RECITALS AND REMINISCENCES

Stories Eminently Worth Telling of Experiences and Adventures in the Great National Struggle.

DEATH OF GEN. A. P. HILL.

A Michigan Comrade Claims He Was Shot While Rallying His Men in Front of "Fort Hell" at Petersburg.

The question as to how the Confederate General, A. P. Hill, was killed has called forth another communication from Comrade B. S. Philbrick, Co. B, 27th Mich. He writes from Hoquiam, Wash., that he was pleased but surprised to read Comrade Porter's reply to his version of the death of Gen. Hill. Comrade Philbrick disagrees with Comrade Porter's statement that the Confederate General was shot "by some boys that were looking for what might turn up." He also denies that the Sixth Corps was the first to break the rebel lines at Petersburg on that occasion, and says that no battle line or squad of boys advanced beyond the main line of fortifications captured by Union troops until the next day after Gen. Hill was killed, when Petersburg was entered without further resistance.

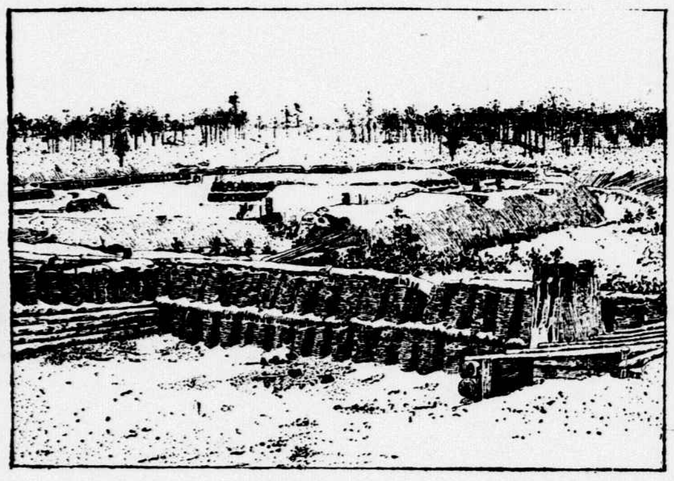
"Three separate assaults were made by the enemy to recapture the position held by the First Brigade, First Division, Ninth Corps, the initial or key point being Fort Mahone, or 'Fort Hell,'" adds Comrade Philbrick. "All day of April 2 was consumed in repelling the assaults of the enemy, and reversing and strengthening the captured works and connecting them with ours. The Sixth Corps was some distance to the left of this point of attack, and had three times or more the distance to charge before entering the rebel works. This the Sixth Corps did most gallantly in plain view of the 27th Mich., then inside the captured fort.

"The enemy's assaulting columns wavered, and being decimated under the terrific fire of the 27th Mich., armed with Spencer repeating rifles, and the 6th Conn. Art., the officer mentioned (said to be Gen. Hill) rode out to the battle line to rally and encourage his men, and was shot from his horse. This I saw, and while I could not swear it was Gen. Hill, the report of rebel prisoners and subsequent history strongly confirms the belief that it was.

"I wish also to call Comrade Porter's attention to the fact that it would be quite difficult from memory to say positively what was going on at different points of the attack, as the lines were about 39 miles in length, and if my memory is not altogether gone, the entire line went over and into the works defending Petersburg and Richmond, except a portion of the Fifth Corps and the cavalry with Gen. Sheridan, who were swinging around the right flank of Gen. Lee's army. From my position I plainly witnessed the Sixth Corps boys go over and into the enemy's works, as the lines of fortifications formed a sort of semi-circle away to our left. The charge looked like a great, long 'right wheel' from the pivot where I stood. It was the most sublime sight that ever man beheld. Just think, old boys, after nine months of sapping, mining, traversing and assaulting, with all the hardships, suffering and death, at one grand, glorious charge the goal was won.

"The First Brigade, First Division, Ninth Corps, was composed of the following Michigan regiments, 2d, 8th, 17th, 20th and 27th, all armed with the Spencer repeating rifle, and whenever they were engaged there 'was something doing.' It was our division which charged into the fort that was blown up July 30, 1864."

In conclusion, Comrade Philbrick says there were no Union skirmish lines on the day Comrade Porter refers to, owing to the close proximity of the opposing forces. "Our point of attack was less than 200 yards distant. That of the Sixth Corps from 400 to 600 yards." He says there was glory enough for all, and urges all who can to attend the National Encampment at Minneapolis next August, where the old boys may fight over the battles of 1861 and 1865, ere the bugle sounds "taps—lights out."



FORT SEDGWICK.
(From photograph.)

GEN. A. P. HILL.

THE 1ST CAL.

Its Organization, Some of Its History and the Part It Played in the Fighting on the Peninsula.

Editor National Tribune: In the short history of the 71st Pa., published recently in The National Tribune, it is stated that the 71st Pa. was "organized at Philadelphia, Aug. 18, 1861, to serve three years," and "was mustered out July 3, 1864. It was also called Baker's 1st Cal., and began its fighting before Yorktown." Co. N, California Regiment (not 1st Cal.) was organized in Philadelphia by Capt. Francis J. Keffer, and left there in July, 1861, to join the main body of the regiment, then encamped between Fortress Monroe and Hampton, Va. There were 15 companies, two battalions, in the California regiment, commanded by Col. E. D. Baker.

Co. N was first mustered for pay by Maj. George Stoneman, U. S. A., to date from July 1, 1861. In August, 1861, the California Regiment was encamped near the Bladensburg and Baltimore turnpike tollgate, Washington, D. C. While there encamped Col Baker one morning, after drilling the regiment in echelon movements, rode to the Capitol, entered the Senate Chamber in full regimental dress, laid his sword upon his desk, borrowed notes taken from Senator Breckinridge's speech (who was then speaking), and as the Senator finished he (Baker) arose and delivered the memorable address in reply to the tirade that Breckinridge had uttered against the Administration and loyal citizens who stood in defense of the Union.

In September, 1861, the California Regiment encamped near the Chain Bridge, where it built Fort Baker, after which the regiment moved to Camp Observation, near Poolsville, Md., where it encamped until after the battle of Ball's Bluff, Oct. 21, 1861, in which fight Col. Baker was killed.

The artillery duel before Yorktown occurred in the latter part of April and the first two or three days of May, 1862. I am under the impression it was after the battle of Ball's Bluff, when the California regiment was accredited to the quota of Pennsylvania troops as the 71st Pa.

I will say en passant that halting the army before Yorktown was a big blunder. Gen. McClellan had 125,000 well-drilled, disciplined, effective troops under his command, as against 11,000 Confederate troops occupying the fortifications in and around Yorktown. The Union army ought to have been pushed forward without delay, thereby causing the rebels to retreat or surrender. The halt gave Gen. Magruder time and opportunity to fortify the narrow space of solid ground (about a half mile) between the York and James Rivers, near Williamsburg, where Fort Magruder and five flanking redoubts were built and the large timber fronting them cut down, forming a barrier to the advance of our troops during the battle of Williamsburg, May 5, 1862.

Gen. Sumner, commanding the center, and Gens. Heintzelman, Kearny and Keys the left of the line before Yorktown, chafed under the delay, and were in favor of pushing the troops forward. Gens. McClellan, Fitz John Porter and Franklin were on the right, and urged delay and the necessity of fortifying.—James Johnson, Brooklyn, N. Y.

PORT HUDSON.

Part Taken by the 26th Conn.

Editor National Tribune: Having been a subscriber for 20 years to The National Tribune, which advocates all that is for the best interest of the soldier defenders of our great and glorious Nation, I feel at liberty to make a few statements regarding "Opening the Mississippi," which I have carefully read with great interest, and find but little to take exception to, and that little cannot be considered taken in any spirit or desire to lessen or change the deserved merit given or derogatory criticism indulged in regarding any who took part in the work so vividly described, and in the main so accurately portrayed.

I think that the story would have much more pleased the most of the readers who belonged to the Nineteenth Corps had it not contained any reference to the blunders (so called by other officials) that Gen. Banks may have committed. He certainly deserved all the credit that could be accorded to any General for accomplishing so much as he did with so few men. I think your statements show that the whole conditions entering into the campaign were most disheartening, and would have proved a disaster under a General of more cautious disposition, even though the men were of a character that knew not how to flinch, only knowing how to dare and die if need be, that success might be the crowning glory for the Nation. Regarding the regiments that sustained the greatest number of killed and wounded during the siege of Port Hudson, I am persuaded to state the following facts as taken from the Rebellion Records. By your answer to Charles T. Clement, Duluth, Minn., Feb. 22, who asked what constitutes a fighting regiment, your quotation from Fox says: "But in the long run, active service brings its many scars; where the musketry was the hottest the dead lay thickest; and there is no better way to find the fighting regiments than to follow up the bloody trail which marked their brave advance." In the story of the "Opening of the Mississippi," published Feb. 1, the 8th N. H. and 4th Wis. are deservedly eulogized. Under Fox's definition of a fighting regiment, and to do justice to another regiment that participated in the siege of Port Hudson, which had more killed and wounded there than the 4th Wis., I give the following from the returns of casualties at Port Hudson as found in Serial 41, Official Records, War of the Rebellion, on pages 68 and 69, of killed and wounded; see also pages 71-72:

"8th N. H., officers killed, 4; enlisted men killed, 26; total killed and mortally wounded, 30; officers wounded, 7; enlisted men wounded, 191; total number wounded, 198; total killed and wounded in the 8th N. H., 228.

"26th Conn., officers killed, 1; mortally wounded, 3; total officers killed and mortally wounded, 4; enlisted men killed, 14; total killed and mortally wounded, 18; officers wounded, 6; enlisted men wounded, 151; total killed and wounded, 175.

"4th Wis., officers killed, 3; mortally wounded, 2; total officers killed and mortally wounded, 5; enlisted men killed, 46; total killed and mortally wounded, 51; officers wounded, 9; enlisted men wounded, 108; total killed and wounded, 166."

The 26th Conn. belonged to the Second Division, and the First Brigade of that division, and only two brigades of that division and one battery of the division was at the siege of Port Hudson; 598 was the total number of killed and wounded in the Second Brigade of the Third Division, and 579 was the total number of killed and wounded in the First Brigade of the Second Division.

One more statement you make regarding the regiments which were detailed to "occupy and garrison the forts as soon as surrendered" (quotation from Gen. Banks's letter to Gen. Weitzel on July 8), I very much desire to be set right in that matter. You do not mention the 26th Conn. as one of them, while I have a very clear recollection of being in line with that regiment that early morning and marching into Port Hudson, seeing the rebels lay down their arms, of conversing with some of them, and trading an old open-face silver watch I had bought some time before for $3 for a finely-engraved Colt's revolver with a leather case, which I still have and prize as a souvenir of that occasion.

The following sentence is in the history of the 26th Conn. as published by the State in their record of "Connecticut Men in the War of the Rebellion:" "That the 26th had borne a conspicuous part was acknowledged by its being selected as one of 10 regiments to receive the capitulation of the garrison on July 9, and was assigned to the left of the line—the second post of honor."

Now, whether the 26th Conn. was one originally selected or substituted in place of the 38th Mass. or the 13th Conn. (as I am informed by a member of that regiment that it did not enter Port Hudson as a regiment) I have no means of knowing, and must have more light before being convinced that it was not one of the first 10 regiments that entered Port Hudson on the morning of the 9th of July, 1863.

In Gen. Banks's Special Order 164 he details the 26th as one of seven regiments to constitute part of the garrison for that post.

I should be pleased to have you publish this letter, and hope that others may be led to state what they know regarding the siege of Port Hudson and its surrender.—Benjamin F. Gates, Corresponding Secretary of the Association of the 26th Conn., Co. I, 26th Conn., New London, Conn.

SHERIDAN'S SLEIGH RIDE.

Reminiscence Related by the "Baby" of the G. A. R., Who Died Recently at Somerville, Mass.

A young musket-carrier of Massachusetts in the civil war, Edwin F. Cushing, answered his last "taps" Jan. 13, 1906, at Somerville, Mass. It is said he was only 13 years of age when he was mustered into the military service, and was a little more than 17 when he was mustered out. He was an honored member of Willard C. Kinsley Post, 139, G. A. R., of Somerville.

Speaking of his war-time experience some time ago, the late Comrade Cushing said:

"I was mustered into the service at Camp Chase, Lowell, on Sept. 3, 1861, and, as I was born at Dover, N. H., on May 20, 1848, my age at the time of muster was 13 years three months and five days. My final discharge was given me at Gallops Island in Boston Harbor, on Aug. 26, 1865, thus making the official duration of my connection with the regiment just one week less than four years.

"Of course," said Mr. Cushing, "there were a great many more boys in the army; but the larger part of these under-age youngsters got in during the last years of the war, and as I began with carrying a musket and kept right on in that sort of duty during the major part of the time I was in the army the claim has been made in my behalf that I am the youngest soldier with four years of active service to my credit who enlisted from Massachusetts.

"Our first fight was at La Fourche, 60 miles west of New Orleans, which was but a skirmish compared to what we had to face in Virginia. In January, 1864, the regiment, or 546 men of the regiment, re-enlisted for the war, the largest number, as it was stated at the time, that was secured from any regiment of our Department. After a furlough home we were attached to the new Nineteenth Corps, and by July, 1864, we were in the Shenandoah Valley under the command of glorious Phil Sheridan, getting all the real fighting we wanted, and participating in the Berryville and the Cedar Creek battles. At Berryville the regiment had 11 officers wounded and 38 men killed, and we met with a like loss at the more decisive contest of Cedar Creek when Early was sent 'whirling up the Valley.'

"It was usually my fortune," said Mr. Cushing, "to be detailed as an orderly at headquarters. I was not much of a giant in size, and my common lot befell me at Winchester, where I was ordered to report to Gen. Sheridan in my old capacity. I stood somewhat in awe of the wiry little man, all nerves and full of go from morning until night, and it kept me busy all the time to hold myself in readiness for a call that was likely to come at any moment.

"One day there was quite a fall of snow at Winchester, and Sheridan thought it a proper thing to have a sleigh ride. It was in the dead of Winter, and matters were somewhat quiet for Sheridan and he ordered me to get a sleigh. But the only thing of the kind was a pair of old sleigh runners found in some one's vacated stable, and the problem of a body for the runners was solved by some roving soldiers who had ran across an old bathtub in a deserted home and brought it to headquarters. 'Just the thing,' said Sheridan.

"The blacksmiths were ordered to prepare the outfit for the General's use as a sleigh, the old tub attached to the runners, a pole was put on for a pair of horses, and with numerous buffalo robes the turnout was made to look like a respectable family affair which one might meet in Washington. When everything was ready, the horses, a bay and a white, were hitched to the improvised sleigh, and Sheridan 'mounted the box.' 'Jump in, Orderly,' he said to me. More frightened than hurt, I took a seat at the General's side.

"'What's the matter with this, Orderly?' said the General, as he whipped up the horses. Having all I could do to hold on, I made no reply. Sheridan himself was 'whirling through Winchester,' and the old bathtub, at the rate we were going, was liable to drop to pieces at any moment.

"'Now, Orderly,' said the General, 'if that white horse had a little more mud on him he would be a better match for the bay.'

"I said nothing, but I thought the white horse would get all the mud he wanted, and much to my relief the General espied a lady acquaintance and asked her to take a ride, an invitation she gladly accepted, although if she had known what kind of a contrivance Sheridan was navigating she probably would have declined the honor of a spin with the Commanding General.

"'Well, Orderly,' said Sheridan, 'I guess you will have to walk back.' I walked back all right, and Sheridan survived his sleigh ride in a bathtub to drive Early out of the Valley and be in at the finish at Appomattox."

Wants to Hear From Comrades.

"I was in the war a little while, and don't you forget it," writes Comrade J. H. Jameson from Roanoke, Tex. "I was in Co. I, 26th Mo., Third Brigade, Third Division, Fifteenth Corps. I enlisted Sept. 21, 1861, and was discharged Nov. 25, 1864. I have been a constant reader of The National Tribune for a long time, and would not be without it. It is the only paper I care for. I would like to hear from some of my old comrades, and particularly Col. B. D. Dean, who commanded our regiment. God bless them all, is my prayer."

PICKET SHOTS.

From Alert Comrades Along the Whole Line.

Final Charge on Spanish Fort.

"I have a vivid recollection of Spanish Fort," writes Comrade C. Hickethier, Co. K, 12th Iowa, writing from Cedar Mills, Ore. "The night it was evacuated the men of my company were in the rifle pits, within less than 200 yards of the rebel breastworks. The last shell the Johnnies threw struck about five feet from where I was lying, on the outer edge of our pit. It threw considerable earth on us, and it was quite a relief to me when the last fragment struck the ground without hurting anyone.

"About 15 or 20 minutes later the rebs ceased firing, and some one called out, 'Come on, 12th Iowa.' Then we went forward to the works. I followed the works to the left to the main fort. While there one of the gunboats threw a shell which passed 500 or 600 feet over the fort. About 10 minutes later our army on the left charged the fort, but there was not a Johnny within two miles of them. I still have a 'C. S. A.' belt buckle that I picked up before we reached their works."

Execution at Hilton Head.

The soldier executed by shooting at Hilton Head (Port Royal), S. C., Dec. 1, 1862, according to Comrade A. J. Moody, of Fallbrook, Cal., was William W. Lunt, a native of Pittsburg, N. Y., and a member of Co. I, 9th Me. "I was well acquainted with the man," says Comrade Moody, "having been a Sergeant, and posted guard over him many a time. He was shot for desertion and other crimes."

Has His War-Time Musket.

Comrade George Kent writes from Bridgewater, S. D., to say that he read with pleasure the account of Comrade Hart of the fight in North Carolina, Sunday morning, March 19, 1865. "Comrade Hart," says the writer, "was in my regiment, the 13th Mich. He was in Co. C, while I was a member of Co. G. I was in the charge he described on that Sunday morning, and still possess the gun and cartridge-box I carried in that battle, also the same canteen. The string by which the canteen was suspended was shot in two, but I have it yet with the knot I tied in it. My grandson has these war-time relics, and says when I am gone he will show them to the rising generation. I would like to hear from some of the boys of my regiment, and especially Daniel Van Lasselle, of the 1st Mich. Engineers. I have not heard from him in 25 years, and my wife believes I may reach him through The National Tribune."

Can Still Pull the Trigger.

"Here I come again, not from the picket-line, but from the north woods of Michigan," writes Geo. C. Church, Co. A, 17th Mich., from Manellana, Mich. "I want the boys to know I am living yet to give thanks to the Great Commander. My stepson and a neighbor went out to kill a turkey for Thanksgiving, and they shot nine red squirrels and one raccoon. The coon was better than any chicken or turkey. Had I been well enough and the weather good I would have gone on the hunt and got a 'possum or a bear. I believe all the old soldiers who are not wealthy ought to live in the woods where there is plenty of game and timber, and where the many monopolies, trusts and combines have not got a corner on the bears and other game that we can subsist on. I mean all the old boys who cannot perform manual labor, like myself."

Married 55 Years.

Comrade Jerry Woodyard and his venerable wife celebrated the 55th anniversary of their wedding recently in Wyoming, Iowa. There were more than 75 guests present, including old comrades and women of the W. R. C. Comrade Woodyard and wife are among the early settlers of the vicinity of Wyoming, having moved from their Ohio home in 1854. Comrade Woodyard responded to the call of his country in 1862, joining Co. K, 24th Iowa. He was mustered in as a Corporal, and was a Second Lieutenant when he was discharged. His first engagement was at Port Gibson, and the next at Champion Hill; then the siege of Vicksburg and the Red River Expedition. He was up the Shenandoah to Cedar Creek, and last on the expedition that brought communications and crackers to Sherman's army at Goldsboro. He was mustered out at Savannah, Ga., in July, 1865. He has shown the same activity and fidelity in civil life that marked his military career, and is Quartermaster of Ben Paul Post, G. A. R., his wife being a member of the Relief Corps. He is also an honored member of the Council of Wyoming and a leading Republican. Comrade Woodyard has passed the 77th milestone on the journey of life, but is still hale and hearty.

Bodies of Indiana Soldiers Unearthed.

Comrade William J. McAfee, Adjutant of Lew Daily Post, G. A. R., of Bluffton, Ind., sends a clipping from the Middlesboro (Ky.) Record, with the hope that it may lead to the identification of the soldier remains referred to. The clipping follows:

"While excavating for a new residence which he will build, A. J. Asher, of Pineville, Ky., this week unearthed the bodies of two men, which from the tablets that were found near the bodies it could be seen were two members of the Union army during the war of the rebellion. The coffins which the bodies were in were decayed, but the bones were in good condition. These fragments were taken to the Court House, where they will be held until claimed by some relative. One of the tablets read: 'D. J. Pruit, died April 7, 1862, 49th Indiana Volunteers, Company A.' The other read: 'H. K. Ruth, died March 30, 1862, 49th Indiana Volunteers, Company A.' The bodies were dug up in what is known as the Indian mound, right in the center of the town."

Accompanying the clipping is a statement from D. E. McDowell, of Joplin, Mo., who says he remembers that some of the old soldiers used to talk about the 47th Ind. when he lived at Middleboro, Ky., and he thinks the announcement of the finding of the remains may result in locating some relatives of deceased.

From a Hoosier Veteran.

Comrade A. D. Skaggs, Co. K, 4th Ind. Cav., Vancouver, Wash., says he enlisted at Rockport, Ind., in Co. K, 25th Ind., under Col. James C. Veach, afterwards Major-General. He was in the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh and the siege of Corinth, and was transferred to Co. K, 4th Ind. "I went with Wilson when Sherman went to the sea," adds Comrade Skaggs, "and I made it a rule never to allow a calf or hog or chicken to halloo for Davis. The rest has been told. If any of the old boys read this, and will write to me, I will answer their letters by return mail. My address is 1110 16th St., Vancouver, Wash."

Hot Times at Franklin.

"I had a wonderful experience in the war of the rebellion," writes Comrade J. W. Hendricks, 57th Ill., from Danville, Ill., "and I will ask you to publish some of it in the veterans' grand old paper. I have noticed that some of your writers claim that the private soldier did not see much of the battles of Franklin and Nashville, Tenn. I was a private and an orderly detailed from my regiment the last year of the war, under Gen. Wilson, connected with Gen. Thomas's command in the Nashville campaign. I was on duty every day as an orderly, delivering dispatches at the battle of Franklin.

"I was delivering verbal messages to the Colonel of the 2d Tenn., and as the regiment had changed position I ran into a heavy fire from the enemy, and when a shell from the rebs struck near my horse plunged forward and fell. He got up and ran without a rider, I being left afoot to hunt for headquarters. While wandering around I saw an Indiana battery, all the horses of one piece being killed or disabled and the gunners gone. Another gun had one wheel shot to pieces and had been deserted by the artillerymen.

"In all this excitement I delivered my message and found headquarters on the move. I was then only a private and 18 years old. If J. D. Hazzard, Lieutenant and A. A. G. for Gen. J. C. Starkweather, in that campaign, is living, I ask him if my statement is correct."

Credit to the District Volunteers.

Comrade William H. Cullimore, Co. R, 71st Pa., writes from Baltimore, Md., that he read in a recent issue of The National Tribune the history of that "fighting regiment." The history is all right so far as it goes," says Comrade Cullimore, "but there were 15 companies, three battalions, two Majors, and the people of Washington would say as the regiment marched along, 'Here comes Baker's First California Brigade.' It was well equipped in every particular, and with the gallant old Senator Baker riding ahead we were the whole thing.

"In your account you gave us only 14 companies. But as I was in Co. R, which was raised in Washington, D. C., and was mostly composed of the recently-mustered out District of Columbia Volunteers—three months, first call troops, Washington City Zouaves, Capt. Powell. I am sure I am right, because Co. R carried the colors for a long time.

"In justice to the old District of Columbia volunteers, who were really the only ones that kept the rebels from capturing the Capital, and held the city until the big regiments arrived, I hope you will give this space in your next issue."

The 1st Md. Boys Were There.

Comrade F. A. Hall, Co. C, 1st Md. P. H. B., writes from Lisbon, Md.: "In your issue of Dec. 7, 1905, under the heading of 'Who Saved Washington?' your correspondent said: 'I was near that fight, though not in it.' He seems to be under the impression there were no other troops at Monocacy but the Sixth Corps. I can tell him the Sixth Corps had nothing to do with holding that bridge that he speaks of. There were a few companies of my regiment, 1st Md. P. H. B., that held that bridge that he speaks of. The Sixth Corps was a gallant band, but why ignore all others that were there? Co. K of my regiment were the last troops to leave the field at Monocacy. I was captured there with about 120 others and taken to one of the Summer resorts kept expressly for Yankee prisoners at Danville.

"The first book that you sent me, 'Washington During War Time,' gives me a little information on this subject. I merely write this to inform your correspondent that the old Sixth Corps did not do it all. Some time ago I read about the spy that was hung near Frederick. Well, I know something about that, too. At that time I belonged to the Twelfth Corps. On our return from Gettysburg we came by way of Frederick, the object being to cover Washington. Gen. Buford, if my memory serves me right, ordered the execution of the spy, and he was captured in the Second Corps camp peddling newspapers. I have written to The National Tribune often lately, and you shall hear from me again."

Who Was to Blame at Franklin?

Comrade Charles T. Weber, Co. F, 100th Ill., writes from Frankfort Station, Ill., that he was in Wagner's Brigade at the battle of Franklin. "I know," he says, "who held the rebels at Spring Hill, and it looks silly for the men of the Twenty-third Corps to claim that they stopped the rebel army there. I think it is about time to drop Franklin, for it can be proven by men who were there that Gen. Wagner or his brigade are not entitled to all the fault. It was told a few days after the fight that it was a new regiment that broke first on the left of the pike, but 'Pap' Schofield tells us that it was his regiment, the 100th Ohio. Now, that was not a new regiment. We lost our Color-Sergeant, our Major and several men there, besides men captured in the works after the army left. All credit to Comrade Williams for his article of Dec. 21, and Comrade Harris, Sergeant, Co. B, 28th Ky. I saw men of the 28th Ky. sling their Spencer rifles on their backs and pick up our Enfields, because they were out of ammunition for their own arms. Was that Wagner's fault, too, that the wagons were sent back so soon?"

Was a Soldier at 11.

The claim is made that Albert F. Springsteen, now an employe of the Pension Bureau at Washington, was the youngest regularly enlisted and mustered soldier in the Union army in the civil war. He enlisted at Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 15, 1861, at the age of 11 years and two months. Comrade W. C. Riley, of Jerome, Mich., who sends this item, says:

"I thank your paper very much for the help you are giving us old veterans. I hope you will continue the fight in our behalf. If the Government would do us justice it would give us one cent a month for every day we served in the army. If we cannot get that bill through, then let us have the straight service pension bill of $12 per month without age limit."

Comrade Riley believes the old soldiers who risked their lives for their country should at least be treated as well as the bondholders who only risked their money. The bondholders were paid back in gold. How about the soldiers?

Three Ohio Regiments.

In a facetious vein Comrade John M. Gilbert, writing from Lisbon, Ohio, says: "I did not put down the rebellion, but I like to read those interesting war stories from those who did. Though we followed them from Bowling Green, Ky., to Nashville and to Stone River, and to Tullahoma and McMinnville, Tenn., without killing a rebel. I do not know why this was, unless they wouldn't stand. In all my reading the columns of the noble old soldiers' friend and war books, I see but little concerning the 19th, 24th and 104th Ohio and their achievements. They were all close to me. Please let me know if either or all of them were among the 300 fighting regiments."

Spanish Fort.

J. H. Bowman, First Lieutenant, Co. D, 47th Ill., Oak Lodge, I. T., says that he is in position to give the exact facts about the capture of Spanish Fort. It took place on or about midnight of April 8, 1865. Four companies of his regiment, commanded by Maj. Edward Bonham, took possession of the fort. The regiments belonged to McArthur's First Division, Second Brigade, of the right wing of the Sixteenth Corps. The brigade was composed of the 11th Mo., 5th Minn., 8th Wis., and 47th Ill.

Goes Him Seven Points Better.

Comrade Jonathan Harp, Co. C, 2d battalion, 18th U. S., writes from Brookville, Pa., to say that he can "go seven points better" than Comrade D. Deeds. "Like Comrade Deeds," he adds, "I do not claim to be the oldest or the youngest soldier, but I do own a check for an increase of pension of 13 cents."

Scattering.

Comrade Thos. F. Coleman, Pleasant Hope, Mo., would like to hear from some member of Co. F, 6th Tenn. Cav.

Comrade T. M. Hamilton, Co. K, 113th Ill., Edna, Tex., would like to hear from the boys of that regiment.

T. G. Mills, Co. G, 15th Ill. Cav., Sioux Falls, S. D., would like to hear from some of the members of his old regiment.

Albert W. Ethridge, Co. B, 2d Mo. L. A., Cove, Mo., would be pleased to hear from any of the members of his old regiment, particularly from those of Co. B. He would also like to hear from Corp'l Alexander Mackey.

Capt. J. H. Johnson, Co. K, 50th Ind., R. F. D. 1, Smith's Ferry, Pa., would like to hear from any of the boys of the 50th Ind. through The National Tribune or by letter.

S. R. Seward, Co. F, 3d Ill. Cav., Durham, Ark., would like to hear from any member of Cos. B or F of the 3d Ill. Cav.

H. L. Bentley, German, N. Y., would like to hear from comrades of Co. E, 10th Vt.

Comrade Landers, Box 108, R. 2, Jefferson, Tex., would like to hear from members of the 103d N. Y.

C. A. Jones, Co. E, 38th Ohio, Blakeslee, Ohio, writes: "I was not the youngest but I was among the youngest, as I was born March 29, 1848. I enlisted in January, 1864, and was discharged July 22 with the regiment. I was with Sherman to the sea, also at the Grand Review at Washington. I will say that I am in favor of the $12 Service Pension bill. Now, let the 38th speak up and let me hear from them."

Ambrose P. Moats, Co. H, 30th Iowa, Scotch Grove, Iowa, writes that he heartily favors service pension and trusts that Congress will do something for the relief of the comrades. He would like to have some of the readers write to him of some good, healthful climate, with less Winter, either in southwestern Missouri or northwestern Arkansas.

Lieut. Daniel Seiler, Kenton, O., wants the address of Serg't James S. Stonewall, of the 47th U. S. C. T.

Mrs. Rebecca Dapron, 287 Wilder Ave., Merriam Park, Minn., is anxious to hear from some one who knows anything relative to her husband, Antoine Dapron, who was a private in Co. A, 14th Iowa. He was reported killed by Indians in June or July, 1872, while with a surveying party sent out from Lawrence, Kan.

James A. Flora, Swann, W. Va., wants to hear from his old comrades of the 7th Ohio Cav.

Henry Grubb, F. R. D. 1, Box 7, Mifflinburg, Pa., would like to hear from members of his old company, I, 184th Pa.

Comrade Michael Hopkins, Co. A, 8th Ill. Cav., Kearny, Neb., wants to know what is the matter with the 8th Ill. Cav. boys. Why do they not write their experience? Are they all dead?

Comrade A. R. Woodworth, 1222 East Addison St., Chicago, Ill., would like a copy of the poem "The Drummer Boy at Mission Ridge."

Mrs. Mary Ballentine, of Carmi, Ill., desires information as to the cavalry regiment of Illinois volunteers that one William L. Ballentine was a member of. He enlisted while he was residing at Kinderhook, Ill.

Foresight of "Old Ironsides."

Editor National Tribune: Dr. Ellis, of Maysville, Ky., gives a rather graphic description of the movements of "the old Fourth Division" in getting to Pittsburg Landing, but I do not see why he should attempt to correct your statement as to the time of the arrival of Gen. Nelson's command at the designated place. We got there just about the time you stated, and it was almost dark when we succeeded in crossing the river on transports.

On the Sunday previous to the fight the Army of the Ohio had been waiting several days for the bridge to be built across Duck River, opposite Columbia, before proceeding on its way to the Tennessee River, which was our destination. Gen. Nelson could not brook this delay, so he asked to be given the advance post, with the promise to ford the river. He was given the post, and those of us who forded that stream with him on the chilly day in March have a recollection of the occasion that cannot be effaced. It was a forced march, and with limited rations and an occasional hog along the way, Bruce's Brigade marched into Savannah about 9 o'clock the following Saturday night.

On the following morning, while breakfast was cooking, we heard cannonading in the direction of Pittsburg Landing. In quick order we were under arms and on our way through the swamp, as related by Dr. Ellis, with the sappers and miners ahead of us trying to make an almost impassable road passable. It was a case of making haste slowly, and it was 5 o'clock, or close to it, when we arrived on the banks opposite the Landing. I believe Ammen's Brigade crossed first, and the gallant 6th Ohio was enabled to do some work before darkness closed in.

It was enough to let the Johnnies know that Buell's army had made the desired junction, thanks to the brave Gen. Nelson, familiarly known to the boys of his command as "Old Ironsides." While Lew Wallace was stumbling along with his command trying to find the road, it was fortunate that our gallant and lamented Nelson had the foresight to insist on fording Duck River, rather than wait for the completion of the bridge.—F. R. French, Co. F, 2d Ky., Lakin, Kan.

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Hensonville, N. Y., June 27, 1905.
Dr. D. M. Bye Co., Indianapolis, Ind.

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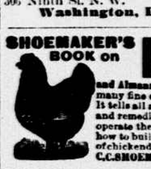
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