisted of two divisions of the Sixteenth Corps, under Gen. Mower, and one division of the Seventeenth Corps, total 8,900. There was also one brigade of the Corps d'Afrique, 1,550 strong, commanded by Col. W. H. Dickey, the combined force consisting of about 31,300 men. Porter's fleet of some 20 gunboats and a large number of transports, with Ellet's Marine Brigade from Vicksburg, some 3,000 strong, were above and below the falls, the larger vessels not being able to go above on account of the low stage of water.

The Marine Brigade was ordered back to Vicksburg, and one division of the Nineteenth Corps, 4,000 strong, was left at Alexandria. The division of the Seventeenth Corps, 1,700 men, was detailed to accompany the gunboats, advancing up the river.

OCCUPATION OF NATCHITOCHES.

On March 28, the army, about 25,750 effective men, moved from Alexandria, the cavalry in advance. The roads, on account of heavy rains, were in bad condition. The army and an unusually long supply train moved on one road, the distance from front to rear being about 25 miles. On April 3 the army was concentrated at Natchitoches; Gen. A. J. Smith's Corps, however, had gone on transports up to Grand Ecore, four miles distant.

Natchitoches was an old-fashioned town, the majority of the inhabitants being of Spanish or Mexican descent. Among some rebels captured I saw Capt. Todd, Mrs. Lincoln's brother. It seemed somewhat strange that President Lincoln's brother-in-law should be an officer in the Confederate army. Some soldiers of the Thirteenth Corps took possession of the newspaper office and continued to issue the paper. Under the new management, however, there was a radical change of policy. We had not been long in the town until we found that the rebels had grossly misrepresented our regiment. The white people avoided us and the negroes were terrified at sight of us. The rebels, before evacuating the town, had disseminated a story that a certain Yankee regiment in red uniform was composed of devils, wearing horns.

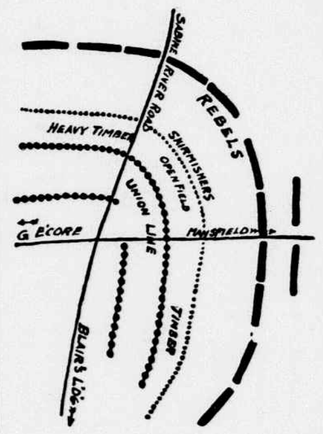
THE LUXURY OF A COTTON BED.

There was delay at Natchitoches, owing no doubt to difficulties encountered by the fleet in ascending the river.

THE MARCH CONTINUED.

On April 6 the army resumed its forward movement in the following order: Cavalry Division, Thirteenth Corps, Emory's Division of the Nineteenth Corps, Dickey's Colored Brigade, and the Sixteenth Corps, the latter, however, not marching until the next day. The march was slow, the army being strung out on the one road through the pine woods, in a barren country.

On the following day, the 7th, we marched to Pleasant Hill, 21 miles. Almost incessantly the clouds "poured their garnered fullness down." Throughout the day there was fighting, the enemy falling back, however, as our troops advanced. Our supply train failing to arrive we had to be content with a cup of coffee. It would require two days for us to march from Pleasant Hill to Shreveport, even though the enemy should not dispute our right of way.



AT PLEASANT HILL, APRIL 9, 1864.

SABINE CROSSROADS.

On the morning of April 8, our train having come up, rations were issued. At 8 a. m. firing was heard in front. The enemy continued to fall back, skirmishing the while, as on the previous day. Necessarily the march was slow. At 3 p. m. our division—First Division, Nineteenth Corps—was ordered into camp at Bayou St. Patrice, five miles from the front, having marched only eight miles. Almost immediately after going into camp, we heard heavy firing, musketry and artillery—the opening of the battle of Sabine Crossroads. The roar of battle became incessant. Stragglers came from the front. Our troops were being forced back. The Thirteenth Corps was ordered into position to stop the retreat. All efforts were in vain. We were driven back some two miles, losing about 3,000 men, killed, wounded, and captured. Nim's Massachusetts Battery, the pride of the army, fell into the enemy's hands. Two other fine batteries—the Chicago Mercantile and the 1st Mo.—were captured.

Three miles in rear of the battlefield, Emory's Division, Nineteenth Corps, formed in column and moved rapidly toward the scene of conflict. We met the routed troops pressing in great disorder to the rear, the division having to force its way through the mass of fugitives—negroes, camp followers, wagons, ambulances, and cavalry. Troops in front were, however, still in fierce battle array, gallantly striving to check Dick Taylor's overpowering army. Emory's Division went into line of battle in the woods, the First Brigade on the right of the road, the Third Brigade on the left, both being supported by the Second Brigade. Not one-third of my regiment, on the extreme left of the Third Brigade, got into line before the Confederates attacked with great energy. The regiment fell back a short distance, planted its colors, reformed, advanced and held its position in the line. In his report, Richard B. Irwin, A. A. G., Department of the Gulf, says:

"The army that had set out so confidently to take Shreveport, only two marches beyond, was saved by the valor and discipline of a single division, and of skill on the part of its commander, Gen. Emory."

Thus ended the battle of Sabine Crossroads. Night coming on, a heavy picket was thrown forward, the enemy showing no disposition to renew the attack. At 10 p. m. we were ordered to fall back to Pleasant Hill, where we could secure a more advantageous position. Covering the retreat, we marched slowly all night, it being 7:30 a. m. when we arrived at Pleasant Hill. We soon learned an unpleasant truth—our whole picket line, 27 men from Co. C of my regiment being a part of it, had been left behind to be captured.

BATTLE OF PLEASANT HILL.

At 9 a. m., April 9, the Third Brigade First Division, Nineteenth Corps, except the color company of each regiment, was sent out as a skirmish line on the left flank of the battle line. This skirmish line was in heavy timber, thick with undergrowth. The men were tired, sleepy and hungry. The remnant of the Thirteenth Corps, under Cameron, and Dickey's colored troops had gone to Grand Ecore with the train. We had neither rations nor water. Under the circumstances, the men were in good humor.

At 1 p. m. we saw a heavy column of the enemy crossing the Sabine River Road, and moving toward our left, their intention being, no doubt, to turn our left and cut off retreat by the Grand Ecore Road. If the enemy should gain a position commanding the road to Grand Ecore we would be forced to retreat, if we should retreat at all, to Blair's Landing, which would mean rout and ruin to Banks's army.

At 2 p. m. the enemy, in heavy force, made a rush through the timber and overwhelmed our brigade, killing Col. Benedict, who was in command, and capturing many of our men. Driven from the woods, we crossed the clearing and rallied on the color companies at the ditch. The triumphant enemy came out of the timber on a run, trailing their guns, which they loaded and fired without halting. They drove us out of the ditch and up the ridge to where a battery was in position, and before the battery could limber up the rebels were upon it. When we passed over the ridge we came upon the Sixteenth Corps lying in position, and ready to give the exultant Confederates a warm reception. This corps had not advanced further than Pleasant Hill on the 8th, and was therefore comparatively fresh. We were ordered to continue our retreat to the rear, leaving the field clear for the Sixteenth Corps to pay its respects to the advancing enemy. The end came quickly. The artillery opened with canister, and a deadly volley was fired by the whole line. The enemy gave a yell of dismay and broke in utter confusion. Our combined troops then charged, driving them through the woods. They rallied somewhat, and endeavored to make a stand, but were again driven, hopelessly demoralized, leaving all their killed and wounded in our hands. The troops on the right of our line had no trouble in maintaining their position. In fact, neither the troops on the right nor those on the left of our brigade felt the force of the enemy's attack. They joined, however, in the final and victorious charge. Our losses on the 8th and 9th, according to official reports, were 3,980, killed, wounded, and missing. The rebels reported their losses as being 3,976. Gen. E. Kirby Smith said:

"Our troops attacked with vigor and at first with success, but, exposing their right flank, were finally repulsed and thrown into confusion. The Missouri and Arkansas troops, with a brigade of Walker's Division, were broken and scattered. The enemy recovered cannon which we had captured the day before, and two of our pieces, with the dead and wounded, were left on the field. Our repulse at Pleasant Hill was so complete, and our command was so disorganized, that had Banks followed up his success vigorously he would have met but feeble opposition to his advance on Shreveport."

THE RETREAT.

At 3 a. m., Sunday, the 10th, the weary army started on its march to Grand Ecore, retreating from Pleasant Hill, where we had been signally victorious. We even left the most of our wounded to fall into the hands of an enemy that was powerless to pursue us. Of this retreat, Gen. E. Kirby Smith, the Confederate Commander-in-Chief, said:

"I was consulting with Gen. Taylor when some stragglers from the battlefield, where our wounded were still lying, brought the intelligence that Banks had precipitately retreated after the battle, converting a victory which he might have claimed into a defeat. Our troops were completely paralyzed and disorganized. Before we could reorganize at Mansfield and get into condition to advance over the 55 miles of wilderness that separated our armies, the enemy had been reinforced and intrenched at Grand Ecore."

Reaching Grand Ecore on the 11th, the army intrenched and threw a pontoon across the river, placing a strong detachment on the other side. The fleet above was in great peril. It was attacked repeatedly, but the enemy was invariably repulsed. The dangers of navigation were more serious than the enemy's attacks. However, the fleet got back to Grand Ecore on the 15th.

We left Grand Ecore on the 21st, at 4 p. m., and made a forced march to Cloutierville, reaching that place at 8 a. m., having marched 37 miles.

On the 22d, at 10 a. m., the march was resumed. That night we encamped on a cotton plantation. We rolled out the cotton bales, cut them open, and slept on "beds of ease."

BATTLE OF MONETTE'S BLUFF.

On the 23d our march was along Cane River. When we reached Monette's Ferry we were confronted by four brigades and four batteries, under Gen. Bee, advantageously posted on a bluff to dispute our crossing of the river. Gen. Emory ordered the Third Brigade, then commanded by Col. Fessenden, of the 30th Me., and the Second Brigade, both commanded by Col. Birge, to proceed up the river some three miles and cross, while the remainder of the division should engage the enemy's attention in front. We forded the river, which was waist-deep, the 165th N. Y. leading the way. We drove in the enemy's skirmishers, and, without much delay charged—the 165th N. Y. on the right, 162d N. Y. on the left, the 173d N. Y. and 30th Me. in the center. The two regiments in the center were in a clearing where they were more exposed than were the regiments on the flanks, they being in the woods. Supported by the Second Brigade, our assault was eminently successful. It was a hot fight, however, for about 20 minutes. Gen. Bee's position being turned, he retreated, leaving his dead and wounded in our hands. The Third Brigade lost some 350, killed and wounded, the 173d N. Y. and 30th Me. sustaining heavier losses than the other regiments. Col. Fessenden was wounded. While Gen. Bee was disputing our crossing at Monette's Ferry, Gen. Dick Taylor was assailing the rear of the army. He was promptly repulsed, however, by the Sixteenth Corps.

TROUBLES AT ALEXANDRIA.

The way being clear, the army marched into Alexandria on the 25th and 26th. On the 27th we received two months' pay. Although cotton was high a great deal of it was burned, conflagrant cotton and mills illuminating the nights. The concentrating enemy harassed the army, and the fleet had its troubles on the river. The enemy were below the city and above it. They drove in our pickets repeatedly. The whole army was kept in line of battle, day and night, ready for action. Foraging parties, composed of brigades, were sent out 10 or 12 miles beyond the pickets, supplies being scarce. The enemy having control of the river below the city, it was almost impossible to get supplies from that direction. A transport could not come up the river unaccompanied by gunboats. A month had elapsed since the fleet had ascended the rapids with difficulty. The river had fallen and was unusually low. For a mile the rocks were bare. The gunboats required from six to seven feet of water to float them.

BAILEY'S DAMS.

Col. Bailey, an eminent civil engineer, undertook to dam the river, which was about 750 feet wide, by building piers from each bank. Whole brigades became laborers—felling trees on the opposite side of the river, making crib-work, and filling it with brush, earth, stones, bricks and machinery taken from cotton and sugar mills. Brick houses were town down to be used as filling. Unceasingly, day and night, this work went on for eight days. When the work on the lower dam was completed, loaded coal barges were placed in the gap between the abutments. The dam caused the river to rise some five feet which enabled some of the light-draft gunboats to pass the upper falls. On the morning of May 9, the pressure of the water drove out the barges. The bank of the river was lined with troops who saw the Lexington run through the chute all right. She was followed by several other gunboats before the water fell. Then another dam was constructed, a mile above, at the beginning of the rapids. To build this second dam required three days and nights. Hawsers were run out from the gunboats to the shore. A whole brigade would take hold of a hawser and drag a gunboat over the shoals into the deeper water below.

While we were awaiting the building of the dams some 6,000 Confederates and 25 pieces of artillery passed around us and fortified a position on the river below. Several gunboats on their way down were disabled and captured.

THE RETREAT CONTINUED.

On May 13, the army and the fleet left Alexandria, the 165th N. Y. being the last to leave. The army marched along the river to protect the fleet. The transports were loaded with cotton and stores, the sick and the wounded. Soon after we had evacuated Alexandria it was in flames. Strict orders had been given not to burn the town. The fire must have been started by camp followers or stragglers. Our progress was slow. Cavalry marched in advance, in the rear, and on the right flank. The fleet was attacked frequently by the enemy on the other side of the river.

At Marksville, May 15, Gen. Mower, of the Sixteenth Corps, repulsed an attack. On the following day we encountered the enemy again, in line of battle in heavy timber, three miles below Marksville. We formed our battle line on an open plain. I never saw a more magnificent sight during the war than our army presented that day when in battle array on Mansura Plain. All the artillery was in proper position, supported by infantry, lying down behind the batteries. The 165th N. Y. supported the 21st Ind. It was largely an artillery engagement. The Sixteenth Corps turned the Confederate right, forcing them to abandon their position. Some of the prisoners wanted to know the kind of guns our cavalry had, saying that they loaded them at night and fired them all day—referring, no doubt, to one of our cavalry regiments that was armed with the Spencer rifle.

On the 17th we reached Simsport, at the junction of the Red and Atchafalaya Rivers. The river then being some 700 yards wide, we could not use the pontoons. The enemy, knowing the river was wide and rapid, attacked us on the 18th. After a spirited conflict the Confederates retired, pursued by our cavalry. We captured many, and their dead and wounded were left to our care.

Col. Bailey, ever resourceful, so arranged the transports as to form a bridge across the river. This involved a delay of 24 hours. The planking from the pontoons was used in the construction of a level road across the bows of the transports. The main part of the army passed over leaving the cavalry to protect the batteries and train. Details of brigades ran the batteries and wagons over by hand. The crossing was completed on the evening of the 20th, and the march was resumed. When we reached the Mississippi, on the 21st, there was great joy. De Soto was no more pleased than we were, when he beheld the "Father of Waters." We had been campaigning in the Red River Valley 68 days, enduring dangers and privations innumerable. These, however, are incident to a soldier's life.

On the 22d Gen. A. J. Smith's troops embarked for Vicksburg. More than once that "Flying Corps" was our salvation. A. J. Smith and his veterans saved us at Pleasant Hill, and covered the rear of the army on the retreat.

Col. Mosby's Surrender.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: In regard to the inquiry of Louis Meisel, Co. I, 1st N. Y. Cav., Col. Mosby surrendered to Lieut.-Col. A. P. Duncan, of the 4th Pa. Cav., at Lynchburg, Va., about June 1, 1865, and to 18 or 20 of his men. Col. Duncan was Provost-Marshal of that district. Col. S. B. M. Young commanded our brigade at that time.—J. B. SMITH (Co. B, 4th Pa. Cav.), Meridianville, Ala.

Don't Neglect Rheumatism

New Appliance for Drawing Acid Poisons From the System through the Pores of the Feet Sent to Anybody.

FREE—On Approval. Try It!

Don't neglect rheumatism. The acid poisons accumulate day by day until joints become solidified in horribly distorted shapes and relief from the indescribable suffering is beyond the power of man to give.

Heed the warning pains of rheumatism and rid your system of the cause while you can by using Magic Foot Drafts. Don't take harmful medicine. The Drafts quickly draw out the acid poisons through the great pores of the feet, where the capillary and nerve systems are most susceptible, reaching and curing rheumatism in every part of the body.

If you have rheumatism send your name to-day to the Magic Foot Draft Co., 8C 16 Oliver Bldg., Jackson, Mich. You will get by return mail a pair of the celebrated Magic Foot Drafts, which have made a record of curing nine out of ten cases in Jackson, where the discoverer lives, and have already become a household remedy all over the world. No other remedy ever cured so many cases considered incurable. That is why the makers can send them on approval. You risk nothing. If you are satisfied with the benefit received, send one dollar. If not, send nothing. A fine booklet in colors and many testimonials comes with the drafts. Write to-day.

PICKET SHOTS.

From Alert Comrades Along the Whole Line.

HARDLY THE RIGHT THING.

Comrade J. G. Marlott writes from Troupsburg, N. Y.: "One thing I consider wrong is that the unsupported professional guess or opinion of one Examining Surgeon is accepted as of more worth and reliability than the sworn testimony of half a dozen men who personally know the facts. A doctor reports on a case that the wound or disease was contracted prior to service, or while the victim was not in line of military duty; five men swear to the contrary—and the doctor's guess wins in the Department. Here is a local case: A soldier was drafted, examined, declared sound, sent to the front, served over three months, used up by rheumatism and discharged; never known to have had it before; on crutches ever since; rolls credit him with only 85 days' service! Doctor's guess is he contracted rheumatism seven years before entering the service. He gets no pension!"

HELP THIS WIDOW.

Can you help this widow find the evidence she needs? Or, if her husband is living, do you know where? Frank Heang, Sergeant, Co. B, 39th N. Y. He was found in the streets of Detroit in 1876 or 1877, sick and destitute, and being assisted to New York was last heard of as a lodger in a third-class boarding-house. He may have lost his mind and memory; the probabilities are that he is dead. His wife—or widow—has applied for back pay and bounty due him, and for pension, and the Department demands proof of death. Comrades able to furnish information may write to her—Mathilda Heang, 1220 D St., Fort Smith, Ark.

NO TRIBUTE TO REBELS.

B. F. Jones, Co. B, 1st W. Va. Cav., Ladora, Iowa, writes: "The Lee Monument, if erected at all, should have at least three figures on it—Davis, Lee and Arnold, and perhaps, that of Wirz, representing Southern prisons.

"Before the Government engages in the business of pensioning rebels and caring for their graves it should fully indemnify the Southern loyalists for their homes and other property destroyed by those same rebels."

A WAR SONG.

Comrade A. P. Richardson writes from Ogdensburg, N. Y., that he would like to have some comrade send him a song, from which he quotes:

"Hoist up the flag and long may it wave
Over the Union, the home of the brave;
We stood by the flag, with hearts brave and true
And fought like heroes for the red, white and blue."

SCATTERING.

S. D. Kinney, Bellingham, Wash., wants to hear from any of the old 21st U. S. Inf.

Comrade Wm. Antes writes from Flemington, N. J.: "I enlisted in Co. A, 1st U. S. Dragoons, March 13, 1854—50 years ago, that is. I would like to hear from any comrades yet living—especially from those who were there from 1855 to 1859, and those of Co. C, 1st U. S. Art., who were in the company from 1859 to 1867."

Mrs. F. E. Rice writes from New Market, Va.: "I have a buckle picked up on the battlefield of New Market, Va., with the name of T. J. Shepard, Chicopee, Mass.; manufactured by E. Gaylord. The battle was fought by Gens. Sigel and Breckenridge, May 15, 1864. I wrote to Chicopee, but no one knew such a person. I thought he would like to have the relic; if living I would be glad of any information."

NEVER BE PAID TOO MUCH.

Earle Geer, Marion, N. Y., a son of a veteran, says that no matter what is given the boys in blue they will never be paid too much. They sacrificed themselves, while the rich people of to-day were staying at home making money from the needs of the country.

THEY FORGET.

Wm. H. Binnix, Co. B, 148th Ill., Wynoose, Ill., says that those who are shrieking about the cost of the service pension bill forget the cost to the soldiers who put down the rebellion.

NO SEPARATION OF FAMILIES.

The veterans of Licking Co., Ohio., in Annual Reunion assembled at Blackband, O., petitioned their Senators and Representatives for such legislation by Congress as to prevent the separation of Union veterans who enter Soldiers' Homes from their wives, and to give the wives of the same rights of admission into the Homes.

THE NEW ORDER.

At a special meeting of Stansbury Post, Ligonia, Ind., a resolution was adopted to the effect that the new order of Commissioner Ware was not acceptable as a substitute for a service pension, especially if it was intended to prevent further legislation. The roster of the Post shows 176 members, of whom only two would be benefited by the new order.

HOW CAN THEY PROVE IT?

T. E. Gray, Carthage, Mo., asks "What is going to be required in order that old men may satisfactorily prove their age?" This is a very pertinent question.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH CORPS.

The Organizations of Which It Was Composed and Their Commanders.

At a regular meeting of Lingle Post, 789, Mara, Ill., the following resolutions were adopted by unanimous vote:

"That this Post extend a vote of thanks to the Hon. Vespasian Warner, Representative in Congress from this District, for his action in securing, through Congress, a pension of $30 a month for our comrade, C. F. Emery.

"That a copy of this resolution be spread on the minutes of this Post; that a copy be sent to Hon. Vespasian Warner, also a copy of the same be sent to The National Tribune for publication."

T. H. BARR, Adjutant.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Will you be kind enough to give me the names of the troops that constituted the Twenty-fourth Corps at the close of the war, to settle a controversy among the boys?—C. C. MATHEWS, Moundsville, W. Va.

[The following is the organization of the Twenty-fourth Corps at the beginning of the Appomattox Campaign:

TWENTY-FOURTH CORPS.

Maj.-Gen. John Gibbon.

HEADQUARTERS GUARD—Capt. Charles E. Thomas—4th Mass. Cav., Co. F, Capt. Joseph J. Baker, 4th Mass. Cav., Co. K, Capt. Charles E. Thomas.

FIRST DIVISION—Brig.-Gen. Robert S. Foster.

First Brigade—Col. Thomas O. Osborn—39th Ill., Capt. Homer A. Plympton; 62d Ohio, Lieut.-Col. Henry R. West, Maj. Thomas J. Platt; 67th Ohio, Col. Alvin C. Voris; 85th Pa., Co. G, Lieut. Absalom S. Dial; 199th Pa., Col. James C. Briscoe.

Third Brigade—Col. George B. Dandy—10th Conn., Lieut.-Col. Ellsworth D. S. Goodyear, Capt. Francis G. Hickerson; 11th Me., Lieut.-Col. Jonathan A. Hill, Maj. Charles P. Baldwin, Lieut.-Col. Jonathan A. Hill, Capt. Henry C. Adams; 24th Mass., Capt. Thomas F. Edmands; 100th N. Y., Maj. James H. Dandy, Capt. Edward Nichols, 206th Pa., Col. Hugh J. Brady.

Fourth Brigade—Col. Harrison S. Fairchild—8th Me., Lieut.-Col. Edward A. True, Capt. Edward H. Reynolds; 89th N. Y., Maj. Frank W. Tremain, Capt. William Dobie; 148th N. Y., Col. John B. Murray; 158th N. Y., Lieut.-Col. William H. McNary, Maj. Hyron Kalt; 55th Pa., Capt. George H. Hill.

THIRD DIVISION—Brig.-Gen. Charles Devens.

First Brigade—Col. Edward H. Ripley—11th Conn., Maj. Charles Warren; 13th N. H., Lieut.-Col. Normand Smith; 81st N. Y., Capt. Matthew T. Betton; 98th N. Y., Lieut.-Col. William Kreutzer; 139th N. Y., Maj. Theodore Miller; 19th Wis., Maj. Saml. K. Vaughan.

Second Brigade—Col. Michael T. Donohoe; 8th Conn., Maj. William M. Pratt; 5th Md., Lieut.-Col. William W. Bamberger; 10th N. H., Capt. Warren M. Kelley; 12th N. H., Lieut.-Col. Thomas E. Barker; 90th N. Y., Maj. George W. Hindes; 118th N. Y., Lieut.-Col. Levi S. Dominy; 9th Vt., Lieut.-Col. Valentine G. Barney.

Third Brigade—Col. Samuel H. Roberts—21st Conn., Lieut.-Col. James F. Brown; 40th Mass., Lieut.-Col. John Pollack; 2d N. H., Lieut.-Col. Joab N. Patterson; 58th Pa., Lieut.-Col. Cecil Clay; 188th Pa., Lieut.-Col. George K. Bowen.

INDEPENDENT DIVISION—Bvt. Maj.-Gen. John W. Turner.

First Brigade—Lieut.-Col. Andrew Potter—34th Mass., Capt. Frank T. Leach; 116th Ohio, Lieut.-Col. Wilbert B. Teters; 123d Ohio, Lieut.-Col. Horace Kellogg.

Second Brigade—Col. William B. Curtis—23d Ill., Capt. Patrick M. Ryan; 54th Pa., Lieut.-Col. Albert P. Moulton; 12th W. Va., Capt. Erastus G. Bartlett.

Third Brigade—Brig.-Gen. Thomas M. Harris—10th W. Va., Capt. Marshal W. Coburn; 11th W. Va., Maj. Michael A. Ayers; 15th W. Va., Lieut.-Col. John W. Holliday.

ARTILLERY—Maj. Charles C. Abell—3d N. Y. Light, Battery E, Capt. George E. Ashby; 3d N. Y. Light, Battery H, Capt. Enoch Jones; 3d N. Y. Light, Battery K, Capt. James R. Angel; 3d N. Y. Light, Battery M, Capt. John H. Howell; N. Y. Light, 17th Battery, Capt. George T. Anthony; 1st Pa. Light, Battery A, Capt. William Stitt; 1st R. I. Light Battery F, Lieut. Charles E. Guild; 1st U. S., Battery B, Capt. Samuel S. Elder; 4th U. S., Battery L, Lieut. Henry C. Hasbrouck; 5th U. S., Battery A, Lieut. Charles P. Muhlenberg; 5th U. S., Battery F, Lieut. Henry B. Beecher.—EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

OF INTEREST TO PENSION ATTORNEYS.

The National Tribune is prepared to furnish to attorneys and others blank forms of application under the recent order of the Commissioner of Pensions. Price, 65 cents per hundred. Address The National Tribune, 339 Pa. Ave. N. W., Washington, D. C.

DEATH OF QUANTRILL.

The Facts as to the Capture and Death of the Infamous Outlaw.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: In The National Tribune of Dec. 10, 1903, I noticed an article from Geo. W. Bowers, New Philadelphia, O., on the death of the mother of the infamous outlaw, Quantrill, in which appears a statement that he was mortally wounded by one of Gen. E. H. Hobson's command, and shortly afterwards died in a hospital at Louisville, Ky. I have not yet seen any correct accounts of the manner and by whom he was captured, as I understand it. In the month of February, 1865, Quantrill and his band were reported to be in the vicinity of Lebanon, Ky. By order of Gen. John M. Palmer, then in command of the Department of Kentucky, I drew 100 guns, equipments and ammunition from the Arsenal at Jeffersonville, to equip 100 men from Park Barracks, who were sent under a Lieutenant to capture Quantrill and his band. This was a failure, of course, for when they got where he was, like the Irishman's flea, he "warn't there." There were so many rebel sympathizers there that he was posted as soon as a Union soldier appeared. Therefore another kind of strategy had to be adopted.

Under instructions from Gen. Palmer I found a man who knew Quantrill in Kansas, who found 30 more men willing to undertake to capture him, dead or alive, as the necessity of the case might require. These scouts (all citizens, no soldiers) were instructed to pretend to be a band of guerrillas; to live off the community where they were scouting, and to assume the garb of genuine guerrillas, that they might gain the confidence of Quantrill and his band, and by that means capture him. This they were entirely successful in doing and in the scrap which followed Quantrill was wounded in the back much as Garfield was, three or four of his men killed, and as many more wounded. Capt. Terrill, who was in command of these scouts, reported May 10, 1865, at Gen. Palmer's headquarters, with Quantrill in a wagon on a straw bed. He was sent to a hospital in the southwest part of the city, where he died about six weeks later, and the company was paid off and discharged on the above date. The names of the men comprising the company appear in my reports to the Third Auditor of the Treasury for the months of April and May, 1865, signed by themselves on their payroll. A copy is herewith enclosed.—J. M. RIDLON, First Lieutenant and Quartermaster 25th Mich., and A. A. Q. M. Headquarters, Department Kentucky.

[The document which Lieut. Ridlon sends us is a very interesting one. It is the roll call of the 31 men who went as scouts on the expedition, and were employed in it from the 1st until May 10, 1865. The chief was Edwin Terrill. His Lieutenants were John H. Thompson and Horace Allen. The chief received $50 a month for his services, and the Lieutenants $35 and $30 respectively. The document is a report of their services and the expenditure of money on them, and is signed on honor by Lieut. Ridlon, and vouched for by Gen John M. Palmer, Major-General commanding the Department of Kentucky.—EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE.]

APPLICATIONS UNDER RECENT ORDER.

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Demands Double Honors.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: I sometimes notice claims and assertions as to who was the youngest soldier.

Permit me to advance a claim for Battery L, 1st Ohio L. A., not only for the youngest but for the oldest soldier in the service during that struggle for the Union.

We claim not one, but two of the youngest soldiers—not drummer boys or mascots—but actual soldiers who fought and bled for the cause.

Henry Wishon was born Aug. 17, 1847; enlisted Oct 25, 1861; served as a gun-team driver until appointed Corporal March 19, 1865; discharged July 4, 1865, with the battery, a veteran, having reenlisted Jan. 1, 1863, after two years continuous service, without a day missed from duty by sickness or otherwise. He was large, and looked to be 18 or 19 years of age, and as such was mustered on the rolls, so that he could be mustered in.

Next to him comes Cassius Edmonds, who was about 15 years of age, but slight of stature, when he went to Camp Dennison, O., Nov. 6, 1861, with his father, who was a Corporal in the battery. When muster day came Capt. Breslin rejected him as too young and light, but he stuck to it, and when we passed Portsmouth on our way from Cincinnati to Parkersburg, Jan. 22, 1862, he hid on board of the boat, and joined the battery with the consent of his father.

He was a middle or swing-team driver, to the morning of May 3, 1863, when I, as Chief Caisson, received an order to take my horses to the rear and water and feed them. Edmonds exchanged with a No. 7 on a gun of the right section, and a few minutes later was wounded, having his leg shot off near the knee. I was present when his leg was amputated an hour afterward. He refused chloroform, and stood the operation like a man. He rallied splendidly, and was going around on crutches in less than a week. I believe that he is now a resident of Kansas and a wealthy citizen.

Now, as to the oldest soldier in the service. We had the Wandering Jew. Wm. H. Bilton was entered on the rolls as 45 years, but was really 75 years old. Our Captain, L. N. Robinson, took anything that came to enlist. He raised his company from Oct. 10 to Nov. 6, '61, accepting anything from the cradle to the grave that he could shove past the Surgeon.

Bilton the boys dubbed "Major," as he claimed to have been a Major in the British East Indian Army; also to have been a surveyor, an engineer, an architect and indeed, master of all trades, arts, occupations and pursuits.

The boys drew the "Major" out, and George Jourdan kept tab on his length of service in sundry pursuits, and the total made him 1,003 years of age. If you can find any one older than that who served in any command in that war, let me know.—JAMES GILDEA, Second Lieutenant, Battery L, 1st Ohio L. A., O. V., Portsmouth, Ohio.

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HOW TO FIND OUT.

Fill a bottle or common glass with your water and let it stand twenty-four hours; a sediment or settling indicates an unhealthy condition of the kidneys; if it stains the linen it is evidence of kidney trouble; too frequent desire to pass it, or pain in the back is also convincing proof that the kidneys and bladder are out of order.

What To Do.

There is comfort in the knowledge so often expressed that Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy, fulfills every wish in curing rheumatism, pain in the back, kidneys, liver, bladder and every part of the urinary passage. It corrects inability to hold water and scal