

REGALS AND REMINISCENCES

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

THE 161ST N. Y.

Long Service in the Gulf Coast Country. Editor National Tribune: In your history of the 161st N. Y., given some time ago, allow me to say that while I generally follow the National Tribune, and say, "If you see it in the National Tribune it is so." I must confess that in this instance you are way off. If I may begin blind end first, will say that the 161st N. Y. did not go north with the two divisions which went to the Shenandoah Valley with our old and loved commander, Gen. Emory. Remember, only two divisions went, not the corps. Lieut.-Col. Richard B. Irwin, Assistant Adjutant-General of the corps, and perhaps better qualified to write of the corps than any other man, being with it from its inception to the end, says in speaking of this transfer of troops, "In this movement some of the best regiments of the corps were left behind, as well as all of the cavalry, and the whole of the magnificent park of field artillery. Among the troops thus cut off were the 110th N. Y., 161st N. Y., 7th Vt., 6th Mich., 4th Wis. and 1st Ind. H. A., and 1st and 2d La. M'd Inf." Shortly after the arrival of the two divisions in the Shenandoah, I think they were constituted and designated as the Nineteenth Corps in General Orders. After muster-in to the U. S. service the regiment became a part of the "Banks Expedition," and went to the extreme South with Gen. Banks when he relieved Gen. Butler at New Orleans in December, 1862. After the two divisions under Emory went north, Gen. Canby, who succeeded Gen. Banks, reorganized the forces in the department, and on June 19, 1864, the regiment was assigned to the Engineer Brigade, Nineteenth Corps; Aug. 17, to Third Brigade, Second Division, Nineteenth Corps; Dec. 5, to Fourth Brigade, Reserve Division, Military Division of West Mississippi; Feb. 18, 1865, to Third Brigade, First Division, Thirteenth Corps, Department of the Gulf; June 6th, District of West Florida. From June 31, 1864, to Jan. 11, 1865, the regiment was almost constantly on the move, patrolling the Mississippi from the Gulf of Mexico to Paducah, on the Ohio River. During the operations against Mobile, Maj. W. E. Craig was in command of the regiment, Gen. Veach in command of the division, and Maj.-Gen. Gordon Granger in command of the corps. After the surrender of Mobile the regiment was relieved from further field duty, and on May 20 ordered to Apalachicola, Fla., for garrison duty. On the 26th of July ordered to Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas, where it had the care of the military prisoners confined there, among them Dr. Mudd and his associates, for complicity in the assassination of President Lincoln. The regiment participated in all the engagements in the Department of the Gulf from the time it reached New Orleans in December, 1862, until the close of the war. During its term of service it campaigned in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas. I can't understand where you got your statistics. I have been Historian of the regiment for many years, and gave all my spare time for four years compiling a complete roster of the old regiment. Have the muster rolls, in and out, and the manuscript of this roster has been carefully gone over by all officers and men and considered correct. I was requested to put it in book form, which I did in 1902. The roster contains the name of every man ever on the rolls

and all data with regard to them, all arranged in chronological order. In conclusion I will say, "We've done claim to have put down the rebellion, and didn't all get there at once, but got there just the same." Would like to hear from Comrade Elsbree.—J. W. Merwin, Dryden, N. Y.

HOW IT HAPPENED

So Many Regiments From Other Armies Got Into the Army of the Cumberland.

Editor National Tribune: The following list of regiments: 2d Ind., 10th, 16th, 21st, 22d, 25th, 27th, 35th, 36th, 38th, 42d, 44th, 51st, 59th and 60th Ill., 15th Wis., 2d and 16th Mo., and 8th Kan.—were part of the Army of the Cumberland in 1862 and 1863, but I cannot find them in that army in 1861 or 1862, except that the 2d Ind. and 36th Ill. were conspicuous in the battle of Perryville in October, 1862, and a number of the list were distinguished for their heroic resistance on a critical part of the field at Stone River in the last days of December, 1862. These regiments were all organized in 1861, and 13 of the 19 re-enlisted in the Winter of 1862-4 to serve to the end of the war. They were all fine regiments, generally well commanded, and surely they contributed their full share in attaining the successes of the great army of which they became an honorable part. All comrades of the Army of the Cumberland who are students of its history will confess pride in the heroic service those regiments performed in its battles from Perryville and Stone River to Spring Hill, Franklin and Nashville. After the rout of Lane's and Conrad's Brigades, in advance of the line at Franklin, a large number of the men of the 42d and 51st Ill. and 15th Mo., in squads and as individuals, stood at the works astride of the Columbia pike and fought there with heroic determination, but not being in organized form, I presume they never received credit in the reports of the battle for their good, soldierly qualities. Naturally, students wish to know the field in which these fine regiments served before they came to us, and how and when they came to us. I find the 2d Ind. with Grant at Belmont in November, 1861. Now, how did it happen that it did not continue with Grant to Fort Donelson, Shiloh and Vicksburg, as did the other four regiments with it at Belmont, instead of diverting to the Army of the Cumberland and proving its worth to an honorable place in its columns? I also find some of those regiments in the battle of Pea Ridge, in western Arkansas, in March, 1862. Will not The National Tribune tell us of the early service of those regiments, and how they happened to be merged into the Army of the Cumberland, or kindly give space to members of those regiments who may wish to write to The National Tribune on that subject?—Jas. F. Noland, 71st Ohio, Bradford, Ohio.

After Shiloh Gen. Halleck called in Gen. Pope's army from west of the Mississippi and troops from Missouri. In the advance upon Corinth the various armies were reorganized and intermingled in a most perplexing way. Pope's Army of the Mississippi was discontinued after he was called to Washington, and Bragg's invasion of Kentucky made another mix-up by calling for troops from everywhere to meet him. In this way Phil H. Sheridan and Jeff C. Davis and many of the old regi-

ments from the Armies of the Tennessee, Mississippi and Frontier got into the Army of the Cumberland.—Editor National Tribune.

A Remarkably Long Service.

Editor National Tribune: In your "Openings of the Mississippi" I saw the mention of Capt. Frank H. Learned, 2d U. S. Art., which reminds me of a remarkably long service, that of a father and three sons, which aggregated more than 90 years. The father, Benj. F. Learned, or Larned, was born Sept. 6, 1794, at Pittsfield, Mass.; entered the service of the United States Oct. 1, 1815, as Ensign in the 21st Inf.; was brevetted Captain for gallantry at Fort Erie; served in Mexico during the war with that country; was made Paymaster-General with the rank of Colonel, July 20, 1854, which position he held at the time of his death, Sept. 6, 1862. His son, Frank H., was born Aug. 22, 1827; entered the service as Second Lieutenant March 8, 1847; served in Mexico; transferred to the 2d Art. June 1848; was made First Lieutenant July 1852; Captain, April, 1861; Major, 1st Art., January, 1867; retired Feb. 5, 1867, and died in Baltimore Jan. 8, 1891. Edward S., the second son, was born in Detroit, Sept. 13, 1830; graduated from Amherst in 1852; took a medical course at the University of New York; was appointed by the President of Mexico a Surgeon in the army of Mexico, and served there in 1857; was Carayach as Chief Surgeon, with the rank of Colonel. After 18 months' service he resigned and settled in Texas, where he was living at the beginning of the civil war. He was captured and imprisoned by the rebels, but he escaped to Mexico, from where he made his way to New York, where he was appointed an Examining Surgeon, with the rank of Major. He was mustered out in 1863, and now resides in New York City. Charles T., the third son, was born March 7, 1834. He served during the civil war in the 1st Artillery; was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel March 13, 1865; to Colonel, June, 1869, and died in the service March 12, 1893.

WANTS HIS OVERCOAT.

A Comrade Has Waited 45 Long Cold Winters For Its Return.

Editor National Tribune: I am among the new subscribers of your valuable paper, and consider it "a friend indeed" to the veterans of the civil war. I received your "Washington During War Time," and found it very entertaining reading, and in lending to others to show them the veterans in the same opinion. I am so interested in your weekly articles on "Bull Run" that I can scarcely wait from one week to another for The National Tribune.

In an old scrap book I have recently found a most thrilling account of the restoration of the Stars and Stripes to old Fort Sumter on April 14, 1865. Many distinguished persons were present, and Henry Ward Beecher delivered an eloquent oration upon this most solemn occasion, but when Gen. Anderson, who, with his wife and daughter, was present, addressed the enthusiastic people it is safe to say that his short speech was the most grandly impressive of all the stirring exercises of the day. At its conclusion he seized the halyards, and with a steady pull ran aloft the old flag, as was most fitting that he, of all others, should do.

Should I inquire if anyone could give me the present address of my old comrades of Co. B, 23d Pa., Harry G. Thatcher, Daniel Graeber, Wm. James and Eugene Bentley. The latter was wounded at Fair Oaks, and as he was taken from the field, having lost his overcoat, I loaned him mine, with the understanding that it was to be returned to me on reaching the hospital. Forty-four Winters and Summers have past since that eventful day, but I have waited long and patiently for the overcoat has not yet made its return to me on reaching the hospital. The eye of Comrade Bentley, and the aforesaid garment is still in existence, will be kindly sent the same to me, if possible, to me on reaching the hospital. I should be glad to hear from any of the surviving comrades of the old 23d, so many of whose members have answered the last roll call during the past few years.—F. D. Hahn, Co. B, 23d Pa., Brockport, N. Y.

Price's Raid.

Editor National Tribune: I was very much interested in Price's raid some time ago in The National Tribune, as I was in that raid myself and stationed at the time at Paola, Kan. When we heard that old "Pap" Price was coming north to clean up Kansas and Nebraska we got our marching orders to start at once and head him off, and we did him up in good shape. At the battle of Westport, three miles south of Kansas City, Mo., we started him south for the hills, and kept close to him until he crossed the Arkansas River south of Fort Gibson, when we turned our backs on across the river and shelled the woods, and receiving no reply, made up our minds that Price was not there—that he had had enough of it, anyway, and was the cause of the halyards, that were getting pretty hungry by that time. So we turned down the river to Fort Scott, Kan., to get something to eat. We had a long walk for the supplies and had a pretty bad time of it, so much so that I began to think that my days on earth were nearing a close. It is now over 43 years since we took part in that terrible raid, and I don't see how you one could have had a worse time than we did and live. The first day on our march west from Fort Riley we faced a terrible snow storm and camped at the mouth of Salt Creek, close to where it empties into the North Solomon River. The next day we took up the line of march north of Salt Creek. I had heard heard when a boy that a party, "He is going up Salt Creek," and now sure enough it was a reality. We kept on our line of march up the Elk Blue, nearly to Fort Kearny, and continued up the south side till we got to old Fort Julesburg. We then crossed over, the company trying a large rope to the end

of each wagon, forming by twos, with one food or fuel for ourselves, our horse. Another heavy snow storm came on that night, and our horses broke away and went to the canyons for shelter, but we got them together again, and on the second day continued up Pole Creek, by the way of Fort Laramie, and went into camp for a month or so, until we recaptured our little herd, and then went out scouting for the Indians. We came in contact with them several times, losing a few men, but never being quite sure that we had killed any of them, as they were lashed tight to their horses always. We rounded up finally at Fort Collins, 75 miles north of Denver, and were there when the war closed.—W. F. Burnett, Co. B, 11th Kan. Cav., La Grande, Ore.

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Artillerymen's Attention!

Any comrades who remembers the following numbers—12-muzzle brass Napoleons—will confer a favor by communicating with Gen. Albert H. Jones, Room 17, Capitol Building, Denver, Colo. (Gun No. 18, 1863); gun No. 2, "148, T. J. R. 1862"; on trunnion, "251."

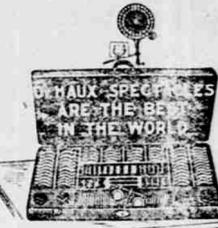
The Private Soldier.

Editor National Tribune: There is so much talk about battles and Generals and monuments in The National Tribune, why doesn't somebody say something about the private soldier? In the first place, the soldier did all the hard drudgery in the trenches, on picket duty, and it was he who suffered most in the prisons. The private soldier is the backbone of the Army, and his compensation is in no way commensurate with his service. Think for a moment. Thirteen or \$16 a month in time of war! Think of his privations and of the good home that he leaves, and of the promises made by the Government which are never carried out! Since the rebellion the pensions given the soldiers have been ridiculously inadequate. This cannot be blamed on the political parties, for when these scant pension laws were made the Republicans were in power in both Houses,

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Relative Smallness of Pension Expenditures.

Editor National Tribune: An annual appropriation of \$150,000,000 would only be one and a half per cent of a billion-dollar Congress, and when compared with the aggregate wealth of our Nation it becomes an infinitesimal item of disbursement. This vast sum of National wealth, as well as the present exalted prestige of our Nation, are largely due to the patriotic sacrifices and arduous services of the veterans, cheerfully rendered to preserve the integrity of the Union, and for which trying service they received about \$7 a month, counting money on a gold basis. This meager compensation was no equivalent for the more profitable vocations they abandoned when they enlisted. The motives which actuated them were not the hopes of paltry gain, as a money consideration, but that sterling sentiment of a lofty patriotism which inspires men to heroic deeds of gallantry in defense of the sacred rights of liberty and the principles of free Government. The infamous insinuation that the veterans enlisted from mercenary motives comes from wicked souls, too cowardly to appreciate true Americanism, poor, pitiful creatures with blighted souls. It must be a source of commendable pride to all true Americans that the veterans returned home at the close of the war, resumed legitimate vocations, and have led since exemplary lives, as law-abiding citizens. A very few of that vast army were men of criminal proclivities; an overwhelming majority were of the noblest type of true American manhood. About 1869 a law was enacted providing that bonds should be made equal to gold, or at least to specie. Some statesmen contended that the soldiers should receive an extra sum equal to the difference between gold and the depreciated currency in which they were paid, but the veterans manifested no general concern about this, knowing

that the Government was already involved in a large war debt. Here again they showed by example their loyalty to the Government. For 25 years after the war there were no pensions granted except to men disabled in the line of duty. The veterans worked on without complaint, making an honest support, rejoicing in ordinary good health, satisfied that peace and the integrity of the Union had been preserved, in which work they had played so conspicuous a part. They received no favors from the Government except the additional bounty of \$100 in 1866, and that helped but little on account of the high prices which prevailed at that time. The McCumber bill, which has just been passed, is as generous as can be expected, and most of the veterans will be satisfied with the additional comforts it will bring to them.—A. J. Ogilvie, 5th Iowa, Garland, Kan.

Morgan's Raid.

Editor National Tribune: Comrade Fletcher Hedges' article in regard to Morgan's raid called forth some old memories of the past, I having been a participant in that chase from beginning to end. I enlisted in the naval service for three years, and was assigned to the transport Moses, or No. 32, which was the flagship of the 10th District, Mississippi Squadron, and consisted of four or five gunboats commanded by Lieut.-Commander Leroy Fitch. Our duties were patrolling the Ohio, Cumberland, Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers. At the time of the Morgan raid we were lying at the foot of the falls at Louisville, cooling, where we got the information that John Morgan had captured the Alice Dean, a Cincinnati boat, and the John T. McCombs, a Louisville boat, and had crossed with his forces at Brandenburg 69 miles below Louisville, burning the Alice Dean. The John T. McCombs got away from Morgan, and on her arrival at Louisville informed us of what had transpired. We then gathered under way, and steamed down to Brandenburg as fast as steam would carry us, but all we could see was the remains of the once beautiful Alice Dean. Morgan had commenced his raid thru Indiana and Ohio, passing near Cincinnati, Camp Denison, robbing stores and stealing horses. We then headed upstream, and followed him up to Huntington Island, near where he was captured on Sunday. We had the pleasure of intercepting his recrossing into Dixie, altho

some of his force plunged into the river and swam their horses across, and gave us a parting salute by firing into our boat. As stated by Comrade Hedges, we depended on the towns and villages along the river for information as to Morgan and where he was. It was certainly a most exciting time along the river from Cincinnati to Pittsburg, as the Ohio River seemed to swarm with transports loaded with prisoners after the capture of John Morgan.—D. Sprague, 10th District, Mississippi Squadron, U. S. Navy, Cincinnati, O.

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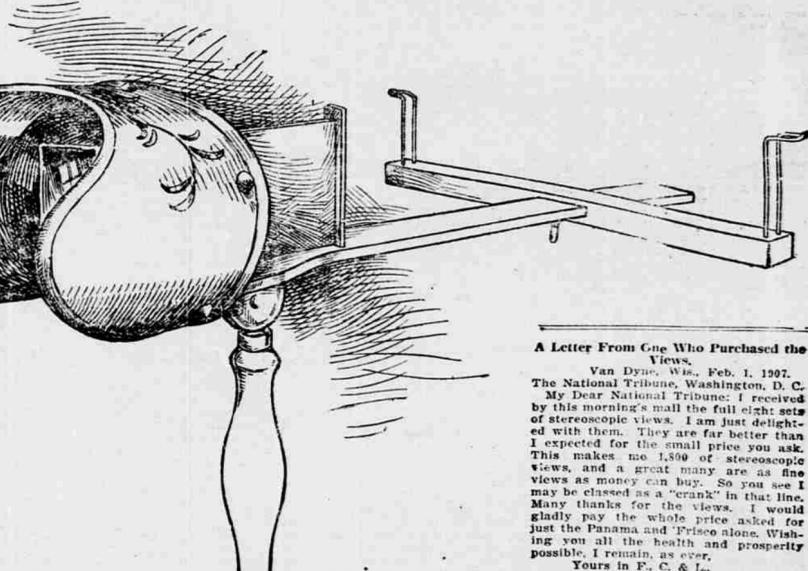
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